2016 Hill Country Wine Symposium

Speaker Bios

**Penny Adams, Wedding Oak Winery**

Penny S. Adams, is a passionate promoter of Texas wine. She completed her B.S. in Horticulture from Texas A&M and earned her M.S in Agriculture-Plant Science with a speciality in Viticulture from California State University-Fresno. Adams became the first Texas Woman Wine Master, when she developed, operated and co-owned Cypress Valley Vineyard and Winery in Blanco Country from 1981-1986. Cypress Valley, a 5,000 case winery, garnered numerous awards and medals in competitions around the U.S. As a vineyard and winery consultant in Texas, Adams has worked with many prospective and now successful commercial operations. She knows that quality wines begin in the vineyard. Adams is experienced in all aspects of viticulture – from site and varietal selection through proper pruning techniques, controlled irrigation, canopy management and careful harvesting. Adams has taught classes on wine grape growing at Grayson County College and Austin Community College. Beginning in 2006, she worked as Viticulture Advisor for Agrilife Extension, Texas Hill Country. With more than 100 current commercial vineyards in her region, she helped growers produce quality fruit for production of premium wines. Adams joined Wedding Oak Winery in 2012. Adams consistently make wines of distinction. Taking cues from classic old world wine, she blends complimentary grapes and uses minimal oak aging to let the grapes express their true qualities. We’re proud to bring you quality her wines that are Texas through-and-through. Adams loves teaching others about wine and grape growing. For her winemaking philosophy, wine or grape questions, see our [Winemaker’s blog](#).

**Doug Beckett, Peachy Canyon Winery**

Douglas P. Beckett was born January 1, 1946 in Morgantown, West Virginia. Born into a Navy family, he traveled most of his early years. He settled in San Diego where he met and married Nancy Thibodo in 1971. In that same year Doug graduated from college with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. He earned his Masters degree in Psychology in 1975. Doug also holds a lifetime teaching credential. Between 1970 and 1979 Doug taught multi levels of school ranging from Kindergarten to the University level and ending his teaching career as a high school counselor. Prior to leaving education, he became involved as a full partner in a small chain of convenience stores which lasted until 1981 when he and his family, wife Nancy, and their two sons, Josh and Jake, moved to Paso Robles.

Doug’s first job in Paso Robles was as a carpenter which he held for a number of years, working exclusively on barns. At the same time he started making wine. Over the course of 30 years living in Paso Robles Doug has also developed land, sold real estate, taught school as a resource specialist and started his own import-export company specializing in art glass from Eastern Europe. During this same period of time Doug and former partner Pat Wheeler started Tobias Cellars which lasted until 1987.

In 1988 Nancy and Doug founded Peachy Canyon Winery as a 500 case venture which today produces 75,000 cases. Peachy Canyon is still family owned with both sons taking an active role in our success. Doug served 11 years on the board of Zinfandel Advocates and Produces (ZAP) as a member and past president. Peachy Canyon Winery has also gone from purchasing 100% of our grapes a several years ago to our present situation which involves the purchase of grapes as well as the use of our own grapes from four estate vineyards with over 100 acres planted. Peachy Canyon Winery wines are currently sold in 50 states, Europe, the Pacific Rim and Canada.

