

Division S-12 Consulting Soil Scientists

2015 Soils Field Tour

Napa and Sonoma Valleys, California
March 11-13, 2015
DETAILS!!!



The Great 2015 Consulting Soil Scientists Division Annual Field Tour is coming soon!! Consulting soil scientists must understand and apply the principles of soil science in management of the environment for food production, natural resources, and within our communities. This trip is intended to provide a continuing education forum for soil scientists in private practice, government, and in academia. The field trip is also open to students in soil science. Not only is continuing education a matter of learning of soils in new places and management strategies, but it is also resulting from the interaction of practicing professionals sharing experiences and information.

Registration is open at <https://www.soils.org/membership/divisions/consulting-soil-scientists>.

Santa Rosa, the county seat of Sonoma County 55 miles north of San Francisco, will be our tour headquarters. Travel can be directly into Santa Rosa's Charles Schultz Airport (STS), or to San Francisco or Oakland. We've been told that Alaska Airlines flying into/out of Santa Rosa will allow you to check two cases of wine for free when you return to your home. Santa Rosa is the center of wine country and farm country, redwood forests and rivers, lakes and ocean, and a thriving downtown lined with intriguing shops and restaurants.

Details of our tour include:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Time to be Determined: AM/PM High Intensity Soil Survey of Environments Highly Altered for Recreational Purposes (Golfing at The Links at Bodega Harbour)

6:30 PM Reception / Light Dinner at Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel (Room Location to be determined)

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Halfway between scenic Mendocino and Ft. Bragg, we will examine the "Ecological Staircase" which contains soils on uplifted ocean terraces. Each terrace above the previous one is older, more weathered – it's a chronosequence in soil science terms. At the uppermost terrace, the soils are extremely old, depleted of nutrients and quite acidic. Here is where Mendocino's Pygmy Forests developed, adapted to this harsh environment. This was "ground zero" for Hans Jenny's work on soil formation factors. Along the way, we will pass through some of California's redwood forests, and enjoy stops along the way. On Wednesday evening, we will enjoy a wine and cheese reception at our hotel, along with some intriguing discussion on wine terroir.

- 7:30 AM Load bus and travel north to Jug Handle State Natural Reserve (between Mendocino and Ft. Bragg,)
- 9:00 AM Begin tour of Ecological Staircase – soils formed on uplifted marine terraces, which get older with each terrace above.
- 11:30 AM Bag lunch (provided)
- 1:00 PM Continue tour of Ecological Staircase – Guide: Mike Singer, Retired UC Davis and 2003 SSSA President.
- 4:00 PM [Time Permitting] Sparkling wine tasting stop at Roederer Estate, Philo, Calif.
- 6:30 PM Wine and cheese gathering hosted by Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel (Room Location TBD). Wine terroir presentation by Scott Burns, Portland State (retired).



Thursday, March 12, 2015

Our second day will focus on the Santa Rosa and Healdsburg area of Sonoma County., We'll travel to several wineries, plus learn about some biochar production/usage in the wine industry. Field discussion will include how biochar improves soil quality and productivity. At our winery field stops in Sonoma County, we'll examine soil profiles, learn how grape varieties are matched to soils and micro-climate, and other techniques for evaluating sites for grape growing. Of course, there will be several opportunities for wine tasting along the way. And we will wrap up the day in the Geysersville area to discuss soil evaluation techniques (as pertinent to the viticulture industry).

- 7:30 AM Load bus and travel west (halfway between Santa Rosa and Bodega Bay)
- Stop no. 1 Swallow Valley Farm -- Biochar kiln and production (Brian Sesser and Phil Small) – presentation of how biochar is used in winery soils
- Stop no. 2 Hook and Ladder Winery, Santa Rosa, Calif. – Pinor Noir, Cabernet, Chardonnay on sandstone-derived soils (Joshua DeLoach)
- Lunch Pick-Up Box Lunches; Healdsburg Area – Location TBD
- Stop no. 3 Sei Querce Vineyard, Geysersville, Calif. – Soil Resistivity Mapping (Bryan Rahn, Soil Scientist)
- Stop no. 4 Jordan Winery, Alexander Valley, Calif. – Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, (Bryan Rahn, Soil Scientist)
- 5:00 PM Return to Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel (dinner on your own)

