

Past Unity Banquet Award Winners

Phyllis Feder Unity Award: This award was established in 1990 and recognizes individuals who have volunteered their time, shown exceptional leadership, and achieved recognized results in building industry co-operation and unity. This award is now named in honor of Phyllis Feder. Past recipients include:

- **Bert Silk**, the first chairman of the Foundation
- **Seaton “Zeke” Mendall**, former president of the New York State Wine Grape Growers
- **Monty Stamp**, long-time secretary of the New York State Wine Grape Growers (NYSWGG)
- **Vince Bedient**, a NYSWGG director for over 20 years as well as the organization’s past president
- **Martha Borgeson**, former Deputy Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
- **Doug Knapp**, former NYSWGG president and organizer of the first two editions of the Finger Lakes Wine Festival
- **Maxine Fullagar**, President of Women for New York State Wines
- **Dr. Herodotus Damianos**, owner of Pindar Vineyards and Duck Walk Vineyards
- **Art & Joyce Hunt**, co-owners of Hunt Country Vineyards
- **John Brahm III**, of Arbor Hill Grapery
- **Gene Pierce**, Past Chairman of the Board for the Foundation
- **John & Ann Martini** of Anthony Road Wine Company
- **Neil Simmons** of Simmons Vineyards and former Chairman of the Foundation
- **Marco Borghese** of Castello di Borghese Vineyards on Long Island
- **Nathan Rudgers**, former Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- **Ruth Moore**, former First Deputy Commissioner of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
- **Tom Davenport** of National Grape Cooperative
- **Liz Stamp**, Owner/Public Relations, Lakewood Vineyards
- **Bob Madill**, Sheldrake Point Vineyards
- **Rory Callahan**, Wine & Food Associates
- **Pete Saltonstall**, King Ferry Winery
- **Richard Olsen-Harbich**, Bedell Cellars
- **Phyllis Feder**, Past Board Chair of the Foundation and Clinton Vineyards
- **Roman Roth**, Wölffer Estate Vineyard & The Grapes of Roth
- **Larry Perrine**, Past NYWGF Board Member & Channing Daughters Winery

Jim Finkle Industry Award: This award is intentionally broad in scope in order to recognize outstanding achievements in aspects of the industry not directly covered by the Unity and other awards. The area may be marketing, promotion, legislative, organizational or other. Starting in 2016, this award was named in honor of Jim Finkle.

- **Marvin Sands** of Canandaigua Brands
- **John Dyson** of Millbrook Vineyards
- **Bill Wagner** of Wagner Vineyards
- **Eastman Beers**, former owner of Springledge Farms
- **Tom Davenport** of the National Grape Cooperative
- **NYS Senator John “Randy” Kuhl**
- **Juanita Spence**, retired from NYSWGG and NYWGF
- **Willy Frank** of Dr. Konstantin Frank’s Vinifera Wine Cellars and Chateau Frank
- **Elvin Tyler**, long time grape grower and industry leader
- **Hermann J. Wiemer**, of Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyards
- **Mark James** of NY Farm Bureau
- **Scott Osborn** of Fox Run Vineyards
- **Julie Suarez** of New York Farm Bureau
- **Barbara Adams**, former Executive Director of the Seneca Lake Wine Trail
- **Bill Magee**, New York State Assemblyman and Chair of the Agriculture Committee
- **Catharine Young**, New York State Senator, Chair Senate Agricultural Committee
- **Waterloo Container**
- **New York State Wine Grape Growers**
- **Patrick Hooker**, former Commissioner of Agriculture & Markets
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension**
- **Dennis Rosen**, former Commissioner of the New York State Liquor Authority
- **Rich Erdle**, National Grape Cooperative (retired)
- **Rich Stabins**, Constellation Brands
- **Dan Mitchell**, Fox Run Vineyards

Grower Award: Given for the first time in 1993, this award recognizes an individual for dedication and contributions to the New York grape industry. Recipients have been:

Ernest Pinneo of Keuka Lake	Jim Bedient in the Finger Lakes
Warren "Baldy" Morse of Keuka Lake	Louis & Donna Gridley of Keuka Lake
Jim Hazlitt of Seneca Lake	The Tones Family of Clearview Farms
June Pendleton of Rushville (former NYSWGG President)	The Simmons Family of Simmons Vineyards
Monty Stamp of Seneca Lake	Steve Mudd , Mudd Vineyards
Ron Guzzetta of Western New York	Herman Amberg , Grafted Grapevine Nursery
Phyllis Bauer of Keuka Lake	Jim Joy , JM Joy Farms
Doug Miles of Seneca Lake	Richard Gerome , Jerome's U-Pick
David Mudd of Mudd Vineyards on Long Island	Michael Migliore , Whitecliff Vineyard
Dennis Rak of Western NY	Sayre Fulkerson Fulkerson Winery
Vince Bedient of Bedient Vineyards	John Graziano , Millbrook Vineyards & Winery

