



**Monthly Tasting  
Theme: Zinfandels  
June 28, 2015, 3:00 pm**

**DIRECTOR'S SECTION  
(Tim Suttles, Director / Bob Garay, Director Elect)  
North Alabama American Wine Society**



Hopefully, if you are reading this newsletter, it's because you signed up and created your AWS account at our website at [www.naaws-hsv.com](http://www.naaws-hsv.com). If you have not created your account, please do so. A special thanks to the Gainey's for opening their lovely home for the May tasting.

We look forward to an exciting summer wine season beginning with the June Zinfandel tasting hosted by the Williams'. Also, mark your calendars for a special summer wine tasting on 26 July at Mezza Luna Restaurant in Jones Valley starting at 4:30 PM (not the usual 3:00 PM), with a wine representative from International Wines, food paring, and an opportunity to order the wines you like. There will be more on this in the July newsletter. That event will be followed by the ever popular August auction, which is always a fun event, and raises money for our scholarship fund. Please try to fit these events into your summer plans.

**Anniversary Wine Glasses**

We still have a few of the 20th Anniversary Wine Glasses remaining for those who wish to buy extras for \$5 per glass. To buy a glass please e-mail Tim Suttles at [director@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:director@naaws-hsv.com). If you did not attend the wine dinner and have yet to pick up your glass, they will be available for pick up at next few monthly tastings.

**Chapter 2015 Board of Directors**

Director – **Tim Suttles**, [director@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:director@naaws-hsv.com)  
Director Elect – **Bob Garay**, [director.elect@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:director.elect@naaws-hsv.com)  
Secretary – **Steve Peirce**, [secretary@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:secretary@naaws-hsv.com)  
Treasurer – **Jodi Stephens**, [treasurer@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:treasurer@naaws-hsv.com)  
Programs – **Walter Collier**, [programs@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:programs@naaws-hsv.com)  
Education – **Edwin Núñez**, [education@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:education@naaws-hsv.com)  
Newsletter – **Dave and Kim Russell**, [newsletter@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:newsletter@naaws-hsv.com)  
Webmaster – **Chip Boling**, [webmaster@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:webmaster@naaws-hsv.com)

**Chapter Web Site**  
<http://www.naaws-hsv.com>  
**(Chip Boling, Webmaster)**

The membership signup on the website has taken off and have accounts for about 50% of the Chapter membership. If you have not yet signed up for an account, please remember to do so at your earliest convenience. While we have imported the newsletter email list into the website so that everyone should be receiving a newsletter sent by the website, having your own account will allow you to change your email at any time should you need to do so.

If your AWS membership is for two people in your household, feel free to sign up both members under separate accounts if you wish. And as always, after creating your account, you should receive a confirmation email within a few minutes. Please click on the verification link to confirm your account within 3 days. This extra step helps to verify that email sent from the website can reach your inbox and also helps me to automatically delete accounts created by spammers and internet bots.

NOTE: If you do not get a verification email within 2-15 minutes of creating your website account, you may want to check your spam and junk mail folders to see if it was classified improperly.

**NAAWS Facebook Page**



Our North Alabama Chapter has its own Facebook page: American Wine Society – North Alabama Chapter. This is a “closed” group to keep it for our members only, so click on the “Join Group” button at the top and we’ll add you to the group. This is our page--add info about wine events, photos from your wine trips, comments on a great new wine or winery you’ve discovered, etc. Check out all the pictures from previous tastings, too! Feel free to email me at [Kristen@lindelowkoon.com](mailto:Kristen@lindelowkoon.com) with any suggestions, comments, or questions about the FB page.



**EDUCATION SECTION**  
**(Edwin Núñez, Education Chair,**  
**AWS Certified Wine Judge)**

**ZINFANDEL**

**History**

Have you ever had wine made from grapes that originate in Croatia? Most of us will answer “No” and we will be wrong. Zinfandel is a grape with origins in that currently beleaguered country. For a long time, many regarded Zinfandel as a grape that was originally from California. In the 70’s and early 80’s some wine authors mistakenly called the Zinfandel grape as “California’s own red grape.” Later DNA studies disabused wine lovers of that notion.



