



Notes from the vineyard

AMANDA CONKOL

This past Friday as my husband and I waited in line for the stores to open at midnight, then again at 4 am, we reviewed our Christmas list one more time to make sure we knew what we were getting everyone. Just as soon as I thought we were done, my husband said we should buy something for a mutual friend of ours that has just about everything you can imagine. So as my teeth chattered along to the people singing their own made up holiday songs in line in front of us, we started to think of some great holiday gifts for our friend.

Well, maybe it was the long shopping trip I was facing around 4am or the lack of sleep after the Thanksgiving meal, but we started coming up with what spectacular wine items we could get this year. Then the light bulb came on – I am sure that there are many of you trying to determine what to get loved ones, bosses, colleagues and other acquaintances for the holidays too. So what else does someone do while waiting at line at 3:15 in the morning – we come up with the top 10 holiday gifts for the wine lover.

10. Decanter – This is a great gift because the prices on decanters can range anywhere from \$10 to \$150. If the recipient is a fan of red wines, this gift will help them enjoy their wine much more.

9. Wine Tasting Party set – this is one of my favorite gifts because it comes with a “classier” brown paper bag to hide the wines during the tasting, a series of wine tasting note cards and a scoring sheet to see which guest guessed the most wines correctly.

8. Wine Lover’s Picnic Pack – depending how fancy you want to get, you can start with a picnic carrier that will carry two wine glasses, a bottle chiller and a corkscrew. Or if you wanted to have something not solely focused on wine, you can get a carrier that has plates, napkins and silverware.

7. Steady Sticks – if your recipient is always enjoying wine

outside on the lawn or hanging out at Blossom Music Center and is annoyed by the wine spilling over onto the lawn, these sticks can be placed in the ground and can hold either wine glasses or wine bottles to prevent further spillage.

6. Wine glasses – give a set of red or white wine glasses with a bottle of the appropriate wine. Fill the glasses with Hershey Kisses to add some color to the gift.

5. Introduction to wine tasting books and DVD’s – if your recipient is just getting into wine, give them the gift that will make them more confident when tasting wine and ordering wine at a restaurant.

4. Personalized Corkscrew – add a new touch to their wine accessories with their very own personalized corkscrew.

3. Wine of the month club – check out some local wineries for ideas on a wine of the month club. One note – due to a change in shipping laws, if you are using a winery outside of Ohio, make sure they can ship to Ohio.

2. Gift certificates to a local wine tasting – give the gift of taste and let the recipient try a few new wines to add to their collection after the holidays.

1. A bottle of wine in a nice wine bag – how much easier can you get. This gift is great for giving to a host/hostess for your next holiday party.

No matter what type of gift you get, make sure you include a bottle of your favorite wine. And while you are out shopping for wine – make sure to treat yourself to a bottle too! Happy shopping!

Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Road, Garrettsville. For more information on other winery topics, please visit www.candlelightwinery.com



Puppy Tails

MIALIE T. SZYMANSKI

*As the moon goes to bed,
the sun comes up
And here we meet a sleepy pup,
Who was walking through
G-ville one bright sunny day,
Then saw The Villager
and decided to stay.*

Ahhhhhhhhh! Doodle Dog tried with all his might to stand his ground. The friendly leaves he loved to chase were caught up in an incredibly blustery way on a quite-more-than-windy day! The little floppy-eared puppy bowed his head against the constant gusts keeping him from crossing his favorite meadow at his usual steady speed. Instead, he took one step at a time (there was not much else he COULD do!), pushing against the bullying breeze as clouds of leaves swirled around him. As he put one paw in front of the other, Doodle Dog felt the harsh currents getting stronger and stronger, blowing and blowing and BLOWING him backwards. It reminded him of the story he’d heard about three little pigs and how their house was almost blown over! Doodle Dog looked around the meadow, as well as he could see through the curtain of red and yellow and brown leaves blocking his view,

and didn’t see any houses nearby to be blown over. Whew! Doodle Dog kept going slowly but surely, but was knocked sideways as a new group of bright orange leaves was tossed at him only to take another step or two and be knocked right back where he had been by a jumble of crunchy greenish leaves coming from his other side. WHAP!

