



# Meanderings

Restore, Conserve & Inspire: Nurturing a Healthy Laguna

Autumn/Winter 2014/2015

## Laguna Foundation Board of Directors Pledges \$100,000 Matching Grant



Board President Raini Sugg.

For 25 years, the Laguna Foundation has provided the necessary leadership critical to conserving and restoring the Laguna de Santa Rosa. To insure that the Foundation has the financial resources to continue its work, Raini Sugg, Board President of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, announced that she and every member of the Laguna Board are combining efforts to contribute a **\$100,000 matching grant**. They will match all gifts made by December 31, dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000. This means a donation of \$100 will result in a gift of \$200. Even better, they will match **all gifts of \$1,000 or more on a two-to-one basis**. That means a gift of \$1,000 results in \$3,000 for the Laguna de Santa Rosa!

Raini and the Board are making this special gift because they believe deeply that the health of the Laguna affects everyone. "Protecting and restoring the Laguna cannot wait," says Raini. "Degradation due to habitat fragmentation, water pollution, and urban development continues. A clean and adequate supply of water for people, wildlife, birds, and agriculture is critical. It is so important for our staff to be proactive, but the work depends on a sustainable funding source of private capital. Private philanthropy is the key."



Your donation will provide year-round access for people of all ages to hike, kayak, and walk the Laguna.

The 254-square-mile Laguna watershed stretches from Windsor to Cotati, from the top of the Mayacamas Mountains to Forestville, where the Laguna joins the Russian River and flows into the ocean. We all must invest in saving the Laguna. The Laguna Foundation staff, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, will put your gift and the match to work immediately to:

- Expand efforts to restore the 22-mile Laguna waterway.
- Provide abundant habitat for wildlife.
- Maintain a permanent healthy flyway and recuperating zone for migrating birds.
- Insure opportunities to hike, kayak, bicycle and walk.
- Educate and inspire people of all ages to protect forever the Laguna through outings and workshops, public access, trail maintenance, and our school program "Learning Laguna."
- Keep the Laguna the beautiful place we call home.

**Let's keep up the momentum!  
So much can be accomplished  
with the support of our friends  
and this generous matching gift.**

Photo: Left, Dana Vallarino. Below, Al Mattin.



Your gift will help to restore wildlife habitat.

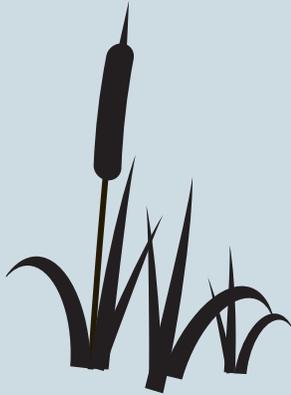
**For information about making a year-end donation or to donate stock, please visit our website at [www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org) or contact Bev Scotland at (707) 527-9277, ext. 106 or [bev@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:bev@lagunafoundation.org).**

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*Heron Hall Manager*  
Paul Weber, *Restoration Technician*

## Executive Director Report

In the 2014 Autumn issue, we were looking forward to winter rains and the beautiful changes the rain brings to our ecosystems. This year the anticipation is tinged with some worry. In the 3rd year of a recordsetting drought, we at the Foundation, along with our partners and supporters, are deeply concerned. What happens if the drought persists for yet another winter? Is the persistent high pressure system over the Pacific that is stopping the rains from coming south an effect of global climate change? Is our winter weather pattern seen over the last few years the new normal?

These are tough questions, and while we don't have all of the answers, we know for sure that wetland ecosystems must have water. No water means no functioning wetland ecosystem which means dramatically reduced biodiversity. This year we are REALLY hoping for a wet winter. I encourage everyone to conserve water and carbon consumption. Our little speck in space, our planet, and the Laguna de Santa Rosa, need all the help we can get!

Along with our conservation efforts, let's think positive thoughts and remember that even during this last "dry" winter we had a few storms that filled up the floodplain. Last year, I was lucky enough to be at the Laguna Environmental Center on Feb. 9th for one of our great supporters, Mike Shepherd's, birthday party. According to the stream gauge on the Occidental Road bridge, the Laguna rose more than 10-feet! Water was everywhere, and where water goes so goes wildlife. Mergansers, American White Pelicans, Buffleheads, Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and many more bird species were all evident. We even spotted a few teenage boys surfing behind a pickup truck on the flooded Sanford Road! Let's hope for more storms like that this winter!

When the rains come, our covered observation deck here at the LEC is a great place to be. The views are fabulous! If the Laguna swells with enough water, I will again be staging flash fundraising kayak trips. When conditions are just right, I'll send out an email inviting the first 15 or so people who respond to go kayaking from a private drop-in location. We supply everything, and the cost is only \$100! Make sure we have your email address if you are interested in coming along. For those who are interested in learning more about how to navigate the floodplain and where the best spots to go are, I will be hosting my annual talk and slideshow on kayaking and hiking the Laguna on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 3pm. Check out our Public Education Calendar for more information on this and other upcoming events, and keep an eye on our website for special 25th Anniversary celebrations!

