

**Year-end Progress Report  
Virginia Wine Board, 1 July 2014**

**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 and Dr. Wolf conducted the following extension activities/outputs / visits over the 2014 fiscal year:

- Conducted 12 on-farm vineyard visits to help clients assess vineyard site suitability, review existing vineyard, trouble shoot current problem etc.
- Organized and participated in 6 vineyard meetings across the state (4 Pruning workshops (8 January [Democracy Vineyards], 19 February [Fabbioli Vineyards], 18 & 20 March] and 2 vineyard meetings [23 April & 11 June]).
- 119 messages to grape growers including 30 to new grape growers
- Participated in 4 beginner grape grower courses (VVA winter technical(30 January), Wineries Unlimited (13 March), Roanoke(11 April), and Suffolk (18 June)
- Co-organized four IPM pre-season workshops (20 February [Northern], 6 March [Eastern], 7 March [South-western], and 21 March [Central Virginia]) with Dr. Mizuho Nita with 59 participants.
- Wrote articles for the Viticulture Notes newsletter highlighting herbicide drift and the TAP program.
- Served as an expert resource on eViticulture (<http://eviticulture.org/>) and gave an update on the Virginia industry at their annual meeting in Indiana (29-30 March).
- Web-site development: self-training with CMS Ensemble; addition of T-Hatch branch of grape web-site (<http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/index.html>). Tremain is responsible for the regular updates to the viticulture website.

Some funds were also used to support extension travel and other expenses of Tony Wolf, which included site visits and in-state speaking engagements, including:

- Wineries Unlimited, 13 March, Richmond
- Crop Production Annual Meeting, 21 January, Richmond
- VVA Conference, 30 Jan – 1 Feb, Charlottesville
- Pruning workshops, 8 January and 19 February (Nelson and Loudoun Counties)
- Eastern Wine Industry meeting, 5 March, Lancaster, PA
- IPM Workshop, 6 March
- Wine Board Presentations, 24 March, Charlottesville
- Vineyard Extension Visits (e.g., 11 and 18 April, 27 May, 11 June, and others)
- ASEV and ASEV/ES meetings, Austin, TX

Extension meetings organized and conducted by T. Hatch and T. Wolf or others, and participated in by same.

Date	Meeting	Location	Time	Details	Region
1/30/2014	Beginners Workshop	VVA Winter Technical, OMNI Charlottesville; <a href="http://www.virginiavineyardsassociation.com">http://www.virginiavineyardsassociation.com</a>	Afternoon	registration required	State

1/31/2014 -2/1/2014	Winter Technical Meeting	VVA Winter Technical, OMNI Charlottesville; <a href="http://www.virginiavineyardsassociation.com">http://www.virginiavineyardsassociation.com</a>	Full Day	registration required	State
2/19/2014	Pruning Worksho p	Upper Shirley Vineyards; Check for directions: <a href="http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/viticulture/extension/index.html">http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/viticulture/extension/index.html</a>	11am to 2pm	no RSVP required	South Eastern Virginia
2/20/2014	IPM worksho p	Phillip Carter Winery; <a href="http://www.pcwinery.com/contactus.html">http://www.pcwinery.com/contactus.html</a>	10 am till 4 pm	no RSVP required	Norther n Virginia
3/4/2014	IPM worksho p	The Nelson Center 8445 Thomas Nelson Highway, Lovingson, VA 22949	10 am till 4 pm	no RSVP required	Central Virginia
3/6/2014	IPM worksho p	Ingleside Vineyard; <a href="http://www.inglesidevineyards.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=23&amp;Itemid=25">http://www.inglesidevineyards.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=23&amp;Itemid=25</a>	10 am till 4 pm	no RSVP required	Norther n Neck
3/7/2014	IPM worksho p	Beliveau Winery; <a href="http://www.maisonbeliveau.com/directions.html">http://www.maisonbeliveau.com/directions.html</a>	10 am till 4 pm	no RSVP required	South- western Virginia
TBD	Pruning Worksho p	TBD Check for updates: <a href="http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/viticulture/extension/index.html">http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/viticulture/extension/index.html</a>	1pm to 3 pm	no RSVP required	South- western Virginia
TBD	Pruning Worksho p	TBD Check for updates: <a href="http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/viticulture/extension/index.html">http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/alson-h-smith/grapes/viticulture/extension/index.html</a>	1pm to 3 pm	no RSVP required	Norther n Virginia

The following Extension visits were conducted by Tremain Hatch during FY2014:

Date	Point of travel and contact person	Nature of visit	Round- trip mileage
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
24-Jul	Gadino Cellars	Vineyard visit - Ms. Cook, Front Royal new vineyard site Vineyard meeting - Gadino Cellars 30 growers attending	90
26-Jul	Kevin Potter-	Vineyard Visit - New Vineyard site	283

21-Aug	Glasgow VA Shep Rause New Kent, Charles City Counties ~ 10 growers	Vineyard Visit - Established vineyard Saudie Creek, soil issues in established vineyard	473
27-Aug	Blumont, Purcellville	Sandy Gotea, training new vines Taylow Damerain, Training new vines/vineyard development John Schweisthal, 3rd year vineyard, nutrient deficiency symptoms	94
28-29 Aug	Crozet, Leesburg	North Gate Vineyards, Berry Sensory Analysis (~25 people) Russ Vineyard, Pruning system evaluation Veritas, Berry Sensory Analysis, (~35 people) and SWD trap check Mt. Juliet Vineyards, SWD damage reported Casanel, Poor fruit set in Norton 32 winery, poor growth in Viognier (1st year)	456
6-Sep	Loudoun County		119
26-Oct	Loudoun County		98
5-Nov	Middleburg	Sean Kelley, potential vineyard site	110
7-Nov	Botetourt	Mark Ashby, Potential vineyard site with Kate Lawrence David Gibbs, established vineyard with Kate Lawrence Warren Jones, Potential vineyard site west of Strasburg	398
13-Dec	Nelson County	VVA Strategic meeting	100
20-Dec	Frederick county	Mark Plasters, Potential vineyard site	79
8-Jan	Democracy Vineyards	Pruning workshop, ~20 participants	313
14-Jan	Front Royal	Category 10 Applicator license recertification	88
17-Jan	Fauquier and Rappahannock County	3 x new vineyard sites at established vineyards	138

Point of travel and contact person	Nature of visit	Round-trip mileage
Democracy Vineyards	Pruning workshop, ~20 participants	313
Naked Mountain, Oasis, 5 River Vineyards	Site selection, vineyard installation & pruning	138
Upper Shirley Vineyards	Pruning Workshop, 15 participants	339
Phillip Carter Winery	IPM workshop, 15 participants	73
Sunny Slope Farm, Harrisonburg VA	vineyard suitability visit	133
Blacksburg VA	Virginia Cooperative Extension Conference	427

Purcellville	Town Hall, Patrick Childs, vit. education	96
Ingleside & Beleievew	two IPM meetings	630
Richmond	Beginners primer at Wineries Unlimited	405
Fincastle	Pruning workshop at Virginia mountain vineyards	348
Loudoun	Site visit and pruning workshop	100
Nelson	IPM workshop	292
Paige Co.	Site Visits to Roko, Wisteria, Jenkins and Mills	160
Roanoke	Beginners primer	321
Nelson County	Vineyard meeting	236
Richmond	Beyond 2015, Wine Board Meeting	350
Fauquier and Frederick county	vineyard visits	119
Suffolk and Fauquier	New grower course, 40 ppl. and vineyard visits	566
Barrel Oak Winery	Commercial grower meeting & new grower primer	102
Narmada, Dayton, VA	Established vineyard and new vineyard site	197

**Summary:** Project objectives were accomplished as proposed.