Friday, March 13, 2015

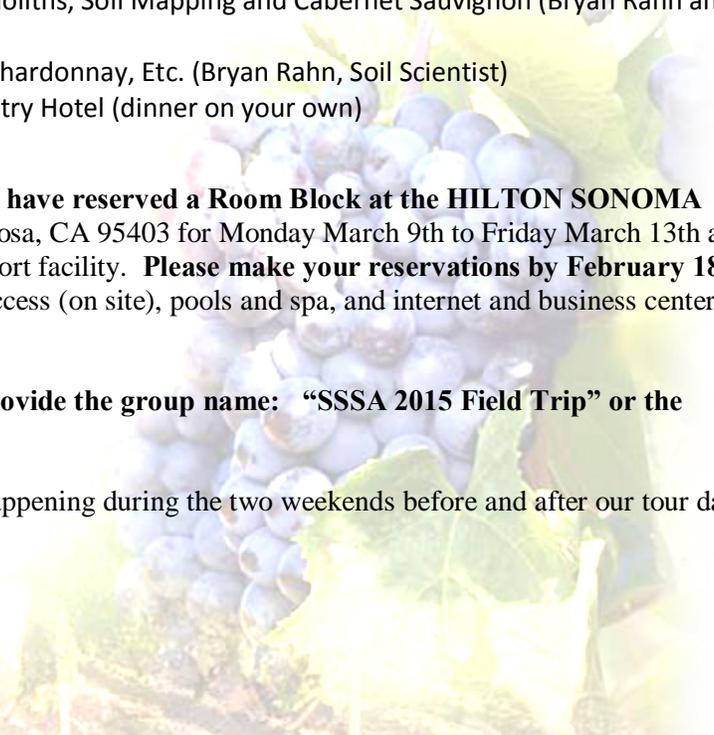
We will continue our journey through the wine country and venture into the Napa Valley – famous for many wines, vintners and impressive wineries. Our field stops will include several more wineries to discuss with vineyard managers how they achieve production results that make great wines. And we'll see some soil pits / road cuts to keep our hands acceptably stained and boots sufficiently dirty. There's several historic byways along the trip, which will serve as lunch/snack breaks. Lastly, we'll hear from some of our own group who has conducted research, mapped soils, prepared plans and created soil monoliths for numerous properties in Napa and Sonoma Counties. By the end of the field tour, you'll know a lot more than you expected about wine terroir.

- 7:30 AM Load bus and travel to Napa Valley (via Geysersville-Calistoga)
- Stop no. 5 Use of biochar in vineyards (Peter Hirst and Phil Small)
- Stop no. 6 Napa River Restoration (Chip Bouril-NRCS Napa Valley)
- Lunch Pick-Up Box Lunches; St Helena Area – Location TBD
- Stop no. 7 Cardinale Estate winery – Soil Monoliths, Soil Mapping and Cabernet Sauvignon (Bryan Rahn and Terry Cook)
- Stop no. 8 Hess Collection winery -- Merlot, Chardonnay, Etc. (Bryan Rahn, Soil Scientist)
- 4:00 PM Return to Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel (dinner on your own)

IMPORTANT HOTEL INFORMATION: We have reserved a Room Block at the HILTON SONOMA WINE COUNTRY, 3555 Round Barn Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 for Monday March 9th to Friday March 13th at an excellent rate of \$122 per night at this beautiful resort facility. Please make your reservations by February 18th. Hotel registration includes free parking, health club access (on site), pools and spa, and internet and business center use.

To make a reservation, call 1-800-486-1542, and provide the group name: “SSSA 2015 Field Trip” or the Group code: “SSSA”

In addition to the tour, local wine tasting events are happening during the two weekends before and after our tour dates (keep scrolling):



**37th Annual Barrel Tasting
Wine Road - Northern Sonoma County
100+ Wineries!
BARREL TASTING - TWO WEEKENDS.....
March 6- 8 & March 13-15, 2015
11:00 am - 4:00 pm each day**

Members of the Wine Road would like to welcome you to our wineries and lodgings for an exciting weekend of wine tasting. This is your chance to sample wines from the barrel, talk to winemakers and explore the beautiful Alexander, Dry Creek and Russian River Valleys.

Barrel Tasting is not a food pairing or themed event. It's all about the WINE...many wineries offer "**futures**" on their barrel samples. This is a chance to purchase wine now, often at a discount, then come back to the winery when the wine is bottled, typically 12-18 months from now. Many wines are so limited, buying futures is your only chance to purchase them.

Attendees are encouraged to pack a picnic as most wineries will not have food for this event. The ticket price includes the opportunity to sample wine from the barrel and in most cases also trying a limited number of current release wines. http://www.wineroad.com/events/barrel_tasting/11

**For More Information About the Soils Tour, Contact:
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