



February 20, 2014

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## **Texas Hill Country Wineries raises over \$34,000 for Grape Research** More education and benefit events planned for 2014

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AUSTIN, TEXAS- Texas Hill Country Wineries raised over \$34,000 for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Viticulture and Fruit Lab in 2013. The Growers Committee, comprised of 12 THCW members, Texas growers and A&M staff, hosted three Grower Field Day and Benefit Dinners last fall to provide education for existing, new and future Texas grape growers where all proceeds were donated to the lab in Fredericksburg.

Three more events are planned for 2014 in anticipation of raising more funds for grape research. Becker Vineyards will be host for the first Grower Field Day and Benefit Dinner, along with a Large Format Bottle Auction on Friday, February 28. Field Day education will focus on Beckers' 20 year old vineyard, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly concluding with a comparative tasting of Becker wines from the older and newer vines, hosted by winemaker Jon Leahy.

The evening will include a Texas Ranch Feast by Texas rancher and grape grower, Perini Ranch Steakhouse. Each course will be perfectly paired with wines chosen from the Becker Vineyards collection by Dr. Becker himself. Guests will dine with Texas winery owners, winemakers and growers. A Live Auction of 10 large format bottles of Becker wines will conclude the event and add more to the funds donated to Texas A&M AgriLife.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Viticulture and Fruit Lab for continued research projects, education and the growth of the Texas Wine Industry. Sponsors of the event also include Hoover Valley Vineyards, Frost Bank and Captial Farm Credit.

The next Benefit Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 at Hye Meadow Winery. Dates and locations for the remaining Field Day and Dinner will be announced soon

Grower Field Day: <http://texaswinetrail.com/store/item/grower-field-day-becker-vineyards>

Benefit Dinner: <http://texaswinetrail.com/store/item/texas-wine-benefit-dinner-at-becker-vineyards>

For additional information on Texas Hill Country Wineries, please visit [www.TexasWineTrail.com](http://www.TexasWineTrail.com).

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The Texas Hill Country Wineries not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes the healthy and value added lifestyle of Texas Wines. The THCW contributes to the quality of life in and around the Texas Hill Country nationally recognized wine trails and events. Representing 36 unique and independent wineries committed to promoting industry advancement and consumer awareness through event and agricultural programs. For more information visit [TexasWineTrail.com](http://TexasWineTrail.com).