Winery Award: Since 2002, we have presented a Winery Award, which recognizes major contributions in advancing the image and reputation of the New York wine industry. Recipients have been:

Swedish Hill Vineyards of Cayuga Lake	Wölffer Estate Vineyard of Long Island
Millbrook Vineyards and Winery of the Hudson River Region	Red Newt Cellars of Seneca Lake
Paumanok Vineyards of Long Island	Dr. Konstantin Frank Wine Cellars of Keuka Lake
Wagner Vineyards of Seneca Lake	Fox Run Vineyards
Thousand Islands Winery	Liberty Vineyards & Winery
Glenora Wine Cellars	

Research Award: This award recognizes major contributions in the area of grape growing, processing, and wine research, and may be presented to scientists, industry members or others. Past recipients:

Charles Fournier & Dr. Konstantin Frank	Dr. Curtis Ellison of Boston University Medical Center
Nelson Shaulis, PhD	Alan Lakso, PhD
Fred Taschenberg, PhD	Dean Susan Henry of Cornell University
Mary Plane	The Vineyard Laboratory at Fredonia
Tim Dennehy, PhD	Tim Martinson, PhD
Thomas Henick-Kling, PhD	Terry Bates, PhD
Robert Pool, PhD	Wayne Wilcox, PhD
Bruce Reisch, PhD	Dr. Andrew Landers, PhD
Leroy Creasy, PhD	Dr. Greg Loeb, PhD
Thomas Zabadal, PhD	Dr. Martin Goffinet, PhD
Alice Wise	Dr. Brad Rickard, PhD
K. Helen Fisher , University of Guelph	Dr. Marc Fuchs
Ming Mei Chang	Justine Vanden Heuvel

Restaurant Award: This award recognizes excellence in promoting New York wines in a fine dining experience. Previous winners:

Pierces 1894 Restaurant in Elmira Heights	The Asa Ransom House in Buffalo
The Desmond in Albany	The View at the Marriott Marquis
The Hudson River Club in New York City	Ports Café in Geneva
Turback's of Ithaca	Chuck Hunt of the New York State Restaurant Association
Ross' North Fork Restaurant of Southold	Red Newt Bistro in Hector
Belhurst Castle in Geneva	Megu in New York City
Home Restaurant in New York City	The Taste of New York Restaurant , New York Wine & Culinary Center
The Prospect Restaurant at Scribner Hollow Lodge in Hunter	Suzanne Fine Regional Cuisine in Lodi
The Village Tavern in Hammondsport	Blue Pointe Grille at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel
Carmine's in Albany	Tom Schaudel , Alure, aMano, Jewel, Petulant Wino
Gramercy Tavern in New York City	The Marshal in New York City
Thomas Pastuszak in New York City	

Retailer Award: This award is presented to wine stores which do an exceptional job in educating consumers about the quality and variety of New York wines. Previous winners:

Northside Wines & Spirits, Ithaca
House of Bacchus, Rochester
GCP Discount Liquors, Horseheads
McAdam Buy Rite, New York City
Wines & Spirits of Slingerlands
Century Discount Wines & Liquors, Pittsford
Vintage New York, Manhattan
The Wine Sellar, Buffalo
Zachys, Westchester
Astor Wines & Spirits, New York City

Burt Notarius of Prime Wines Corporation, Western NY
Altamont Wine & Liquors, Altamont
Marketview Liquor, Rochester
The Greene Grape, New York City
Bombace Wine & Spirits, Don Bombace, Farmington
The Wine Room, Neil Kratzer, Buffalo
Jay Roelof of Suburban Wines & Spirits, Yorktown Heights
Ryan's Wine & Spirits, Canandaigua
Whole Foods Market Wine Store, New York City

Ron Reals Distributor Award: This award, was first presented in 2005 to recognize achievement in distributing and promoting New York wines. Starting in 2016, this award was named in honor of Ron Reals. It has previously been awarded to:

Ron Reals of Finger Lakes Premium Wines
Sandy Waters of Eber Brothers
Bill Crandall of Eber Brothers
Opici Wine Group
Winebow
Cheryl Dianetti

Gretchen Geiger
Upstate Wine Company
Phil Adams
Dina Opici
New York Wines Sarl, Luxembourg

Consumer Award: Established in 1998 for "enthusiastic" support of the New York wines industry and for exemplifying the use of wine as part of a happy, healthy lifestyle. Past recipients have been:

George Tillson
Chuck & Grace Lincoln
Dottie & Joe Mugavero
Lynne Montgomery
Michael Warren Thomas
Dick Ehrlich
Mike Rusinko & Carol Chester
Phyllis Bauer
Charlene Ryder

Women for New York State Wines
Peter Parts
Bob Lewis
June Phillips
Thomas Pellechia
Cheryl Gnade-McGrattan
Judi Betts
Lorraine Hems