For the Laguna,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bannister".

David Bannister  
Executive Director



## Board of Directors Openings

The Laguna Foundation is seeking qualified volunteers to join our Board of Directors! Our Board members are limited to two 3-year terms, so as people term out, we are always seeking new Directors. If you or someone you know has some time and wants to make a difference in support of our mission to conserve, restore and inspire public appreciation for the Laguna, please contact David Bannister at [david@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:david@lagunafoundation.org). Our Board plays an active role in the functions of our organization and members come from a wide range of backgrounds. We are in need of individuals with experience in finance/accounting, law, marketing, philanthropy/fundraising, non-profit management, Laguna land ownership and more.

# River Parkways, Southern Laguna Restoration Project Update

Brent Reed, Restoration Projects Supervisor

If you participated in the April 2013 Laguna Re-Leaf Day project, then you know the site, or at least you know the part of the site that is nearest to the Laguna Main Wastewater Treatment Plant on Llano Road. The truth is, the Re-Leaf project was involved in about 1/8 of the total project area, . . .and then we kept going. The Laguna Foundation planted half of the project area in the Winter and Spring of 2013 and we finished the other half of the planting in Spring of 2014. The Southern Laguna restoration site goes almost all the way between Stony Point Road to Llano Road. That is nearly 1.7 miles of uninterrupted riparian forest restoration!

We planted the Laguna-appropriate trees and shrubs that are found in nearby remnant riparian habitats, such as valley oak, Oregon ash, box elder, Fremont cottonwood, red and yellow willows,

*Below: River Parkways before our restoration work began, in winter of 2013. Right: The milkweed is growing tall and strong by the summer of 2014. Can you spot the Monarch caterpillars?*



## We Love and Appreciate Our Interns!

Anita Smith, Public Education Coordinator

We are so fortunate to attract high-quality Communications and Public Outreach Interns from Sonoma State University (SSU) and Santa Rosa Junior College. They donate hundreds of hours each semester helping us spread the word about our programs and events. This past summer, we had the pleasure of working with **Megan**



Megan Foster

**Foster** who is a graduate of SSU and is now working on her Masters in Community Development at UC Davis. Reflecting on her internship, Megan shared “While gaining knowledge on how to effectively communicate with the public – through press releases, events, social media and many other outlets – I was also able to learn more about the dynamics of a non-profit organization. The insights and skills I gained will prove invaluable

blue elderberry, California rose, and California blackberry. We also included some non-woody but very ecologically important plants and grasses, including narrow-leaf milkweed, basket sedge, soap root lily, creeping wild rye, and mugwort. The trees and shrubs are thriving in the rich soil that gets a healthy dose of nutrients every time the site floods (which is almost every year). Some of these non-woody plants are showing immediate positive impacts on wildlife. For the past two summers we have seen the milkweed grow vigorously, attracting many flying insects and butterflies, and hosting monarch butterfly caterpillars!



*This Box elder gets the thumbs up award! From pencil-thick and knee-high to well overhead in less than two complete growing seasons!*

Like most of the Foundation’s restoration projects, this one involves a team. We are funded by a State of California grant through the River Parkways Grant Program and the Sonoma County Water Agency, who provided the project area and will also be building a trail—stay tuned for more on that! The City of Santa Rosa chipped in by providing hookups, tech support and water from their reclaimed water system.

in my future research and employment, potentially working with land conservation organizations.” Thanks for all your good work Megan!

**Caitlin Dunn** is a senior at SSU majoring in Environmental Studies and Planning with a concentration in Restoration and Conservation. Last spring she was an intern in our Restoration Department and loved getting the hands-on field experience. This fall she switched gears to help behind-the-scenes in the office as our Communications and Outreach Intern. She helps get the word out about the Laguna Environmental Center, our education programs and trainings, and ways the Laguna Foundation is benefitting the environment and the community. Glad to still have your smiling face around, Caitlin!



Caitlin Dunn

*For more information about our Communications and Outreach Internship opportunities, please contact Anita Smith at [anita@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:anita@lagunafoundation.org) or at 707.527.9277 xt 110*

## Save the Date! 2015 Re-Leaf Day



Come join the planting fun in 2015!

Help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary by joining us as a fundraiser for the **2015 Laguna Re-Leaf Day!**

We invite you to become a fundraiser or sponsor and join in the planting of more than 600 native plants on **April 11, 2015**. This fun and rewarding

event will take place on the banks of Irwin Creek. Restoring the over-grazed area around this creek will greatly improve the quality of water entering the Laguna.

Stay tuned in the coming months to find out how you can participate in this exciting restoration project!

## Hot Off the Press! Laguna Birds Checklist

Designed to be used as a field guide companion, this 9-page checklist will help you keep track of your bird sightings throughout the year and will help you develop your own Laguna birds life list! This booklet is a must have for any bird watcher at any age! Look for it in the LEC gift shop, or order your checklist today for only \$5 by emailing: [christine@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:christine@lagunafoundation.org).



