

RUTHERFORD DUST SOCIETY



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

E - NEWSLETTER — JUNE 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Rutherford Dust Society Presents the 11th Annual "A Day in the Dust"
Go to story...
- Funding Approved for Zinfandel Lane Fish Barrier Repair Project
Go to story...
- Wine Spectator Says Rutherford is for Cabernet Lovers
Go to story...
- Rutherford Retraced: Clara L. Hastings
Go to story...
- Preserving Napa's Oral History
Go to story...
- Rutherford Appellation Wineries Spring Passport Weekend
Go to story...
- Rutherford Grange Offers Free English Literacy Program
Go to story...
- Flora Springs Winery Celebrates Founder Flora Komes' 100th Birthday
Go to story...
- Raymond Vineyards Replants to Focus on Organic Cabernets
Go to story...

THE RUTHERFORD DUST SOCIETY PRESENTS THE 11TH ANNUAL "A DAY IN THE DUST"

Wednesday, July 13 will mark the 11th annual "Day in the Dust"—the now-legendary annual tasting of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet blends and Sauvignon Blanc from the members of the Rutherford Dust Society. This is a chance to meet the growers and winemakers of the Rutherford



Appellation at a Special Grand Tasting for the trade, this year featuring 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2011 Sauvignon Blanc. This special trade tasting will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in the historic barrel room of Rubicon Estate Winery, 1991 St. Helena Highway, Rutherford.

Contact tthomas@balzac.com for more information.

[Back to Top](#)

FUNDING APPROVED FOR ZINFANDEL LANE FISH BARRIER REPAIR PROJECT



We are delighted to announce that Napa County is now resolving the barrier posed by the Zinfandel Lane Bridge on the Napa River this summer to restore fish passage and open up over sixty miles of historic stream habitat in the watershed. Thanks in part to support from the Rutherford Dust Society, and the efforts of the Napa County Resource Conservation District, the project is being funded by Napa County Measure A sales tax and a grant from the Coastal Conservancy. It's all part of our efforts on behalf of the Napa River!

"The Zinfandel Lane Bridge fish barrier is located at the upstream end of a section of the Napa River known as the Rutherford Reach," says Gretchen Hayes, landowner coordinator for the adjacent Rutherford Reach Restoration Project immediately downstream. "The Reach provides critical spawning habitat for Chinook salmon and supports threatened steelhead trout. The Napa River watershed is an anchor watershed for steelhead in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has been ranked as having the highest restoration potential in regional studies conducted by the Coastal Conservancy. Repair of the fish barrier will have immediate benefits for steelhead, Chinook, and at least fourteen other native freshwater fish species."

Information on the Napa County Resource Conservation District may be found on [Facebook](#).

[Back to Top](#)

WINE SPECTATOR SAYS RUTHERFORD IS FOR CABERNET LOVERS

The June 15 issue of *Wine Spectator* is all about "Napa – A City Reborn." In an article called "Exploring Napa Valley," the magazine declares Rutherford is for Cabernet lovers. One of their suggested day trips is "Rutherford: Cabernet Central. Everyone knows that in Napa, Cabernet is king, and Rutherford has one of the greatest concentrations of the region's best examples."

We agree.

See the article at: <http://winespectator.com/magazine/show/id/44972>

[Back to Top](#)

RUTHERFORD RETRACED: CLARA L. HASTINGS

Rutherford's history has been largely dominated by men, including such notables as Serranus Clinton Hastings, Henry Harrison Harris, Gustave Niebaum, and Georges de Latour. But by the mid-1870s this prestigious winegrowing district also had a number of prominent land-owning women.

One of the most memorable was Clara L. Hastings, a grande dame among the most elite social circles of her era. One of eight children of California Chief Justice S. C. Hastings and his first wife Azalea Brodt, Clara attended schools in Paris and Germany. At the age of nineteen she wed Civil War cavalry officer Col. Edwin Church Catherwood. In 1875, when Clara was still in her twenties, she presided over Madrona Villa, the sixty-acre vineyard estate she inherited from her father. Clara and her husband regularly commuted to their country retreat from their home in San Francisco. Located just south of today's Niebaum Lane, Madrona Villa became the site of lively riding and hunting parties organized by Clara to entertain her many houseguests.

Following her divorce from Catherwood in 1885, Clara spent a decade as a socially prominent divorcee whose best friend was Jane Lathrop, otherwise known as Mrs. Leland Stanford. In California and New York, as well as in European capitals, Clara Hastings Catherwood became known for the brilliance of her receptions and dinners. At a time when women had few opportunities to achieve prominence except in the social realm, Clara forged a reputation as an "outstanding figure" who held a "commanding position as a social leader." Admired for her "ready wit, her ability as a speaker and story teller and her charm as a hostess," this single mother counted not only the Stanfords but also other California luminaries, such as the Hearsts, Huntingtons, and Crockers, among her closest friends. Many of them regularly visited her Rutherford estate.