In Croatia Zinfandel has been known for centuries as the difficult to pronounce **Crljenak Kaštelanski** and **Tribidag**. Additional research shows that there used to be several varieties of Zinfandel in Croatia but they were sharply reduced by the devastation caused by phylloxera in the region.

But there is another interesting fact: Zinfandel is one of the main grapes in the Apulia, aka, “the heel of Italy’s boot.” It was introduced there in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and goes by the name **Primitivo**.

**Characteristics**

Zinfandel, or as many like to call it “Zin,” produces very dark-skinned grapes. The vine has some quirks. It ripens early and frequently unevenly, creating difficulties for the winemaker (see picture below). . In addition, the grapes can ripen to very high sugar content, resulting in “hot” wines with up to 17% alcohol by volume. This tendency is made more acute by climate change and creates additional problems for the winemaker.



### **Prohibition and its Aftermath**

Zinfandel vines and grapes were very popular in California and produced good wines. Actually, it was the most cultivated grape in the state. This changed rapidly with Prohibition. Although Zinfandel was still produced for limited and restricted use, most of the vines were uprooted.

### **White Zinfandel: Hated and Loved**

Little by little Zinfandel started to gain in popularity. In 1972, a winemaker at the Sutter Home Winery by the name of Bob Trinchero was making a wine named Deaver Vineyard Zinfandel. To increase the color and tannin content of that wine, Trinchero decided to use the saignée method and drain some juice during the maceration process. The juice drained was fermented into a white wine to be named *Oeil de Perdrix*. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms frowned upon the idea and decided the wine needed a name in English. Trinchero then selected the name White Zinfandel. It was a pleasant wine that proved to be a success.



Today, White Zinfandel sells six times more by volume than Zinfandel red wine. Many people think Zinfandel wine is the White Zinfandel sold by Sutter Home. Usually, people that are not very knowledgeable about a wide variety of wines drink the White Zinfandel. Wine “experts” hold a grudge against that type of wine because they see it pretty much as travesty of what Zinfandel wine should be. Even its name is incorrect—they think—since White Zinfandel is actually a rosé wine. Those that hold a middle ground in this contentious issue think that wine serves to introduce many people to wine. They think it is the respon-

sibility of wine lovers to expand the horizons of those that have been introduced to wines through things like White Zinfandel.

### **California and Italy Regions**

California grows the largest proportion of Zinfandel, although it is grown across the continental United States. , It is produced in many styles that range from dessert wines, rosés (White Zinfandel) and Beaujolais light reds to big hearty reds and fortified wines. The quality and character of American Zinfandel wines largely depend on the climate, location, and age of the vineyard in which they are grown, as well as the technology employed by the winemaker.



Sonoma County and Amador produce very good Zinfandel wines. It can also be found in the Russian River Valley, Mendocino County, Paso Robles and Lodi.

The Apulia region in Italy is the best known for its Primitivo (Zinfandel). The main three DOC areas are Primitivo di Manduria, Gioia del Colle Primitivo (Riserva) and Falerno del Massico Primitivo (Riserva o Vecchio).

## **Chapter Member Section:**

### Voting for AWS-Educational Foundation Trustee

In the next several weeks, all AWS members will be receiving an email from the AWS-Educational Foundation with a survey for voting on three trustees to its Board of Trustees. I have submitted my qualifications and will be on the ballot along with several others. Our chapter has been a big supporter of the Foundation and I'd like to play a bigger part in that support along with Karl Starkloff –who, as you know, has been a Trustee for a number of years. I am asking for your vote when the email survey comes out. Many thanks... Kristen Lindelow

Note: The AWSEF election via Survey Monkey will be around the 1st of August and no later than the 15th. Voting will continue through 30 September.



