

Independent Grape Growers Paso Robles Area

Volume 9, Issue 2

President-Richard Sauret

Editor-Allene F. Elder

March/April 2011

APRIL SOCIAL

Old San Miguel Parish Center,
795 Monterey Rd., San Miguel, CA
(behind the Old Mission San Miguel),

April 16, 2011 6:pm– 10:pm

Menu ~ Mexican Food

IGGPRA provides Appetizers & Salad
Members bring by last name:

A to R: Favorite Mexican Main Dish
6-8 servings
S to Z: Dessert 6-8 servings

Bring table set-ups, glasses and
wine or beverage of your
choice. Members and one guest
free, additional guests \$5 each,
members of the public
\$10 each.

RSVP Elizabeth Torp 226-8293
By Wednesday April 13, 2011
or go to our web site
www.pasorobleswinegrapes.com
and click on the link.

IGGPRA Mission Statement:

1. Grower education and marketing strategy.
2. The sustainable growth, harvest and profitable sale of high quality wine grapes.
3. Enhancing the economic health of our growers by differentiating the premium quality of our grapes from other grape growing regions.
4. Continuing to provide agriculture that is sustainable environmentally, economically and socially and to advocate at all levels of government where involvement is essential to our growers.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

PRESIDENT – Richard Sauret

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VICE PRESIDENT – Dale Evenson

Cell (805) 712-2589

SECRETARY – Mike Collins

(805) 462-0171

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(ACTING) TREASURER –open (Milt Laird)

(805) 237-9202 e-mail: milts@aol.com

VENDOR/SUPPLIER RELATIONS: OPEN

SEMINARS

Lowell Zelinski (805) 434-3331

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Ken Bray, Marilyn Curry,

Joe Irick, Herman Salazar,
Jutta Thoerner, Lowell Zelinski

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Social – Elizabeth Torp (805) 226-8293

Historian – Suzie Evenson

(805) 467-3772

MARKETING & PUBLICITY–

AR& CO, INC.

Angel Robinson

Membership

Herman Salazar (805) 467-3280

Newsletter

Sharon Bloechl (805) 462-3489

vonrund@pacbell.net

CAVEAT: Articles presented in this newsletter should not be construed as a recommendation by the author, IGGPRA Editor, or IGGPRA; but rather as a source of information!

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Ash Wednesday	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Zin Festival weekend
20 1st Day of Spring	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	April Fool's Day	
					1	2
3	4	5 Jefferson' B-day	6	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday	11	12 Passover	13	14	15	16 Good Friday
17 Easter	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH TASKS

- Irrigation
- Prep for frost protection
- Pruning
- Spring Cultivation
- Weed Control
- Nitrogen Fertilization

APRIL TASKS

- Irrigation
- Nitrogen Fertilization
- Shoot Removal
- Thinning
- Spring Cultivation
- Zinc Fertilization

2011 IGGPRA CALENDAR

All dates/seminars are subject to change.

Suggestions for seminars are welcome. Contact ANY board member to offer your suggestions!

Apr 5	Marketing Your Grapes	8:30 am– 11:30
	J. Lohr Wine Center	
Apr 16	Social	6pm-10pm
	SAN MIGUEL PARISH CENTER	
May	seminar	tbd
June 18	Social	6 pm-10pm
	RIO SECO Winery & Vineyard	
July	seminar	tbd
Aug 20	Social	6 pm-10pm
	Falcon Nest Winery	
Sept	seminar	tbd
Oct		
Sun, Oct 23,	Social	tbd
Nov	seminar	tbd
Dec	Christmas Party	6pm-10pm
	SAN MIGUEL PARISH CENTER	

Our Social Chair-Elizabeth Torp

We started our 2011 with a fabulous social at the San Miguel Parish Center. About 120 of us gathered for Italian food, wonder company and a delightful location.

Finally, a nice place with enough room, great bathrooms and a kitchen of my dreams.

Best of all, we have the location booked for April and our Christmas social. See you all there April 16 for our fun Mexican Social.



Why not buy a sign? It really looks good on your property! A small donation of \$25 YOU will be able to display it on your fence or business.

Farm Supply has offered to keep some signs for your convenience so that you can go pick one or two up after you make your purchase. Please ask for Dale Evenson.