**Karen Bonarrigo, Messina Hof Winery**

Karen Bonarrigo started her journey into the Texas Wine Industry over a decade ago after meeting her (now) husband, Paul M. Bonarrigo, CEO of Messina Hof Wine Cellars, Inc. Karen grew up in Pennsylvania, and graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a minor in History from The George Washington University in Washington D.C. in 2007. During her time at The George Washington University she participated in the selective Elizabeth J. Somers Women’s Leadership Program, and worked at The George Washington University Law School as well as Marzulla and Marzulla Law Firm. Karen continued work in the legal field as a Litigation Paralegal from 2008 until 2010 while Paul M. Bonarrigo was serving on Active Duty in The United States Marine Corps. Karen transitioned into Messina Hof Wine Cellars, Inc. as the Human Resources Manager in 2010 until 2012, and then became the Director of Administration in 2012. Karen serves on the Texas Wine and Grape Grower Foundation (TWGGF) Board as a Foundation Director for Region 3. She continues to hold the Director of Administration position and is heavily involved in the culinary and wine programs at Messina Hof Wine Cellars, Inc.
Paul Bonarrigo, Messina Hof Winery
Paul Mitchell Bonarrigo grew up in the Texas Wine Industry working alongside his parents, Paul V. and Merrill Bonarrigo, founders of Messina Hof Wine Cellars, Inc. He worked in all aspects of the vineyard, winery, sales and marketing up until he left for college to go to The United States Naval Academy. Paul graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science in Systems Engineering in 2005 and was commissioned as a United States Marine Corps Officer. Paul served on Active Duty until 2010 during which time he deployed twice to combat zones in Iraq as well as an overseas assignment in Nigeria. Paul attained his Winemaking Certificate from the University of California – Davis Extension Program in 2013. Paul worked as Operations Manager at Messina Hof Wine Cellars, Inc. from 2010 until 2012, and then became the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2012. Paul serves on the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association (TWGGA) Legislative Committee and is a Board Member of the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). He currently holds the position of CEO and Winemaker at Messina Hof Wine Cellars, Inc. Messina Hof Wine Cellars, Inc. includes the following winery locations: Messina Hof Winery and Resort in Bryan, Texas- The Villa Bed and Breakfast, The Vintage House Restaurant, The Wine Bar at Messina Hof and Designer Events; Messina Hof Hill Country Winery in Fredericksburg, Texas- Manor Haus Bed and Breakfast; and Messina Hof Grapevine Winery in Grapevine, Texas.

Annette Boyd, Virginia Wine
Annette Ringwood Boyd is the director for the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office. In this capacity, she manages the board’s marketing efforts on behalf of the Virginia Wine Industry including the strategic oversight of the overall marketing of the Virginia wine industry. Her staff oversees the production of the Virginia Winery Guide, the development and day-to-day management of the industry website, www.virginiawine.org, October Virginia Wine Month, the Virginia Wine Summit and other marketing initiatives on behalf of the Virginia Wine Board.
She began her wine career selling wines in a retail wine shop in college and later as marketing director for a Richmond, Virginia non-profit organization, where she planned wine events in downtown Richmond in addition to running the organization’s public relations and marketing efforts.
She ran the Virginia Wine Marketing Office for 5 years as an employee for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and from there went on to direct branding, marketing planning and business development for other organizations including various advertising agencies and non-profit organizations in Virginia.
Annette founded her own company, Ringwood Boyd Marketing in 2007 and her company has been the outside consultant managing the marketing efforts for the Virginia Wine Board since 2007. She has been recognized for her marketing by the Atlantic Seaboard Wine Association and the Richmond Chapter of the American Marketing Association and is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a BS in Business with a concentration in marketing.

Glenn Caster, ARS/SWASH
Mr. Caster is the President, CEO and largest shareholder of ARS Enterprises. He has devoted nearly all of his professional career, spanning over 40 years, to developing and marketing products related to sanitization and sterilization. His undergraduate degree in Bio-Engineering was the foundation of his career. He worked extensively in the sterile intravenous drug, blood infusion products and medical device industries on sterile product and production process development. Over the last twenty years, he has developed and introduced equipment through the ARS/SWASH division to enhance the ability of food and beverage firms, with a great emphasis on wineries, to maintain sanitary conditions in the production process. Mr. Caster is also a partner in Highlands Winery in Napa where he enjoys the benefits of the products ARS/SWASH provides.

Spring Drake, Drakes Consulting
Tim Drake entered the wine industry in 2000 with Chateau Ste. Michelle in Washington state. For a decade, he worked with top vineyards and fellow winemakers to produce award winning, nationally recognized wines. In 2010, he and his family decided to move to Texas to enter the exciting climate that surrounded the Texas wine scene. He sensed there was a revolution about to take place and wanted to be there to participate. He and his wife Spring, started Texas Wine Lab and Drakes Consulting, to provide testing and winemaking services. He consults for several wineries on winemaking, viticulture and operations, helping them get started and guiding them towards their own style and independence. In 2011, he assumed the position of head winemaker and vineyard manager at Flat Creek Estate, where he continues the tradition of crafting wines of distinction and acclaim.

