

As with any business competing for visitors/customers, one looks for ways to make oneself more interesting.

Offering live music is a win-win for both the venues and the musicians. Music creates an ambiance that encourages visitors to be less hurried and more relaxed while at the same time, allows musicians to schedule additional bookings for varied private events such as corporate meetings, weddings, parties, etc.

And I can testify that the advent of rude, threatening phone calls, visits, and mailings to small businesses such as RagApple Lassie have greatly affected the ability of said musicians to earn a living. Three musicians used by RagApple Lassie in the past got regular bookings for private events from the contacts made here at RagApple Lassie. And each has told me that they have one or two songs registered with one or more PROS agencies and had NEVER received a penny from said agencies. **BUT that their income had been affected drastically by the inability of venues of hire them.**

I will also say that if said PROS agencies gave just 40 or 50% **to the musicians** of the amount spent on rude robo telephone personnel and writers of threatening e-mails plus the costs of printing and postage for expensive mailings everyone would benefit tremendously.

The owners of RagApple Lassie vineyards did not wake up one morning thinking what fun it would be to own a winery!!!

RagApple Lassie Vineyards is located on a farm that has been in the Hobson Family for 110 years, and following the demise of tobacco in the late 1990's. became "Plan B" to keep said farm agricultural, intact and self-sustaining!

Farmer/owner Frank Hobson and wife, Lenna have been full time farmers their entire adult lives and with the demise of tobacco looming over North Carolina, Frank's worst nightmare was that his beloved farm would become a housing development. Hence, he began preparing land on which to plant vineyards in 1999 and planted 35 acres of vines in 2000 and 2001 followed by the construction of a winery in 2002.

Now, thanks to the national attention showered on the area because of the loss of a major driver of farm economics and the serendipitous fact that the elevations, soils, climate, and latitudes essential for growing quality grapes existed right here in Piedmont North Carolina 104 wineries now exist in North Carolina.

All anyone wants is the right to make a living and the current laws have outlived any usefulness to anyone except the PROS executives!!