The May Antique Car Show
 DATE: MAY 14
 TIME: 12:00 Noon
 WHERE: ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM
 4251 Dry Creek Road
 Paso Robles, CA 93446-9540

Come and join two of IGGPRA's own,
 Fred and Judy Andersen
 (Andersen Vineyards).
 Fred and Judy will be presenting
 their musical talents at
 the May antique car show!
 Stop by - enjoy a bit of nostalgia.

See you there. Herman Salazar, Membership Chair

IGGPRA'S NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS IS:

www.pasorobleswinegrapes.com

Please call AR & Company PR & Marketing at 805-239-4443. if you have questions.

A message from IGGPRA Membership Chair

July IGGPRA Fundraiser - We are seeking persons interested in working on a very interesting exciting fundraiser project!

You may contact me, and I will elaborate:

Herman Salazar (805) 467-3280 or sf49giants@hughes.net

IGGPRA 2011 Grape and Wine Symposium
in Sacramento.

- Special appreciation to Clarence and Alene Elder (Elder Vineyard) for ensuring IGGPRA was represented for two days at this well-attended event (12,000+).
- Thank you, also, to our members who assisted the Elders with set up/take down, answering questions, displays, Caitie Hinkle (Rio Seco),
- Thank you, also, to all wineries and growers that provided wine labels for our fantastic wine label display! Our display was, and continues to be, a big hit.

NEW DISPLAY in the works for 2011.

If you are interested in participating, please send two of your wine labels (front only) to me:

Herman Salazar
1860 Rancho Lomas Way
San Miguel CA, 93451



2011 Sacramento Wine Grape Symposium

L TO R Clarence Elder, Caitie Hinkle & Herman Salazar & the wine label display!

2011 IGGPRA BOARD MEMBERS

Newly elected board members were announced at the February Annual Meeting. Welcome to these board members: Ken Bray, Marilyn Curry, Joe Irick, Herman Salazar and Jutta Thoerner. Each person will do his/her best for IGGPRA.



L to R President, Richard Sauret, Joe Irick, Ken Bray, Marilyn Curray, & Herman Salazar missing Jutta Thoerner



Sharon Bloechl

NEW EDITOR FOR IGGPRA'S NEWSLETTER

Sharon Bloechl will be your new editor starting with the upcoming May/June edition. According to the information she has sent me, she has experience in pro-

(Continued on page 9)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As IGGPRA moves into another year we have five board members, Allene Elder, Clarence Elder, Tom Hinkle, Margaret Burrell Hall and Milt Laird leaving and by voter approval voted in five new board members, Ken Bray, Marilyn Curry, Joe Irick, Herman Salazar and Jutta Thoerner. Some of the board members leaving have been there since the beginning and have done a great job and will be replaced by very capable members.

Of our entire membership there were forty ballots turned in, not a number to be proud of. The one candidate that did not get voted in lost by one vote, an example of how important your vote may have been.



This year there seems to be a little more buyer interest in wine grapes and now is the time to find that buyer or let them know where to find you. Our web site is one good exposure for what you have for sale. AR&CO can help you with that. Facebook as explained in the last newsletter is another way to have buyers aware of what you have for sale.

It is that time of year with a few warm days the vines will start showing signs of waking up, I would prefer not to see that very soon but Mother Nature will always have her way. No one really knows what this spring weather will be like but if it is like last year there is some things that some growers will want to do different as to canopy management. Last year was a learning curve for what happens if not done properly or not at all. Mildew and bunch rot can take its share and to sort this out at harvest time is more expensive than proper canopy management.

You do have tools to help you with diseases in the vine but you need to do your shoot thinning and leaf pulling to allow your chemicals to get to the problem areas. Proper pruning in winter time can diminish the cost of all the above mentioned by a noticeable amount.

With again a normal rainfall year back to back leaching away the toxins your vines are going to be full and happy and calling for your attention.

I hope for all growers that this is the beginning of a year that is as good as or better than last.

Regards, Richard Sauret

NEW MEMBERS

ASSOCIATES

Paso Robles Wholesale Nursery Vineyard Supplies
Steve Henigman
4366 Valley Lane Paso Robles 93446
805-238-6362
prwholesale@charter.net

Mode Communications

Denise McLean
7256 Breslin Ln Paso Robles 93446
Hm 805-239-4530 wk 805-674-8176
dmclean@modecommunications.com
Www.modecommunications.com

FRIENDS

Michael & Judy Blunden
912 Vista Cerro Dr Paso Robles 93446
805-226-816
blunden@globalnet.co.uk

Budget issues dominate as CFBF visits D.C.

