

October 15, 2010



WOW!! What a busy summer and early Fall we have had!! Once we started pruning the vineyard in the spring, it became almost a full time job; then we had to spray and fertilize several times throughout the season. Mike and I were really tired almost every day - but it was a good tired! You know the kind you feel after you have worked really hard doing something you love! It was a job well worth doing - the vineyard and the

grounds at the winery have never been more spectacular. I don't mind telling you that once the grapes started developing on the vines we received so many compliments about the gorgeous fruit and beautiful vineyard that I thought Mike was going to "pop his vest buttons." Seriously, we were extremely proud of the place this year.

The more those grapes kept growing, the sweeter they were becoming. The sweeter they became the more interested the birds were in them - so in August we had to put "netting" over all the rows to keep the birds out. Next we waited for Butch to tell us that the fruit was at its optimum sweetness - then we went into harvest mode. Trust me - harvesting is no job for the faint



of heart! So thanks to David, Terry, Johnnie, Bobby, Brandon, Travis, Diana, Mike, Butch, me and *even Karen* we picked 1100 pounds of grapes from our little vineyard - with Mike only making one trip to the ER!! So 7 stitches later we have 4 new wines made from BHW grapes in the tanks - *Chardonney, Lemberger, Cabernet Franc, & Cabernet Sauvignon.*



Mike and I spent countless hours keeping the place in shape for our Free Concert Series. It was our first venture into a full schedule of concerts and we had a great time with it. Each of the concerts was unique and fun. We had some great talent like Mother Jane, Bluestown, Whiskey Tango, Todd Bodenheimer, Ray Glenn, Girls Nite Out, Potluck Ramblers, and Wapituli, just to mention a few! Those who came to the concerts were as much fun as the entertainers themselves. We will definitely be having the Concert Series again next year. *Unfortunately, Mike and Karen kept a little tighter hold on me during the concerts - so I apologize to my friends who had brought food for me and were unable to share it. Next year I will figure out a way to make sure that I am able to get to all of your tables!!!!*

On the wine front, other than starting to make wine with our own grapes, we brought back *Cherry-Cranberry & Chocolate Razz*. Additionally, we have bottled our 2008 *Kentucky Cabernet Sauvignon*. It is an outstanding dry red wine. We entered 3 wines in the Kentucky State Fair competition and won 3 medals. This is a tribute to Butch's efforts - **Sweet Martyne won a GOLD medal - Roe Hill Red & Vidal Blanc won SILVER medals.**

Karen worked this year (I know you are not going to believe this!) in the vineyard pruning and harvesting. She even helped mulch around the Tasting Room and cut grass!! Mike and I are really proud of her - she hates being out in the heat, but she hung in there with us and we made over her like she was really doing something great!!!

I hope that you will be coming to Brooks Hill Winery real soon! I love meeting new humans and seeing familiar ones as well. In spite of my duties in the vineyard, I will meet you when you come in the door. Maybe while you are enjoying a bottle of our wine you will pause to take a walk in our beautiful vineyard or hike through the woods, you will be glad you came and so will I!!