

**Year-end Report  
Virginia Wine Board, July 31, 2013**

**Title:** Viticulture Research and Extension Associate

**Principal Investigator:**

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**Type of Project:** Extension  
**Amount funded:** \$8,000

**Objective:**

To increase the level of viticultural research and extension program support to grape and wine producers in Virginia and to help meet the research and extension needs of an expanding industry.

**Progress:**

The scope and continued expansion of the Virginia grape industry merits increased personnel support to provide extension, technical support of viticultural issues that constrain industry development. Part of this support is provided by Virginia Cooperative Extension assets, including state level specialists (e.g., Wolf, Bergh, Pfeiffer, Nita and others), local extension agents (e.g., Love, Sutphin, Lachance, and others), as well as graduate students, post-doctoral associates, research associates and classified staff. This project provides supplemental travel and material support, primarily for Tremain Hatch, at Virginia Tech's Winchester Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Tremain Hatch was hired as Viticulture Research/Extension Associate in 2010, after completion of his MSc degree in viticulture at Virginia Tech. Salary and fringe benefit support for Mr. Hatch's position is provided by a 50:50 partnership of funding from the USDA/NIFA and from the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. As such, Mr. Hatch has responsibilities to the stewardship of the Specialty Crops Research Initiative grant (USDA/NIFA) and roughly 50% of his time is available to directly support Virginia viticultural extension programs. This Wine Board grant only provides travel and material support of the 50% of his position devoted to viticulture extension. In addition, the funding also supports a portion of Dr. Tony Wolf's viticulture extension travel (examples of which are provided below).

Mr. Hatch conducted the following activities/outputs over the 2013 fiscal year as related to his 50% time commitment to viticulture extension activities:

- Conducted 38 on-farm vineyard visits to help clients assess vineyard site suitability, review existing vineyard, trouble shoot current problem etc.
- Approximately 23 conversations with existing growers about vineyard questions/issues.
- Approximately 30 email conversations with potential growers delivering general information about growing grapes in Virginia and 40 emails with growers already in the industry.
- Organized and hosted one new grower workshop for 57 new growers at the AHS JR. AREC in Winchester VA; 11 April 2013.
- Organized two Integrated Pest Management workshops (in Northern [21 March] and Central Virginia [9 April]) with a total attendance of 65 growers.
- Helped facilitate two pruning workshops (AHS JR. AREC and Glass House) and led a third (Saudie Creek Vineyards).
- Wrote a message to viticulture notes list-serve to follow up about frost damage on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May.
- Served as an expert resource on eViticulture (<http://eviticulture.org/>) and coordinated arrangements for their 2013 annual meeting in conjunction with Wineries Unlimited in Richmond, VA, March 2013.
- Web-site development: self-training with CMS Ensemble; addition of T-Hatch branch of grape web-site (<http://www.avec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/index.html>). Tremain is responsible for the regular updates to the viticulture website.
- Promoted the VVA sustainable viticulture program at the summer technical meeting on 11 June (150 participants).
- Aided with canopy assessment at the in-service training for agents on 12 June (32 extension agents).

Some funds were also used to support extension travel and other expenses of Tony Wolf (see following table), which included site visits during the fall to the following vineyards, some multiple times:

- Bill Freitag vineyard, Rapp Co., August, analyze Phaeoacremonium (fungal pathogen) trunk disease in P. gris vines, work with Plant Disease clinic to confirm; provide recommendations to grower on cultural methods of control.
- Pollak Vineyards, Glen Manor vineyard, Chester Gap vineyard visits to study, collect samples, and confirm via plant disease clinic the presence of Pierce's Disease in affected vines. Prepared Viticulture Notes newsletter article as follow-up.
- Saude Creek vineyard (New Kent County); visit to trouble-shoot vineyard problems with local extension personnel. Problems ID'd as Pierce's Disease and drought stress on thinner soils.
- James River Vineyards; on-site visit to trouble-shoot poor fruit set issues with vineyard manager.
- White Walnut Vineyard; on-site visit to make recommendations on revitalizing weak 'Norton' vines.

- Attend regional Viticulture Extension Specialist's annual meeting in southern New Jersey. Coordinate extension programs and sharing of program resources among regional programs in VA, PA, MD, OH, and NY.
- Lunch expenses, 7 November (VVA Board meeting) and 28 November (Sustainable Workbook practices) committee meetings at AHS Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Travel expenses, including the bulk purchase of gasoline to reimburse that used at the AREC fuel pump totaled \$6,000.

Supplies and materials (\$2,000) purchased with these project funds included membership due for American Society for Enology and Viticulture (Wolf, provides access to AJEV journal), glass carboys for experimental wine-making, shipping costs to send samples to plant disease clinic as part of Extension trouble-shooting, trellis hardware to repair vineyard trellis damaged during 2012 storms, gas (air products) used in wine-making and field research, and computer software and hardware.

**Summary:** Project objectives were accomplished as proposed. The Wine Board funding is extremely helpful for us to meet our Extension travel needs and to fund some of the materials and other costs of our extension program.