Lindsay Drew, Assistant Sommelier, Lonesome Dove Austin
Kathy Estes, Frost Bank
Gary Finnan, GFC|Evoke – Keynote Speaker
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Michael Hendrix, US Chamber
As the director for emerging issues and research at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Michael Hendrix manages the Foundation’s research, programming, communications, and publications. He is project director of the Regulatory Climate Index, a barometer of the business environment in major American cities. He is also project director of the Foundation’s partnership with the startup incubator 1776 for Innovation That Matters, a study of innovative city economies. In addition, Hendrix implements the Foundation’s research program and nationwide events on data-driven innovation.

Hendrix writes on technology policy and urban ecosystems for various publications, including National Review, The American Conservative, and Business Horizon Quarterly, and is a contributor to the American Enterprise Institute’s Values & Capitalism project. He is the author of The Power of Prizes, a report on the future of innovation challenges.

Previously, Hendrix served as a fellow at the National Review Institute and as program assistant at the Center for International Private Enterprise, where he coordinated programs to institute market-oriented reforms around the world. He is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland with an M.A. (Hons) in international relations and holds a certificate in strategy and performance management from Georgetown University. He began his undergraduate education at the College of William & Mary as a James Monroe Scholar.

Ryan Horn, Vintner Vault
Ryan started in the Wine Industry out of High school and worked as Cellar Master as he put himself through college majoring in Business Management. He worked with Justin Winery, focusing on layouts of new construction, cave design and equipment needs through the growth. He studied winery layouts throughout Northern California in order to design the new Justin Winery. He also studied winemaking throughout California, Italy and Portugal. Ryan started Vintner's Vault Equipment and Supplies company in 2003, since then Vintner’s Vault has implemented countless winery start ups and expansions across the U.S. and even some basic layouts of wineries abroad.

Ashley Hunter, HM Risk
Ashley M Hunter is the president of HM Risk Group, an international insurance and reinsurance brokerage. Prior to founding HM Risk Group, Ashley worked in various claims management positions for State Farm Insurance Companies, The Hartford Insurance Company and AIG Insurance Company. In her role as president, Ashley has assisted corporations and public entities with unique risk transfer options globally. In addition to assisting corporations and public entities with unique insurance and risk management consulting, Ashley has worked with large multi-national insurers to create unique insurance products for emerging industries and countries. Ashley is very active in her community and the insurance and reinsurance industry. She is a member of organizations such as, Professional Liability Underwriting Society, U.S. Reinsurance Under 40s Group, Inc.(Texas Chair), Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS), South Texas Society for Healthcare Risk Management (Board of Directors), City of Austin Green Business Leaders, Texas Wall Street Women (San Antonio Volunteer Chair). Ashley has served as a Special Deputy Receiver for the Texas Department of Insurance and is currently servings as a member of the Independent Review Organizations Advisory Committee for the Texas Department of Insurance. In 2013, Governor Rick Perry appointed Ashley to the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority. Ashley has a BM in Music Theory and Composition from Centenary College of Louisiana and a MBA in Finance from Texas A&M University. Ashley is also an accomplished concert violinist.

Morgan Jansing, TCEQ
Morgan has served as an Environmental Compliance Assistance Specialist in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s Environmental Assistance Division since joining the agency in 2013. In her role, she provides consultative and technical multi-media compliance assistance to businesses, local governments, trade associations, school districts and agency programs. In addition to assisting regulated entities with compliance initiatives, Morgan also serves as the winery project team lead and as a member on the air and the public water supply asset management teams. After studying environmental biology at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, Morgan returned to her hometown of Fort Worth to attend graduate school at Texas Christian University, TCU. Upon graduation with a M.S. in Environmental Studies from TCU in 2009, Morgan spent five years in the field of environmental education prior to joining TCEQ.

