



NATIONAL  
**VITICULTURE &  
ENOLOGY EXTENSION**  
LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

Proudly supported by the  
**National Grape Research Alliance**

## **2026 NVEELC Conference**

April 20-22, 2026 | [Westin Riverwalk](#), San Antonio, TX

### **Agenda: Day 1 State Reports & Networking**

Monday, April 20

**Westin Riverwalk, Olivares Meeting Room**

- 1:00 p.m. **Welcome**  
Donnell Brown, President - National Grape Research Alliance  
Dr. Keith Striegler, Chair of NGRA Extension and Outreach Committee (GALLO)  
Members of the NVEELC Organizing Committee
- 1:15 p.m. **20 Years of NVEELC: How Did We Get Here?**  
Dr. Keith Striegler, Chair of NGRA Extension and Outreach Committee (GALLO)
- 1:35 p.m. **State Reports & Successes**  
Grape and wine industry reports from each state represented  
-Moderator: Michael Cook, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- 2:00 p.m. **Break**
- 2:10 p.m. **State Reports & Successes Continued**  
Grape and wine industry reports from each state represented  
-Moderator: Dr. Justin Scheiner, Texas A&M University
- 3:10 p.m. **Break**
- 3:20 p.m. **NVEELC Business Meeting**  
Selecting 2028 conference date and location, electing next Organizing Committee Chair, and setting virtual meeting schedule
- Group Discussion**
- 4:30 p.m. **Reception: Sharing Wines from around the Regions**  
*Attendees are encouraged to bring one or two bottles of wine from their region*
- 6:00 p.m. **Dinner on the San Antonio River Walk**  
Rita's on the River



NATIONAL  
**VITICULTURE &  
ENOLOGY EXTENSION**  
LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

Proudly supported by the  
**National Grape Research Alliance**

**Agenda: Day 2**  
**Texas Hill Country Vineyard & Winery Tour**

Tuesday, April 21

**Westin Riverwalk, Gather in the Lobby**

- 8:00 a.m.      **Breakfast**  
Westin Riverwalk
- 9:00 a.m.      **Bus departs hotel**
- 10:00 a.m.     **Bending Branch Winery, Comfort, TX**  
Winery tour and discussion of extraction methods
- 11:30 a.m.     **Depart for Elisa Christopher Wines**
- 12:30 p.m.     **Elisa Christopher Wines, Johnson City, TX**  
Lunch with non-traditional wine pairing, tour of sparkling wine production
- 2:30 p.m.      **Depart for Ab Astris Winery**
- 2:45 p.m.      **Ab Astris Winery, Stonewall, TX**  
Tour of vineyard and winery, and wine tasting
- 4:00 p.m.      **Depart for William Chris Vineyards**
- 4:15 p.m.      **William Chris Vineyards, Hye, TX**  
Vineyard and winery tour, dinner
- 6:30 p.m.      **Depart for Westin Riverwalk Hotel**



NATIONAL  
**VITICULTURE &  
ENOLOGY EXTENSION**  
LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

Proudly supported by the  
**National Grape Research Alliance**

## **Agenda: Day 3**

### **Professional Development: Meeting Stakeholders Where They Are**

Wednesday, April 22

**Westin Riverwalk, Olivares Meeting Room**

- 8:00 a.m.      **Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m.      **Unprecedented Headwinds: Demonstrating Value and Delivering Research**  
Donnell Brown, President - NGRA
- 9:15 a.m.      **Train the Trainer: HiRes Vineyard Nutrition**  
Dr. Patty Skinkis, Oregon State University
- 9:45 a.m.      **Building Strong Relationships with Your Constituents: What We Have Learned**  
Moderator: Dr. Justin Scheiner, Texas A&M University  
Panelists: Dr. Keith Striegler, GALLO; Dr. Cain Hickey, Penn State University; Dr. Michelle Moyer, Washington State University; Dr. Patty Skinkis, Oregon State University; Dr. Larry Bettiga, UC Cooperative Extension; and Dr. Tim Martinson, Cornell (Retired) *(via Zoom)*
- 10:30 a.m.      **Break**
- 10:45 a.m.      **Meeting Customers at the Glass: Wine Trends, Considerations for Production and Tasting**  
Moderator: Dr. Andreea Botezatu, Texas A&M University  
Panelists: Brad Buckelew, Lost Draw Winery; Dr. Federico Casassa, Cal Poly; Dr. Demi Perry, Virginia Tech; and Seth Urbanek, William Chris Vineyards
- 11:30 a.m.      **AI Tools for Extension: Discussion of Platforms and of Ethical Considerations**  
*Attendees are encouraged to bring their best (or worst) examples of using AI at work*  
Dr. Justin Scheiner and Dr. Andreea Botezatu, Texas A&M University
- 12:00 p.m.      **Adjourn**