



## Docent Profile Joany Goodwin, '05

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Born in Monterey at Fort Ord where her father was in the Navy, Joany moved several times until at age 7 her father retired in Hawaii where they lived at the time. She stayed there on the beautiful islands for the next 20 years and it was there that Joany really developed a love of nature. As a young child, Joany and her sister would spend hours on end at a local creek where there was a pond and a waterfall and turtles (which she occasionally brought home to her aquarium). As she grew older she enjoyed spending most weekends at the beach snorkeling and catching fish (which also turned up in the family aquarium). The ocean is one of Joany's favorite places to be. If she could, she would be a dolphin or a mermaid. She loves diving and sailing and canoeing and kayaking and most any water activities. At one point, she was a volunteer for Earthwatch so she could study Orca whales off of the San Juan Islands.

Joany studied French in college because she thought she wanted to be a stewardess for Pan Am and see the world. She did do a lot of traveling before landing permanently in Sonoma County in 1991, however, after her first long trip as a passenger on a large airliner, she realized that she really didn't want to be a stewardess. She loves traveling and has been to Russia, Peru, India, Canada, and more recently to France in addition to many other places. Her mother and Grandmother are Russian. She attributes her "gypsy blood" to all the moving around in her early childhood.

Joany makes an annual trek with her partner David and their 6 year old dog Madison to the Gulf Islands in Canada. She loves the trip because the place that they stay is quiet and gorgeous with amazing wildlife including eagles.

Joany's most recent trip was to France last year. She and David and a group of 6 others stayed in a house in Provence. The highlight of her trip was visiting the Camarg (a huge area filled with a number of wetlands) to see wild horses running free. There were lots of pink flamingos and all kinds of wonderful wildlife.

Photography has been one of Joany's hobbies since high school when her Dad gave her a camera. As a young woman, Joany had her photographs on display in Art Galleries and has even done commissioned works for both the Oceanic Institute and the Navy League in Hawaii. Although she was actually a partner in a Portrait photography business for a while, she says she has mostly enjoyed it as a hobby and has hundreds of albums.

Recently Joany & David moved to Geyserville. Her prerequisite for a place to live was "a sunny country cottage with a large garden area." She found it and is happy to have moved all of her potted plants and added many more plants including a large vegetable garden, 20 rose bushes, a native plant garden and even fruit & willow trees. Her grandmother had tons of plants and it seems to have rubbed off on Joany. She loves plants and gardening!!!

Dana Blake, '02



Joany, happy hanging out  
in a field of poppies

## Docent News

### Docents love to take classes!

-Chris Engel, '04, Veronica Bowers, '03, Marcia Johnson, '01 and Patrick Woodworth, '03 all took Rich Stallcup's (PRBO) Birding Class this Spring.

-And as if that wasn't enough, Chris Engel, '04 Veronica Bowers, '03 Patrick Woodworth, '03, Pam Moskovitz, '02, Dana Blake, '02, Linda Hanes, '02 and Nancy Presson, '02 took Lisa Hug's birding class (through La Dolce V chocolates).

-A number of docents are planning a week at the Sierra Nevada Field Campus this summer too. There may still be room in those classes if you are interested.

- Linda Hanes, '02 (day leader) and Marcia Johnson, '01 (curriculum committee) will be attending the one week Environmental Educators Training Program this summer at the Marin Headlands Institute.

### Docent Migrations...

-Catherine Cumberland, '06 has moved to the Restoration Department and will be working on the Middle Reach Restoration project. See her at LagunaKeepers! Helen Heal, '05 and Virginia Strom-Martin, '05 will be taking a break for a while. Joany Goodwin, '05 has moved; her new phone number for the docent list is: 431-1091

### Special Kudos

-Thanks to Gretchen McIndoe, '06 for creating Tables of Contents for both Day Leader Manuals and the Training Binder -- this was a **big job** and a **big improvement** to our training materials!!

-Thanks to Franny Minervini-Zick, '00 for translating our "Note to Parents" into Spanish.

-Thanks to Judith Krist, '06 for helping at every single training!!!

### Incredible!!!

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria has granted matching funds to the Education Program - up to **\$35,000!** How can we ever thank them?

The Laguna Foundation website has been re-invented! Check out [www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org) for new material, new pictures --a great place to learn more about the Laguna!

Thanks to **Sprint Copy Center** for printing all those new color Ed Program Brochures!

