

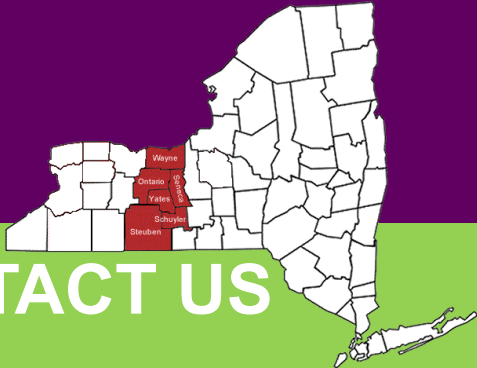
ENROLL IN THE FLGP

Enrolling in the FLGP gives growers access to research-based information that enhances productivity, profitability, and sustainability of the grape industry in the Finger Lakes region.

Benefits of enrollment in the FLGP include:

- *Finger Lakes Vineyard Update* – our weekly electronic newsletter sent every week during the growing season.
- *Veraison to Harvest* - weekly updates on fruit maturity and other harvest-related information leading up to and during harvest season.
- Important announcements about upcoming events, meetings and workshops.

For more information or to enroll online, visit <http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment>.



FLGP Industry Advisory Committee Members

Ontario County

Eric Amberg, Grafted Grapevine Nursery
Rich Jerome, Jerome's U-Pick Fruit Farm

Schuyler County

John Santos, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards
Tina Hazlitt, Sawmill Creek Vineyards

Seneca County

Cameron Hosmer, Hosmer Winery
Bill Dalrymple, Dalrymple Farm

Steuben County

Matt Doyle, Doyle Vineyard Management
Mel Goldman, Keuka Lake Vineyards

Wayne County

David Smith, Smith Brothers Farm
Herm Young, Young Sommer Winery

Yates County

Harry Humphreys, Humphreys Vineyard
Eileen Farnan, Barrington Cellars

Other Members

Constellation Brands (processor representative)
Gregg McConnell, Farm Credit East (financial representative)
Derek Wilber, Swedish Hill Winery (winemaker representative)
Justine Vanden Heuvel, Cornell University (faculty representative)
Chris Gerling, Cornell University (Enology Extension)

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finger lakes
grape program

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FINGER LAKES GRAPE PROGRAM

2017 Year In Review



The Finger Lakes Grape Program (FLGP) is a regional extension program of Cornell Cooperative Extension, serving the grape and wine industry of the Finger Lakes where more than 300 farms produce over 125 varieties of grapes from approximately 10,000 acres of vineyards. The FLGP provides unbiased, research-based information to the industry in all areas of grape production including vineyard and pest management practices, vineyard nutrition and soils, new vineyard establishment, and farm business management as a means of supporting the industry's growth and long-term sustainability.

The growing season in 2017 was another reminder that, while we talk about an “average growing season” a lot, in reality, there is no such thing. The 2016-17 winter was kind to the region's vineyards for the first time in several years, but rains seemed relentless this spring and summer, leading to heavier disease pressure, lots of canopy growth, and higher berry weights. The combination of sunny weather during bud formation last year, minimal winter injury, and big berries resulted in larger than average yields in most vineyards this year, regardless of variety. Fortunately, conditions for ripening improved dramatically in the fall, bringing greater optimism about the quality of the vintage.

As we have seen recently, the environmental conditions that growers have to deal with each season can vary greatly, making informed decision-making critical to a farm's success. The FLGP provides growers with information that helps them to manage the impacts of things like weather and pests on their crop each year. For example, the FLGP worked with Cornell scientists Wayne Wilcox and Megan Hall to communicate new recommendations for sour rot management in 2017. Growers who implemented these practices said that they were able to harvest more fruit with better quality thanks to this new research. This is just one example of the kind of information that we bring to the industry every year through our field meetings, conferences, newsletters and farm visits.

Once again this year, we were fortunate to have some excellent help with our various projects. John Kurtz, our summer field technician, provided a critical extra set of hands this year, ably running our annual invasive pest trapping network, and also providing a lot of help with our field trials and at the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard.

Finally, I want to thank all of the growers who have supported the FLGP over the past year, whether by allowing us to collect samples or run trials in their vineyards, hosting a Tailgate Meeting, or by enrolling in the Grape Program. I also want to acknowledge and thank our grower advisory committee for their support and guidance for the program this year. Please do not hesitate to contact any of them, or us at the Grape Program, if you have ideas on ways that we can better serve this industry.

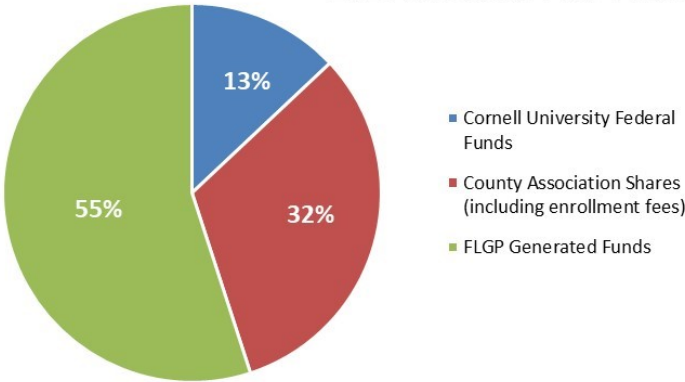
Hans Walter-Peterson

Team Leader



From Left to Right: Hans Walter-Peterson, Gillian Trimmer, and John Kurtz

2017 Sources of FLGP Funding



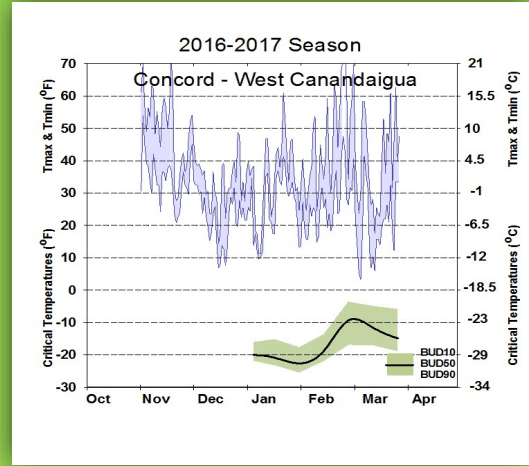
“Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities”

