

Fort Ross Conservancy would like to thank Susan Rudy for her professionalism and endless enthusiasm in tending the Fort Ross orchard. We and the fruit trees are truly fortunate to have her in our midst.

Fort Ross Conservancy thanks Renova Fort Ross Foundation for their strong vision and generous sponsorship of all aspects of our Fort Ross orchard work. Together with their sponsorship and our dedicated band of volunteers, we are helping this fragile living resource thrive.

Interested in the Fort Ross Orchard? Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Susan Rudy: susan@stillwatercove.net.

Fort Ross Conservancy
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The Fort Ross orchard was planted by the Russians in 1814 and several trees from the mid-1800s are still living, including two Russian-era cherry trees. This conference celebrates the 200th anniversary of the historic orchards at Fort Ross and sets the groundwork for the next century of historic orchard care.

P R E S E N T A T I O N S

“Identifying and Preserving Historic Orchards” by Susan Dolan

Susan Dolan is a Historical Landscape Architect and the National Park Service, Park Cultural Landscapes Program Manager. She oversees a service-wide landscape preservation program that includes research, planning, stewardship and education. Previously, she was the Historical Landscape Architect for Mount Rainier NP. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon and a horticulture degree from Reading University in England. Her publications include “Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards and Fruit Trees in the National Park System.”

“The Historic Orchards at Fort Ross State Park: 1814-2014” by Susan Rudy

Susan Rudy dedicated her professional life to caring for public lands. She has been an Interpretive Ranger and a Resource Manager with the National Park Service and an Environmental Compliance Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service. Susan has been involved with many aspects of managing park and forest lands; from leading educational walks, installing native meadows, managing scientific studies, monitoring wildlife, doing field studies, to coordinating complex urban/park projects. Her favorite job remains her first: keeping an heirloom vegetable garden, milking cows and driving draft horses at a National Park living history farm. Susan is an advanced Master Gardener in Virginia with 12 years of practice, specializing in IPM and water gardening. She retired to her local Sonoma County family farm in 2006, and has been volunteering at the Fort Ross orchard for seven years.

“Felix Gillet, Pioneering Nurseryman, Father of California and Pacific Northwest Perennial Agriculture, and the Work of the Felix Gillet Institute to Identify, Preserve and Propagate Edible Perennials from the Sierra Nevada” by Amigo Bob Cantisano

Amigo Bob Cantisano is president of Organic Ag Advisors, founded in 1988. He is the managing partner of Heaven and Earth Farm on the San Juan Ridge of the Sierra foothills. Amigo has over 40 years of experience growing and advising in most organic crops grown in the Western U.S. and the tropics, including vegetables, tree and bush fruit, grapes, herbs and flowers. He advises more than 250 organic and transitional farmers, and hundreds of family farmers and gardeners worldwide. His clients range from small specialty crop growers to producers of thousands of acres of mainstream crops. His clients farm more than 90,000 acres of organic and transitional crops.

Amigo is the co founder of the Ecological Farming Conference, the Ecological Farming Association, founding member of California Certified Organic Farmers and founder of: Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, We The People Natural Foods Cooperative, Aeolia Organics, Starr Farms, Heaven and Earth Farm, and the Felix Gillet Institute. He is the author of numerous publications and a featured speaker at hundreds of events. He hosts a monthly organic living show on KVMR radio in Nevada City, CA.

Amigo lives and farms on 11 acres of mixed fruits, berries and vegetables on the San Juan Ridge of the Sierra Nevada, where he is teaching young people and his grandchildren how to farm and live with nature.