ALABAMA COMMERCIAL  
WINE COMPETITION

## We are excited to announce the inaugural Alabama Commercial Wine Competition will be held August 8, 2015!

Did you know Alabama is home to 17 licensed wineries boasting more than 230 different wines? Unfortunately that is not common knowledge. This competition has been created to help recognize and promote the wineries in the state and to educate consumers on top quality Alabama wines.

The Alabama Wineries and Grape Growers Association, Big Spring Crush Wine Festival, the Alabama Tourism Department and the American Wine Society have all come together to help make this event happen. But it can't be successful without your support.

### You can help make this event successful by:

**Volunteering.** Support on the day of the competition by helping out behind the scenes making sure all the wines are poured and the scores are recorded properly.

CONTACT - Steve Young, Competition Director: [stephenyoung@comcast.net](mailto:stephenyoung@comcast.net)

**Be a judge for the event.** If you would like to be considered as a judge, please send a CV of your wine experience. CONTACT - Kristen Lindelow, Chief Judge: [kristen@lindelowkoon.com](mailto:kristen@lindelowkoon.com)

**Financial Contribution.** The Alabama Tourism Department has provided a matching grant to get the ACWC established, but we must raise the matching funds. Your generous donation will be tax-deductable and the competition will recognize three levels of donors on the website:

Gold: \$100

Silver: \$60

Bronze: \$25

**Become a Sponsor.** There are many ways to become a sponsor and we are happy to discuss options. CONTACT - Steve Young, Competition Director: [stephenyoung@comcast.net](mailto:stephenyoung@comcast.net)

Thank you for your support.

Steve Young, Competition Director

Please mail checks to:  
Alabama Commercial  
Wine Competition  
Attn: Steve Young  
1104 Shades Circle SE  
Huntsville, AL, 35803

Payable to:  
Alabama Commercial  
Wine Competition

\*Please provide your return  
address. You will receive  
a letter recognizing your  
tax-deductible donation

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[ALABAMAWINE.ORG](http://ALABAMAWINE.ORG)

*Note: if you have an event or other interesting item that you think would be of interest to our chapter members and would like it included in the newsletter, please send it to me. We will vet it with the directors and, if it is appropriate, we will include it in the member section of the news letter. Ideas – wine events, trips to wine regions, wine educations events, etc.*

## 2015 Programs (Walter Collier, Programs Chair)

You can talk to me during the tasting or contact me at any other time at [programs@naaws-hsv.com](mailto:programs@naaws-hsv.com). Please note that we are always looking for members who have not yet hosted to sign up for the 2016 schedule, which we will fill by the end of this year. There is plenty of assistance available to help select a theme and food pairing, so don't be intimidated. Please contact Walt Collier to select a date. Remember that, at our annual membership dinner is each October; one host is randomly selected for a very nice gift as an added incentive.

### Below is the calendar for the remainder of 2015:

2015			Capacity
July 26	Wine Rep Event (Local Venue)	Programs	40
Aug 23	At the Auction Celebrating our Members	Wilson's	40
Sept 20	National Tasting	Kilbey's	40
Oct 19	Annual Dinner	Programs	60
Nov 15	Sparkling Wines	Garay's	40
Dec N/A	No Tasting	N/A	
2016			Capacity
January		Pierce/Wagner	40
February		Hernandez	40
March		Garay	40
April		Suttles	40
May		Williams	40
June		Garza	40
July	Wine Rep Event (Local Venue)	Programs	40
August	At the Auction Celebrating our Members		40
September	National Tasting		40
October	Annual Dinner	Programs	50
November	Sparkling Wines		40
December	No Tasting	N/A	

### Tasting Notes from the May 2015 Chapter Tasting

The North Alabama Chapter of the American Wine Society met on May 31 at the home of Suzanne and Tom. The Theme for tasting was a sampling of wines from the Iberian Peninsula. We started with some fantastic homemade Sangria and then started with some lighter, refreshing whites from both Spain and Portugal followed by some reds.

