

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



Quarterly Report: January-March 2018

Program Highlights

- The FLGP and Cornell Enology Extension Program hosted the 5th annual B.E.V. NY conference. The conference attracted more than 500 attendees and vendors over the three-day event. Friday's viticulture program was "attended" by more than 50 people online who were unable to attend due to a winter storm.
- Donald Caldwell started his new position as the FLGP's viticulture technician on February 15.
- Videographer James Monahan left his position with the FLGP and CCE. A search is underway for his replacement.
- The FLGP was awarded a grant with Dr. Anna Katharine Mansfield to examine anthocyanin development in red hybrid grapes.

B.E.V. NY Conference Carries on Despite Winter Storm 'Riley'



The fifth iteration of the B.E.V. NY conference took place on Wednesday, February 28 – Friday, March 2 at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. Registration for this year's conference was significantly higher than last year, with over 300 people attending the conference over the three days. This includes about 60 hardy souls who braved the roads in the midst of winter storm 'Riley' and attended the viticulture program on Friday.

For the first time, this year's conference had a theme running through the program of all three days – sparkling wine. On each day of the conference, experts discussed the various aspects of producing and selling sparkling wine from New York.

Wednesday's program also featured the Unity Luncheon hosted by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation, where various members and supporters of the industry were recognized for their contributions to the ongoing growth and success of the New York wine and grape industry. Finger Lakes grower Tina Hazlitt was awarded the 'Grower of the Year' award.

With the knowledge that many of the attendees on Friday would not be able to make it to the conference in person, we attempted a first at B.E.V. NY – streaming the program to registered attendees via Cornell's Zoom online meeting system. This allowed an additional 55 people to "attend" the viticulture program online. Overall, about 110 of the 150 people registered for Friday's viticulture program were able to participate. Because of the success of the online presentation of this year's viticulture program, we are considering adding an additional online registration option for next year's B.E.V. NY conference, which would allow us to expand the reach of the important business, enology and viticulture information that is presented at the conference.



B.E.V. NY organizers Anna Katharine Mansfield, Hans Walter-Peterson and Chris Gerling.

FLGP Personnel Changes



Viticulture Extension Educator Gillian Trimmer resigned from her position with the Finger Lakes Grape Program on December 20, 2017. After the development of a new position description to change the program's county-employed educator position to a university-employed technician, a search was conducted to find somebody to fill the new position. On February 15, 2018, **Donald Caldwell** started as the FLGP's viticulture technician. Don had previously worked with the FLGP for several months in 2016 as a temporary field assistant, so his familiarity with the program has helped him to get off to a fast start in his job.



In February, our videographer **James Monahan** left his position to move to Michigan. Jim was originally hired by the FLGP in 2012 to develop videos as part of the extension effort for the VitisGen SCRI project. When that project ended, he began working for four of the CCE regional agriculture extension teams – the Finger Lakes Grape Program, Cornell Vegetable Program, Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program, and Harvest NY – as well as doing some work on behalf of the CCE system. Jim will continue to work for CCE until June 1 on a limited hour basis as he finishes up some final projects. We are currently in the midst of a search process for somebody to fill the videographer position, and hope to have it filled in May.

Grant Funding

Funded Projects

Monitoring Grapevine Bud Hardiness for Winter Survival. 1/1/18 – 3/31/18, \$2,098. Funded by Kaplan Fund, NY Wine & Grape Foundation. Collaborators: Tim Martinson, Tim Weigle

This ongoing project provides important information to growers about the winter survival of grapevine buds. Samples are collected every two weeks from Finger Lakes vineyards and analyzed for their ability to withstand cold temperatures. This information is communicated to growers so they can make determine if they need to adjust their pruning practices to compensate for bud injury. Results are posted at <https://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/extension/bud-hardiness-data>.

Evolution and Distribution of Anthocyanins in Red, Interspecific Hybrid Grapes. 4/1/18 – 3/31/20, \$19,779. Funded by NYSAES Research Venture Fund. Co-PI: Dr. Anna Katharine Mansfield - Dept. of Food Science & Technology

Recent research on interspecific hybrid winegrapes has uncovered several chemical differences that make traditional winemaking practices suboptimal for hybrid wine production. One persistent problem is unusual or unstable wine color in red hybrid wines. Hybrid grapes have a wider variety of anthocyanins (pigments) than traditional *Vitis vinifera* cultivars. These produce color that ages poorly and is perceived as atypical by wine consumers, impairing wine quality and acceptability. The reactions governing anthocyanin extraction and rearrangement are therefore quite different in *V. vinifera* and hybrid grape wines, so production methods that enhance color in traditional wines have proven ineffective for hybrids. To optimize red wine production from hybrid cultivars, anthocyanin accumulation, distribution, and annual variability will be charted in economically significant representatives of three hybrid grape cultivar types. By determining the types and



Grant Funding (continued from page 2)

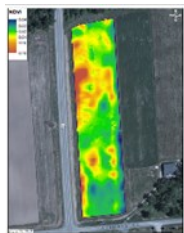
representatives of three hybrid grape cultivar types. By determining the types and distribution of pigments in these cultivars, we can begin to understand the mechanisms involved in hybrid color development and evolution, allowing future design production methods to optimized hybrid red wine color and ageability.

Proposals submitted

Evaluation of Methods for Management of Field Bindweed in New York Vineyards. Submitted to New York Wine & Grape Foundation/Lake Erie Regional Grape Research & Extension Program. Proposed budget: \$16,738 (Year 1 of two-year project). Collaborator: Bryan Brown - NYS IPM Program.

Perennial weeds are an increasing problem in Finger Lakes vineyards. This project will evaluate the effects of glyphosate, rimsulfuron, and cultivation on weed control, with particular attention to bindweed, and measure the effect of each system on yield and profitability so that growers can make more informed management decisions.

Spatial Data Collection and its Correlation with Viticultural Parameters in Finger Lakes Vineyards. Submitted to New York Wine & Grape Foundation/Lake Erie Regional Grape Research & Extension Program. Proposed budget: \$22,966 (Year 1 of three-year project). Collaborators: James Meyers - Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program; Justine Vanden Heuvel – School of Integrated Plant Sciences, Horticulture Section.



The primary objective of this project is to examine the relationship between high-resolution aerial NDVI images of Finger Lakes vineyards and certain viticultural parameters such as pruning weight, yield, and disease levels. While NDVI data has been used in other cropping systems, including grapes, in other agricultural regions, it has had very little exposure to grape growers in the Finger Lakes region. This project is intended to introduce the Finger Lakes grape and wine industry to NDVI technology, demonstrate some of its potential uses, and begin a discussion about the utility of further research and demonstration of this technology in the region.

FLGP in the Media

Connections on WXXI FM radio: [The state of winemaking in the Finger Lakes Region](http://wxxi.com/news/state-winemaking-finger-lakes) (February 26, 2018). Interviewed with Anna Katharine Mansfield, associate professor of enology, David Wiemann, vineyard manager at Sheldrake Point, and Kelby Russell, winemaker at Red Newt Cellars. (Link: <http://wxxi.com/news/state-winemaking-finger-lakes>)

Cornell Chronicle: [New York vintners urged to pop their corks at annual wine event](http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2018/03/new-york-vintners-urged-pop-their-corks-annual-wine-event) (March 1, 2018). (Link: <http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2018/03/new-york-vintners-urged-pop-their-corks-annual-wine-event>)

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Hans Walter-Peterson—Team Leader
Donald Caldwell—Viticulture Technician

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is supported, in part, by six county Cornell Cooperative Extensions Associations: Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

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