Male Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) Illustration by John Muir Laws

Edited by Lisa Hug, illustrations by John Muir Laws, and developed by Christine Fontaine. Thank you to Sebastopol's Sunrise Rotary for the financial support towards the development of this project!

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Art in the Garden Gala: Best to Date!

David Bannister, Executive Director

The Foundation's 11th annual garden party and fundraiser once again took place at the beautiful Vine Hill House on Sept. 14 with more people in attendance than ever before, and the funds raised set a new record, up 15% from last year!

The wonderful Gala Committee of: Sandy Mays, Barbara Shepherd, Yvonne Giambrone-Martin, Barnee Alexander, Franny Minervini-Zick, Ramona Haller, Peggy Tourje, Ellen Swensen, Joany Goodwin, Phyllis Black, Jan O'Connell, and staffers Anita Smith, Adrienne Gause and Nancy Hauptmann worked the entire year to plan and improve the event. New this year was kefir from the Kefiry in Sebastopol and organic Gravenstein apple juice donated by Patricia Canfield. We also had several new wines to pour and new wineries who donated products to the silent auction. Those were in addition to our local heirloom tomato tasting, cheeses donated by fabulous local artisan cheese companies, Pizza Politana's fresh pizzas, olive tasting by "the olive guy" Don Landis, French Garden delectables, Moonlight brews, and more.

The live auction portion of the event saw spirited bidding especially for new packages like the Mendocino and Papakea, HI vacation home stays! The Foundation is profoundly grateful to the many people that made this Gala a huge success: generous sponsors, the nearly 60 artists who donated their work for auction, the 30 local businesses who donated gift certificates, donors of the exciting live auction items, Tony Black and Abby Bard for the willow furniture and cushions, each winery who donated exquisite wines enjoyed onsite and auctioned, and the 50+ volunteers who made the Gala possible. Thanks also to the event attendees who purchased tickets and participated in both the silent and live auctions. The success of the event depends on all of you!

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13, 2015 for the 12<sup>th</sup> year of this great event. We are already planning ways to make next year even better!

### Thank You to Our 2014 Gala Sponsors!

#### Bald Eagle \$10,000

Vic & Karen Trione

#### Golden Eagle \$5,000

Vine Hill House

#### Otter \$2,500

Zainer Rienehart Clarke Grab n' Grow Soil Products

#### Bobcat \$1,000

Julie & Tom Atwood Bob & Sharon Rubin  
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Terry Price & Kerry Campbell-Price Harry & Dee Richardson



Laguna Guides class of 2014, Back-Front, L-R: Amy Southwick, Betsy Skinner, Diane Benson, Debbie Dean, Moira Hill, Anna Bainbridge, Angela Sturr. Not pictured: Carol Otis & Dianne Smith

## Introducing the Laguna Guides Class of 2014

After 23 hours of in-class and field experiences, the third annual training for Laguna Guides wrapped up on October 11th, 2014. Joining the existing Guides circle of twenty-two committed volunteers, this new group of eight is ready and excited to begin their work at the Laguna Environmental Center hosting the 2nd Saturday open house events, leading Laguna walks and supporting the public education classes. They each bring something unique to the Education Team and we are so pleased they have joined us for the Laguna!

## Learning Laguna Fall 2014

*Christine Fontaine, Director of Education programs*

The school year got off to a great start in September with two “brush-up” events for Docents: Breakfast in the Laguna and Classroom Catch-up. At Breakfast we come together for a lovely picnic and walk around the field trip site sharing tips and techniques for successful interactions and learning experiences for the students. Classroom Catch-up provides an opportunity to share advice & practice with the special Learning Laguna classroom activities: the Wetland Model, Migration Game, Bird Investigation Station, Who Am I? and Animal Tracks.



*Learning Laguna student artwork.*

Also in preparation for the field trips, docents braved the water and got thoroughly covered in mud when they tackled and removed some *Ludwigia* from the Laguna so students could see open water and study aquatic food webs. (And, we needed a place to catch crayfish for up-close examination!) After all the teaching materials were restocked, organized and refreshed we were all set to go to the first classroom visit on September 9th.

Twenty-two classroom visits, 22 field trips and 602 students and lots of “Wows!” later, programs concluded on October 23rd.

When we receive student thank you letters that say things like: “I am going to take my family back to the Laguna so they can see the animal footprints and all the birds and I can teach them everything I learned!” we know Learning Laguna is essential in inspiring a love of the Laguna and creating the next generation of stewards.

