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LANGETWINS FAMILY WINERY AND VINEYARDS PARTNERS WITH U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, CENTER FOR LAND-BASED LEARNING, AND CALIFORNIA AUDUBON ON LAND RESTORATION PROJECT

Local High School Students will Show their Love for the Land on Valentine's Day

Lodi, Calif. (February 1, 2012) – This winter, LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyard, located in the Lodi wine region of California, has partnered with three influential groups to restore 20 acres of riparian (streamside forest) habitat located along the Jahant Slough in San Joaquin County. The project is being overseen by Audubon of California's Landowner Stewardship Program. Funding for the project is being provided by LangeTwins along with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Center for Land-Based Learning's Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program (SLEWS) is partnering with the winery to implement key components of the project, mostly in the form of field work days with local high school students.

The next field work day will be completed on Valentine's Day, February 14 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. by high school students from Middle College High School in Stockton, Calif. Students will work alongside project managers and mentors from the winery, SLEWS, NRCS, and Audubon California.

The goals for the LangeTwins Winery riparian habitat restoration and expansion project include establishing a diversity of native vegetation around the winery and vineyards to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, to create corridors that connect natural habitat throughout the vineyard property, to improve water quality by reducing sedimentation along Jahant Slough, which is a tributary of the Mokelumne River, and to reduce the impact of noxious weeds and other pests in the area.

“In addition to the many ecological benefits of this project, we also hope to provide educational opportunities for local students and the general public about the positive impacts that habitat restoration and enhancement can have on the land,” explains Aaron Lange, who is overseeing the project for LangeTwins.

By partnering with SLEWS, the project provides a hands-on educational experience for local area high school students. These kinds of projects are an incredible opportunity to engage youth in real-world science and conservation. The students in SLEWS are getting science, youth development, career exploration, and outdoor education all wrapped into a stewardship project. By working together with our partners, we are developing the next generation of stewards of the land,” says Nina Suzuki from SLEWS.

With missions such as the LangeTwins habitat restoration and expansion project, the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides cost-share funding and technical assistance to private land owners and other local partners. “The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is providing funding and technical assistance in collaboration with the LangeTwins Family Winery to implement riparian and native grassland restoration along the Jahant Slough, in San Joaquin County. This project will help to show how agricultural producers, government and non-governmental groups can work together to improve habitat for the benefit of wildlife and people,” explains Mike Dunphy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Audubon California's Landowner Stewardship Program Restoration Project Manager Miles DaPrato says, “This on-farm habitat project will provide critical resources for birds and other wildlife in a highly modified agricultural landscape. Working with local youth to install these types of projects is a great opportunity to teach about the watershed they live in through hands-on active participation in a real habitat restoration project.”

Photos of the work completed by students from past days of field work are available upon request. LangeTwins Family Winery, along with its partners on this project, encourages members of the local press to visit the restoration site, located at the winery in Acampo, Calif., on February 14th to experience the importance of habitat restoration first hand. To schedule a media visit, request photos, interviews and additional information, please email blythe@winespress.com or call 415-680-0821.

About LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards

The LangeTwins family has been a sustainable grower for five generations in the Lodi Appellation of California. Located just 90 miles east of the San Francisco Bay Area, the family opened a winery in 2006 to showcase their passion for growing quality winegrapes and creating great wines. LangeTwins farms over 8,500 acres in both the Lodi and Clarksburg Appellations. Today, the vineyard and winery operation is owned and managed by Twins Randall and Brad, their wives Charlene and Susan, and children Marissa, Aaron, Philip, Kendra and Joseph. The LangeTwins family is committed to sustainable winegrowing, restoration projects and using renewable energy.

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