Tony Wolf's Extension Travel, 2013

<b>Date</b>	<b>Point of travel and contact person</b>	<b>Nature of visit</b>	<b>Round-trip mileage</b>
1/18	Martinsville, VA (Bill Martin and Butch Hamlet)	Prospective vineyard and existing vineyard extension visits	432
1/30	Charlottesville	Participate in VVA meeting	224
2/11	Free Union, VA	Pruning workshop at Glass House vineyards	194
3-22-13	Winchester to Veritas Winery in van	VVA Board meeting; plan summer technical and 2014 winter technical meetings	250
3-23	Montgomery County	Pruning workshop at Attimo Winery	430
4-4	Shepherdstown WV	Visit with Dr. Bob Davis at APS meeting to discuss NAGY project (Wolf, Stoepler and Klinger	100
4-9	Waynesboro	IPM meeting at Barren Ridge Vineyards	204
5-16	RdV, Cht. O'Brien and Linden Vineyards in personal vehicle	Mix of extension and field research associated with NAGY project	86
6/5	Willowcroft Vineyards in personal vehicle	Extension and wine for VCE agent in-service training workshop	98
6/5	To Linden vineyards in pers veh	Field research (NAGY project)	55
6/19	Glen Manor vineyards	Shoot video with University Relations	57

**Travel dates, location, nature of visit and round trip mileage by Tremain Hatch since first of 2013** (note: a log of points of travel and distance were requested at the Wine Board meeting on 18 March 2013. We are responding to that request effective 1 January 2013).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Point of travel and contact person</b>	<b>Nature of visit</b>	<b>Round-trip mileage</b>
21-Jan	Rob Clark, New Town, Frederick County	potential grower, potential vineyard site	61
	Gamine Prinz, Fort Valley, Shenandoah County	potential grower, potential vineyard site	
23-Jan	Steven Bozzo, Prince William	potential grower, potential vineyard site	141
	Tom Kelleher, Loudoun County	farm owner, potential vineyard site	

25-Jan	Larry Carr, Front Royal, Warren County	established winery, new vineyard site	44
	Dick Mason, Staley, Paige County	potential grower, potential vineyard site	
31-Jan	Omni hotel, Charlottesville VA	VVA winter technical Meeting	248
11-Feb	Glass House winery, Free Union VA, Albemarle County	extension Pruning workshop	202
12-13 Feb	Greg Weakly, Jeffersonton VA, Culpeper County	potential grower, potential vineyard site	486
	Marissa Murphy, Unionville, Orange, VA	farm manager, potential vineyard site	
	Barry Chewning, Raphine, Rockbridge County	established independent vineyard, new pruning/training techniques	
	Phil Newcome, Valerie Hills, Frederick county	established (but new) winery, new vineyard site	
19-Feb	Steven, Bozzo Manassas, Prince William County	potential grower, potential vineyard site	150
	Tracy Kirkman, Lovettsville VA, Loudoun	new grape grower, purchased a established vineyard	
10-Mar	Richmond	eViculture, Grape Community of Practice annual meeting	300
20-Mar	Loretta Bried, White Hall, Frederick County, VA	visit to possible vineyard site with Mark Sutphin (Frederick County Agent)	40
21-Mar	Stone Tower Winery, Leesburg, Loudoun County, VA	Facilitate and present at the Viticulture IPM Meeting	64
28-Mar	John Zissio, Delaplane, Fauquier County, VA	meet with grower installing vineyard this spring	111
	George Wilson and Kenner Love, Washington, Rappahannock County, VA	meet with established vineyard vetting a new parcel of land to establish more vineyard acreage.	
9-Apr	Barren Ridge Vineyards, Waynesboro, Augusta County, VA	Facilitate and present at the Viticulture IPM meeting	176
24-Apr	Boothe Vineyards, Suzie & Ferris Boothe, Goodview VA	New vineyard installation part II	397
	Ed Strange and John Chandler, Roanoke, VA	Potential Vineyard Site	
	Jim Showater, Troutville, VA	New Vineyard Installation, tile drainage questions	
29-Apr	Saudie Creek, New Kent, VA	Vineyard workshop with John Allison (extension agent) - pruning and early season canopy mgmt.	373

	Tayloe Dameran, Charles City VA	New vineyard site establishment	
1-May	Jeff Quarry, Bunker Hill WV (en rout to Purcellville)	Established vineyard retraining	97
	Fernando Mathov, Waterford VA	New vineyard site along rt. 9	
15-May	Blue Mountain Vineyards, Delaplane, John Zissio,	weed control and training of new vines	547
	Ashby vineyard project, Mark Ashby, tazwell	New vineyard site and variety selection	
	Showater, Troutville VA	John Showater	
	New River Wine Growers assciation, Parisburg VA	15 growers, 3 exsisting vineyards and 3 potential sites in Giles County	
11-Jun	rappahannock		157
	RdV	VVA Summer Technical	
	Glen manor	VVA Summer Technical	
25-Jun	Sharon Horton, Orange Virginia	Sharon Horton, Herbicide drift symptoms	
	Home Grape Grower, Carl Prober	Carl Prober, slight nutrient deficiency on new vines	
	Barboursville, Barbousville VAFernando Franco	Fernando Franco, poor fruit set in Traminette	
27-Jun	Indian Springs, Mt. Olive, VA Kyle Rhodes	Kyle Rodes, new hyground soil sampling	65
28-Jun	Manassas Vineyard Site, Time Price	Tim Price, potential vineyard site	
	Culpepper Vineyard site, Tobias Harvey	Tobias Harvey, potential vineyard site	
	Narmada Vineyard Visit, Rappahannock, VA Pandit and Sudha Patil	Pandit and Sudha Patil, frost damage	
9-Jul	James River Cellars, Montpelier VA, Sebastian,	Sebastian, poor fruitfulness, aerial phylloxera	300
14-Jul	Winston Salem	ASEV-Eastern Section and SCRI meeting	640