



# Vintage Voice

October 2007

## In this Issue:

- The early years
- President's Message
- Event speaker profile
- Winemaker Trey Busch
- Request for contributions

## Vintage Voice: The Early Years

Under the heading of 'Where does the time go?', this venerable publication has been around for nigh on 26 years. Amazing. So, to celebrate that longevity, we're going to bring you a regular feature starting with this issue where we'll reprint pieces, articles, etc. from those earlier issues which we hope you'll find either informative, entertaining or just plain nostalgic – perhaps all three. We hope that you'll enjoy this little ride back in time.

The first issue of the Vintage Voice appeared in November of 1981 but at startup we didn't have a proper name – we just called it the Newsletter. Not very original.

**So, from Volume 1, Number 1:**

### *You Guessed It – Contest Time*

*Not, perhaps, a trip for two to Rio, but we're prepared to pony up a good Shenandoah Vineyards 1978 Special Reserve Zinfandel to the Society member who comes up with the winning name for our Newsletter.*

*Entries should:*

- not be blatant copies of other newsletter/publication names
- bear some modicum of originality
- be legibly printed on a piece of paper
- have your name prominently displayed
- be dropped off in that oft-mentioned, multi-purpose box by the check-in desk before the November tasting.

*Continued page 2*

## President's Message

It has been several years since the Society issued its newsletter, the Vintage Voice. However, we hope to remedy this situation with an on-line version of the publication

For many years, Toni Dobbs was the editor and almost single-handedly published the newsletter three times each year. Unfortunately for the Society, Toni had to resign because of other commitments and we were left without a successor. Cost of printing and mailing became factors in a decision to defer resumption of the publication. With the development of the computer and digital cameras, it was considered that an on-line version of the Vintage Voice could be successfully launched. We convinced one of the directors, Allison Bell, to undertake this task. This current issue is the results of her efforts and we thank her for her work.

*Continued page 2*



**Ronald McDonald House**

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*"This past year we were able to donate \$1,800 to the Children's Family House of British Columbia to support its continued operation of Ronald McDonald House."*

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

A major change occurred last year when we moved the location of our Tasting Events to the Hotel Listel. Apart from the savings in operating costs, the facilities are ideally suited to our needs. The hotel staff offers us all the assistance we require in preparing the wines for the events. We intend to offer tasting in most of all the major varietals at this location and we will continue to seek out unique or different restaurants around Vancouver for our dinner events.

We can be proud of our members' contribution to the wine industry, many of whom are employed directly in that sector while others offer their time and efforts to volunteer at the various wine events that support charitable organizations throughout the Lower Mainland. Because of their background and vast knowledge of wine, we are fortunate to be able to call upon them to speak at our events.

Our Society is on a sound financial base with costs kept under tight control by our Treasurer. As a result of your attendance at the many events, a portion of the revenue collected is donated to charity. This past year we were able to donate \$1,800 to the Children's Family House of British Columbia to support its continued operation of Ronald McDonald House.

We would not be able to offer our list of events without the continued support and cooperation of the United States Consular General and of everyone at the Vancouver Consulate. We are grateful for their assistance.

Should any member wish to contribute an article, photograph or commentary, travel experiences, or any aspect of the industry that would be of interest to our members, I know that the editor would be delighted to receive such contributions.

Denis Mac Aree  
President

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## Vintage Voice: The Early Years

*Continued from page 1*

So, it looks like our contest ran a full year as it wasn't until Vol. 1 No. 4 in November of 1982 that the name Vintage Voice appeared.

### **From that issue:**

*So, the Name the Newsletter contest is complet et finis. Vintage Voice was the name chosen by your erstwhile newsletter committee whose critical faculties were honed to a razor edge for the judging by the judicious application of Boone's Farm Strawberry Hill. In addition to the winner, a number of the other submissions were also very clever and we'd like to thank all those who sent in their suggestions.*

*Congratulations to Karen Wilson who takes home the prize of a '78 Shenandoah Reserve Zinfandel which, incidentally, the committee was loathe to part with, having developed a proprietary fondness for it over the past months.*

## VAWS Welcomes Special Guest Speakers



Gordon Wilcox

One of the best things about our schedule every year is the quality of speakers that the VAWS invites to participate in leading us through varietal tastings. To date this year, we have been fortunate to listen to and learn from four very knowledgeable guests.

