

August 13, 2019

## Table of Contents

### Passing of Bunny Becker

#### Association Administrative Announcements

- New Vineyard and Winery Map Live on the TWGGA Website
- Region 2 Meeting Announced – September 12, 2019
- Region 3 Meeting Announced – October 9, 2019
- Uncontracted Grapes
- Follow TWGGA on Social Media
- Updated TWGGA Website and New Member Portal

#### Association Events

- 2019 Grape Camp
- 2020 Annual Conference and Trade Show

#### AgriLife Extension and University News

- Texas Tech Viticulture Certificate Program Application Deadline Extended
- Seeking Photos for Dr. B Talks Texas Wine Series
- Grape Berry Ripening and Sampling Techniques

#### Press

- Bunny Becker, 1940-2019: Saying Goodbye to a Grand Dame of Texas Wine – *Texas Monthly*, By Jessica Dupuy
- Wine Grape Quality Above Average Despite Challenges in Texas Vineyards – *Longview News-Journal*, By Adam Russell
- Texas Wine Tribute Gala Dinner

### Passing of Bunny Becker

On Monday August 5, Mary Clementine Ellison “Bunny” Becker, co-founder Becker Vineyards, passed away. The staff and board of directors of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association expresses their sincerest condolences to the family of Mrs. Bunny Becker, who diligently worked for the betterment of the Texas wine and grape industry for over 25 years. Mrs. Becker’s dedication to quality in all she did contributed greatly to the success of Becker Vineyards and elevated the profile of the Texas wine and grape industry. She will be greatly missed. Mrs. Becker’s obituary can be found [here](#).

## **Association Administrative Announcements**

### **New Vineyard and Winery Map Live on the TWGGA Website**

Announcing the new and improved TWGGA map of members! This map allows users to view the locations and contact information of all the TWGGA Texas winery and vineyards in one convenient place. Click [here](#) to view.

To be included on the map, your business must be a vineyard or a winery member of TWGGA. To become a member today, click [here](#). Please contact [sasha@twgga.org](mailto:sasha@twgga.org) with questions about membership.

To give updated information for your business listing already located on the map, please contact [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org).

### **Region 2 Meeting Announced – September 12, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association invites all members of the commercial Texas wine and grape industry residing in region two (North Texas) to attend a meeting on Thursday, September 12 at 1:00pm at the Cross Timbers Winery (805 N Main St, Grapevine, Texas). The schedule will be provided in a future email.

Please RSVP to [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org). Please direct questions and/or comments to [dacota@twgga.org](mailto:dacota@twgga.org).

### **Region 3 Meeting Announced – October 9, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association invites all members of the commercial Texas wine and grape industry residing in region three (Gulf Coast) to attend a meeting on Wednesday, October 9 at Messina Hof Winery (4545 Old Reliance Rd, Bryan, TX). The schedule will be provide in a future email.

Please RSVP to [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org). Please direct questions and/or comments to [dacota@twgga.org](mailto:dacota@twgga.org).

### **Uncontracted Grapes**

An updated list of currently uncontracted grapes can be found [here](#). To add additional uncontracted grapes to the list or to remove grapes that are no longer available from the list, please e-mail Nicole at [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org). These grapes will be added to the industry list, found [here](#).

### **Follow TWGGA on Social Media**

Share and Follow TWGGA on your favorite social media platforms. You can find us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Use the hashtags #texaswine #txwine #txvine to help us promote the Texas wine industry!

Members of TWGGA are welcome to join the private [TWGGA Facebook Group](#). This group allows you to share industry news and network with fellow TWGGA members. Access to this group is controlled by a two-question survey when you request entrance to the group.

## Updated TWGGA Website and New Member Portal

The TWGGA website has a completely new look! Easy to navigate and full of great content, check it out [here](#) and share with friends. Please email Nicole at [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org) if you would like an upcoming consumer event shared on the website.

TWGGA will also be launching a new online portal for members. In addition to providing online event registration and membership renewals, the new member portal will generate an up-to-date directory of members. The new database will launch in late August in time for Grape Camp registration. Stay tuned for more information!

## Association Events

### 2019 Grape Camp

*Date: November 3 – 4, 2019*

*Location: Fredericksburg, Texas, Gillespie County Fair Grounds*



Ever wonder how someone gets into the wine business in Texas? Ask almost any of them, and they'll tell you that, as nascent winemakers and grape growers, the single most helpful thing they did was go to the Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association Grape Camp. Educational programs, networking opportunities and wine tastings are all included in this year's schedule. The official schedule will be announced in the coming weeks. Key vendors will also be presenting the newest products, services and technologies available to the wine industry.

Exhibitor spots are SOLD OUT. Sponsor slots are still available but going fast. Please contact Sabrina at [Sabrina@twgga.org](mailto:Sabrina@twgga.org) or see the website [here](#) for more information.

The 2019 Grape Camp is Proudly Sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture – Texas Wine Marketing. If you are interested in attending please click [here](#) to receive Facebook reminders for the event. Registration is coming soon!

### 2020 Annual Conference and Trade Show

*Date: February 20 – 22, 2020*

*Location: Irving Convention Center, Irving, Texas*



The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Trade show of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association (TWGGA) will take place in Irving, Texas February 20-22, 2020. TWGGA is proud to be the oldest, and only state-wide wine and grape industry organization.

