

The New Laguna Trail on Kelly Farm

Denise Cadman, Past Board Member and City of Santa Rosa Natural Resource Specialist



The new Laguna Trail, operated by Sonoma County Regional Parks, is open with trailhead and parking areas located on Highway 12 and Occidental Road. A major portion of the trail, created to give people an opportunity to explore, learn about and enjoy the Laguna de Santa Rosa, crosses the City of Santa Rosa's, Kelly Farm.

Kelly Farm is a 397 acre property, purchased in 1979 for the City's recycled water program. Currently the Llano Road sewage treatment plant recycles an average of 20 million gallons of sewage every day to a tertiary treatment level. About 2.2 billion gallons are provided to local farms and recreational/urban landscapes for irrigation throughout the summer months, replacing the use of drinking water to irrigate these properties. Beyond its agricultural use for hay production, Kelly Farm is a beautiful landscape with unfarmed natural areas managed to promote native biodiversity. Duer Creek crosses the farm and seasonal wetlands and valley oaks dot the land.

A wetlands creation project was built in 1989, creating freshwater marsh habitat just above the Laguna de Santa Rosa floodplain. The wetlands were constructed to study the benefits of tertiary-treated sewage (recycled water) for wetland creation and restoration. Wetlands are of high value to wildlife, typically including a variety of habitats and the Kelly Wetland was designed to provide diverse habitat types that you can experience on the trail circling the marsh.



Open water attracts resident and migratory waterfowl, providing resting and feeding areas. Wading and dabbling birds, such as green herons, great egrets, great-blue herons and mallards are found in the shallows. Bufflehead and pied-billed grebes use the deeper water for diving. Violet-green and tree swallows catch insects over the water. Emergent vegetation, like tules and cattails that are rooted in standing water with leaves extending above the water surface, provides food, shade and cover. Look for red-winged blackbirds, marsh wrens and listen for the rarely seen but often heard soras and Virginia rails. Scan the riparian vegetation, comprised of trees and shrubs on the immediate shore of a wetland, for roosting and nesting birds such as black phoebes and Anna's hummingbirds. The surrounding grassland, dotted with valley oaks, will provide regular views of meadowlarks, killdeer, goldfinches, bluebirds and hunting raptors like the white-tailed kite. Many mammals, including mink and otter in the wetlands and deer and jackrabbits in the grassland are common in this area as well.

Please be respectful of wildlife by staying on the trail, picking up after your dog and most importantly keeping your dog on a leash. Even with a \$400 fine there is a constant occurrence of unleashed dogs. Remember, dogs will run down wildlife, disrupt ground nesting birds and leave behind the smell of a predator and that will undoubtedly affect the behavior of wildlife.

Executive Director Report - *David Bannister*

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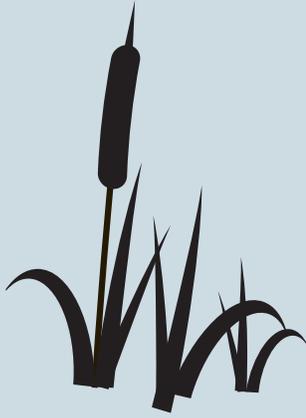
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In an era of tight funding from our governmental partners, we rely on YOU—our many members and supporters to help our small staff continue to make BIG accomplishments. We are constantly looking for ways to increase our support by appealing to new groups of people to join us in our mission. One of the ways we are trying to do that is by holding new types of FUNdraisers!

If you were at the first Mardi Gras Casino Night with the Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence you know what I mean. People that were there have told us they had a GREAT time! There were fun costumes (and not JUST by the Sisters!), fun games to learn and play, a fun champagne cocktail (the 49er Fizz), fun food, and Heron Hall was definitely converted to an unrecognizably fun room! Many thanks to our event sponsors (below). For photos of the event, check out our Facebook page!

In March there is a Poker Tournament FUNdraiser where poker players can match wits against each other for a GUARANTEED First Place Prize of \$2,000! What isn't fun about that? Visit the Poker Tournament page on our website for more information, or call me! If poker isn't your "thing" but you know people who play, PLEASE do us a favor and let them know about this. Again, we want to attract new people to Heron Hall and the Laguna Environmental Center in our ongoing efforts to tell more people about the Laguna and the Foundation's mission to preserve and restore it.