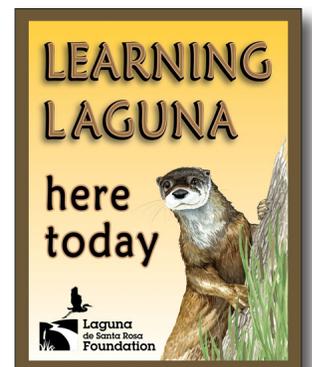
## Nurture the Next Generation of Naturalists

*Christine Fontaine, Director of Education programs*

The rewards of volunteering as a Learning Laguna docent are bountiful. Imagine seeing the expression on an eight-year-old’s face when she first touches a skunk pelt. Think about the excitement a child experiences when using a squirt bottle in the classroom to simulate a rain storm over a wetland. Picture, if you will, the image of a child engrossed in comparing bird wings and examining bird beaks to figure out what that bird might eat. Now, envision your own self having the same experiences! In **Learning Laguna Docent Training**, you are guaranteed to have an adventurous learning experience within a circle of new people you will want as your friends. After training, you in a docent team provide those up-close learning experiences to 2nd-4th grade students in the classroom and during field trips to the Laguna.

Learning Laguna Docent Training begins March 9th, 2015. Complete the application now, arrange your spring schedule to be available on 10 consecutive Mondays from 10am – 3pm, and plan to attend an orientation on February 2nd or 19th. Bring your curiosity and eagerness to learn and we will teach you all about the Laguna and how to lead the dynamic Learning Laguna activities.

Visit our website for all the details or contact Christine at any time: 527-9277 xt 102 or at [christine@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:christine@lagunafoundation.org). We cordially invite you to join the Laguna Education Team for a rich and rewarding experience!



# The Laguna Foundation Celebrates Our 25th Year Anniversary

Dr. Dianne Smith, Vice President, Board of Directors

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is proud to announce that 2015 will be the 25th Anniversary of the beginning of our work to restore, conserve, and inspire public appreciation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Historically, migratory birds and butterflies, indigenous wildlife, plants, trees, and generations of humankind all had a home in the Laguna. Over time however, human activity has degraded and diminished the waterways.

There were no overarching regulatory conditions set for the Laguna and no coordinated planned use uniting the various interests in the Laguna resources. By the late 1980s, the healthy waterways, usable land, flora, and fauna were all in danger of disappearing.

In the mid 1980s, the City of Sebastopol formed a Citizen's Advisory Committee to look into the challenges, opportunities, and natural gifts these complex water and land zones held for all life in the area. By 1989, early studies by the committee were completed and a landmark State of the Laguna Conference was held in Sebastopol. The Conference included Laguna neighbors, politicians, environmentalists, real estate brokers, farmers, and educators. The public stimulation this conference fostered led to the creation of The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, which was officially incorporated in 1990. On World Wetlands Day in 2011, the Ramsar Convention named the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex as a Wetland of International Importance. According to their website, the Laguna is considered a biological hotspot with rare and unique wetlands ecosystems and their associated rare and endemic plant and animal populations. The Laguna also provides flood control, scenic beauty, and recreation services to the majority of Sonoma County's human population.

To date, the Foundation has planted and



Photo: Drew Jackson

fostered more than 15,000 native trees, shrubs, and grasses. These native plants have widened riparian zones, shading and cooling sections of the Laguna and its tributaries on the Santa Rosa Plain with benefits to limiting the spread of the invasive weed *Ludwigia*, improvements in water quality, wildlife habitat and migration, as well as its natural beauty. The Laguna supports over 200 bird species as well as numerous mammals and reptiles. The additional habitat created through our restoration programs add and improve much needed habitat. New stream-side forests have led to increased numbers of wildlife such as river otter, American Mink, mountain lion, deer, and fox. Migratory bird flocks sheltering here

in winter have increased in number and indigenous bird life is flourishing. Through our Learning Laguna program, more than 13,800 school children have had first-hand classroom education and field trips to the Laguna. In 2012, Heron Hall at the Laguna Environmental Center was completed. Since then, more than 5,000 visitors have participated in the open house events and the regularly held talks, walks, and classes.

The Foundation survives today through grants to our restoration, conservation science, and education programs, and through the generous donations of the public. Thank you for your support and showing your love of the Laguna.

The 25th Anniversary Year celebrations will begin with the joint exhibit and celebration described below. Additional events will be announced as the year unfolds. Watch for more in *Meanderings* or on our website.

*The Foundation's administrative offices and the Laguna Environmental Center are located on Stone Farm at Occidental and Sanford roads. Visitors are welcome Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm and at Open Houses on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10am-3pm. Stop by for a visit!*

## WETLANDS: Ever Changing Waters, Land, and Life

January 15 through February 20, 2015

### CALL FOR ART SUBMISSIONS

Deadline for submissions: December 1, 2014

The Sebastopol Center for the Arts and the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation have joined together to present the exhibition *Wetlands: Ever Changing Waters, Land, and Life*. The exhibition welcomes the artistic exploration of one of the richest and least understood of the world's ecological systems. Artists are urged to enter work that portrays the wetlands in all of their diversity and importance both to humankind and to the plants and animals that depend upon them. Please see the Sebastopol Center for the Arts website for additional forms and details regarding your submission at [seabarts.org/index.php/calls-entry](http://seabarts.org/index.php/calls-entry).

