

Grower & Marketer

DEC 13

★ **LANCASTER WINEGROWERS** ★

Lancaster Farming • Section E • Saturday, December 7, 2002

Crossing Vineyards, Winery A Family Endeavor



Hand hoeing around the vines allows Tom Jr. to virtually eliminate herbicide. He plans to plant a mix of fescues and ryegrass as a cover crop that also improves weed control. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

WASHINGTON CROSSING (Bucks Co.) — “Growing grapes is no different than growing crops,” said Tom Carroll Jr.

“It’s agriculture. It is marketing, sales, science, food processing, and chemistry.”

A former horse farm and a dairy farm before the Carrolls owned the property now boasts long rows of slender green shoots, clinging to wire supports, that are making their sure way upward.

A dream that had its beginnings when Tom Jr. was about 10 years old has become reality at Crossing Vineyard, Washington Crossing. “I remember being taken by the look of the vineyard and telling my parents, ‘someday we should do that on our property,’” said Tom Jr.

Years later, with money

saved, books and articles read, and experts consulted, Tom Jr. has his vineyard, a five-acre area patterned with straight rows of vines.

Self-Education

Although graduating with a double major in English and filmmaking didn’t necessarily prepare Tom Jr. for an agricultural vocation, his enthusiasm and willingness to educate himself and general passion for the venture has filled in the gaps.

The aid of Penn State local agents and Penn State wine grape agent Mark Chien has been “invaluable,” according to Tom Jr..

In addition, his mother, Chris, estimates that she has called 50 grape growers to discuss topics such as which rootstocks would work best in their area. “It’s like a brotherhood of farmers,” she said.

(Turn to Page E3)

Winegrower Tastes Benefits Of Research, Hard Work

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

MANHEIM (Lancaster County) — For wine grape producer Jan Waltz, 2002 looks like a good year.

Since he first began growing grapes in 1997, Waltz has faced a steep learning curve, three dry summers, and a variety of other challenges.

But with favorable overall growing conditions, along with hard work and close attention to details, he expects a fine wine from this year’s crop.

Waltz is the fourth generation of his family on

this Manheim farm, which has been used mainly for field crops, livestock, and tobacco production. He started looking into wine grapes about six years ago, when a friend tuned him in to the possibility of starting a vineyard.

To help familiarize himself with the idea, Waltz traveled to famous wine-growing regions of California, including the Napa and Sonoma valleys. He noticed these areas had some of the same characteristics as his home — such as good soils.

(Turn to Page E4)



Jan Waltz shows his “Scott Henry”-style trellising system for these Cabernet Sauvignon grapevines. In this technique, vines are trained to grow horizontally on two levels, with the goal of improving grape production and quality.

Photo by Dave Lefever

Mark Your Calendars For Convention Feb. 4-6

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Plans for the 2003 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention Feb. 4-6, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey are well under way.

This year’s convention date is a week later than usual, so be sure to take that into consideration when planning your winter vacation.

The date change was

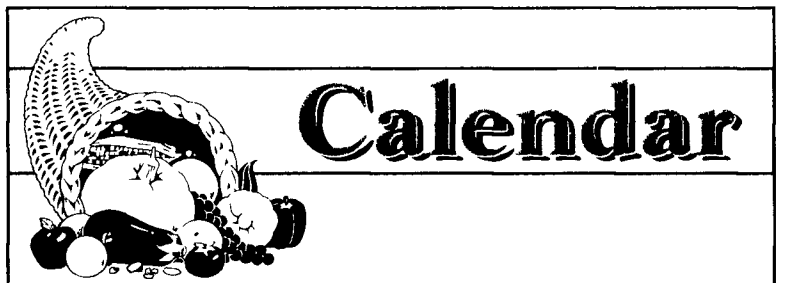
caused by a conflict in the Convention Center’s schedule for 2003, but the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention will return to its normal time at the end of January in 2004.

Dr. Michael Orzolek and the rest of the program committee are working hard to put together another outstanding educational program for the 2003 conven-

tion. The vegetable, potato, and small fruit program will again include five concurrent sessions on all three days.

On the opening day, there will be half-day sessions on season extension technology, beans, wholesale marketing, sweet corn, potatoes, alliums (onions, garlic and leeks), and greenhouse vegetables, plus a

(Turn to Page E5)



Monday, December 9

Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, thru Dec. 12, (888) 683-3445.

Annual Cornell Research Wine Tasting and Long Is-

Calendar

land Rare Wine Auction, Rafael Winery, Peconic, N.Y., 7 p.m.-9 p.m., (631) 727-7850.

Tuesday, December 10

High Tunnel and Grape Pro-

(Turn to Page E11)