Issue Date: March 9, 2011

By Dave Kranz

CFBF Communications/News Division



Arriving in Washington, D.C., at a time of budget uncertainty that included the now-postponed threat of a government shutdown, California Farm Bureau Federation board members heard last week that Congress and federal government agencies will likely be focused on budget questions for the foreseeable future.

When describing congressional priorities to Farm Bureau leaders during a Capitol Hill meeting, Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Gold River, put it this way: "It's spending No. 1, spending No. 2 and spending No. 3."

Given that atmosphere in the nation's capital, Farm Bureau board members emphasized budget priorities important to California farmers and ranchers during three days of meetings with members of Congress, senators and leaders of federal agencies.

"Congress is in a budget-cutting mood, and we agree that government at all levels must live within its means," California Farm Bureau President Paul Wenger said. "We urged our representatives to look carefully at every program and consider how effective and important it is. For example, we think that it's essential to maintain critical work to fight invasive pests and diseases, and to continue essential agricultural research."

Farm Bureau leaders made the case for California priorities during meetings with congressional leaders including House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, R-Okla., and House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson, D-Minn. Members of the Farm Bureau group met with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and 29 members of the California congressional delegation or their agricultural legislative aides.

In addition, the Farm Bureau leaders visited U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters to meet with USDA

Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan and the leaders of USDA agencies overseeing pest and disease issues, conservation programs and research initiatives. Members of the Farm Bureau delegation also held talks with officials at the U.S. Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Forest Service.

"We understand people in Washington are concentrating on budget issues right now," Wenger said, "but we also wanted to remind them of the need to consider other issues important to California farmers and ranchers, such as regulatory reform, immigration policy, trade agreements, and water supply and delivery."

American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman told the California group that the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives may provide the prospect for reform of regulations that many people find onerous.

"We do have an opportunity to make changes that will make the environment better for farmers, ranchers and other small businesses," Stallman said.

But the path toward immigration policies that benefit farmers and ranchers may prove more difficult. Members of Congress from both political parties told the Farm Bureau group that Congress will likely adopt a requirement that employers use a program known as E-Verify to confirm the legal work status of their employees.

If that occurs, the Farm Bureau leaders said, Congress must also establish an effective guestworker program for agriculture, to assure that farmers and ranchers can maintain

food production with a legal work force.

Congressional leaders including Feinstein, McCarthy, Lungren and Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Simi Valley, told the Farm Bureau group that farmers have made an effective case that agricultural production depends on a foreign-born work force. But whether Congress will accommodate that need through legislation this year remains uncertain, they said.

That could leave farmers with no guestworker program other than the existing H-2A program, which Farm Bureau leaders described as "broken, ineffective and designed for failure."

Feinstein, who told the Farm Bureau delegation she has

(Continued on page 10)

The 2011 observance of Ground Water Awareness Week focuses on the message that groundwater is important to everyone, and everyone can do something to protect it.

A Review: 2011 Unified Grape & Wine Symposium

By: Caitie Hinkle, Rio Seco Vineyard & Winery

Not knowing exactly what to expect, my first experience at the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium was equal parts thrilling, informational and idea inspiring. It quickly became evident the two-day exposition would be full of long hours, endless smiles and networking with wine industry people from around the world. Luckily, I have no problems with, and in fact enjoy all of those tasks. As an honorary IGGPRA representative at our booth, a majority of my conversations revolved around two main topics: promoting Paso Robles grape growers and IGGPRA membership. The most common question asked by passers-by, mainly from less developed grape producing regions like Temecula and Arizona was “How do I get Paso Robles grapes?”

Everyone knows Paso Robles produces exceptional fruit, that fact was highlighted by the many inquiries and praises for our AVA. The question of how to acquire Paso Robles grapes deserved an answer for the sake of action and ultimately, the prospect of new grape contracts for IGGPRA growers. I kindly explained they had come to the right place, as IGGPRA represented over 200 growers in the greater Paso Robles AVA and over 28,000 acres of grapes.

You could literally see their eyes light up at the idea of one stop Paso Robles grape shopping. As the conversations continued, questions included varietals, growing practices, soil components, irrigation methods and of course prices to which I suggested they contact the grower directly by the phone and/or email given on the Marketplace page of the website.

