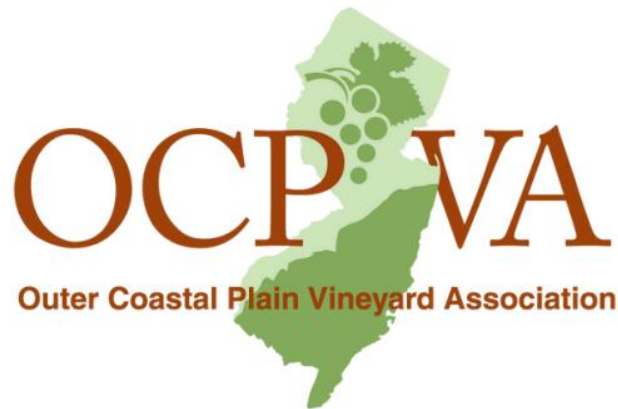


OCVPA 4th Quarter 2024 Newsletter



November Membership Meeting Updates

Thank you to Saddle Hill and Peter for graciously hosting the November meeting at the wonderful new facility in Voorhees. High on the list of topics was NJ Wine Expo, grant funding plans and there were two speakers at this meeting who had some enlightening offerings. There were also several fine examples of Blaufrankisch varietal wines from several members. Thanks go out to those who shared.



SADDLEHILL

Grant Projects

- The order for smudge pots relating to the WIC 2024 grant has been placed and 100 of the heaters are set to be delivered to Bellview Winery later in December/January. There is still an

opportunity for additional vineyards to participate as (4) slots are still available. Email Kelly directly for info and requirements to get (10) smudge pots at half the normal price.

kellyocpva@gmail.com

- Double A Vineyard has been notified of the grant funds available for the discount available to NJ vineyards to receive when they order either San Marco or Trentina vines. The discount is \$1.00 off each vine purchased. These varieties produce fine wines in the right hands and should be given a second look if you're on the fence.
- Dustin and the Grant Committee are working hard to lay the groundwork for the third part of the grant money. He has recruited a few folks with high-end wine hospitality experience and the project is moving along. Stay tuned for updates on event locations and dates. To help on the committee, email Kelly directly if interested. kellyocpva@gmail.com

Speakers at the Meeting

- Dr Joseph Stanzione and Dr Jennifer Kitson shared their expertise on glass recycling and recirculation and the research program they are building at Rowan University. Joining the program prompts a special container to be placed at the winery and filled with used, empty glass bottles. These are picked up as filled and taken back to be processed. Some glass is crushed and used in agriculture or mixed into roadbed materials.

They are working on a program to sanitize and reuse bottles that can be sold back to the wineries at significant savings over new bottles. Successful operations like this are already in place in New York and California. For more info, go to: <https://engineering.rowan.edu/programs/chemical/news/njdep-rea-grant-2023.html> or search “Rowan glass recirculation”.

- Sherwood L. Taylor, Sr Director, Workforce Development of Atlantic Cape Community College, spoke on their apprenticeship program and gathered information from the group to improve the young program.

It will be in conjunction with the USDOL and aims to provide workforce-ready personnel for various segments of trades, including agriculture. staylor@atlanticcape.edu for more specifics.

Inaugural NJ Wine Expo

The NJ Wine Expo is the first of its kind and size to present NJ fine wines to the media and the public.

The event took place in Holmdel, NJ on November 7, 2024, at the prestigious Bell Works location. More than 30 NJ wineries poured more than 150 different wines. Demonstrations from NJ winemakers including the OCPVA Coeur d’Est and the Women in Wine Blended Wine Project. There was plenty of media in attendance and the event was well covered. By all accounts, this event was a tremendous success! Thanks to Devon Perry, Executive Director; Garden State Wine Growers Association and Dave Gardner

Winemaker/General Manager Bellview Winery, among others for putting this premier event together!

Upcoming Events:



SAVE THE DATE!!!

