**The Missouri Winemaking Society Newsletter for February, 2017**

Next Meeting:      **Thursday, February 16, 2017 • 7:30**

Meeting Place:     St.Gerard Majella Church,1971 Dougherty Ferry

                              Rd, St Louis, MO 63122

MWS Website:     [www.mowinemakers.org](http://www.mowinemakers.org/)

Submitted by:       Lisa Nordmann, email: [lnordmann@nordmannphoto.com](mailto:lnordmann@nordmannphoto.com)

***January’s Program:***

 January's program was presented by David Wert, who gave a compelling talk about our beloved red grape "Chambourcin" - the other red wine. Dave brought in several store bought Chambourcin wines for us to taste and compare. The Missouri wines were from Augusta, Hermanhoff, Montelle, Stone Hill, and Mt. Pleasant. We also tried one from Kansas from Somerset Ridge. I have attached David’s notes in this email. Several members brought in their own wines. I enjoyed Alvin’s wine the best. The best part about sharing our wine is that we all learn from each other – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly!

***February’s Meeting***

I just can’t wait to see the different yeast selections Phil Rahn has chosen for his Chardonnay Kit wine. Phil is going to show us how each selected yeast creates a different profile to each wine. Even though the wine is from one kit, using different yeasts creates different profiles. This is one meeting not to miss.

***Future Meetings:***

Our 2017 meeting schedule is almost complete. I will be e-mailing it soon when it is finalized.

***Society Dues:***

The yearly fee, per person, will be $50 ($25 after June), with no additional meeting fee (or tasting fee, if you prefer) – this is a savings over the course of the year if you attend all the meetings (and you should).  But if you do not want to pay the full $50, you can pay just $25 for a full year’s membership, but then you will need to pay a $5 per meeting “tasting” fee at each meeting you attend.  So it’s your choice to determine which way works best for you. Please pay by check but cash is also accepted.

***Missouri Winemaking Society Facebook Page***

Our MWS Facebook Page is up and running. For all of you Facebook users log into Facebook and search for Missouri Winemaking Society. If you have not joined please do so.  I am hoping that every Facebook user will join this group.   It is a great way for our members to share with what they are doing in their vineyard and wine cellars.  Also, if you have any files you would like to share with the group please post them. This is a closed group just for MWS members.

***Words From our President – Stephen Brunkhorst***

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** Our society bylaws state the Executive committee shall provide goals and direction for the club, set financial guidelines, establish and arrange meeting programs, and control and maintain club purchases. This year's Executive committee met in January and agreed that a **fundamental objective of our organization is the sharing of grape growing & wine making knowledge & skills.**

Currently knowledgeable members share their expertise in at least four ways:

1) monthly meeting topics 2) website technical postings 3) library 4) ad hoc eMail & phone calls between members.

The executive committee discussed ideas to improve the sharing of knowledge and skills: a) set up a "facebook group" for communication among members who choose to join b) use name tags at meeting to help communication between newer and vintage members c) hold small group forums on specific topics d) make known those members who have the knowledge and willingness to share information e) local control of the MWS webpage so information can more easily be updated

These topics will be discussed at meetings and in our mailings during the course of the year.

***Wine Making Tips:***

Don’t forget, there is lots of useful materials and information on our website.

To access all the terrific things in the Library section, click on the website link at the top of this newsletter, scroll down to the *Membership* section, and click on the *Click here* link under MWS Library.  Be sure to check these materials out; they are chock full of knowledge and wisdom – you are sure to glean many gems.

There are many useful publications in the Missouri Winemaking Society Library – be sure to check out the books, papers, past presentations, and articles available in the Library by clicking on the link below.  **The MWS rules for borrowing books is also found there.**<http://www.mowinemakers.org/library.html#_Toc84355471>

We are in the process of updating the books and files we have.  If you are interested in borrowing a book please let me know and I will be happy to bring it to our next meeting.