Dr. Julie Kuhlken, Pedernales Cellars
Julie Kuhlken oversees the winery’s graphic design and marketing communications and is artistically responsible for the Pedernales Cellars brand. A graduate of Stanford University, Julie received a doctorate in Philosophy and has taught at universities in Europe and North America. She is a regularly published author, passionate about wine, art, and philanthropy – those loves have come together in Pedernales Cellars’ recent partnership with The Contemporary Austin to provide exhibition sponsorship.
Michael McClendon, Kiepersol Estates

Hailing from rural East Texas from the Prairie Creek community, Michael C. McClendon began studying at the University of Texas at Tyler as a Health and Kinesiology major, but after only one semester found that the pure sciences were more for him and pursued a degree in Biology. While at the university Michael gathered a wealth of skills that were originally intended to pursue a career in medicine and excelled in the life sciences; even holding the position of President of the Kappa Xi chapter of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society. Michael came to Kiepersol as a laboratory intern in May 2008 just before the ensuing harvest season. McClendon graduated from U.T. Tyler in May 2009 with a B.S. in Biology with credits for minor in Chemistry and remained on staff as a laboratory technician. McClendon fell in love with the people, lifestyle and history of the wine industry and welcomed the challenge of being a part of something special at Kiepersol Estates. With only raw abilities, McClendon has become a self-proclaimed “student of the vine” and immersed himself in traditional texts as well as kept correspondence with industry professionals in New Zealand, Chile and California including a Master of Wine to deepen his knowledge of wine science. In 2010 he traveled to the Greater Santiago region of Chile and explored vineyards and wineries in the Maipo, Colchagua, and Clos Apalta valleys to aid in the continuation of the artisanal winemaking style being cultivated in the East Texas Piney Woods. In 2011 Michael was officially named the Enologist/Winemaker at Kiepersol Winery where he leads the wine production team to usher in a new generation of excellence in the Texas wine industry and seeks to leave his impact on the industry as a whole. In 2014 McClendon completed his first vintage abroad; serving as an independent consultant of VINOTEC, Napa at Pacific Rim Oenology Services in Marlborough, New Zealand.

BJ Millard
Settled in Texas at the age of 8. Graduate from Blanco High School. Started Aqua Treatment Services in October of 1992. I hold a class 3 residential water treatment specialist and a class D municipal operator with the TCEQ.

Matt McGinnis, Pen & Tell Us
For more than 20 years Matt McGinnis has used storytelling to bring brands to life in compelling marketing and communications campaigns. As the founder of Pen & Tell Us he has helped dozens of businesses grow with deep business insight providing a foundation for marketing. Leading Pen & Tell Us, McGinnis brings deep knowledge of the wine industry and a strong track record of inspiring action among journalists with creative stories and events for clients such as Fall Creek Vineyards, Perissos Vineyards, Pontotoc Vineyard, Sandstone Cellars, Spicewood Vineyards, Stone House Vineyards and Wedding Oak Winery. As a Certified Sommelier, Certified Specialist of Wine and freelance writer, he turns a critical eye and creative pen on the beverage industry for CultureMap, Austin Man Magazine, Austin Woman Magazine, Edible Austin and on his award-winning blog What Are You Drinking. McGinnis’ writing has been recognized with a 2011 Texas Social Media Award and as a Top 10 Food Blogger in 2013 and 2014 by the Austin Chronicle. He is a board member of the Wine & Food Foundation of Texas and a frequent culinary and beverage judge for events and awards. His culinary and beverage expertise has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, KVUE TV, and KXAN News. McGinnis has spoken at several events including serving as the moderator for the 2015 SXSW SouthBites panel, “You Can't Sit with Us: Craft Beer Subculture,” appeared as an on-air personality on the Bravo TV series, “Best New Restaurant,” was the emcee for The Wine & Food Foundation of Texas “30th Anniversary Rare & Fine Wine Auction” and as the guest host for the Alamo Drafthouse, “Sommelier Cinema.”