And speaking of restoration, please join us for our fourth Tree-A-Thon (see cover). This is also a FUNdraiser. I promise that after raising funds for this important cause and then actually getting down and planting trees for a couple hours you will say that this is a FUN event! Moreover, it is psychically rewarding. When you see a field that has been planted in a community event and you know that some of those trees planted that day will still be there hundreds of years hence providing wildlife habitat, improving water quality, and sequestering carbon—well, it is super rewarding!

I hope to see you at one of these FUNdraisers!



Photo: Gail Powell

Mardi Gras Casino Night Thank You Event Sponsors

Royal Flush \$750

Tom Origer & Associates

Straight Flush \$500

Daniel O. Davis, Inc.
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Full House \$250

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Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery
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Barefoot Winery, Dave Hall Photography,
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Lagunitas Brewing Company, Molly Eckler Design,
Wild Thyme Catering

Education Program Happenings

Christine Fontaine, Director of Education Programs

Learning Laguna is stronger than ever! Fall of 2012 was a record-setter for the number of students served and teachers are still requesting programs for spring! We are stretching farther than ever to meet the demand and it is the amazing Docents who deserve the thanks! They were very flexible with scheduling so this school year we will top all previous records by providing *Learning Laguna* classroom activities and adventurous field trips for over 1200 students in 49 classes. While “numbers served” help us with grant applications, it is the experiences of the individual children that truly keeps us going. When they say things like “I want to come back and help with growing plants.” Or “Thank you for teaching us amazing things about the amazing world of wetlands. Now I know how important it is to not litter or how important it is to keep the Laguna clean so that the animals can live there.” Or even: “I never knew before that chamomile tea was made from a plant.” We know that the program is really important for the children of our community – the future care takers of the environment. Many thanks to all who donated to the Foundation’s end-of-the-year appeal in support of *Learning Laguna*. The Docents and I are working hard to do you, all the children and their teachers proud!

Wow—the new Laguna Trail sure is popular! Is it the wide open space and views of the sky? Is it the walk-ability/roll-ability of the trail or the easy “on-the-way” stop for a quick hit of outside time? Perhaps the trail is so popular because of the opportunity it has created to meet up with friends or provide a furry friend with some good, clean, on-leash fun. I would say it is the dynamic nature of the Laguna, the birdwatching, and opportunities for wildlife sightings that make the trail a destination! Well, with all the people out there enjoying the trail—whatever the reason—we can’t pass up the opportunity to educate them about the Laguna! So, Laguna Guides and Docents



Photo: Dana Vallarino

have started “tabling” at the trail to answer questions and share information about the natural world of the Laguna, restoration that has taken place on-site, and opportunities to get involved with the Foundation. Next time you see them out there, do stop by and say hello!

If you want to learn more and start sharing your love of the Laguna with the community, know that we will be offering **Laguna Guides training** again this coming June. In addition to tabling at the Laguna Trail, these volunteers “staff” the Laguna Environmental Center during the open house events offering tours and activities, provide support during public education events in Great Blue Heron Hall, and they will soon be leading walks along the Laguna Trail as well. Laguna Guides training will start on June 6th and will take place on 4 consecutive Thursday evenings and during 3 Saturday morning sessions, concluding June 27. Visit the LEC during a second Saturday open house to get a feel for the “job” or contact Christine Fontaine: 527-9277 x102 or christine@lagunafoundation.org

Delta Pond Rookery Walks Coming Right Up on May 4

Join the fun of the annual trek to the Great Blue Heron, Great Egret and Double-crested Cormorant nesting site on the banks of the Laguna. By May 4 we will likely see everything from courtship displays, nest building, egg-sitting, and maybe even peek in on chicks and watch hustling parents trying to keep up with all the hungry mouths to feed. Beginning at 7:45 AM there will be 6 Docent-led walk times to choose from throughout the morning. We ask for a \$15 per person donation and registration takes place on-line, through our website (www.lagunafoundation.org). This event is a fundraiser for the Learning Laguna bus scholarship fund. Bring friends and family out for a joyful morning and get children outside to experience the wonders of the Laguna for themselves. Sign-up early, the event is always a sell-out!



Photo: Don Jackson

Laguna Keepers Event Calendar

Laguna Keepers are the Foundation's habitat restoration volunteers. Each month, in partnership with the City of Santa Rosa, we meet to give the Laguna a little hands-on love! All work dates are from 9am to noon. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to get dirty. Snacks provided, but bring gloves, water, and friends! Only heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, March 9- Native Plant Demonstration Garden

A fabulous workday for native plant gardeners and enthusiasts who want to see a one-of-a-kind demonstration landscape with a wide diversity of established species and abundant wildlife. Meet at the City of Santa Rosa's Wastewater Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Rd, Santa Rosa, and follow signs to the Administration building parking area.

Saturday, April 13- Fourth Annual Tree-A-Thon

Tree-A-Thon is our annual fund-raising event to help support our efforts in securing a bright future for the Laguna. Laguna Keepers are of course welcome and encouraged to sign up as

volunteer fundraisers! Visit our Tree-A-Thon webpage to sign up. If you don't want to fundraise but would like to participate as a volunteer team leader, please contact John Guardino (contact info below).

Saturday, May 11- Delta Pond

Spring is the time of year for...Dri-Water! Help us keep this unique restoration site moving forward by installing gloriously gelatinous Dri-Water and maintaining the native plantings. To reach the meeting area, enter the gravel drive on the southwest side of Santa Rosa Creek on Willowside Rd, Santa Rosa (just north of Summerfield Waldorf School), and drive ½ mile to parking.

Laguna Keepers take a break June-August, during the driest time of the year, and resume in September.

Questions? Contact John Guardino: 527-9277 x108 or john@lagunafoundation.org



Learning Landscape at the Laguna Environmental Center

Brent Reed, Restoration Projects Supervisor

Looking around the grounds of the Laguna Environmental Center, it is hard to believe that just a little over a year ago I would have been looking at an algae-filled pond and lots and lots of unsightly weeds! The pond is now ringed with a healthy band of native sedges, rushes, and riparian understory sub-shrubs. The algae is being replaced by clear, open water and emerging tules. The pollinator section of the landscape was a sight to behold by summer's end. Both of these areas were planted by the dedicated and cheery volunteers in the fall of 2011, for my first Laguna Keepers workday as a Laguna Foundation staff member. Further volunteer efforts installed drip irrigation, spread many yards of wood chips, and provided some TLC to help the little plants along their way. Fall 2012 and January 2013 saw more Laguna Keepers attention to the LEC landscape, installing two more phases in the Learning Landscape. The children's playscape feature is under construction now, thanks to a recent grant to purchase the needed native plants.

The Learning Landscape at the Laguna Environmental Center promises to be a valuable and cherished asset to all who visit these grounds. Within the landscape are more than 25 different species of native plants endemic to the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. Some of the species are notable for their value for wildlife and others have additional useful significance to humans who have inhabited this watershed for some 10,000 years. One of the favorite things about being here right now is that we are laying the foundation of what visitors to the LEC will experience for years to come!



It has been an absolute pleasure meeting and getting to know many of the dedicated volunteers who attend the Laguna Keepers days and who come to help out around the LEC and at our events. Talking to some of the Laguna Keepers during our last planting day, we came to the conclusion that it would be fun and extremely helpful to coordinate a **LEC Landscape Team** of dedicated volunteers who would be willing to get together one or two days per month for a few hours to give the landscape some TLC and perhaps have lunch or snacks as they enjoyed the beauty created by their efforts. The members could even come up with a catchy name. Sound good to you? If so, please contact me and let's get started! 527-9277 x101 or brent@lagunafoundation.org

Popping Public Education Program!

With several public education events per month, the Laguna Foundation's Public Education programs are going strong and we are looking forward to a vibrant array of spring and summer offerings. Please join us and spread the word!

Laguna Environmental Center Open House Second Saturday of the month, 10:00am-3:00pm March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
FREE! (donations appreciated)

Natural History of Sonoma County Woodlands and Forests- Presentation with botanist Steve Barnhart Saturday, March 9, 3:00-4:30pm

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$10 suggested donation, no RSVP necessary

Mystery of Bird Song Workshop- Morning talk and walk with naturalist David Lukas

Thursday, March 14, 9:00am-1:00pm

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$45 (\$40 for Laguna Foundation members)
Advanced registration required: www.lagunafoundation.org

The Lost Bird Project- Film screening at Heron Hall Part of the Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival Friday, March 22, Doors open 7:00pm, film begins 7:30pm

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$10 per ticket, available online: www.sebastopolfilmfestival.org

Birds Along the Laguna Trail- Docent-led Walk Saturday, March 23, 9:00am-noon

Location provided upon registration
FREE! Advanced registration required: www.landpaths.org

Speed Drawing Birds- Workshop with John Muir Laws Thursday, April 4, 10:00am-4:00pm

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$75 (\$65 for Laguna Foundation members)
Advanced registration required: www.lagunafoundation.org

Thinking Like a Naturalist: Reclaiming the Art of Natural History- Presentation with naturalist John Muir Laws Thursday, April 4, 7:00-8:00pm

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$10 suggested donation, no RSVP necessary

Animal Track and Sign of the Laguna- Tracking workshop with biologist and tracker Meghan Walla-Murphy Saturday, April 20, 9:00am-2:00pm

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$45 (\$40 for Laguna Foundation members)
Advanced registration required: www.lagunafoundation.org



Gesture and Stillness: Springtime in the Laguna- Watercolor workshop with Marsha Connell and Sally Baker Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$250 (\$200 for Laguna Foundation members)
Advanced registration required: www.lagunafoundation.org

Seaweed Ecology, Nutrition, and Use- Presentation by farmer & sustainable agriculture instructor, Heidi Herrmann Saturday, May 11, 3:00-4:30pm

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
\$10 suggested donation, no RSVP necessary

Family-Friendly Star Party and Dessert Potluck with Sonoma County Astronomical Society Saturday, May 18, 7:00pm- into the night

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa
FREE! (donations appreciated). Please RSVP to Anita Smith:
527-9277 x110 or anita@lagunafoundation.org

Upcoming:

Sonoma County's Dazzling Dragonflies- Workshop with Kathy Biggs;
Edible Fungi of Northern California- Presentation by Darwin DeShazer;
Bay Area Puma Project/Felidae Conservation Fund- Presentation about
Mountain Lions; Photography Workshop for Kids; Mid-Week Movie
Nights; **and much, much more!!!**

Check our regularly-updated Public Education Calendar at
www.lagunafoundation.org. Look under Outings & Events> Laguna
Walks and Classes. For more information, contact Anita Smith:
527-9277 x110 or anita@lagunafoundation.org

Many thanks to our Sonoma State student interns, **Karen Gardner
and Adrienne Gause**, for their fantastic help promoting our Public
Education events!

Guest Article: Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club

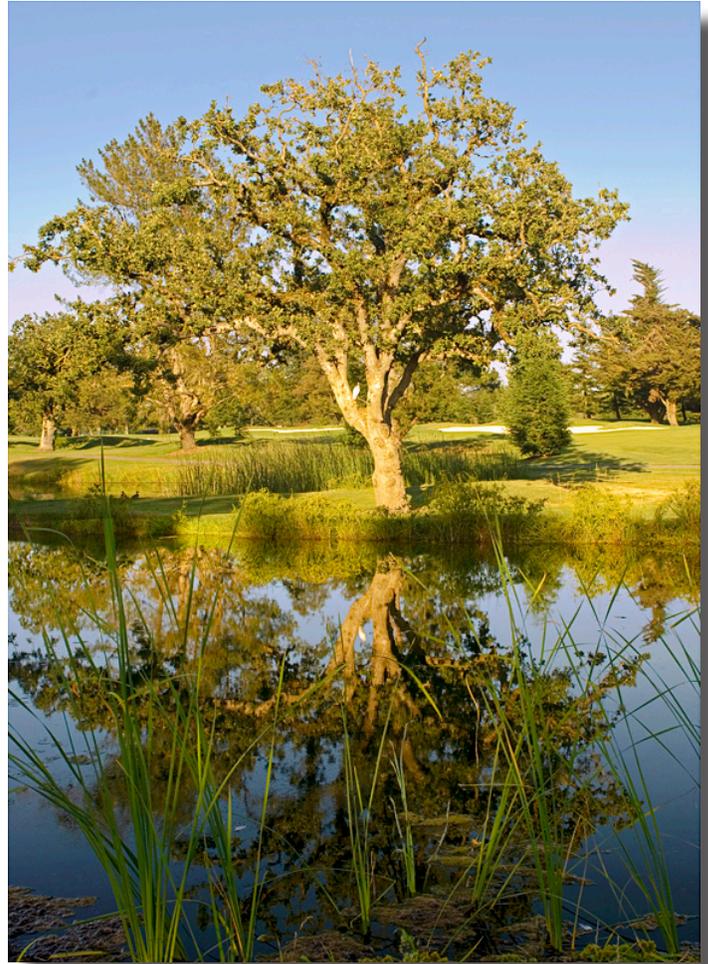
Jeff Sutherland, Golf Course Superintendent

Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club is a prominent feature of west Santa Rosa. Though the Club maintains its own well system, with reverse osmosis systems in place for facility water, we recognize the need to protect and preserve our unique watershed. The golf course is maintained with natural and organic products whenever possible, as many of our water features and drainage channels feed into the Laguna.

Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club:

- Is a member of the International Audubon Society with over 40 bird houses located throughout the property.
- Reduced pesticide applications and increased turf health in 2009.
- Utilizes a liquid fertilizer named Algae Green. Algae Green is seaweed extract that is harvested off the west coast of Ireland.
- Conserves water through the use of soil surfactants on greens and fairways, causing us to water less frequently.
- Maintains drainage channels (with no pesticides) to ensure continuous flow of water during the heavy rain season by cutting back overgrowth.
- Prevents algae bloom in course lakes utilizing three natural products- Microbe-Lift Golf, Microbe-Lift Sludge Away, and Phoslock. These prevent the use of chemical algaecides which could drain into the Laguna.

Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club understands the need to conserve water and preserve water quality in the Laguna de Santa Rosa aquifer, and the importance of our role as stewards of the environment in our County and our neighborhood. We want to assure our neighbors that, although we are a large feature of the landscape, we appreciate and value our unique location, and find ways in our day-to-day business to conserve, recycle, and appreciate our Sonoma County.



For further information, please contact Jeff Sutherland, Golf Course Superintendent: jsutherland@santarosagolf.com

Keep It Local with eScrip

Do you shop at Oliver's Market, Fircrest Market, Molsberry Market, Petaluma Market, Safeway or Sonoma Market? They are all members of eScrip which means that they are giving back to community nonprofits- including the Laguna Foundation. In the past year, Oliver's Market donated over \$2,500 to the Laguna Foundation, and that's just one of the many participating markets in Sonoma County!

If you shop at Oliver's Market, complete the form (see insert) and return it to Oliver's for your "Community Card". If you shop at the other markets listed above, sign-up online, it's easy! Go to www.escrip.com, type in the group name "Laguna Foundation", then fill-in your contact information and register the credit card(s) you use when you shop for groceries. When the cashier takes your credit card (or Community Card at Oliver's), these local grocers will send us 3-5% of your purchases!



Thank you for signing up! And a BIG THANK YOU to these markets that are giving back to the community with this wonderful program!! March is eScrip Merchant Appreciation Month so be sure to let these retailers know you are glad they participate!

Of the 82 supporters who have designated the Laguna Foundation as their beneficiary nonprofit, the top five in terms of contributions are: Jenny Blaker, Melanie Goodpasture, Maggie Hart, Anila Roberts and Linda Widdifield. Thanks to all of the 82 supporters and we hope more of you sign-up!

Thank you to our generous supporters since our last *Meanderings*...

New Members since 10/17/2012

Gary Abreim, Chris Anderegg, Kathy Anderson, Hollis Bewley, Kathryn Devereaux, Steven Fabian and Judy McCann, Arianna Feltman, Russ and Jaydean Franco, Phyllis Gaebel, Sue Gibbons, LM Greenberg, Natosi Johanna, Candace Krause, Fred Ptucha and Jeannette Dothee, David Taggart, Susan Ventura.

Member Renewals since 10/18/2012

Alan Horn Insurance Services LLC, Loren Amelang, Joy Anagnostis, Martha and J.M. Baeli, Ronald and Monika Balsamo, Gwen Beacham, Bill and Gail Bettinelli, Ross and Barbara Bickford, Richard Bloom and Bridget McCoy, Phillip and Gale Brownell, Elizabeth Bryant and Kimberly Lawton, Glen Buelteman, Lenore and Al Carrion, Robert and Shirley Cerniglia, Laura Close and Jenna Beers, James and Sandi Coddling, Marcia Coleman, Gerald and Buff Corsi, Buzz and Cindy Danner, Bart and Ditty Deamer, Jay and Joele Deike, Molly Eckler and Doug Emery, Wendy Eliot and Michael Fitzgibbon, Michael and Carolyn Ellis, Bill English, David and Sally Ewald, Ruth and Robert Freis, Helen Gillespie, George Gilsinan, Skip Ginsburg, Linda and David Hanes, Sharon Hawthorne, Jeremy Joan Hewes, Diane and Bryant Hichwa, Sue and Mike Hoey, Jessica Hopen, Mary Jenkins, Sandra Poysa and Jim Jordan, Michael and Sachiko Knappman, Greg Korelich and Linda Osher, Candace Krout and Shoshona Smith, Eunice La Dell Escola, Suzanne Llamado, Linda Marietta, David Maris, Major Eugene Meade, Margo Miller and Gerald Eliaser, William and Elizabeth Monnet, Morse & Cleaver Architects, Barbara Moulton and Tom Helm, Bob and Pam Murnane, Dianne and John Namkung, Diana Nasser, Carol Newman and Barry Sovel, Jane Nielson, Bob Orr, Linda Patterson, Richard and Trish Power, Tom Pringle, Joan Przekop, Steve and Lynn Rabinowitsh, Ruth Robinson, Ruth Robinson, Bill Ronchelli, Patricia and Bryan Sesser, Paula and David Shatkin, Don and Joyce Sherer, Shirley Silver, Shirley Silver, Sonoma Ecology Center, Susan Spencer, Gail Dubinsky Spielman, Amy and Greg Stanton, Troy and Carol Stenlund, Anne Sutter, Deborah Thayer, Dale and Elaine Trowbridge, Rosemary Ward and Susan Hornstein, Janis and Warren Watkins.

