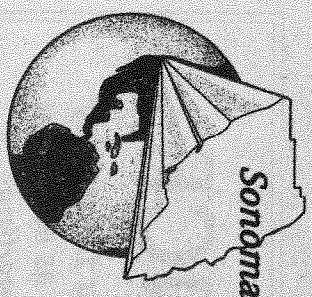


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BEING AN ENVIRONMENTALIST

The Laguna — A Gem In Our Backyard

by Sue Nosker

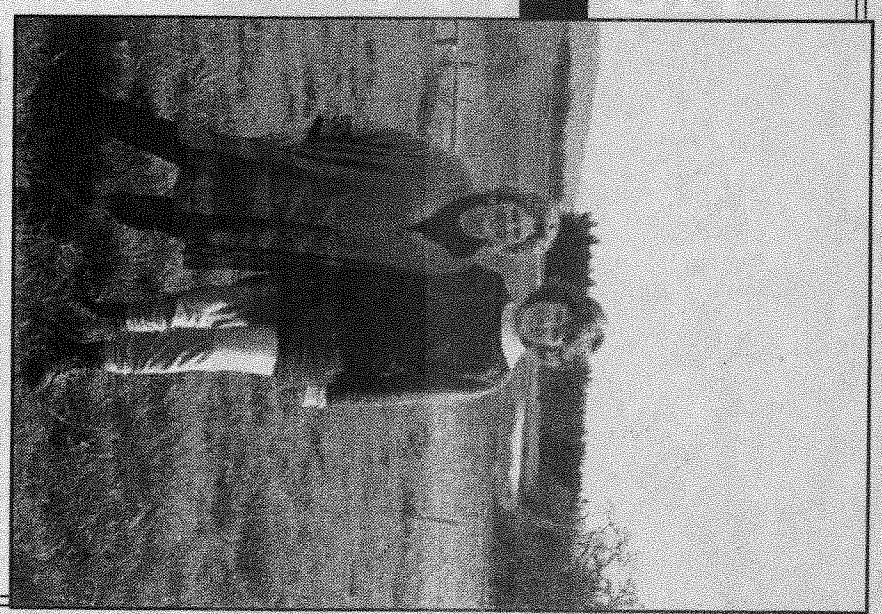
Linda Neely and I met when we were both pregnant with our children who are now nine years old. At the time it seemed like a karmic connection, as if we had met again to continue more important work in this time and space. Our babies were born only hours apart. The connection of motherhood coupled with a deep knowing in the depths of our hearts that we had meaningful work to do together has been a driving force of our friendship for a decade.

Linda was raised in Sebastopol where her roots are deep and strong. Her love of the community and the surrounding open spaces is apparent from the soft glow in her eyes when she speaks fondly of her connection to this area.

I have lived in Sebastopol for almost twenty years. After Dick and I travelled extensively in the western U.S. we

decided to raise our family in Sebastopol. We are convinced this is a wonderful community for our children to call home. As Consulting Geologists we have been offered positions in foreign lands, but still we turn them down because we feel so strongly that the quality of life we have found here in Sebastopol far surpasses anything else that we can offer our children.

It's with the devotion to preserving the sterling quality of Sebastopol that Linda and I have decided to take leadership roles in organizing a community effort to generate funds for the Laguna Uplands Project. We are organizing rallies, benefit dances, groups of students and adults to help raise a portion of the necessary money to purchase the Palm Terrace property. We have also initiated a fundraiser where



Sue Nosker (left) and Linda Neely (right) standing in front of a portion of the Palm Terrace property, adjacent to the Laguna Wetlands.

ecologically minded folks can buy high quality environmental products such as water filters, non-polluting cleaning products, and natural personal care products through us. We will donate 25% of the retail price of these products to the Laguna Uplands Project.

WEB OF LIFE BEING DESTROYED

We are fortunate to live on a blue jewel in our galaxy. The earth is the third planet from the sun and the only planet that can sustain life. It's home to many creatures. It's not just a planet. It's home. The definition of environmentalism is understanding our species role in the web of life spun on our planet. One hundred years ago the water and air on the planet was pure and clean. As we have increasingly populated the earth and become an industrialized world we have added a multitude of toxins into our environment. Last year alone, 6 billion tons of toxins were released into the atmosphere. A child who grows up in Los Angeles loses 18% of her lung capacity by the time she is 13 years old. Our waterways have also suffered from toxic pollution. Sixty-five percent of the nations groundwater has been contaminated.

The EPA now lists drinking water pollution as one of the top environmental threats to health. It's now believed that over 2/3 of all human cancers are caused by low levels of agricultural pesticides, herbicides and fungicides that eventually find their way into our drinking water. It has also been established that drinking chlorinated tap water is hazardous to your health and showering or bathing in chlorinated water can be 6 to 100 times more toxic than drinking it, due to breathing and absorbing the chemicals evaporating out of the steam. It's important to realize that in order to maintain good health one should not drink tap water unless it is filtered at the point of use.