-Sept 4-10 -- Registration For FALL 2007 Learning Laguna

-Fri, Sept 7 -- Breakfast in the Laguna

-Mon, Sept 10 -- Classroom catch up – **attendance required!**



*If only she'd had a snappy . . . Snapys are now available for purchase at the Sebastopol Hardware Store*



## *Reunion of the Class of 2006: A new tradition for the Docent Circle*

In late January, the class of 2006 came together for a reunion. We offered the reunion as a way to reconnect with the fresh graduates, check in with them on how they are progressing as docents and to train on new curriculum. Because the docent circle has grown so large, we were looking for strategies to continue to get to know newer docents and, to help them to feel fully included in the program. We weren't sure if this concept would be successful, but we were wrong!

As docent Judy Krist, '06 said: "...it was so good to get together once more with my docent class. I realized that I had missed them. There had been a real bonding that took place last year, and it was good to reaffirm that bond. I'm sure every docent class has had that bonding experience, but our reunion reinforced it. The reunion gave me a boost of enthusiasm about the coming semester."

The afternoon consisted of a review of our focus activities, including creating our own riddles and the counting game. We played the "Incredible Journey" with Denise Cadman, '99 - a game that, by throwing the dice, takes us to all the places a drop of water can travel: lakes, streams, soil, glaciers, clouds, groundwater, animals. Each person tracks their journey and later, we trace the water cycle by drawing one or two journey's on a board. This is a 15-20 minute, really fun activity, which we hope to eventually offer through Learning Laguna.

Finally, the group began to learn the Camouflage Game, but the session spontaneously evolved into a re-working of the way we play this activity in the classroom. Now, future docent graduates can look forward to their own reunion in January after they graduate. "Well worth it," Mat Keller, '06 wrote. Mary Abbott, '04



*Anonymous drawing of a skunk & a ???*

"The reunion was great. It really helped to get us all "fired up" again for the new season. I have begun reading through my material again and look forward to meeting the new kids. I'm thinking of borrowing a few of the games to practice here at home. Thank you again for putting our reunion together...it was fun!"

Patty Newland, '06

I had the best group today at Kelly & thought I'd share a story. I always carry my bird book because even though some feel birds' names are not important, I'm not one of them. The kids seem to like to see the bird on the page & ask what it is. Anyway, 4th grader Jake was one of the "rowdy" ones in class & I got him, so I was prepared. I gave him the poop/print sheet to carry & he actually ended up with the bug catcher & my bird book in his backpack. Anyway, we were talking about a bird & he said that he really didn't care for birds & a classmate said he liked dogs. Jake said especially coyotes. I said "actually birds were easier to find than coyotes." At the end of the trip he came up to me & said he really likes birds now.

It made my day!!!

Marcia Johnson, '01

## Why we teach children in the way that we do . . .

A Key component of the Learning Laguna program is to allow the children to be able to connect physically with nature and use their senses. Raini Vallarino, '99 says that it is "integral with the positive experience of what nature has to offer."

Learning Laguna, began in 1999 after Bob Evans (a retired teacher who was on the foundation's board had the dream to start an education program about the Laguna). The first training program was held once a week from September to May and when it was over, there was no education program to implement the training. Raini & C.J, '99 (now President of the Board for PRBO) spent 6-12 months developing the original classroom curriculum which included several of the same games that we still include today (Wetlands, Tracks, Who Am I and a beaks activity from Audubon which was later modified). C.J. an avid ornithologist, later invented the Bird Migration game.

During the second year of the education program, after reading Ecophobia, Raini, C.J. and Bob, realized that it was critical to give children an opportunity to experience the wonder and excitement of nature without bearing the burden of the doom and gloom of negative human impacts upon the global environment. Today, that philosophy is still a critical component of our Learning Laguna program! In his most recent book Last Child in the Woods, Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, Richard Louv says, "Nature present the young with something so much greater than they are: it offers an environment where they can easily contemplate infinity and eternity." Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that children who have a positive experience with nature at a young age (the age that we work with in our program) go on to see the value of nature as they mature and then later go on to help restore and care for the environment.

Children who are scared by overwhelming issues like global warming and shrinking rain forests at a young age feel powerless to fix the problems. Raini says that sometimes it's difficult to be positive with children about the Laguna because it is so degraded. She says, "that's why we stay focused on the little things like the spiders and the galls and the scat," rather than the big scary problems. We realize that this is a difficult balance for teachers too because we want children to be aware but we don't want to scare them into numbness. In a February article in the Press Democrat from the Economist Magazine entitled, "No child left inside: Park it outside, young man" Martin LeBlanc of the Sierra Club states, "We don't need to be giving them propaganda about offshore oil-drilling, not when they're 13 years old. We just need to get them outside."