It was brought to my attention that IGGPRA, as an organization is not responsible for brokering deals, advertising grape sales or assisting in the acquisition of new contracts. That was left to the individual grower. However, I think there is a missed opportunity here to use the collective power of IGGPRA and the general awareness of the Paso Robles AVA to better the opportunity of potential new contracts for every IGGPRA member looking to sell grapes. **While it may not be IGGPRA's purpose, it should become a stronger focus as the desire for Paso Robles grapes grows.** This need could be fulfilled better by actively focusing on selling and advertising grapes through IGGPRA. Expanding information on the website particularly regarding individual vineyard information and participating in events in key locations like Temecula and Arizona with the intention of selling grapes are a few factors to consider. Plus, this function serves as an added and important perk for dues paying members.

Membership was the second topic that seemed to center around one specific type of Symposium goer, the exhibitors. The most promising *potential* new IGGPRA members seemed to be industry suppliers such as fertilizer distributors, trellis and wire companies, equipment companies, transportation groups and even an import-export insurance company to name a few. The appeal of having access to a large group of targeted customers is a great incentive for these potential new members and actually **makes a lot of sense for IGGPRA's membership base.** **Yes, there is a “being sold things” aspect, but also a chance for members to be informed of price cuts on supplies and equipment, notification of special deals**

(Continued on page 9)

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1625 Leah Way, Paso Robles
93446 805-227-4424

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great with power adjust:
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plete with all necessary
equipment: \$1500

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nect loader with both a 6'
bucket and fork lift unit.
Tractor comes with a
brand new 6' box
scraper. Total hours 1100
asking \$23,000

Hardi Venturi-sprayer:
150 gallon 3 point unit in
excellent condition.:
\$2500

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Quad cab, leather inter-
ior, CD sound system,
diesel with a 70 gallon
tank mounted in the bed.
Truck also set up for
Gooseneck with \$78,000
miles, asking \$20,000

Indiana Floor scale:
\$750.00

CONTACT RICH ELLIS
805-748-5966

(Continued from page 7) *Wine Symposium*

and networking opportunities. No one is forced to buy anything from these people or even listen to what they have to say. They would be dues paying members, a good way to fund the association and keep it moving forward.

The 2011 Unified Grape and Wine Symposium was idea inspiring to say the least, many of

which I have not mentioned. I was honored to go and represent IGGPRA as a younger generation in the industry. My biggest discovery at the Symposium was that IGGPRA is on the brink of being a real force in Paso Robles and the greater grape growing community, a community and organization that I am proud to be a part of.

2011 THANK YOU FROM YOUR EDITOR

It is time to say “Goodbye”. I know that you are in good hands with the new editor. I would like to stress some importance with the Sacramento Wine Grape Symposium and the impact that our organization has helped promote with our Paso Robles area, our wine grapes and our quality wines.

Our booth attracts people that are interested in us, the Independent Grape Growers. We have had many inquiries and new members because of our booth at this event.



IGGPRA MEMBERS: I to r R. Wilkinson, C. Elder, M. Goldman, M. Wilkinson, S. Goldman



Herman Salazar & visitor

Clarence Elder, Seminar Chair (outgoing) has had quite a few guest speakers from the symposium for our seminars.

Many thanks goes to all the people that have been involved with putting together everything just to get us to the Sacramento Symposium. It starts with a committee planning

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 4) *Board News etc.*

ducing newsletters. Sharon and her husband, Wayne joined IGGPRA as Friends in 2004. They are also members of Wines & Steins and the Corkpullers. As a member of Wines & Steins, Sharon served as their webmaster for 6 years and 4 years as secretary and newsletter editor.

She also has some wine grape vines growing– 3 merlot vines & 3 cabernet sauvignon vines! To contact her call 805-462-3489 805-466-5466/vonrund@pacbel.net .

Hardworking Californians Cannot Afford a 'Crash Tax'

By Senator Tony Strickland

Cities across California are passing 'crash tax' ordinances, which allow police and fire departments to send a bill to nonresidents who get into accidents within their city limits. Almost 60 cities have passed some form of these crash tax laws, most recently, the city of Sacramento.

The fact of the matter is these crash taxes are nothing but a double-tax. Local small businesses work hard to bring people to their city for shopping, food, and entertainment. People travel to other cities, they spend their hard-earned money there, and they pay the local sales taxes there.

