



Notes from the vineyard

Amanda Conkol

The past week has been filled with a wide variety of weather incidents; major snow/ice storm, 50 degree temperatures, thunderstorms and a lot of flooding. And it's hard to believe that March is just beginning. While many of us are still focused on the recent waves of Cleveland weather, the vineyards around northeast Ohio have another focus—the months of warmer temperatures that will be here soon.

To best help the vines prepare for Spring, we will be out in the vineyard in the next couple of weeks to start pruning the vines. Because this month is usually the turning point in winter temperatures, the dormant vines will be pruned, allowing them to start growing in the next couple of months. Once the weather warms up to about 45 degrees (my personal threshold of being outside) we will start to prune most of last year's growth so the vine can produce new shoots and leaves once spring arrives. Since grapes only grow on new one year old canes it is important that about 85% of the canes are pruned.

Another benefit to pruning in early March is that the harshest part of winter is usually coming to an end so the cut canes will not suffer

from too many weather changes. Although recognizing where we live and knowing that we have seen snow in May in some years, we are very picky about the timing of pruning the vines as well. However pruning in early March, also allows us to shape the future growth of the vine by having more room to tie the vine to the trellis. Come summertime when the vine is in full bloom it is much more difficult to shape on the trellis.

Besides being outside in colder temperatures, pruning is actually quite easy and stress-relieving. All you need is a few pairs of pruning shears and very heavy (and warm) gloves. Then with careful review of the vine, the cane is cut and collected in bunches. Once the vineyard is pruned, all of the pruned canes are saved for summer bonfires or in some cases, can be planted again for new vines to start growing.

Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Street, Garrettsville. For more gift ideas or wine lists from the winery, please visit www.candlelightwinery.com.

Children's Programs Await You At The Library

SUBMITTED BY MICHELE MCGING

WINDHAM - Windham Library invites you to visit us at our new location, located inside the Renaissance Family Center at 9005 Wilverne Drive in Windham. The library has programs available for all ages.

Storytime for children, ages birth through pre-school, began on Monday, February 28 at 10:30 am. Storytime is an opportunity for both the parent and child to spend some one-on-one time enriching the child's environment with stories, music, finger plays and movement.

Celebrate the "wee folk of Ireland" as we make St. Patrick's crafts March 7 through March 17. Crafts are open to all ages during the library's hours of operation. If gaming is more your idea of fun, Windham Library will have an open Wii Gaming program on March 29 from 2:00 pm until 4:30 pm for ages 8 and up. Also, make sure that while you're visiting us, take a chance and "Guess the number of candies" to win a mug full of sweet treats February 28 through March 18.

For more information, call the Windham Library at 330-326-3145. The library, located at 9005 Wilverne Drive, is open Monday and Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 pm-6:30pm; and closed on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. For additional information about library programs and services, please visit Portage County District Library online at www.portagelibrary.org.



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.*

There is lots of great fun to be had outside and in the town, as Doodle Dog has come to find, playing in the leaves and snow and even the green grass in the nearby park. But when the weather is chilly sometimes it's best to spend the day indoors where it's warm and cozy! Instead of staying in the office all day, Doodle Dog thought he would go to his next favorite place of all: the library, where there are stacks and stacks of books to read and always someone new to meet. From the pages of a book, he could visit anywhere he wanted to go!

When he reached the library, the front door was open as a few people were just walking inside, their arms loaded with books and other materials to be returned. Doodle Dog quietly followed them in, making sure his tail didn't get caught in the door as it closed behind him! He wiped his paws on the soft mat in the lobby, leaving any snow and dust behind. Then he walked past the librarian's desk – she didn't see him because the counter was so high and the little puppy was so short! – and made his way through the aisles, sniffing out where the best books were shelved. Doodle Dog heard quiet murmuring sounds coming from the back of the farthest bookcases. Voices in the library?? Why wasn't the librarian telling them to "Shhh"?

Doodle Dog continued to wander, letting the soft voices guide his way, until he turned around the edge of an especially large cabinet to find a pile of bright, colorful, overstuffed pillows. But that wasn't all he found! There, in the very back corner of the library, were about a dozen children each on a comfy pillow, each with a giant picture book in hand, each reading aloud to one of several friendly-looking dogs obediently sitting with paws outstretched on a vibrant kid-sized carpet. The dogs wagged their tails happily as the children read to them, some rolling playfully on the floor or growling

softly at what must have been a particularly intriguing part of the story. What fun! Doodle Dog thought. He loves to listen to the articles being read aloud during proofreading before the newspaper goes to press, and this was even better! What lands and new worlds would the stories transport him to today?

He didn't want to interrupt the readers, so he took a place on the rug next to the cabinet and sat quietly, patiently watching the little children, some pointing to each word as it was read, some working out the bigger words silently before saying them aloud, and some, it appeared, were not even paying attention to the sentences in their hands but were rather making up their own stories as they turned the pages anyway for fun. A little girl sitting nearby was reading to a dog with a glossy golden coat and he scooted a little closer to Doodle Dog so that she could read to both of them at once. She told him a story of a knight in "shiny" armor and his beautiful horse - the fastest in the kingdom, of course. That was the best part: Doodle Dog loves stories about animals! He listened carefully as the little girl told how the knight and the horse rescued a princess so that she could live in a grand castle... happily ever after with the people she loved.

As the little girl finished her story, she held open the pages so Doodle Dog could see a picture of the pretty horse and the brave knight. She closed the book and added her own ending: "The princess lived happily ever after with her pets - the best doggies in the land." With that, she wrapped her arms around the yellow dog's neck and then gave the floppy-eared puppy a great big hug too. Doodle Dog may have delivered valentines to all his friends last week, but this was definitely the best kind of puppy love...ever.

Cavs -vs- Hornets

See the Cavs take on the New Orleans Hornets on Sunday, March 6th. Come to the game early and see the SummerFest Dance team perform on the Cavs court prior to tip-off. Tip-off is 6:30 p.m. at the "Q"

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