



NATIONAL
**VITICULTURE &
ENOLOGY EXTENSION**
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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



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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**



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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**