The first flight consisted of three white wines. A Vinho Verde, Caju a Noite from Portugal (\$9.62); a Rueda, Palacio de Bornos - Verdejo 2013 from Spain/Verdejo (\$16.33); and a Rioja, Cune-Monople White Rioja from Spain (\$15.59) were served in this flight.

The second flight consisted of three red wines. The red wines were Velhejo, Monte Velho – 2013 from Portugal / Alentejano (\$13); Rioja, Marques de Riscal Reserva – 2008 from Spain (\$19); and Alentejo, Esporao - Reserva 2012 from Portugal (\$26).

Finally, a Port Quinta das Carvahlas (\$27), was served that was sampled with several deserts

*Thanks again to the Gainey's and Fabby's  
for hosting an amazing tasting!*

## **We hold a raffle at every tasting**



We hold a raffle at each monthly tasting to help increase our annual contribution to the AWS Educational Foundation (AWSEF). The purpose of this fund is to assist graduate students in continuing their studies that support the American wine industry. We all enjoy the fruits (well, wines) of their labors! Just bring your raffle item(s) to the tasting each month and we'll raffle them off. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5!! Remember, all money we raise through the raffle goes towards the AWSEF fund. Thank you!

## **April 2015 Raffle Results (Stephen R. Peirce, Secretary)**

This month's review is "Wines of Spain and Portugal" at Tom & Suzanne Gainey's home. This raffle was very good this month with five (5) donations. Special thanks to the following members who donated items for the raffle:

Donations provided by: Leigh and Jenna Boothe – Chateau St. Jean – Merlot 2012 from California, Steve and Beth Young – Wine Club Reserve – Chardonnay 2013 from Tennessee, Dan and Paula Laurita – Wenta Morning Fog - Chardonnay 2013 from California, Steve and Linda Peirce – Languedoc – Syrah/Grenache 2011 from France, Debra Williams – Jefferson Vineyards – Petit Verdot 2012 from Virginia.

Winners were: Dan and Paula Laurita, David and Kim Russell, Karl and Judy Starkloff, Walter and Therice Collier, Leigh and Jenna Boothe.

We raised \$95.00 for the AWS Education Fund which is a very good amount for this month's raffle activity. Ten (\$10) in tickets were donated to the hosts and Tom & Suzanne Gainey's. We all had a great time and I want to thank all who participated in this raffle and again special thanks to those members who donated wine and gifts for the raffle.

## **Chapter AWS Educational Foundation (AWSEF)**

<http://www.awsef.org>

For May, the chapter raised \$159 though raffle, donations, and tasting attendance fees for the chapter education fund. The current balance in the chapter's AWSEF fund is \$1490.

Our chapter is committed to supporting the AWSEF. As most of you are aware, \$2 is added to every tasting attendance fee and is designated for the AWSEF. At almost every tasting we hold a raffle of items donated by the members. Additional donations to the AWSEF are accepted and can be added to the tasting fee as designated on the reservation form when you send in your reservation.

The AWSEF scholarship award amount is \$3,500; our chapter's has started raising money for our 7<sup>th</sup> scholarship.

### **AWSEF Scholarship update:**

The AWSEF has awarded a new scholarship funded by the chapter to PhD candidate Mr. Cain Hickey. Mr. Hickey is attending Virginia Tech University. This scholarship is the 6<sup>th</sup> scholarship that the chapter has funded. We will post additional information about Mr. Hickey as it becomes available.

*Below is the notification provided by Bonnie Huber, AWS President*

“I'm very pleased to inform you by email that you are a winner of an American Wine Society Educational Foundation (AWSEF) scholarship for 2015! Your scholarship was funded by the North Alabama Chapter of the American Wine Society. Thus the name of your award is "North Alabama AWS Chapter Scholarship". The AWSEF Board of Trustees is proud of your accomplishments and wishes you the very best in pursuit of your PhD degree at Virginia Tech, and the wonderful career ahead of you!” – Bonnie Huber, AWS President