



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Mission Statement

“To preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to inspire greater public understanding and appreciation for this magnificent natural area.”

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Julian Meisler, Restoration Program Director

Christina Sloop, Research Director



ERIN SHEFFIELD

Leadership Message

The Fiscal Year that ended in June of 2009 was deeply challenging. The economic uncertainties facing the nation and especially the State of California made raising funds for our programs and for the Laguna Learning Center difficult or impossible. In response, the organization was downsized significantly, shrinking to roughly half its previous size in terms of staff.

In addition to the financial challenges, we had management challenges to deal with as well. At the end of this fiscal year, the Board was in the midst of a search for a new Executive Director. Not happy with the candidates the search had found and knowing that David Bannister, then Board President possessed management and leadership skills that the Organization needed, the Board asked David to take the position. He agreed, and Jeff Allen, Board Vice-President was elevated to President.

As this is being written in early 2010 things are decidedly better on all fronts. The Foundation is on more solid financial ground than it has been in years and the leadership changes have brought stability and improved morale. Through all of these turbulent times we have continued to be the beneficiaries of support from our many supporters: members, partners, directors, staff and our great volunteers. We cannot thank you enough.



Jeff Allen
President, Board of Directors



David Bannister
Executive Director



A Sense of Place

Conserving, Restoring and Teaching About Our Unique Wetland Area

The Laguna Foundation's mission is defined by the Laguna ecosystem itself. The Laguna de Santa Rosa is a 14 mile long wetland complex stretching from Cotati to Forestville, where it empties into the Russian River. Draining a 254-square mile watershed that embraces the entire Santa Rosa Plain, the Laguna's wetlands and surrounding upland areas are home to a breathtaking range of wildlife.

Two hundred species of birds are found in the Laguna, including bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon and white pelican. Terrestrial and aquatic species include river otter, bobcat, coyote, mink, badger, and two federally listed endangered salmonid species, the coho salmon and steelhead trout. The Laguna provides an important stopover for thousands of birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway, and the Laguna watershed is one of the few places in the world where vernal pools, a form of seasonal wetland requiring particular soil types and climatic conditions, are found.

While the water quality and habitat of the Laguna have been significantly impaired over the past 150 years, it nonetheless remains an abundant wildlife area, and is prioritized by local, state and federal regulatory agencies for preservation and restoration.

The mission of the Foundation is to preserve, protect, restore, and educate the public about this magnificent natural resource. We achieve this mission through the generous support of all of our supporters and with the expert management of our three Departments: Education, Restoration, and Conservation Science.



GARY HUNDT

Education

Raising Public Awareness and Providing Environmental Education for Youth

Our Education Department works to raise public awareness and caring for the Laguna, and to inspire local children with scientific curiosity through direct experience of the Laguna's wonders.

Fiscal Year 2009 Achievements at a Glance:

- The Foundation's Learning Laguna elementary school education program provided a total of 1,300 hours of instruction in the classroom and field to 888 students from 37 classrooms from 19 schools.
- The Learning Laguna Program celebrated its 10th Year and in that time served 5,600 students in 18 school districts.
- Our Public Education Program took 250 people on walks exploring the Laguna ecosystem and made hundreds of contacts by tabling at public events such as Earth Day celebrations and other nature themed events.



