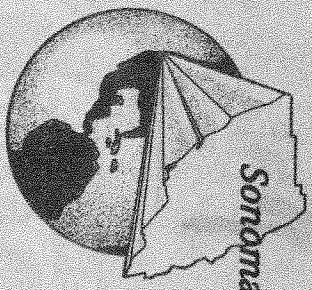


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Sonoma County

CITY WATCH

sebastopol

The Citizens' Perspective

Saving the Laguna

2/96
by Zoe Minervini-Zick, Shauna Moss-Maguire and Twyla Fienbloom

Three years ago when we were 3rd graders at Pine Crest school we discovered the Laguna. We watered and planted oak trees.

The trees we planted were acorns. We put netting and fencing up to keep the deer out. We dug the ground until it was soft enough so that acorns were able to be planted; trees make oxygen and shade for the people and animals who live in Sebastopol. Approximately 80% of the native trees and plant life in the Laguna have already been destroyed by humans. Most of the trees today are exotic. We want to replant with native vegetation because animals need this plant life.

The Laguna uplands is a large highland that lies above the Laguna's flood zone and is a safety zone for the animals when the Laguna floods. When we heard about the 18 houses that were to be built on the Laguna uplands we felt concerned because this area provides a great home for the wildlife. Last year the Laguna flooded and the animals had to seek refuge on the uplands.

When the Laguna Uplands Project committee approached the owners to see if they would sell the property to protect the land, they said they would be willing to sell instead of building the homes and said the price would be \$1.5 million. Our class and community have been working to help raise this money. The Laguna Uplands Project committee volunteers have been putting donation jars all over in Sebastopol's businesses. One of the owners of the property, Dick Gillioti, has pledged \$15,000 so he agrees with us about saving the Laguna uplands.

As preadolescents (now 10 1/2) we hope to change Sebastopol's environment for children to come. It's like preserving one of Sebastopol's wonders for generations.

Our class has been working on plotting fundraisers. One of the fundraisers is a bake sale. At the bake sale we will have baked goods and we will also have pizza and different kinds of drinks. We will have the money jars put out on different tables. We are hoping this bake sale will bring many people down town together. The bake sale is taking place on February 17, 1996 at the Sebastopol Plaza. We hope to see you there!

We are also planning to have a raffle in addition to the bake sale to make money and we have set a money jar in our classroom and school office. With the money jar in our classroom we have raised \$47.51. Soon we will be writing and drawing about the Laguna Uplands Project on paper bags that will be in the grocery stores around town.

The Open Space District is also interested in helping, and Juliana Doms, who is one of the people who had the idea to purchase the Laguna Uplands, is pretty sure that the Open Space District will donate some money. We all hope she is right. We had three kids from our class go to the Open Space District's meeting where they were talking about this project. One of our classmates, Terri Saylor, spoke to the District telling about how our class is involved and how we are planning to raise money.

The Laguna Uplands Project needs to raise \$25,000 by February 15, 1996 and another \$25,000 by March 15, 1996 to give to the owners. The deadline for the \$1.5 million is April 15, 1996. Juliana Doms is sure we will raise the money by then, with the community's help. Dick Gillioti said "We want to be supportive, rather than be adversarial," when he said he would pledge \$15,000.

We thank you for being so supportive and helping to raise money for saving our land!



Top to bottom, left to right: Terri Saylor, Melissa Poulsen, Whitney Fisher, Audrey Mesulam, Laurie Maguire (teacher), Marissa Cabanilla, Eliza Marsch, Zoe Minervini-Zick, Lyra Hill, Dana Vallarino, Miyoshi Chisom, Ashley Kirkland, Twyla Fienbloom, Marlene Levy, Julia Page, Orion Haas, Shauna Moss-Maguire, Bowen Mandenhall, Jessica Balzer, Jasper Granahan-Sexton, Ryan Neely, Eddie Bader, Mitchel Kabba, Dylan Hamilton, Paul Kattner, Cheyenne Decker, Michael Monsour, Joe Payne



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

A BIG THANK YOU
to the following businesses who have placed our Save The Laguna Uplands collection jars on their counters! We encourage you to stop at these stores and donate your loose change to help purchase these threatened uplands.

- FOOD FOR THOUGHT • PATISS MAIN EVENT • BOX OFFICE VIDEO
- SLICE OF LIFE • PACKAGE DEAL
- CHRISTAL PEOPLE • YIN YANG
- MAIN STREET COMPUTERS
- POPEYE'S • CITIZEN'S FEDERAL
- PINE GROVE GENERAL STORE
- NATURLICH • THE VIDEO STORE
- LIVING HEALTH CHIROPRACTIC
- COPPERFIELD'S BOOKS • LUCKY'S
- MENDOCINO COOKIE COMPANY
- BANK OF THE WEST • WILDTHINGS
- EAST WEST CAFE • FIESTA MARKET
- SPRINT • TOMORROW'S CHILD
- QUICKSERVER • GRATEFUL BACEL
- PAUL THELLEN D.D.S. • BUDDIES
- BEAUTY STORE & MORE
- IN SANTA ROSA
- WOMAN'S CHOICE CLINIC

HELP SAVE OUR LAGUNA UPLANDS

FROM A PENDING DEVELOPMENT
Your gift NOW will help buy this threatened land & protect its sensitive ecosystem...FOREVER!

We have 60 days to raise \$1.5 million to purchase a significant uplands property as 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 community project instead of building an 18-unit subdivision. IF we can raise the money. And we think we can do it!

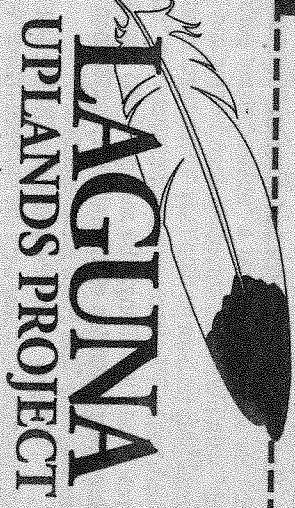
Why is this land so important? This view site is part of a last remaining Laguna uplands, rich with Native American history and integral to the restoration of the Laguna ecosystem — a lifeline to the natural world.

WHO IS BEHIND THIS EFFORT? This effort is spearheaded by local business and environmental participants with

NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL!

- Enclosed is my contribution for:
- \$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 _____



Make checks payable to:
LAGUNA UPLANDS PROJECT

Send 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 Doms (823-8744)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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

GIVE A GIFT FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME