

RUTHERFORD DUST SOCIETY



"It takes Rutherford Dust to grow Great Cabernet."
—André Tchelistcheff

E - NEWSLETTER — JULY 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

- Winter Passport Event—
Sips, Soups & Stews
Go to story...

- A Mountain of
Rutherford Dust
Go to story...

- Congressional Recognition
Go to story...

- Riboli Family Wine Estates
Go to story...

- Chili Ball
Go to story...

THE RUTHERFORD APPELLATION WINERIES WINTER PASSPORT EVENT - SIPS, SOUPS & STEWS DECEMBER 4TH & 5TH, 2010 | 11 AM TO 4 PM



Join the Rutherford Appellation Wineries as we open our doors to the public for a spectacular winter weekend of great wine paired with soups, stews and other hearty treats. Each winter, participating members provide a wide array of delicious Rutherford wines, including new releases and very special barrel tasting experiences. This charitable event benefits local Napa Valley community organizations, with the latest recipient being the Rutherford Grange. In early 2010 the group presented the grange with a check for \$10,000 to help in the renovation of their historic building.

This winter several wineries will be pouring wine at the grange, so guests will be able to see their passport dollars in action. The Winter Passport is set for December 4th and 5th from 11 am to 4 pm. Visitors can purchase a 2-day or Sunday-only passport. To read more about our participating wineries and to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.rutherford-appellation-wineries.com

[Back to Top](#)

A MOUNTAIN OF RUTHERFORD DUST



The Rutherford Dust Society's groundbreaking environmental restoration project for the Napa River has created a mountain of soil from this world-famous wine region. "This must be the most valuable dirt in America," says Gretchen Hayes, project coordinator. "It is truly a mountain of Rutherford Dust, and the greatest wines in America are grown in this coveted red soil!" Landowners have had this soil removed from steeply eroding river banks in order to provide fish habitat and restore the natural flow of the Napa River through the Rutherford American Viticultural Area.

For the past seven years, a river restoration team headed by Davie Pina, John Williams, and Andy Beckstoffer of the Rutherford Dust Society has worked with a wide range of stakeholders to develop a long-range sustainability program for the Napa River as it passes through the Rutherford AVA, between Zinfandel Lane and the Oakville Cross Road, south of St. Helena. Since 1972, the river has cut down as much as 15 feet, creating a simplified channel with degraded fish habitat and severely eroding banks. Despite these conditions, the Rutherford Reach remains the most critical spawning habitat for Chinook salmon in the Napa River. Twenty-three local growers have volunteered to sacrifice nearly 20 acres of top-quality vineyards in the heart of Napa Valley's finest AVA to restore the river to a more natural condition. "Our mission is to work collaboratively with neighbors and agencies to stabilize river-banks, reduce the impacts of flooding, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, reduce Pierce's Disease pressure on vineyards, and provide ongoing education about the river and its watershed," says Beckstoffer of the project. "Our goal is a living river."

"This is a pioneering effort, to my knowledge the most ambitious river restoration project to date proposed on private property in California," says Hayes. "The Rutherford Reach Restoration Project is enhancing four-and-a-half miles of the Napa River from the perspective of both protecting private property and the river's ecological value." To date, six landowners have re-dedicated seven acres of vineyard to the river corridor worth \$2.1 million. Lost grape production over the next 20 years will total \$1.6 million. Public funding critical to advancing this initiative has been provided by the California Department of Fish and Game, the Coastal Conservancy, the State Water Board, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation Salmonid Habitat Conservation Fund. Napa County matches all funds raised on behalf of the project and is overseeing construction, which began in 2009 and is being conducted in phases.

Landowners along the Rutherford Reach are dedicated to restoring the river for future generations, and have funded a Channel Maintenance District for the purpose of maintaining the restoration for twenty years.

Explore & discover more about the Rutherford Dust Society at www.rutherforddust.org, and [join us on Facebook](#) for news and updates as they happen.

[Back to Top](#)

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

The Rutherford Dust Society's River Restoration Project has garnered Congressional acknowledgment for its pioneering work on the Napa River as it flows through the Rutherford AVA.

Congressional Certificates of Recognition were given to the following landowners who have made significant and personal contributions to the restoration of the Napa River, including donation of productive vineyard land, lost production revenue for the life of the project, and other costs in time, labor and materials in preparation for, and during the restoration planning and construction process.

- Carpy-Conolly LLC

- The David Guggenhome Family
- Davie Pina
- Frog's Leap Winery
- Michael Sipiora
- The Quintessa Estate
- Rutherford Wine Studios for Restoration at The Ranch Winery
- Trincherro Family Estates for Restoration at The Ranch Winery
- Wagner Family of Wines

In addition, the project could not have happened without the dedication and expertise of many participating agencies and their representatives. The following personnel have proven to be especially instrumental in bringing this pioneering project to fruition:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Gretchen E. Hayes, Tessera Sciences
- Lisa Micheli, PhD, Tessera Sciences
- Napa County Department of Public Works
- Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Napa County Resource Conservation District
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Richard Thomasser
- San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board

[Back to Top](#)

RIBOLI FAMILY WINE ESTATES

Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford 2008

92 Points Appealing for its plush, supple layers of ripe plum, blackberry, black licorice and kirschlike scents, this full-bodied red unfolds to reveal all kinds of flavor nuances and ends with a rich, fleshy aftertaste. Best from 2012 through 2020. 350 cases made.

—James Laube
Wine Spectator, Dec. 15, 2010



For more information please visit www.sanantoniowinery.com

[Back to Top](#)

CHILI BALL



Rutherford's Chili Ball, the annual neighborhood party, was a big success! Approximately 350 Rutherford residents and employees converged on Frog's Leap winery for the festivities. Representative Mike Thompson handed out congressional Certificates of Recognition to several Rutherford landowners who had donated land for the Rutherford Dust River Restoration Project.

Thanks to some generous auction bidders, the

Rutherford Dust Society was able to increase the annual donations to our favorite charities three-fold this year:

- Rutherford 4-H Club
- Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department
- Rutherford Grange

While the adults were having a great time dancing and enjoying fantastic Rutherford wines, the kids were entertained by a clown and an enormous bouncy house. Everyone agreed it was one of the best parties of the year. Next year's Chili Ball will see a name change. There are just too darn many chili balls in the valley, so going forward the Rutherford Chili Ball will be known as the Rutherford Block Party. We hope to see all of our Rutherford neighbors at the 2011 Block Party!

[Back to Top](#)