Well, all right, then! Doodle Dog thought. Apparently it WASN’T a very good day to be outside, but he couldn’t very well do anything about it now, could he? He was trying his very best to get home, or at least someplace safe, but it was taking quite a long time! As Doodle Dog plodded on, wishing the wind would be a little nicer, he caught sight of a familiar looking leaf in all the mess. His friendly bright red leaf was swirling right along with the rest! At least he had some company...

The constant motion around him was making Doodle Dog a bit dizzy, so he concentrated on the red leaf, trying to focus on the one tiny spot in all the commotion. Before he knew it, the little floppy-eared puppy had made it to the spot where the edge of the meadow meets the edge of the forest, and he followed his favorite little red leaf until it drifted in and out between trees,

gently wafting on a puff of air here and a puff of air there. The trees gave Doodle Dog shelter from the rest of the gusty windstorm and, even though the forest wasn’t home, it was as good as any safe place for now and Doodle Dog decided to wander. Putting one paw in front of the other on the trail left by many paws and hooves and feet before him, Doodle Dog felt the darkness of the usually friendly forest closing in around him. It reminded him of a story he’d heard about two little children who followed breadcrumbs through the woods so they wouldn’t get lost. Doodle Dog hoped he wouldn’t get lost in his forest because he didn’t have any breadcrumbs to lead him home!

He didn’t expect to see any houses made of candy either, so Doodle Dog figured he was safe. As Doodle Dog stepped cautiously along the trail, wishing the darkness would be a little lighter, he caught sight of a familiar looking twinkle in all the gloom. His friendly little forest firefly was sparkling right alongside him! At least he had some company...

The growing shadows around him were making Doodle Dog a bit uneasy, so he concentrated on the bright firefly, trying to focus on the one tiny light in all the darkness. Before he knew it, the little floppy-eared puppy had made it to the spot where the edge of the forest meets the edge of the road, and he followed his favorite little forest firefly friend until it flickered in and out between the shadows of the streetlamp posts, gently dipping between this blade of dewy grass and that sleepy flower petal.

Doodle Dog knew this road! It wouldn’t lead him home quite yet, but to a place as good as any safe spot he knew. There hadn’t been a house to be seen in the meadow or a house to be seen in the forest, but down the road just a little ways there WAS indeed a house, and the little floppy-eared puppy put one paw in front of the other and made his way to this house, this house where books lived. As the door to the library opened to let some humans out, carrying their bags and bags of books, Doodle Dog quietly slipped in, keeping his head down and his eyes and ears open. Maybe he’d be lucky enough to find one of his favorite little humans to read him one of those stories he’d heard or a new tale to be told before he would have to make his way to the spot where the edge of the road meets the edge of his front steps.

At least he would have some company!



Ask The Librarian

CAROL BAKER

The librarians of the Newton Falls Public Library enjoy finding the answers to the questions asked by our patrons. During the day, many of the questions asked are of a similar type needing simple answers.

Some examples of these questions are:

“What is the phone number for AT&T corporate headquarters?” The www.att.com page for investor relations includes their main telephone number and a note explaining that “while corporate headquarters are in Dallas, the main telephone number uses a San Antonio area code.

“I need the plus 4 numbers following the 44444 zip code for my address.” The postal service website, www.usps.com, has a link to Look Up a Zip Code. Typing in the full street address with the 5 digit zip code brings up the additional 4 numbers specific to that address. The library’s full code is 44444-1608.

“I’m writing a paper and I need journal articles about substance

and drug abuse.” The library has access to a wonderful online database which patrons can use to find a wealth of print resources stored electronically. This patron was directed to the library’s homepage, www.newtonfalls.org. Selecting the Ohio Web Library link, the patron next needs to select Resources; then in the section Magazines and Newspapers choose MasterFile Premier (EBSCOhost). By typing in the needed topic, expanding the search to related words and within the full text of the articles, and limiting the results to full text only the patron should be find all she needs. When citing information for papers, the bibliographic citations are also included.

For answers to your questions, visit the Newton Falls Public Library, 204 S. Canal Street, Newton Falls or phone 330-872-1282. Information and answers can also be found online in the library’s databases, at www.newtonfalls.org as well as the ones available through Clevnet.org. For information about all the free library programs or hours, also visit our website or our Facebook page.



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