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Finger Lakes Grape Program

Veraison to Harvest and Grapevine Cold Hardiness Monitoring: Statewide Collaborations

Several of the Finger Lakes Grape Program's largest impact projects in the region are conducted in collaboration with statewide extension efforts. Veraison to Harvest and Grapevine Cold Hardiness Monitoring both act as major opportunities to engage directly with growers, conduct on-farm research, and provide information for a wide industry audience on vine health, temperature responses, and growing conditions. The information the FLGP gathers from Finger Lakes vineyards can be extremely valuable to growers elsewhere in the state, and likewise we learn a great deal from putting what's going on at local farms in a larger context.

Veraison to Harvest is a weekly newsletter comprised of articles written by viticulture and enology extension specialists located in each of New York State's major grape-growing regions and grape ripeness data collected in September and October on 29 farms across New York. These data and the accompanying background information assist commercial vineyards and wineries in making critical harvest decisions, and also form a body of work that can be used in future studies.



Grapevine Cold Hardiness Monitoring on commercial vineyards involves regional extension agents visiting farms biweekly, collecting dormant bud samples, and returning these to the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva for analysis. Funding comes from the New York Wine and Grape Foundation and the Kaplan Fund. As cold injury is one of the greatest challenges facing growers in the Northeast, and bud cold hardiness can change over the course of the winter, timely information on this subject is relevant for growers making pruning and planting decisions. Much as with Veraison to Harvest, data from this ongoing project is valuable not only to growers, but to researchers trying to understand how grapevines function in our climate.

Each of these projects involves FLGP staff spending time collecting samples on local Finger Lakes farms, utilizing statewide resources for analysis, then sharing the resulting information with both our regional membership and the much broader New York State grape-growing community. Through these collaborations and partnerships, the FLGP has been able to greatly expand the scope and reach of our work, while still serving Finger Lakes grape growers on an individual level.

Funding support for these projects comes from the New York Wine and Grape Foundation , the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research & Extension Program, Inc., and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

Understanding the Role of Clones and Site in Grapes & Wine



For the past three years, we have been conducting an extensive field trial that is aimed at trying to understand the relative contributions that a vineyard site and the clone of Riesling planted on that site have on the taste and aroma of the wines. We have been working at three sites on the east side of Seneca Lake with the same three clones of Riesling planted at each site – clones 90, 198 and 239. In addition to collecting data on fruit characteristics and yield components from each site & clone combination, we will be conducting sensory analysis on the wines from these different treatments to look at how much influence each site and each clone have on how wine drinkers perceive these wines.

This project is one part of Hans Walter-Peterson's research towards obtaining his Ph.D. The goal of this research is to develop information about the performance of different clones in the vineyard and how important those clones are in the perception of the wines made from them. This will allow us to make better recommendations to growers about appropriate Riesling clones for future plantings in the Finger Lakes region.

Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard

The Finger Lakes Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard is a collaboration between the Finger Lakes Grape Program and Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC). The vineyard provides an interactive, hands-on space for learning how to grow grapes on a commercial scale. Many members of the local grape industry and general public use the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard to learn new skills and to gain an appreciation for what goes into growing grapes. With 16 different grape varieties, four different vine training systems, and a range of trellising, irrigation, bird deterrent, cover-cropping and vigor management techniques in place, growers can check out viticulture methods they might use in person before implementing them on their own farms. Those considering starting a vineyard are introduced to the trade in workshops and consultations with FLGP staff held at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard. This year, FLGP workshops and tours held at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard were attended by approximately 85 industry members, master gardeners, and new growers.



Many thanks to the New York Wine and Grape Foundation for its support of the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard.

In 2017, the Finger Lakes Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard Produced

- 23,095 lbs of grapes harvested
- \$4,970 worth of grapes given to FLCC
- 23 hands-on classes

B.E.V. NY 2017



B.E.V. NY is a conference hosted by the Finger Lakes Grape Program, Cornell's Extension Enology Lab, and the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. This collaboration allows for cross-pollination of information and people involved in the different facets of the grape and wine industry: Business, Enology, and Viticulture. It also acts as a major opportunity for students and newcomers to the wine industry to engage with seasoned members and with one another. Conference participants learn from world-renowned researchers, experts and experienced peers on topics relevant to viticulture, business management, and enology in New York State. The conference also helps scientists focus their research on industry needs, providing valuable face-to-face time between growers, winemakers, business owners, and researchers.

In 2017, B.E.V. NY garnered over 100 participants each day, with 183 people in attendance on Viticulture Day. The conference tradeshow featured 23 vendors from supporting businesses and organizations. Over the three day conference, 32 educational speakers addressed the group.

B.E.V. NY is an important tool in helping to achieve the Finger Lakes Grape Program and Cornell Cooperative Extension's goals of bringing science-based information to those that can use it, and facilitating communication and education between Cornell University and the people putting agriculture research into practice.