It is the duty of local governments to provide public safety. If these cities aren't using sales tax dollars to provide public safety, then I have to wonder, where is that money going?

Californians, regardless of the city in which they live, work, or visit, should be awarded certain public safety protections. They should be allowed to commute to work or travel to a neighboring city without having to worry about a bill waiting for them when they get home.

This is why I've authored Senate Bill 49. SB 49 would ban a local government from charging a fee or tax to any person, regardless of whether or not they live

there, for the cost related to dispatching an emergency responder.

Luckily, it seems some cities that have enacted these crash tax laws are seeing that they provide no real benefit and are working to repeal them. Roseville, north of Sacramento, recently repealed their crash tax law, stating that of the \$100,000 it was projected to take in, it only brought in \$40,000.

These crash taxes are unfair to all hardworking Californians who are already struggling to make ends meet. People can simply not afford yet another tax and people who work hard and who budget carefully should not have to spend their hard-earned money on a crash tax.

The fact is, these crash taxes are just another way for local governments to shift the responsibility of providing public safety over to the taxpayers. Californians are already taxed to the max and should not have to bear yet another burden.

If you are in support of SB 49, please send a letter to: Sen. Tony Strickland, State Capitol, Room 4062, Sacramento, CA

95814 or fax a letter to 916-324-7544.

(Continued from page 6) Budget Issues

been working on solutions for California's agricultural labor needs for the past nine years, said she would continue her efforts. Her new proposal, intended to be more attractive to the new Congress, would not include a pathway to citizenship—one of the issues that hampered previous versions of the bill.

In her role as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Feinstein said she would work to maintain funding for agricultural pest and disease exclusion programs, saying she had seen firsthand the severe impacts that pest infestations have had on California farms.

Representatives who serve on agricultural committees told the Farm Bureau delegation that federal farm spending has already been reduced but that more cuts may be on the way. AFBF President Stallman said he is concerned

about the prospect for "major cuts in the 2012 budget" affecting a number of agricultural programs.

USDA Deputy Secretary Merrigan acknowledged there's "anxiety" at USDA and other government agencies about the budget process. In response to questions from Farm

Bureau leaders, she said she expects new programs on specialty crops to "remain a thrust" for the department, and that USDA will seek to maintain high-priority research initiatives.

Peterson, who chaired the House Agriculture Committee for four years until earlier this year, pointed out to the Farm Bureau delegation that the budget process for the 2011-12 fiscal year has only just begun.

"It's too early to know how it's all going to come out," he said.

(Continued from page 9) *Thank You*

the trip and a lot of hard work getting all the equipment to the event center, set-up and then taken down.

All of this has to be done in the time specified by the Sacramento Center Event rules period!

This year, we really faced some challenges. Our faithful co-partners were not able to make the trip. Mike Collins and wife Lou could not go due to Mike's untimely stroke. And our newest co-partners, Tom & Carol Hinkle could not go due to Tom's untimely illness. Thank goodness we had fill-ins.

Herman Salazar and Caitie Hinkle came along to help. Herman could not come until later than expected, and out of the blue some very needed help was standing on the sidewalk saying, "I'll give you a hand". It was Don Hofer. Herman and Caitie will be a part of the group in the future trips too.

A new rule had been added to the unloading zone, "no unloading". So our truck had to be moved asap. That left Caitie & myself holding the bags so to speak. We sure were glad to see Don. If you have every tried to find a parking place in good old downtown Sacramento you know is not easy and we would have had to wait a very long time for Clarence to get back. Don jumped right in and started carrying some very heavy pieces that I couldn't handle and he also worked the booth for two hours. Caitie did an outstanding job of carrying a heavy piece of equipment, she says that she is used to picking up wine cases at their winery (Rio Seco Winery). THANK YOU Herman, Caitie, and Don for all of your help.

THANK YOU to the people that said, "yes" to interviews for this newsletter. The intent was to provide a mix of small vineyard growers/wineries to the larger ones with one or two bed & breakfasts thrown in for your reading enjoyment and to give all an opportunity to see their success (and hard work) in their ventures!
Your Editor, Allene

Booth display



Clarence Elder



Clarence Elder & Don Hofer



Clarence Elder, Caitie Hinkle
& Herman Salazar

IGGPRA NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 253
Creston, CA 93432



God Bless America

GROWERS HELPING GROWERS