- **The 2025 VGANJ Convention** will be held in Atlantic City from **February 3-6**. There are a slew of educational opportunities including one for vineyard soil health on Tuesday morning. There is also a pesticide safety class on Monday offering credits. For registration and program schedule use the link: <https://vganj.com/convention-tickets>
- **The Winemaker's Co-op** will sponsor a wonderful educational event called Groundwork- A Vineyard Floor Management Summit. It will be held in Princeton on **March 10 & 11, 2025**. The first day will be a classroom setting with speakers from far and wide sharing what they know about the vineyard floor. The second day will be in the vineyards of *Working Dog Winery* for demonstration of techniques and equipment relating to soil management. Tickets will be available in January.
- **Grape Expectations**- an outstanding educational opportunity is coming to a new venue on **March 19, 2025**. Speaker list and location to be announced.
- **The Eastern Winery Expo** is being held in Lancaster, PA, **March 25-27, 2025**. There is always something to learn in all facets of wine from enology to hospitality to marketing and

finance. The tickets are on sale now and hotel space is limited. It is a few weeks later this year to sidestep possible winter weather but still early enough to not get in the way of springtime vineyard work. Visit: Easternwineryexposition.com to register. Use code **25CPVA** when registering to receive a **10%** discount.

Row Mulcher/Composter Demo

There were representatives available on Thursday, November 5th from 10 to 12 at Autumn Lake Winery to answer questions about the Millcreek Mulcher machine. There was a full demonstration as well to provide insight into the machine's capabilities. The machine can spread mulch, compost or wood chips directly onto the herbicide strip area. There are lots of ways to adjust it to get exactly what is needed.

For more info, email mark@allonardoenterprises.com or visit www.rowmulchers.com

2024 Growing Season

The beautiful growing season weather we all enjoyed this vintage has many very excited about the wine to come. Drier conditions and sunny days in September and October lead to lower disease pressure and allowed longer hang times than normal. Much of the harvest schedule was determined by ripeness and flavor as opposed to pending weather and fungal problems.

Cheers to NJ wine, 2024!!



Something is Always Broken.

There's always a flat tire, a squeaky bearing or a rough running engine around the farm. When all equipment is running well, it's a broken irrigation main, torn greenhouse plastic or busted fence post. If all that's good, then there's a ground hog digging under the concrete or a stray fallen tree across the vineyard road. It never ends! There's never anything to do in addition to the regular work. Fixing is part of farming and that is not going to change.

Having the correct supplies and tools on-hand consistently can make these repairs and mitigations less painful. Slowly over the course of my time at the farm, I have accumulated lists and documentations to ease and even prevent some of the events that torture my schedule and psyche alike. Independence from plumbers, electricians, carpenters and diesel mechanics is paramount as margins are already razor thin.

The first thing I did was to get a blank engineers computation book and create a list of all equipment on the farm. Each item gets its own page and the equipment brand, year, model number, serial number etc. is at the top of the page. Underneath is a detailed list with dates of repairs and service and the machinery hours. Part numbers for frequently purchased items such as filters are logged as well. Every tractor, generator, mower, attachment, forklift, log splitter, trailer and even the chainsaws and smaller power tools have a page. Save a page in the front for a table of contents so you can find things.

There is an entire shelf in the tool shed dedicated to motor oil and hydraulic oil. It seems each manufacturer wants a little something different and if it is not used the warranty is void. The shelf stays fully stocked and there are notes to show which oil goes where. A smaller shelf contains filter kits for the larger equipment including air, oil and fuel filters. We are always ready to do the next service rather than ordering the parts at the time of

service. This way, the service can be scheduled for a convenient time like a rainy day rather than as an emergency and the new filter kits may be ordered at leisure.

Having small fasteners handy can keep the project moving instead of running out to the hardware store every time a bolt or tractor pin is needed. I got a bunch of those colored plastic bins from the steel store and put labels on them so we can find things. Nuts and bolts, washers, hose clamps, pins, hooks...on and on. There must be 40 of those boxes in the shed and we're always digging in them to find something. We use the larger colored bins for plumbing parts, electrical parts and other items. Large items like fence posts, plumbing pipe, cinder blocks, lumber or irrigation supplies go on pallets and get lined up along the deer fence out of the way. They're spread out so all is visible at a glance.

Keeping it neat and tidy is a bit of a chore, but we manage. My wife says I'm a pack rat, but I save a lot of trips to the store! One time, a while ago, we built a 120 foot long retaining wall up to 4 feet high and did not buy anything but a bucket of tar to coat the sub-grade Sections!

Happy farming!

Mark