Over 500 Texas industry members attended the 2019 Annual Conference and more are expected in 2020 as the industry continues to grow exponentially. Put your products and services 'front and center' with vineyard and winery owners and key decision makers by participating as a sponsor or exhibitor.

Exhibitor booths are selling fast. Over half of the booths are already sold out! Sponsor slots are still available but will fill up quickly. Please contact Sabrina at [Sabrina@twgga.org](mailto:Sabrina@twgga.org) or see the website [here](#) for more information. Exhibitor booth prices increase on November 1, 2019, so don't procrastinate.

## **AgriLife Extension and University News**

### **Texas Tech Viticulture Certificate Program Application Deadline Extended**

The Texas Tech Viticulture Certificate Program is currently accepting applications for a new cohort of students to begin the program this September.



The Viticulture Certificate Program is designed for wine industry entrepreneurs and prospective vineyard managers seeking comprehensive knowledge of viticultural principles and commercial grape production practices. The program is headquartered at the [Hill Country University Center](#) in Fredericksburg, Texas. It is conveniently delivered through a combination of online courses and hands-on training in a teaching vineyard. Contact Kirk Williams at [kirk.w.williams@ttu.edu](mailto:kirk.w.williams@ttu.edu) or call 806-834-7137 for more information. The program webpage can be found [here](#).

### **Seeking Photos for Dr. B Talks Texas Wine Series**

The [Dr. B Talks Texas Wine](#) series, a video series where you can learn about the great varieties that grow well in Texas and have produced exceptional wines, invites all Texas wineries to submit individual bottle images for each of the following Texas grown wine varieties: Grenache, Malbec, Marsanne, Merlo, Montepulciano, Mourvedre, Muscat Canelli, Petit Verdot, Petite Sirah, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Riesling, Roussanne, Sagrantino, Sangiovese, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, Tannat, Touriga nacional, Trebbiano, Vermentino, and Viognier.



Please email the images to Dr. Andreea Botezatu, Assistant Professor & Enology Extension Specialist for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, at [abotezatu@tamu.edu](mailto:abotezatu@tamu.edu) using a white or neutral background in a jpeg or png format.

Dr. B Talks Texas Wine most recent video covered Blanc DuBois and can be viewed [here](#).

### **Grape Berry Ripening and Sampling Techniques**

*Source: Texas A&M Viticulture & Enology*

*July 2019*

*By Daniel Hillin*

[Full Article](#)

When are the grapes going to be ready to harvest? Well, it depends...

Harvest determination is often a tricky subject here in Texas. Ripening grapes encompasses many different variables that change year to year depending on the weather and location. Our hot, unpredictable climate can lead to rapid changes in berry development and expedited

harvest. Unpredictable weather can bring hail damage to the High Plains and flooding to the lower Rio Grande Valley all in the same growing season. Texas is so large and diverse that the difference in harvest date can vary as much as four months between specific regions. These unique challenges require close monitoring by producers on a year to year basis.

This article will review the changes that occur during grape berry ripening and cover specific berry sampling procedures that can help growers closely monitor the ripening process right up to harvest.

To read the full article click [here](#).

## **Press**

### **Bunny Becker, 1940-2019: Saying Goodbye to a Grand Dame of Texas Wine**

*Source: Texas Monthly*

*August 7, 2019*

*By Jessica Dupuy*

[Full Article](#)

While many Texans are squeezing in their last summer vacations in August, those in the state's wine industry are hard at work, putting in long hours to bring in the harvest. But although this year's harvest looks to be both high in quality and bountiful, it's a bittersweet one. On Monday, Mary Clementine Ellison "Bunny" Becker, co-founder of one of the state's most well-respected wineries, Becker Vineyards, passed away.

To read more please click [here](#) for the full article.

### **Wine Grape Quality Above Average Despite Challenges in Texas Vineyards**

*Source: Longview News-Journal*

*August 11, 2019*

*By Adam Russell*

[Full Article](#)

The 2019 growing season bestowed blessing and curse for Texas vineyards, with a challenging growing year culminating in lower yields but the promise of exceptional wines from Texas wine grapes. Early harvest varieties in Northeast Texas are bearing out the forecast of high-quality 2019 fruit.

"This season has been the tale of two extremes for most producers," said Michael Cook, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension viticulture program special in Denton. "We had an exceptionally wet spring from the Gulf Coast to Hill Country and High Plains over to North Texas. Ample rains started in the fall and didn't stop. All that rain was a blessing and a curse."

*This article addresses the issues and outcomes of the 2019 growing season. To read the full article click [here](#).*

## **Texas Wine Tribute Gala Dinner**

*Date: September 7, 2019*

*Location: Grapevine, Texas*

Each year the City of Grapevine hosts the [Texas Wine Tribute Gala Dinner and Auction](#) as a pre-event to GrapeFest where the Tall in Texas Award is given to a Texas winery. As previously announced in [this](#) newsletter, this year's Tall in Texas award winner is Spicewood Vineyards. All wineries and vineyards are invited to participate in the Grapefest Texas Wine Tribute Gala and Auction by attending the dinner on Saturday, September 7 and/or donating an auction item.

The gala will take place on Saturday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Hall at the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau. Tickets are limited and cost \$125 each or \$1,000 per table. For tickets call Lindy Bell at the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau at (817) 410-3128. Contact Nicole at [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org) with auction donations.

**Please email [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org) to include a notice in a future newsletter.**