



Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity Conservation Practices for Your Vineyard – How You Can Benefit

Saturday, February 23, 9:00- 2:00

At the Loma Prieta Community Center, 23800 Summit Rd., Los Gatos 95033
(at the Loma Prieta Elementary School)

Numerous scientific studies and practical experiences have shown that biological diversity is a crucial factor in maintaining or increasing the sustainability and stability of farming systems. Biodiversity in agricultural systems recycles nutrients, helps manage undesirable organisms, and more. This program will address habitat conservation and reasons for it; conservation of ponds and streams; native vegetation as cover crop; protection of native wildlife; hedgerows and other native planting; soil biodiversity; sheep, goats, etc. for weed control. Sustainable practices are good business practices. This program and workshop brings you several speakers illustrating how you can apply and benefit from these practices, and the day ends with a tailgate visit to Rhys Vineyards.

There is no charge for this program. You will receive a complimentary copy of the new, 3rd edition of the CSWA's Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Workbook. Bring a laptop if you want online access. Lunch will be provided.

AGENDA

8:30am: Registration and sign-in

9:00am: Program

- **Kent Reeves, ecology consultant, [The Whole Picture Consulting](#).** Kent will address different vineyard habitats and the benefits of managing those habitats to encourage beneficial species.

Kent manages and administers natural resource projects for ranchers, farmers, and various agencies. He was previously with the Alameda Co. Resource Conservation District, and a co-author of the biodiversity chapter of the CSWA workbook. Clients include the Lodi Winegrape Commission; Sierra Nevada Conservancy; Ecology Action (Livestock & Land Program); Placer, Monterey, and San Benito County Resource Conservation Districts; Hollister Ranch; and is on the Advisory Board for Cal Poly's Center for Sustainability. Kent espouses the concepts of Cowboy Conservation.

- **Ann Thrupp, Manager of Sustainability and Organic Development at Fetzer and Bontera Vineyards.** Ann will talk about a study done in North Coast vineyards on Biodiversity as Part of Ecosystem Management in Sustainable Winegrowing. The goals of the study were to

- document the benefits of biodiversity and habitat protection in California vineyards, and
- identify practices for conserving or enhancing biological diversity in and around vineyards.

- **Rich Casale, District Conservationist, [NRCS](#), Santa Cruz County.** Rich will address the cost-sharing programs available through the NRCS for growers to implement programs that support habitat diversity.

Rich is a Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist (CPESC #3), a program sponsored by the International Erosion Control Association and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He has been instrumental in erosion control and watershed management programs at the local, state and national level, and has been involved in more than a dozen NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection programs during his career assisting property owners throughout California following storm, flood, fire and earthquake disasters.

- **Lunch**

- **Tailgate session at [Rhys Vineyards](#)** and a talk and tour with Javier Meza, winegrower.

RSVP is requested: Lisa Francioni, lisa@wineinstitute.org or call 415-356-7545; or Mary Lindsay, VASCM, mary@munsvineyard.com or call 408-234-2079.

Please note: No alcohol or smoking at the Community Center, please.

This program is sponsored by [The California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance](#).

From the CSWA's Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Workbook: Agricultural systems and the environment are intertwined, dynamic, and often symbiotic. "Ecosystem Management" applies ecological science to resource management to promote the long-term sustainability of landscapes (our vineyards) and the delivery of essential goods and services produced in them (our winegrapes). These "ecosystem services" include clean water and air, storing and cycling nutrients, pollination of crops and natural vegetation, generation and maintenance of soils, detoxification and decomposition of wastes, and natural beauty. The long-term viability of California's wine community is linked to the long-term stability of ecological processes, which are constantly changing. The primary goals of an ecosystem management approach are to:

- Maintain ecosystem integrity
- Sustain biodiversity at a regional scale
- Incorporate distinct community values in the design and implementation of a sustainability strategy.