Per the California State Framework for 4th grade, teachers are required to discuss pollution, recycling, etc. Raini says that as docents, "**our job is to stay positive and help the kids to connect.**"

*The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God...I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.* -- Anne Frank

Dana Blake, '02





*(Judy Krist, '06), Terry Murray, Sharon Hawthorne, Lauri Binder, Tom Pringle, Pam Jorgensen, (Mary Abbott, '04), Joan Fox, Anna Evans, Colleen Gibbons, Kathi Jacobs, & Jenny Blaker*

**My students and I want to thank all of our docents for the "best field trip all year!" What happened today at the Laguna was magical. Thank you to all of your staff for teaching my students to slow down and observe the world around them. Thank you for recognizing that they are indeed they key to our future. By teaching them the wonders of the natural world, they will grow up to be the stewards we so desperately need. I cannot wait until next year's trip and classroom visits. Thank you.**

**Sincerely, Sharon Schuler**

## *Welcome to the Class of 2007*



Jenny Blaker, '07 is participating in the "each one teach one" training of some of the field activities at Kelly Wetlands. Raini Vallerino, '99 has just trained Jenny & Kathi Jacobs, '07 how to use the mammal box and now they are teaching the activity to other new docents. This was the first time that we involved the new docents in teaching one another the activities and they did a stupendous job!!!



It was fun to watch the class of 2007 play the steelhead challenge and work together to figure out how to swim upstream even with the Ludwigia problem.





## ***Around the Foundation***

The second **State of the Laguna Conference** was a great success. The first such gathering in nearly 18 years, the Conference convened community members, Laguna stakeholder organizations, public officials and regulatory agencies to discuss the Foundation's exciting vision for a restored and cherished Laguna. In many ways, the Conference was a "coming-out party" for *Enhancing and Caring for the Laguna*, the 577-page, two-volume restoration plan for the entire Laguna watershed which the Foundation published in December after two years of focused work, outreach and research. As Supervisor Mike Reilly said in his welcoming remarks, "The Laguna presents Sonoma County with so many opportunities, and now we have a framework to make them happen."

Restoration work on the ground continues in the **Middle Reach Restoration Project** south of Occidental Road. Lagunakeepers and Foundation staff have been installing irrigation and have begun to planting native trees and shrubs along the east side of the Laguna channel. Herbicidal control of invasive pepperweed (*Lepidium*) is an essential component of this restoration process, as this invasive plant outcompetes native species and causes the soil to become progressively more salty, eventually rendering areas where pepperweed grows uninhabitable to native plants. The Middle Reach Restoration Project is the largest habitat restoration project ever performed in the Laguna, restoring wildlife habitat and oak woodlands along more than a linear mile of the main Laguna channel.

The campaign to build the **Laguna Learning Center** continues to build steam, and our hope is to complete Phase I and move the Foundation's offices to Stone Farm by the end of this year. Our new Director of Campaigns and Individual Giving, Wayne Mitchell, has already succeeded in galvanizing new levels of energy into the campaign and drawing more community leaders onto its fundraising committee.

We've also begun to organize our fourth annual **Art and Garden Gala**, to be held next September 9<sup>th</sup>, a Sunday. This is the Foundation's big fundraiser of the year, a truly sumptuous event with a great view of the Laguna, fine arts and wine for auction, magical entertainment and a wonderful crowd of the Foundation's supporters. This year for the first time, we will have a live auction of "experience packages" in the Laguna, including a paddle trip with catered lunch, a Laguna flyover with an hors d'oeuvres reception at the Pacific Coast Air Museum, and a sumptuous chef's dinner for up to 12. Save the date! *Mark Green, Associate Executive Director*

### **Mandala: Earth be Glad to See Me    10 wild rosebuds formed the Docent Class of 2007**



They came to the training as thoughtful and wise as turtles. Encouraged by the poetry of hope, awareness and connection, they grew as strong as an oak. They learned to be flexible with themselves and with children, like the willows of the Laguna. They discovered the meaning of elderberry - a connection to the earth, new fruits to bear, new songs to sing. And on feathered wings, they have been fledged.

Mary Abbott, '04