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In Kind Donations

6th Street Playhouse, Anderson, Zeigler, Disharoon, Gallagher & Gray, Andy's Produce Market, Balletto Vineyards, Bar B Que Smokehouse Bistro, Barefoot Wine, Kathy and David Biggs, Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, Curtis Clemmer, Coffee Catz, Dave Hall Photography, Gretchen Gause, Diana Laczkowski, Lagunitas Brewing Co., Stacy Low, Lunardi Electric Company, Jude Mariah, Martin Ray Winery, Massage Envy Spa, Len and Linda Riepenhoff, River's Edge Kayak & Canoe Trips, Russian River Brewing Co., Russian River Pub, Ed and Robin Schudel, Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival, Daniel and Cynthia Smith, Melissa Sorrick, Whole Foods Market Santa Rosa, Wild Bird Center of Santa Rosa, Wild Birds Unlimited, Edward Willie.



The **Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation**, founded in 1989, works to preserve, restore, and inspire greater understanding and appreciation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa wetland complex, which is the largest tributary of the Russian River and one of Sonoma County's richest wildlife areas. The Foundation conducts educational programs, implements preservation and restoration projects, conducts scientific research, works with landowners and public agencies to protect and improve Laguna resources, and advocates for appropriately managed opportunities for the public to enjoy the Laguna.

Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
900 Sanford Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 527-9277
www.lagunafoundation.org

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Tree-A-Thon Dance Party!

When: Saturday, April 6, 7:00-10:00pm

Where: Laguna Environmental Center
900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa

Band: The Love Handles

Bring: An appetizer or dessert and a beverage to share (beer, wine, non-alcoholic)

Suggested Donation: \$10/adult, children free

Join Us for Tree-A-Thon 2013!

Our fourth Annual Tree-A-Thon fundraiser and tree planting restoration project is on April 13th this year. It is like a walk-a-thon except that our supporters gather donations for the Laguna Foundation and then join us for a few hours Saturday morning, April 13th, 2013 to plant trees! It is a **FUN** and **REWARDING** way to enjoy time outdoors with a terrific group of people in a project that will benefit the community for generations to come. And, the funds YOU raise support our ongoing mission to preserve and restore the Laguna. Fundraising starts NOW!

Planting trees along the Laguna restores lost wildlife habitat and natural beauty, improves water quality, and helps mitigate climate change. This year we will be at an entirely new site between Llano Road and Stony Pt. Road that is not open to the public. We anticipate more than 100 participants – all ages and abilities welcome! Together, we will plant 500+ oak trees and other native plants.

Support the Tree-A-Thon by choosing whichever method suits you best:

Sign Up to Become a Volunteer Fundraiser- We supply the forms and a customized online donation site. All you have to do is ask friends, co-workers, family, etc. to sponsor you. On the day of the event you can either plant trees or help with event logistics. And you are encouraged to invite your sponsors to participate! **Become a Business Partner-** Sponsor the event at one of several different levels. Sponsorship comes with many benefits; see website for details. **Donate to the Tree-A-Thon-** Send in a general donation today in the enclosed remit envelope or sponsor one of our volunteer fundraisers online.



Photo: Howard Kalmer

Awards! We have award packages for the top three overall fundraisers AND prizes for the top three NEW fundraisers raising \$300+. Plus, all fundraisers generating more than \$100 will receive a commemorative Tree-A-Thon t-shirt!

Ready, set, GO! Visit www.firstgiving.com/lagunafoundation to sign up. Or for more information, contact Nancy Hauptmann: 527-9277 x109 or nancy@lagunafoundation.org