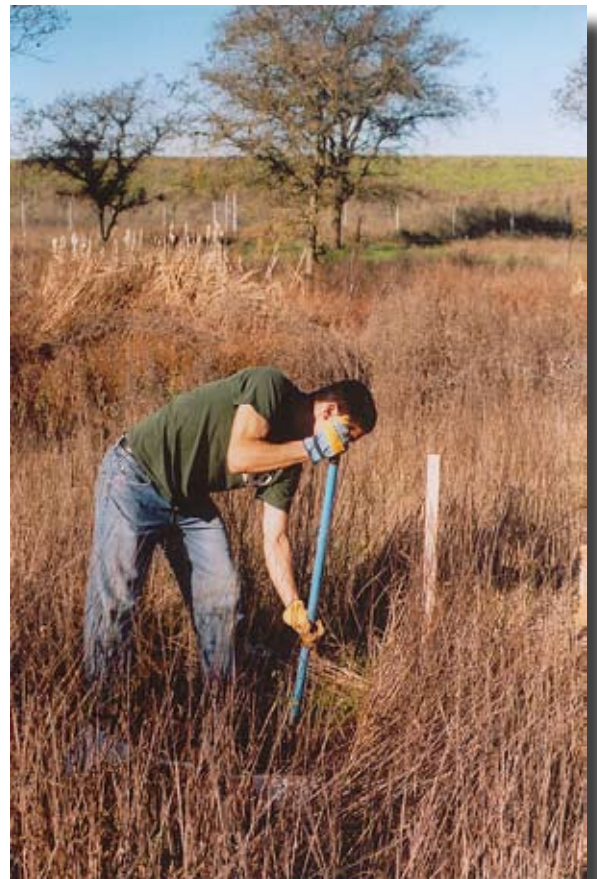
Restoration

Bringing Back the Laguna's Natural Abundance

Our Restoration Department works to reverse the poor land use decisions of the past and improve the numbers of wildlife as well as diversity. The Restoration Department plants trees and other native plants along streams to restore the riparian forest which is today a shadow of what it once was. We also remove non-native invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry, pepperweed and more.

Fiscal Year 2009 Achievements at a Glance:

- Added 1,000 trees/5+ acres to the northern end of the Middle Reach Restoration Project (the reach south of Occidental Rd.), bringing total up to 40 acres and 6,000 trees planted. Irrigation to all new plantings installed by interns and volunteers from Rebuilding Together. Maintenance performed over summer by Sonoma Youth Ecology Corps.
- Work began on Duer creek to prepare for 8-acre planting to begin in 2010. Reach of creek on west side of Kelly Farm Rd. planted by City of Santa Rosa using Laguna Keeper volunteers and students from Oak Grove Elementary.
- Design and installation of Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Laguna Water Treatment Plant. Funded by City of Santa Rosa. Plants installed by volunteers in fall of 2008; grand opening and more plants installed Earth Day 2009.
- Establishment of Stone Farm Nursery, collaborative project with City of Santa Rosa, to propagate Laguna genetic stock for use in restoration projects. Nursery tables refurbished and irrigation designed and installed by volunteers from Sunrise Rotary. Propagation and plant maintenance work performed largely by nursery volunteers.
- 325 Laguna Keeper volunteers contributed nearly 1,000 volunteer hours planting and maintaining 1,650 native trees and shrubs. Volunteer partner groups included Sonoma County Volunteer Center, Oak Grove Elementary School, Willowside Middle School, Agilent Technologies, Boy Scouts of America, Rotary Clubs and Rotary Interact of Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, Rebuilding Together, Center for Spiritual Living, Summerfield Waldorf School, and Americorps.



KEEGIN

Understanding and Protecting the Laguna Watershed

Our Conservation Science Department focuses on understanding the basic ecosystem functions and associated cycles and natural fluctuations, and the physical, chemical and biological parameters that define the Laguna watershed's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. It also aims to provide the needed biological information to guide local conservation planning to maximize the protection of habitats of high ecological value throughout the Laguna watershed.

Fiscal Year 2009 Achievements at a Glance:

- Presented two talks and one poster at the 2009 California Native Plant Society Conference in Sacramento. Two papers on vernal pool genetics and our citizen science program were accepted for publication in the Conference Proceedings to be published in 2010.
- Expanded the 'Adopt a Vernal Pool' vernal pool plant citizen science survey program gathering annual status data on endangered plant populations with 50 volunteer citizen scientists and Sonoma State University Environmental Studies students.
- Conducted a study on the efficacy of several management techniques to restore an endangered wetland plant population in the Laguna floodplain.
- Conducted a summer survey on the fish community of the lower Laguna de Santa Rosa.
- Conducted the third year of bird monitoring in the Laguna de Santa Rosa floodplain establishing a baseline for assessing potential impacts of planned Laguna trails to be developed in 2010, and the long-term success of the Middle Reach Riparian Restoration Project.
- Completed a study on the conservation genetics of an endangered vernal pool plant to inform conservation management and support its recovery.



Laguna Learning Center

A Place for Education and Celebration

In July of 2009 we moved our offices into the historic Civil War era farmhouse. Located within sight of the Laguna main channel as well as the Irwin Creek tributary, we are much better situated to the resource we exist to protect and restore.

Phase II of the project will be the Outdoor Learning Center which will include a historic farm garden and orchard, Native American uses of native plant demonstration garden, a farm pond with emergent wetland plants, and pathways with interpretive signage. Phase II should be completed during calendar year 2010 with a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy.