In 1895, Clara chose Villa Madrona as the site for her wedding to Major John A. Darling. By 1907 the estate passed into the hands of Clara's daughter, Louise Catherwood Maud, but it would be largely neglected until the end of the Second World War when it was purchased by Hollywood mogul Joseph Judson Cohn.

by Rue Ziegler
California Heritage Research Group, LLC

[Back to Top](#)

PRESERVING NAPA'S ORAL HISTORY

Historian Rue Ziegler has completed an excellent series of twelve extensive interviews on the creation of the Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve, sponsored by the Napa Farm Bureau under the auspices of the Jack L. Davies Agricultural Land Preservation Fund. Rue's discussions with the people who shaped the Ag Preserve are a fascinating oral history from one of Napa's landmark moments. I had heard most of these names around town for years without realizing what a collection of interesting characters they were, or how their opinions and actions—official and otherwise—had so strongly shaped the way Napa looks and lives today. Their perspectives from the last forty years and before give a nuanced picture of the issues at stake for California's agricultural areas. They also give new insight into what 'liberal' and 'conservative' really mean in this context.

– Margaret Clark, Balzac Communications

[Back to Top](#)

RUTHERFORD APPELLATION WINERIES SPRING PASSPORT WEEKEND

The Rutherford Appellation Spring Passport tasting, "Celebrate Mom, Rutherford Style," was a great success. Fifteen wineries participated in this year's event, and all had a great time pouring and educating our guests about the amazing Rutherford Appellation. Each attending Mom received a Rutherford Appellation Wineries apron



as a special gift in honor of her day. The weather was beautiful, so several wineries took the opportunity to host the event outside, showcasing their amazing grounds and allowing consumers the opportunity to enjoy the true beauty of Rutherford. The Grange hosted four wineries including Meander, Hall Rutherford, Slaughterhouse Cellars and J. Moss wines. The Grange is an annual recipient of funds raised by the Passport weekend to assist in the restoration of the historical facility. For more information visit rutherford-appellation-wineries.com.

[Back to Top](#)



RUTHERFORD GRANGE OFFERS FREE ENGLISH LITERACY PROGRAM

As part of its community focus the Rutherford Grange is offering a free English literacy program. The program is a partnership between the Napa City/County Library and the Rutherford Grange, and will be held at the Rutherford Grange at 8550 Hwy 29 in Rutherford.

For more information contact:
Peggy Cann, 265-0405 for information in English
Angelica Celis, 339-0838 for information in Spanish

[Back to Top](#)

FLORA SPRINGS WINERY CELEBRATES FOUNDER FLORA KOMES' 100TH BIRTHDAY

Flora Springs Winery & Vineyards founder Flora Komes will be celebrating her 100th birthday in November 2011. In her honor, Flora Springs Winery has produced several short videos introducing the story of Flora and the Flora Springs Winery. The videos, which may be viewed on the website, will be showcased throughout the year.



A total of eight videos will be produced, each one offering a glimpse into Flora's life, and will include her world travels and her personal stories of how she arrived in the Napa Valley. Friends and family members will be included as they share their special memories of Flora. Cameo Cinema in St. Helena will showcase the entire library of videos on November 5.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 7, 1911, Flora boarded an ocean liner to San Francisco at the age of eighteen to study nursing. It was there she met her future husband, Jerry, on a blind

date. Together they eventually found their way to Rutherford, where they founded Flora Springs Winery on the site of an old "ghost" winery. Today the winery is run by their children and grandchildren, the Komes and Garvey families. florasprings.com



[Back to Top](#)

RAYMOND VINEYARDS REPLANTS TO FOCUS ON ORGANIC CABERNETS

Raymond's Rutherford estate will soon see new vineyards sprouting to support their goal of producing inimitable Cabernet Sauvignon grown according to organic and Biodynamic® methods. The vineyard is being re-planted to Cabernet Sauvignon with a focus on select modern clones and rootstocks that will be planted to 33 degrees east of true north, in an optimal position that will ensure every grape cluster ripens evenly. The new vineyard will be planted to harness the best of the Rutherford *terroir* and to grow grapes worthy of the exceptional site in the heart of the Napa Valley.

AWARDS:

The 2006 vintage of Raymond Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon earned a score of 92 points from *Wine Enthusiast* and was described as "a beautiful Cabernet... with a heart of black cherries and cassis, and the overall balance that will enable this wine to develop over the next 6-8 years."

2007 Monticello (Tietjen Vineyards) was ranked one of the top 10 wines at *Quarterly Review of Wine's* 27th Best of The Best in California Cabernet tasting (blind). 82 wines were tasted over the two-day period.

[Back to Top](#)