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

(June 25 - Oct 14, 2014)

## **New Membership Donations**

Robert and Deborah Adams, Carol Baltz Ivey, Char Barron, Bob Caricato and Cindy Ketelsen, Rich Duisenberg, Wendy Free, David and Jennifer Kuszmar, Marty Molitor, Kathie Noguchi, Brigid O'Dowd, Barbara O'Neal, Jo Pettit, Peggy Rust, Betsy Skinner, David Tauck, Don and Jill Zumwalt.

## **Membership Renewals**

Steve and Suzanne Abrams, Theodora Amaroli, Martha Bell, Helen and Robert Berg, Connie Blackstone, Jenny Blaker and Neil Hancock, John Boles, Renata Brillinger, Anne Brown, Kim and Bill Cordell, Annella Dalrymple and Robert Harkavy, Jill Davenport, Gay Deady, Bart and Ditty Deamer, Fran Dixon, Djubaya, Robin Dorn, Jenny Downing, Sandy Eastoak, Peter and Deeanne Edwards, Mary Ely and Wayne Salk, Barbara Fabrizio, Roxanna Fiamma, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Farida Fox and Conly Shell, Beth Fulton and Terry Scannell, Sue Gadbois, Melanie Goodpasture, Marlys Green, Marjorie and Ross Grossman, Janice Gullarian, Sandra Haley, Linda and David Hanes, Lisa Harris and Timothy Beutel, Jeremy Joan Hewes, Barbara Iannoli, Greg and Kathi Jacobs, Mia James, Louise Johnston, Nell Kneibler, Helen Kochenderfer, Candace Krout and Shoshona Smith, Wendy Krupnick, Tom and Sally Lambert, Joseph Lang, Dr. James and Jeannie LeMesurier, Betsy Livingstone, Nancy Lorenz, Richard and Johanna Luke, Rita MacPherson, Lynne March, Keith Marshall and Margery Wolf, Gretchen and Stuart McIndoe, Edith Mendez, Jim and Melinda Moir, Larry Nagel, Suzanne and Gary Nelson, Laura Neumann, Brenda and Richard Nichols, Kathie Noguchi, Sheila and Scott O'Brien, David Petruska, Steve and Lynnie Rabinowitsh, Jill Ravitch, Paula Reid, Harry and Dee Richardson, Jeani Ritter, Ron and Marie Roller, Bill Ronchelli, Judith Rousseau, Don and Sharon Rowberry, Ruth Sanford, Larry and Barbara Sawyer, Paul and Patty Schoch, Janet Seaforth, Padi Selwyn and Reuben Weinzveg, Patricia and Bryan Sesser, Helen Shane and Fred Fletcher, Greg Sharpe, Mike and Barbara Shepherd, Sonoma Mountain Village, Shirley Spina, Anne and Clay Stephens, Willard and Ellen Stillman, Jack and Diane Stuppin, Angela and George Sturr, Bob Truax, Arlene Ulmer, Peter and Noni Verbiscar-Brown, Shirley Weisman, Linda Widdifield, Sara Winge, Anja Woltman.

## **In Memory of Joan Murray Humberstone**

Stephen and Mary Delap, Alex and Kathy Douglas, Diana Laczowski, Lone Pine Gardens, Stephen and Linda Murray, Julé Rizzardo, Marcia and Dean Soule, Mary Vanleeuwen, Kathleen Watson.

## **In Memory of Gregory William Hayes**

Barbara Croteau, Nathan Rank, Warren and Nancy Ruud, Sharon Smith, Dianne Smith and Ben Benson.

## **Other Donations**

Karen and Joseph Beall, Chuck and Deanne Cadman, Lenore and Al Carrion, D'Anna Hansen Clare in memory of Nicholas James & Kyle Hansen Clare, Jan and Jim Corbett, Bill and Joyce Cox, China Dusk and Steven Tierra, Molly Eckler and Doug Emery, Kathleen A. Emery, Fred and Jocelyn Euphrat, Curt and Vicki Groninga, Joseph Howard and Bridget Beytagh, Keith Howell, Beth Huning, Nancy and Jon James, Glenn & Lois Jamieson Family Fund, A Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Jetronics Company, Keysight Technologies, Bill and Beth Krumbein, Nils-Michael Langenborg, Shelley and Peter Maschwitz, John and Lorraine Meyer, Donald and Jacque Mielke, Shirley and Lori Myers, Bruce Nachtigall, Eileen Newill, Tom and Janine Origer, Benjamin and Ruthmary Parmeter in honor of Gordon L. Bolander, Lee Perron and Judy White, PG&E Corporation Foundation, Mert Preston, Julé Rizzardo, Robert Ryan, Carol Shirrell and Kate Lothyan, Sonoma-Cutrer Vineyards, Jack and Diane Stuppin, Raini and Steve Vallarino, Janis and Warren Watkins, David Watts, John and Lynn Westoby, Linda Widdifield.

