

RUTHERFORD DUST SOCIETY



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

E - NEWSLETTER — APRIL 2010

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SPRING PASSPORT WEEKEND SET FOR MAY 1ST & 2ND

The Rutherford Appellation Wineries are proud to bring you the next Spring Passport, May 1st and 2nd, 2010 from 11 am to 4 pm. The event has been hailed as one of the most exclusive entrances into the Rutherford Appellation Wineries. Many participating wineries are appointment only, or are unavailable for tastings throughout the year. Make this passport weekend your official Rutherford Wine experience. The Appellation is best known for its amazing Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc.

This spring we have 18 participating wineries with food pairing of miscellaneous tapas from different in-house and celebrity chefs from around the valley. Come out and experience the Rutherford Appellation, meet local winemakers, discover unreleased wines, tour tank rooms and vineyards alike. Pricing for this event is only \$65 for the weekend or \$50 for Sunday Only Pass. T-shirts will be for sale at time of passport purchase. Go to www.rutherford-appellation-wineries.com for more information or to purchase tickets.



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GREAT PROGRESS MADE ON RESTORING RUTHERFORD GRANGE HALL

By Jay Hartz and Susan Hirschy, Master of the Rutherford Grange



On June 12, 1914, Mr. Frank L. Hunt and a small group of family farmers gathered in Yount Township in Napa County to start a new Subordinate Grange, Rutherford Grange #371. Two years later, on June 17, 1916, Rutherford Grangers dedicated their hall (at left). Their membership had increased to 165 members.

Jumping ahead 93 years, both the Rutherford Grange organization and the hall were in sad shape. A handful of interested citizens from Napa and Rutherford generated enough interest to hold a revitalization meeting on June 30, 2009. It was determined that the Rutherford Grange should persevere, and many of those original citizens were sworn in as officers of the Rutherford Grange.

As a result, the hall is well on its way to recovery. We have plans to renovate both inside and out, and those plans call for returning the hall to its roots, restoring it to its 1916 luster. Thanks to the State Grange loaning us funds and to some extraordinarily generous donations from Rutherford and Napa Valley residents, we are on our way to repairing the truss system and re-roofing. Our goal and the wishes of the community are that Rutherford Grange be sensitively restored to its historic, shingle-style form, adding back some of the eave and corbel details that were removed in the 60s.

The Grange is thrilled to be on the way to becoming a cornerstone of the beautiful mid-Valley township of Rutherford. We have re-implemented the ranch style breakfasts of the past, using local and organic produce, and have begun holding hospitality events to bring consumers to the local businesses. We have started the Rutherford Children's Chorus, and introduced a lecture series on topics of interest to the community. We want to offer a home to a theatre company, hold wine tastings and craft fairs. We are planning a harvest-to-table event and a dinner theatre night. In the works are family movie nights, spaghetti dinners, and socials.

We want to do what Granges do: support the agricultural community and the public at large and help them thrive. Our goal for June, 2011 is to have 165 members, the same number as had originally moved into the hall in 1916. To find out more or to make a donation, please visit . www.rutherfordgrange.com.

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NAPA RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE FROM RUTHERFORD DUST RESTORATION TEAM

By Gretchen E. Hayes

With Phase 1a complete, the RDRT project team continues to document changes to the Napa River at the Rutherford Reach with monitoring activities that evaluate channel bank stability and bed incision, and fish and riparian habitat quality. This coming season the team will complete the channel survey that was conducted between Zinfandel Lane and the Rutherford Crossroad in 2009 down to the Oakville Crossroad. This survey will assist the team in prioritizing critical areas of channel and



bank incision to be addressed in our maintenance and future funding efforts.

The Napa County Resource Conservation District continues to work with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the design to fix the Zinfandel Lane Bridge fish barrier. Repair of the barrier will open up 65 miles of historic fish habitat upstream of the bridge. The Rutherford Reach Project goes hand in hand with the Zinfandel Bridge repair to improve overall fish habitat in the Napa River Watershed at a critical time when returning salmon populations have hit an historic low.

If you are interested in seeing the restored properties that were constructed last summer, or to see select photos of the site before and after construction, please contact Gretchen Hayes at Gretchen@TesseraSciences.com or 925.980.2829.

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RUTHERFORD DUST AVAILABLE

Also, do you know anyone about to embark on a major grading project in need of dirt? Excavating terraces in the channel to create room for the river to move, reduce channel bank erosion, and create habitat for steelhead and salmon, has left us with a surplus of soil that is not fully accommodated by building larger setback berms. To reduce costs to the project due to dirt off-hauling and stockpiling, we are actively seeking local sites to place excavated dirt from the upcoming construction season this summer. Please contact Gretchen Hayes at Gretchen@TesseraSciences.com or 925.980.2829.

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EUROPEAN GRAPEVINE MOTH (*LOBESIA BOTRANA*): AN EMERGING PEST IN NAPA VALLEY VINEYARDS

Monica L. Cooper, Viticulture Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Napa
Lucia G. Varela, UC IPM Areawide Advisor, North Coast Region



In mid-September, 2009, the first report of the European grapevine moth (at left) in North America was confirmed in Napa County, California. Native to and widespread in Europe, it was also recently introduced to Chile (2008). Within California, the moth is currently considered to be limited to Napa County, where the greatest number of specimens has been collected in Oakville and Rutherford, with an

isolated population

east of the city of Napa. Considering its status as one of the most damaging pests of grape berries in the Mediterranean region, a statewide monitoring effort in 2010 will be critical to delineate populations and limit spread.



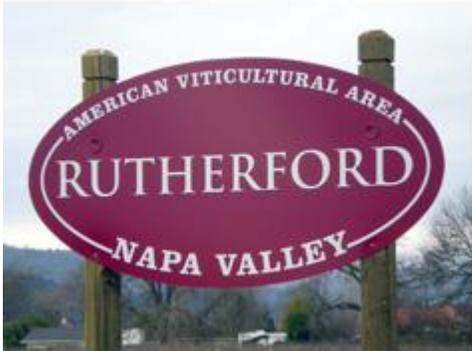
We expect *L. botrana* to complete three generations in Napa. This moth spends the winter as a diapausing pupa in protected locations under bark and in the soil. In late winter/early spring, the 1st generation of moths emerges. Adults fly (and mate) at dusk. Females lay their eggs on flower parts, where larvae of the 1st generation (at right) spin webbing and feed. The 2nd and 3rd generation eggs are laid on berries. Larvae of the 2nd and 3rd generation feed exclusively on berries, and they can often be found hiding inside hollowed-out berries. Infections caused by the

fungus *Botrytis cinerea* are triggered by larval feeding and *Botrytis* bunch rot disease is the main cause of fruit loss. Grapevines are the preferred host of *Lobesia botrana*, although alternate hosts, such as olive inflorescences, may be important during certain times of year.

For additional information on *Lobesia botrana*, please go to:
www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/EXOTIC/eurograpevinemoth.html

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NEW AVA SIGNS POP UP AROUND THE NAPA VALLEY



Something new has sprouted up in Napa Valley—burgundy-colored American Viticultural Area signs, blossoming at the edges of the various appellations within the valley. The Rutherford AVA signs (shown at left) were among the first to pop up, with help from the Rutherford Dust Society. Watch for them as you drive up and down Highway 29 or Silverado Trail.

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