

Wisconsin Vintners Association September 2006 Meeting Notice

The September 2006 membership meeting of the Wisconsin Vintners Association will begin at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, the 13th.

A question was asked on our most recent club survey was to "pick which wines that you would make or improve on the most." By far, the berries (Raspberry, Strawberry, Blueberry, Blackberry and Elderberry) dominated the responses. 25% of all entries to the Wisconsin State Fair competition this year were in the berry classes while 42% of the awards of the 1st Place ribbons went to

berry wines. 89% of the Raspberry wines received an award. At our September membership meeting we will highlight the Making of Berry Wines. Please bring along a couple of bottles of your best berry wines and be prepared to brag about any awards that they may have received. But also plan on sharing with the club the wine-making process that you used; including how much fruit did you start with, what yeast variety was used, did you freeze the fruit prior to starting, did you use a straining bag, did you measure and modify the acid, what fining, if any, did you use, did you sweeten your wine, if yes how did you do it, did you blend the berries with another fruit, etc, etc, etc. It should be a fun and informative night.

It takes at least two bottles of wine to give each one of the usual 50 members a one ounce sample. If you can bear to part with another bottle, you'll get to show off just a bit more.

The meeting will be at Clifford's Restaurant, 10418 Forest Home Ave. It has been an increasingly popular occasion for some 20 or so of us to gather at Clifford's about 6 PM for dinner and camaraderie. The members who attend the dinner are eligible for a drawing for a nice wine. September's award wine will be a Carpineto wine called Dogajolo. It is described as "Made from Sangiovese grapes blended with a dash of Cabernet Sauvignon grown on dry-farmed hillside vineyards in Tuscany. Fruity and intense flavors, with hints of berry, coffee, vanilla and spice are matched with a supple tannin structure with a long finish. This "Super Tuscan" shows at its best with full-flavored dishes such as roasts, grilled meats, cold cuts and tomato-based Italian specialties such as pizza and Pasta.

Our website, WIHOMEWINEMAKERS.com has lots of information. Minutes from the last Board meeting, entry forms for competitions, pictures from WVA activities and on and on.

Save this date Save this date
February 3, 2007

We need to get together on that date, Plans are in the making for the Wisconsin Vintners Association's annual Dinner-dance/good time. Jim Remus and Erv Herman are co-chairing this event. So mark your calendars, plan your handicrafts and contact them about helping out.

The results of the Games at our Picnic in Calhoun Park:

Washer Toss. There were 10 teams pitching 2 1/2 ounce washers into a 4 inch diameter can from a distance of 30 feet. The team of Joanne Ziarek and Dave Hermann edged Howard Hasselkus and Don Dussault for the championship. The winners have challenged Brett Favre to attend next year's picnic to try to unseat them.

Bean Bag Toss. Fourteen teams competed for the coveted prize Premium Wine with Chiller. Once again president Ziarek, this time with teammate Helmut Wittbecker, appeared in the finals. However, in a stunning move, Theresa Montalbano, captain of Team Montalbano, inserted Mary Scovronski to "pinch toss" for her. It was devastating to Ziarek's quest for another World cup as Scovronski and Len Montalbano edged out a 2 point victory. This year's Bean Bag Toss was quite spirited in that the venue was directly in front of the grandstand. Fans witnessed exciting performances including many slam dunks worthy of ESPN replay.

Welcome to new members Rick and Jo Markham from Elkhorn. We hope you enjoy your membership as much as we do.