## **Volunteer & Member Appreciation BBQ Donations**

Moonlight Brewing Company, Oliver's Market, Pacific Market, Guy and Michelle Smith, Sunshine Coffee Roasters, Sharon and William Whitten, Whole Foods Market.

## **In-Kind Donations**

Nancy Bauer, Chris & Charles Judson, Nationwide Compliance Service, Julé Rizzardo.

## **Gala Contributing Artists**

Don Ajello, Barnee Alexander, Gary Alexander, Susan Amalia, Warren Arnold, Abby Bard, Peter Beaman, Joel Bennett, Ken Berman, Anne Bibbons Loarie, Don Bishop, Tony Black, Margaret Bolt, 3-D Eddy Born, Christine Boyd, Alan Brickman, Becky Burtech, Mary Carr, Becky Cnudde, Lois Cohen, Donna DeLaBriandais, Leticia Duenas, Mary Fuller, Bill Geisinger, Yvonne Giambro-Martin, Christine Gonzalves, Micca Gray, Richard Hartung, Walter Harvest, Cynthia Hipkiss, Garth Gordon Hokanson, George Houghton, Jaime Jean, Mary Laues, Petr Lenda, Joyce Libeu, Jan Kalyani Lochner, Mickey Marshall, Michele Morehouse, Marge Mount, Mary Neuer Lee, Nichibe Pottery, Sheila O'Brien, Pat O'Connell, Edie Otis, Connie Peabody, Reed Brothers Hand Carved Furniture, Tamra Sanchez, Patricia Schueler, Janet Seaforth, Paula Smith and Keith Howell, Mike Sooley, Kyle Sullivan, Allis Teegarden, Thena Trystad, Dana Vallarino, Becky Wells, Kathleen Woolfe, Greg Zirbel.

## **Gala Contributing Wineries**

Acorn Winery, Balletto Vineyards, Bella Vineyards and Wine Caves, Carol Shelton Wines, Cast Estate Vineyard and Cellars, Churchill Cellars, Cult Winery, Dehlinger Winery, Dutton-Goldfield Winery, E&J Gallo Winery, El Flaco Wine Co., Elliott Family Cellars, Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery, Field Stone Winery and Vineyards, Foppiano Vineyards, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Fritz Underground Winery, Graton Ridge Cellars, Hanna Winery, Hartford Family Winery, Hawkes Wine, HKG (Hop Kiln) Estate Wines, Hook & Ladder Winery, Idle Cellars, Joseph Swan Winery, Korbel, Littorai Wines, Longboard Vineyards, Martin Ray Winery, O'Connell Vineyards, Owl Ridge Wines, Paradise Ridge Winery, Radio Coteau, Robert Young Estate Winery, Scherrer Winery, St Francis Winery & Vineyards, Star Winery, Trione Vineyards & Winery, Truett Hurst Winery, VML, Watkins Family Winery, White Oak Vineyards and Winery, Windsor Vineyards, Heather Wirtz, ZMOR Winery.

## **Gala - Learning Laguna Program Donations**

Kathy Anderson, Tom and Julie Atwood, Lynn Bernstein, Tammy Boatright, Donna Buck, Ed and Jeanne Buckley, Lois Cohen, Kim and Bill Cordell, Nancy and James Dempsey, Richard and Marie DiTommaso, Darlene and Dick Donat, Leticia Duenas & Petr Lenda, Robin Fautley, Curt and Vicki Groninga, Carroll and John Hirsch, Nancy Janeck, Deborah Klein, Stacy Ann Leveroni, Jennifer Lofchie, Sandy and Jeff Mays, Lisa Micheli, Tom and Janine Origer, Terry Price and Kerry Campbell-Price, Liza Prunuske, Bruce Riezenman, Catherine Sharp, Mike and Barbara Shepherd, Danny Smith, Dianne Smith and Ben Benson, Patti Stack and Paul Rosen, Rick Theis and Carolyn Johnson, Peggy Tourje and Jane Krensky, Tom and Laurie White.