The number one polluter of the water ways in this country is household cleaning products. As people continue to put chlorine and phosphates down the drain, there is a cumulative negative impact on our local environment. As phosphates go down the drain in Sebastopol they end up at the Sewage Treatment Plant where they are then sprinkled onto the fields adjacent to the Laguna. When it rains the phosphates are then washed into the Laguna and encourage the growth of algae on the surface of the water. When the algae dies it sinks to the bottom and as the bacteria digest them up they also take oxygen out of the water. Fish can't live in the Laguna without oxygen in the water. Years ago there were steelhead and trout in the Laguna in comparison to today where only carp can live. We need to all be conscious of what we are putting down our drains. We can clean up our environment if we will all do our part.

THE LAGUNA - A GEM IN OUR BACKYARD

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a gem in our backyard. Eighty percent of all wetlands have been destroyed in the United States. The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the second largest wetlands in the State and has the largest wildlife habitat both in diversity and number in California. The Laguna Upland area is a safety zone for wildlife when the Laguna floods. It's also the only remaining piece of the original Native America Village that occupied Sebastopol for 5,000 years. Few people realize the importance of the tremendous resource we have in our own backyard. Once the land is purchased then we can start organizing community ef-

We've almost SAVED our Laguna Uplands!

We're SO CLOSE! HELP US NOW!



A BIG THANK YOU

to businesses for placing Save The Laguna Uplands jars on their counter! Shop at these stores and donate your loose change to help save these threatened uplands.

- FOOD FOR THOUGHT • PATLESS MAAMA LUNA • BOX OFFICE VIDEO
- SLICE OF LIFE • VILLAGE BAKERY
- LUCKY'S • WHO'S ON FIRST
- PINE GROVE GENERAL STORE
- THE VIDEO STORE • SPRINT
- COPPERFIELD'S BOOKS
- MENDOCINO COOKIE COMPANY
- BANK OF THE WEST • WILD THINGS
- 101 MAIN BISTRO • FIESTA MARKET
- PURCEST MARKET • QUICKSILVER
- SUSHI HANA • MAIN STREET HAIR
- MAIN STREET THEATER
- BEAUTY STORE & MORE
- IN SANTA ROSA
- WOMAN'S CHOICE CLINIC
- SONOMA CO. REPERTORY THEATER
- THE INDEPENDENT

Your gift will help buy this threatened land & protect its sensitive ecosystem... FOREVER!

We have until April 15th to raise \$525,000 toward a \$1.5 million purchase of significant uplands property—the cornerstone of a community project for restoring Laguna wildlife habitat and creating a cultural center for Native American traditions. This land is behind the Palm Drive Hospital, adjacent to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The owners are willing to sell the land for this project instead of building an 18-unit subdivision, **AND WE'VE ALMOST ACHIEVED OUR GOAL!**

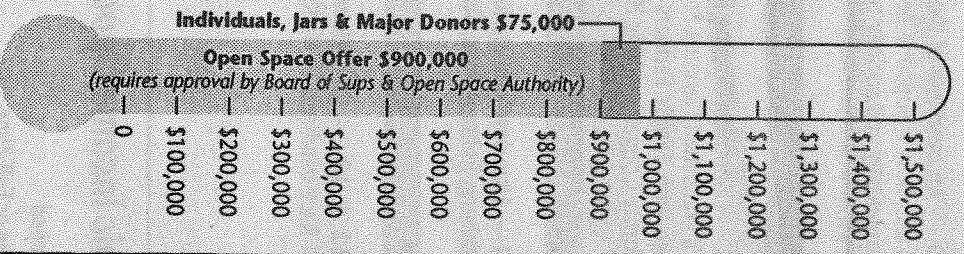
Why is this land so important? This view site is part of a last remaining Laguna uplands, rich with Native American history and integral to the restoration of the Laguna ecosystem—a lifeline to the natural world.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: We are seeking whole-hearted, community wide support for this one-time purchase. *You can help us:*

- ★ Write a small check, make a "lifetime" gift.
- ★ Ask friends to write checks.
- ★ Drop loose change in our jars as you shop.
- ★ Volunteer. If you have expertise in PR, fundraising, or getting things done, let us know how you can help.

★ **URGENT!** Write a letter to encourage the Open Space approval of the \$900,000 offer!
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT AUTHORITY
415 RUSSELL AVENUE
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403

NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL!



Make checks payable to:
LAGUNA UPLANDS PROJECT

c/o Bank of the West
100 So. Main St., Seb., CA 95472

TO PLACE A JAR IN YOUR STORE OR BUSINESS OFFICE CALL:
Juliana Downs @ 823-8744 or Bill Haigwood @ 823-7801.

GIVE A GIFT FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

Enclosed is my contribution for:

\$60,000 \$10,000 \$1,000 \$750

\$500 \$100 \$ _____

Yes, I would like to volunteer some of my time to this important project. Give me a call. My phone number is _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CTVSTATE/ZIP _____

No Rises: Contributions are refundable if goal is not achieved. If achieved, contributions are tax deductible.

(see LAGUNA page 7)