Gordon Wilcox, member of Zinfandel Advocates & Producers (ZAP) and Society of Wine Educators (SWE) and known affectionately as Zinman or Dr Zin, is a VAWS past president and founding VAWS member. There is no greater Zinfandel grape aficionado in the Lower Mainland. His inimitable style, dry wit and wide experience with this varietal contributed significantly to our 2001 Zinfandel event held in January of this year.



Sandra Oldfield

Sandra Oldfield, owner and winemaker of the Okanagan Valley's own Tinhorn Creek Winery and graduate of the University of California (UC Davis), is an accomplished speaker who is always fun and often controversial. Her February presentation of 2002 Merlot, which was of assistance in increasing our financial support Ronald McDonald House (RMH) due to her generosity, was immensely entertaining and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



Pam Cohen

Pamela Cohen, past VAWS executive and events committee member, wine educator and SWE member, has a wonderfully engaging manner. Her presentation was enthusiastically welcomed by participants in our May 2002 Chardonnay event. We have enjoyed Pam's wit and wisdom previously and hope she will continue her annual visits as VAWS guest speaker. Evenings with Pam always increase everyone's wine knowledge and appreciation.



Chuck Beebe

Chuck Beebe, long-time VAWS member who has provided assistance to our cellar master in procuring wines for events during the past 20 years, has traveled extensively through wine areas of the world and is particularly knowledgeable about West Coast USA vintages. He combines humour and anecdotes with experience and great depth of technical knowledge, and we are fortunate whenever he can take time to visit with us from Washington State.

Looking forward into the second half of the year, your events committee has extended invitations to wine writer Tim Pawsey, Coppola Wine Estates winemaker, Trincherro and Montevina Family Estates winemaker and Douglas Russell, founding VAWS member, past president and our cellar master. You may be certain to enjoy an evening that is both entertaining and educational every time you join us at a VAWS dinner or tasting event.

Douglas Russell  
Past President

## Featured Winemaker: Trey Busch



I first met Winemaker extraordinaire Trey Busch at Cornucopia in Whistler in 2005, where he was showcasing some excellent wines from Basel Cellars. Trey has since moved on and is now Co-owner and Winemaker at Sleight of Hand Cellars, with a tasting room located in downtown Walla Walla. Walla Walla is an area where outstanding wines are now made in increasing numbers.

The name of the winery as well as their wines are inspired by a serious interest in the rock band Pearl Jam, from Seattle, and the world of magic. His winemaking style is stylish and very approachable. Currently Trey is making these three wines:

"The Magician" 2006 is a fruity, round Gewurztraminer (100%), at US \$ 16.00.

"The Archimage" 2005 is a right Bank style of Bordeaux made with old vine fruit in a super blend of: 45% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Petit Verdot. This is an excellent wine at a price of US\$ 40.00.

"The Spellbinder" Non Vintage is a blend of 42% Cabernet Franc, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Sangiovese. The lighter Sangiovese nicely softens the strong, herbal tannins from the Cabs. Also notes of buttery, oak-driven flavours. At US \$ 18.00 this is a great buy.

Unfortunately, their production is still so small that they do not have plans to sell north of the 49th at this time. I have extended an invitation to Trey to come up and showcase their wines at a future VAWS function.

I enjoyed the Spellbinder a lot, and I will make an effort to visit Sleight of Hand Cellars in the near future to sample his other two wines. In the meantime, Trey would be very pleased to welcome Members of VAWS at their tasting room, as the number of Canadian visitors to Walla Walla continues to increase.

Trey is still working on their website, via: [www.sofhcellars.com](http://www.sofhcellars.com). He can be reached at 509 386 6566.

Happy Tasting!

Cheers!  
Henrik Laursen  
Director, VAWS Executive and Events Committee

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## Request for Contributions to the Newsletter

*“The Vintage Voice invites all members to contribute a little something to a future newsletter..”*

Thank you to Joan Barnet for her help as Assistant Editor.

Visit us on the web at:

[WWW.VAWS.ORG](http://WWW.VAWS.ORG)

The Vintage Voice wants you to have your say *and* we need your contribution to survive. It doesn't matter what you contribute, as long as it's about wine (preferably American wine!)

The Vintage Voice invites all members to contribute a little something to a future newsletter.

- Write an article or a review of a wine event recently attended (VAWS or not)
- Share your tasting notes, recipes, or pictures
- Ask a question of the President
- Ask a question regarding the Society
- Ask a question about an event you attended
- Have you found a new favourite wine?
- Do you have a suggestion for an event?
- Planning a holiday to a wine region?

Whatever you have to contribute we are interested, so please send me an email with your ideas.

Allison Bell  
Director, VAWS Executive  
Vintage Voice Editor