## **Gala - Other Donations**

Ah Shayh Skincare, Kathy Anderson, Andy's Market, Backyard, Rhonda Berney and Richard Shipps, Bistro 29, Bistro Des Copains, Bleating Heart Cheese, Linda Brand - Magic Touch Massage, Patricia Canfield, Scott Charter, Choose the Heart, Community Market, Cowgirl Creamery, Deana Dennard Ayuredic Massage, Dhyana Center For Therapeutics, Dierks Parkside, Frank and Jackie Dono, Fircrest Market, Andrew and Nancy Fleming, Flipside Steakhouse, Forchetta/Bastoni, French Garden Restaurant and Bistro Bar, Gypsy Café, Caryl and Mickey Hart, Andrea Herold, Hole In The Wall, Mary and Drew Jackson, K&L Bistro, The Kefiry, La Bodega, Don Landis, Glenn and Franny Minervini-Zick, Chris Nelson, Nicasio Valley Cheese Company, Dan and Jan O'Connell, Pacific Market, Petaluma Creamery, Peter Lowell's Restaurant, Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery, River's End Restaurant & Inn, Rosanne Robertson, Rosso, Bob and Sharon Rubin, Russian River Vineyards & Corks Restaurant, Paul and Patty Schoch, Owen Scott Shirwo, Silveira Buick-GMC, Spinster Sisters Restaurant, Patti Stack, The Stanford Inn By The Sea, Sushi Tozai/Eight Restaurants, Rick Theis and Carolyn Johnson, Trader Joes, Valley Ford Cheese Company, Village Bakery, Walter Hansel Wine Bistro, Weirauch Creamery, Wild Flour Bread, Willow Wood Market Café, Woodfour Brewing Company.

## **2015 Re-Leaf Event Donations**

Richard and Christine Behrens, PG&E Corporation (Sponsorship)

# 2014-2015 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 on Saturday 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.

## December 6 - Sebastopol Wetlands Preserve, Meadowlark Field

It is hard to believe that the final phase on native tree and shrub restoration at the City of Sebastopol Laguna Wetlands Preserve's Meadowlark Field is finally done and plants are ready to be set free! Before it gets too wet out, we will be removing all the irrigation and plant protective hardware. Yes, the deer and rabbits can feast at will, now that the plants are big and strong enough to make it on their own. It is exciting to imagine that the whole field will someday be part of a great riparian forest! Are you keeping tabs on the progress of these plantings as you walk the Laguna Trail and along the trails of the Sebastopol Preserve? It is looking good!



## January 17 - Upper Laguna/Cotati

It has been a couple years since we joined forces with the Cotati Creek Critters to work on restoration efforts in the upper reaches of the Laguna. The Laguna Keepers are finally going back, on our own, and are looking forward to doing some infill plantings, mulching, weeding, and general TLC. Even urban areas can provide valuable wildlife habitat and many people enjoy using the pathways adjacent to the Laguna in Cotati.



## February 21 - Laguna Uplands

It's time for our annual February trip to the Laguna Uplands Preserve. If you have not been to the Uplands Preserve before, be prepared to enjoy spectacular views of the Laguna de Santa

Rosa and see robust and healthy trees that were originally planted by the Laguna Keepers and other volunteers! Just a hop, skip, and a jump away from downtown Sebastopol, the Laguna Uplands Preserve is hidden jewel.

## March 21 - Joint Wetlands Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Native plant gardeners and wildlife enthusiasts should not miss this Laguna Keepers! The Demonstration Garden is a one-of-a-kind, drought-tolerant native plant landscape with a wide diversity of established species and stunning beauty. The neighboring Joint Wetlands is a well established restoration site that abounds with wildlife. Every year we expand the site a little more.

## April 11 - 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Laguna Re-Leaf Day! Irwin Creek on City of Santa Rosa's Stone Farm

The Laguna Re-Leaf Day is our annual fundraising event to help support our efforts in securing bright future for the Laguna. You may be asking "were we not already at Irwin Creek during this Laguna Keepers season?" Yes we were, but we are doing yet ANOTHER restoration project on a new section of Irwin Creek! We just keep expanding the riparian corridor on this tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. It is absolutely amazing what happens in just a couple hours during the Laguna Re-Leaf tree planting event! Laguna Keepers are of course welcome and encouraged to sign up as volunteer fundraisers! Stay tuned for more news as we get closer.

## May 9 - Laguna Environmental Center

Can you get too much of a good thing? The answer is NO when you are talking about having the Laguna Keepers at the Laguna Environmental Center! The seasons change and so do the opportunities for fun stewardship work at the LEC. Plus, you can check in on how November's work is turning out. This Laguna Keepers will dovetail into another Open House at the LEC, so stay tuned to find out what fun presentation, public education event, and/or art exhibit is planned for the Open House after the workday.

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

**Questions?** Contact Brent Reed: 527-9277 x101  
or [brent@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:brent@lagunafoundation.org)

# Laguna Foundation Public Education Calendar

*We host several public education events per month for all ages. We hope you will join us and spread the word!*

*All events are held in Heron Hall at the Laguna Environmental Center unless otherwise noted.*

*900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401*

## **Laguna Environmental Center Open Houses**

Second Saturday of the Month, 10:00am-3:00pm

December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14, and so on . . .

Free, all ages, no RSVP required

*Learn about the natural and cultural history of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and historic Stone Farm by taking a guide-led tour or exploring a variety of hands-on activities. Wildlife-watch from the observation deck. Bring a picnic and take in the beautiful views. Enjoy the gorgeous art exhibit and our gift shop.*



## **Introduction to Waterfowl of Sonoma County and California: Identification and Habits of Our Wonderful Waterfowl. Presentation with Dave Barry**

Saturday, December 13, 3:00-4:30pm (after our Open House)

\$10 at the door. No RSVP necessary.

