



Notes from the vineyard

Amanda Conkol

Ahhh – February – the month of flowers, romance and wine! While there only may be 28 days this month, it is definitely a big month for wine events. Of course you have Groundhog Day which may be insignificant to some, but for wine drinkers can be a great day to open a bottle of their favorite red wine to get them through the rest of winter.

Next, of course, is Valentine's Day. As my husband would say – another Hallmark Day – it is a great reason to open a bottle of wine and sit back and relax after a hard day of work. Or you can plan ahead and stop at most wineries in the area on Saturday, February 12th for a Valentine's Dinner. Along with our winery, there are a number of wineries offering dinner specials and wine specials to celebrate the occasion.

For example, at our winery we are offering a catered dinner, flowers, live music and a winery gift for only \$70/couple. Other wineries in the area are offering new wine releases, special wine tastings or even a wine and chocolate pairing for the holiday. Be sure to check our website or www.ohiowines.org for all of the events around Valentine's Day.

Then after Valentine's Day, our winery in particular will be

hosting a fundraiser for the Garfield Elementary Relay for Life event on the 19th. I'll have more details in the next week for you, but The Boys Are Back will be rockin' the night away as we raise money for this great event!

Finally, February ends with one of the biggest wine events of the year – Open That Bottle night! If you have been following my column over the past couple of years, you know that the last Tuesday in February is Open That Bottle night. So if you have been saving a bottle of wine for that special moment but can't wait any longer to open that bottle, this night is for you! I'll have more details for you towards the end of the month, including an overview of which bottle we have been saving for the 2011 Open That Bottle Night!

I hope you have a great February and get a chance to enjoy at least one of the wine events going on this month...

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.



Ask The Librarian

Carol Baker

"I found this when we were clearing out my great-grandparents home. It looks like it may be some sort of a rug hooking tool, but



I've never seen one like this before." The Newton Falls Public Library staff confessed they had never seen anything like what that patron showed us. The flat tool is made of two pieces of wood connected by a C-shaped piece of flat metal. The pieces slide forward and back, bringing a needle like implement over a guide. There is a metal eye at the top, which we thought might help to guide the fabric.

First we looked at the books *The Art of Rug Hooking* and *Creative Rug Hooking* by Anne D. Mather. Since neither had a tool similar to our patron's, we went online to see if we could find any information.

Searching the words "antique rug tools" we found the website *The Rugmaker's Homestead* [www.netw.com/~rafter4/linked.htm]. This site had information about rugs worked from the back side which may have been made with a tool such as this. Punched or shuttle and speed-hooked rugs were made with tools that "were called 'speed hooks' and 'shuttle hooks', even though the tip of the tool is a needle, not a hook." When we searched for images of "antique wooden punch rug tools", we found photographs of similar tools. Now that our patron knows about the tool, she will have to decide if she wishes to learn to punch a rug.

For answers to your questions, visit the Newton Falls Public Library, 204 S. Canal Street, Newton Falls or phone 330-872-1282. For information about library programs or hours, also visit our website at www.newtonfalls.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.*

Doodle Dog ran out of the office door so fast he missed every spot on the staircase and landed with one excited leap onto the sidewalk. Groundhog Day was just around the corner and he wanted to find one for himself. He'd never seen a real groundhog before, only in picture books in the office, and this was his chance! Doodle Dog knew he'd better sniff out the groundhog early because there would be a lot of other creatures – dogs and cats and people, too! – looking to see what the groundhog would do this year. A big crowd might scare the poor little guy away!

Soon Doodle Dog found the tracks he'd seen before, all the ones of the different animals and humans. He wondered if any were groundhog prints so he looked more closely at the unique designs. The square indented ones had pretty much faded away – Santa's Reindeer had undoubtedly gone back to the North Pole for now; and the skinny V-shaped ones left by the birds were brushed and scattered now – they'd probably flown South for the rest of the winter or were hiding in a warm nest in a tall tree somewhere. But the long thin oval ones intrigued Doodle Dog as they were the freshest. Did they belong to a groundhog?

Doodle Dog's ears dragged on the ground, making his own sort-of-tracks lining the sidewalk as he sniffed along. He followed the patterns in the snow, and the scent in his nose, until he perked up his ears too and heard the thin ice on the river by the mill being chipped away. He put his paws up on the bridge railing and looked down into the slowly-moving currents below, weighed down by chunks of ice being lazily swept down the trickling waterfall. There, sitting on a large chunk of ice-covered rock, was a dark lump covered in fur using its strong claws

to nudge pieces of driftwood into a pile. The furry lump was making good progress on its wall of bark that was now directing the water in little pools around the timber. Was that a groundhog? It was the right size, and the right color, but when it turned around to get another piece of soaked wood, Doodle Dog saw a wide, flat tail paddling the waves behind the creature. Definitely not a groundhog! Doodle Dog would have loved to continue watching the animal build its fortress, but he had his own mission at paw.

Picking up the scent again, Doodle Dog continued down the street and soon saw a fuzzy creature a few yards in front of him. From the back view it was the right size, and it had a tail that was small and round, but a bit too fluffy. Doodle Dog was too far away to know for sure, but the small fluffy ball of a tail looked lighter in color too. The white-tailed creature turned around to face the puppy, then wiggled its nose and quickly hopped away into a nearby hedge. Nope, definitely not a groundhog!

Doodle Dog wasn't about to give up, and immediately made his way past his favorite park to the edge of a wooded area he had found last time he went exploring. As he bounded along, following the scent in the air, the tracks on the ground were getting wider, with little claw marks in between them. Would a bunny have made those? He didn't have to wonder for long because just up ahead was the apparent owner of those prints. Partly concealed by some brush, the animal was gnawing on an apple core it had somehow found. Doodle Dog held his breath and focused on the other animal. Was that a bunny? No... it was indeed round and brown but the only floppy-eared animal around was Doodle Dog himself. At first glance it looked like a bunny, so Doodle Dog continued to stand very very still to see what the animal would do. Was that a bunny tail? It was the right size, but it wasn't white or fluffy. Hmmmm...

As soon as the animal finished its snack, it tossed the leftover core into the brush and made its way to a large hole dug into the land right near the forest edge. A groundhog hole! As quick as could be, the groundhog jumped into its home, probably to take a good long nap before it was expected to come back out and predict the arrival of Spring! Doodle Dog thought the groundhog had the right idea and was soon home napping, too.

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