Corey Osmers, Club Sommelier, Escondido Golf & Lake Club

Maureen Qualia, Texas Tech University
Maureen Qualia is an instructor of Enology at the Texas Tech Hill Country University Center in Fredericksburg, TX. She received her B.S. in Nutrition from the University of Texas at Austin in 2001 and her M.S. in Enology from California State University at Fresno in 2008. Maureen grew up in the Texas wine industry helping with her family’s business, Val Verde Winery in South Texas. She spent from 2005-2013 studying and working in the California wine industry. Her professional experiences have included graduate teaching in wine analysis, research in phenolic chemistry, sensory evaluation, lab management, winemaking, and wine production management. She has held positions at wineries in both the northern and central coast regions of California.
Bénédicte Rhyne, Kuhlman Cellars

Bénédicte (de Carmejane) Rhyne is a native of Aix en Provence, France. She received her master in oenology (the study of wine) from the Université de Bourgogne (Dijon) in 1987. Her first experience was at Chateau Pétrus, in Pomerol, Bordeaux, under the tutelage of renowned winemaker Jean Claude Berrouet. In January 1988 she went to New Zealand to work harvest at Matua Valley wines. Bénédicte then traveled to England and gained marketing and sales experience by working as a sales representative for Berkman Wine Cellars in Yorkshire. In 1991 Ravenswood Winery in Sonoma, California, invited Bénédicte to join the winemaking-team. Her primary focus was to develop a "Meritage" program. From 1991 to 2001 the winery increased in production ten-fold. This meant a large increase in responsibilities for Bénédicte. She created a sophisticated wine laboratory with well-trained staff and quality control procedures. In 2002, Bénédicte and her family moved to Fredericksburg, TX and created a Wine Laboratory to compliment her Wine Country Consulting business. As part of her Consulting business, Bénédicte has been the winemaker at Mesa Vineyards, Ste Genevieve Wines, 1.6 million gallons facility located in Fort Stockton, Texas since 2003. Bénédicte is also one of the founders and winemaker of Kuhlman Cellars, a starting winery since 2014 in Hye, Texas producing fine quality and “Terroir” driven wines in the style of her native Provence. Bénédicte is also teaching with VESTA program (Viticulture, Enology Science and Technology Alliance). Her online course covers Winery Sanitation (VIN 148) under the Enology Requirements toward an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

Andy Timmons, Lost Draw Vineyards

Andy is a 4th generation farmer who grows cotton, peanuts, and wine grapes. He established his first vineyard in 2006 and now owns and manages over 500 acres of grapes in the Texas High Plains AVA. One of the winegrowing pioneers of Terry County, Andy is committed to producing quality Texas grapes on a consistent basis. Working with some of the best wineries in the state, Lost Draw Vineyards has won several awards including gold medals at the San Francisco, Dallas Morning News, and the Pacific Rim International Wine Competition. In 2014, Andy was awarded the T.V. Munson Award from the Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association, which recognizes exemplary contribution to Texas grape growing.

Lydia Wessner, Lost Draw Vineyard Consulting

Fritz Westover, Westover Vineyard Advising

Fritz has been working hands-on in the viticulture industry since 1999. Fritz obtained his BS in horticulture and MS in Plant Pathology from Penn State University, where he worked on projects including grapevine decline in replanted vineyards, grape disease management, and the science of compost application in vineyards. Fritz has worked internationally as an assistant winemaker for the 2004 harvest at Caiarossa Vineyards and Winery in Pisa, Italy. From 2005 to 2007, Fritz served as Virginia Tech’s Viticulture Research-Extension Associate in Winchester, Virginia. From 2007 to 2013 he served as Viticulture Extension Program Specialist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service where he worked statewide on developing viticulture education and research programs. In 2013 Fritz began working as Technical Program Coordinator with the Vineyard Team, a leading grower group in the Central Coast of California. Fritz is owner and operator of Westover Vineyard Advising, a viticulture consulting, research and education company based in Texas and expanding throughout the southeastern US.