*Ducks, geese, wonderful waterfowl! We will learn basic identification and characteristics of waterfowl found in Sonoma County and along the Laguna de Santa Rosa at different times of year. We will talk about some of the challenges waterfowl face today, as well as success stories.*

## **Introduction to Waterfowl of Sonoma County and California: Identification and Habits of Our Wonderful Waterfowl. Natural History Walk with Dave Barry**

Sunday, December 14, 7:30am-11:00am

Location: several areas along the Laguna (details emailed upon registration)

\$25 (\$20 members and children 10-16). Pre-registration required.

*We will visit 2-3 sites along the Laguna not normally open to the public where waterfowl love to hang out. Learn to identify ducks by their behavior and vocalization, both in flight and while feeding, basic identification techniques and key characteristics of local waterfowl.*

## **Kayaking and Hiking the Laguna**

### **Presentation by our Executive Director, David Bannister**

Saturday, January 10, 3:00pm (after our Open House)

\$10 at the door. No RSVP necessary.

*Learn how to get around the Laguna by foot or by boat. In his slideshow presentation, David will share where the access points*

*are, where you can go from there, what those spots are like in various weather conditions and times of year, things to watch out for, and lots of images of what you can see.*

## **Wetlands: Ever Changing Waters, Land, and Life Opening Reception at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts**

Thursday January 15, 6:00-7:30pm

Location: Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 282 S. High Street, Sebastopol  
Free. No RSVP necessary.

*A collaboration with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. Visit [sebart.org](http://sebart.org) for more information.*

## **Native Art of the Laguna. Presentation with SRJC Professor Ben Benson**

Saturday January 31, 3:00-4:00pm

Location: Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 282 S. High Street, Sebastopol  
\$25 donation requested.

*A private Sponsors Reception will follow the lecture from 4:00-5:30pm. Cost of reception is \$125 and includes a ticket to the lecture. This event is a collaboration with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. Visit [sebart.org](http://sebart.org) for more information.*

## **From Earth to Art: Making Art Supplies from Natural Materials. Workshop with Ane Carla Rovetta**

Saturday, February 7, 10:00am-4:00pm

\$65 (\$60 members). Suitable for adults 18 and up.

Pre-registration required.

*Soils, soot, milk and sap—for thousands of years humans made nontoxic art from what was at hand. Ane Carla will share the historic recipes she has researched and used for the past 18 years. Students will make and try paints, chalks and charcoal, and take some home.*



## **Raptors in Love: Birds of Prey Courtship and Pair-Bonding Presentation with Lawrence Broderick**

Thursday February 12, 7:00-8:30pm

\$10 at the door. No RSVP necessary.

*Lawrence (Larry) Broderick will present amazing photos, up-to-date scientific information, and engaging stories from the field, focusing on the fascinating world of raptor courtship displays and behavior, breeding, partnership and pair-bonding, and territories.*

**We continually add new events. Please visit our website [www.lagunafoundation.org/laguna\\_walks\\_classes](http://www.lagunafoundation.org/laguna_walks_classes) or contact Anita Smith, Public Education Coordinator at (707) 527-9277, ext. 110, [anita@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:anita@lagunafoundation.org).**



Founded in 1989, the Laguna Foundation is a place-based organization focused on the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a Wetland of International Importance. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit with the mission to restore and conserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to inspire public appreciation of this Wetland of International Importance. The Foundation conducts educational programs, implements conservation science and restoration projects, 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.

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Fx. (707) 527-5075  
www.lagunafoundation.org



Find us on social media and stay connected with daily photos and announcements!

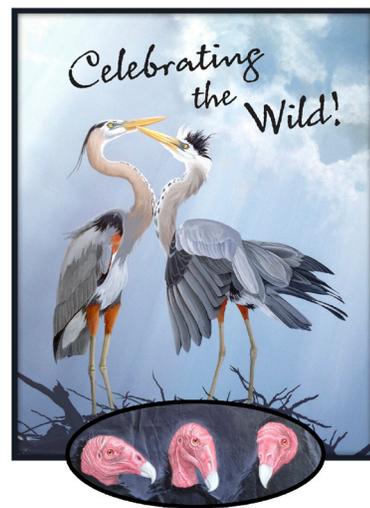
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"Splendor of Autumn" by Donna DeLaBriandais



## Come See Our Current Art Exhibit! Oil Paintings by Donna DeLaBriandais

Now through December 22, 2014



## Up Next! Original Illustrations & Paintings by Molly Eckler

Opening Reception Saturday, January 24, 3-5pm

Reward yourself by visiting this beautiful exhibit in Heron Hall at the LEC Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm. Because of the variety of uses of Heron Hall, please call ahead to be sure the Hall is open to the public. Another great time to view the art exhibit is during our FREE Monthly Open Houses, every 2nd Saturday, 10am-3pm.