Phase III will be the Learning Center building. Having this facility will allow us to bring our Learning Laguna classes right on site where we can take advantage of all the location has to offer including our native plant nursery. Also, we will be able to offer adult education classes and hikes and our docent education classes on site.



March 2007



April 2009



Foundation Supporters

Gifts received between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, including gifts to our Capital Campaign

\$100 - \$249

Keith Abeles and Amy Levin
Howard Ballinger and Khatiba Gras
Edward and Susan Barich
Alan and Naomi Bayer
Rhonda Berney and Richard Shipp
Ken and Dee Blackman
3-D Eddy Born
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Siegel and Strain Architects
Clay and Anne Stephens
Craig and Betsy Stewart
Mark Swedlund and Deborah Dobish
Steve and Raini Vallarino

\$2500 - \$4999

Ken and Susan Churchill
Bart and Deidra Deamer
Summit State Bank

\$5000 - \$9999

Jim and Sandy Shelton

\$10000+

Lynn C. Fritz Family Philanthropic Fund

*Our sincere gratitude to all
our individual, foundation
and corporate donors.*

Financials

Statement of Financial Position: June 30, 2009

Assets	
Current assets:	
Cash and equivalents	\$106,913
Accounts receivable	71,890
Retainage receivable	22,775
Pledges receivable	4,050
Other current assets	<u>2,015</u>
Total current assets	207,643
Fixed assets:	
Land	337,200
Property, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>21,677</u>
Total fixed assets	<u>358,877</u>
Other assets:	
Construction in progress	881,294
Architectural design	263,623
Endowment fund	9,719
Total other assets	<u>1,154,636</u>
Total assets	<u>\$1,721,156</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$24,593
Accrued vacation	21,477
Construction loan	454,312
Payroll liabilities	18,316
Other payables	<u>25,258</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>543,956</u>
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	1,146,530
Temporarily restricted	20,670
Permanently restricted	<u>10,000</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,177,200</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$1,721,156</u>

Grants and Contracts

California Native Plant Society
California State Coastal Conservancy
California Water Resources Control Board
California Wildlife Conservation Board
City of Santa Rosa
City of Sebastopol
Community Foundation Sonoma County
Dean Witter Foundation
Fledgling Fund
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission
Sonoma County Water Agency
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and
Open Space District
Sonoma Land Trust
University of California, Davis
US Fish and Wildlife Service - Private
Stewardship Grants Program

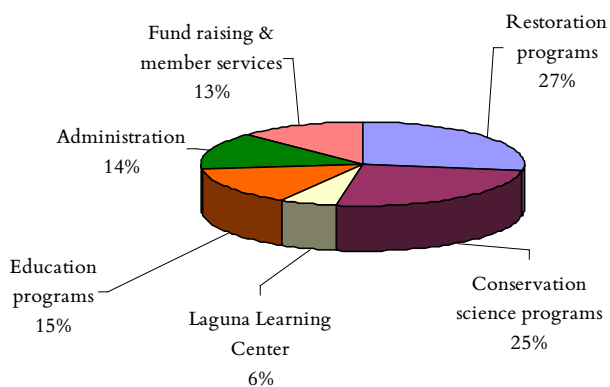
The condensed financial statements presented here reflect the Laguna Foundation's complete set of financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2009 which have been audited by Victoria Mwangi, CPA.

Financials

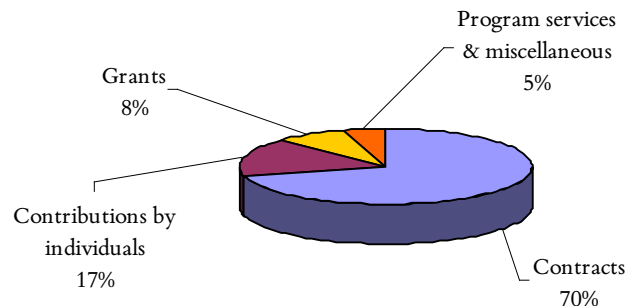
Statement of Activities: June 30, 2009

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues and Support:				
Contracts	\$501,311			\$501,311
Contributions by individuals	105,091	\$12,311		117,402
Foundation & corporate grants	56,960			56,960
Program income	31,993			31,993
Other income	832			832
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>7,311</u>	<u>-7,311</u>		<u>-----</u>
Total revenues and support	703,498	5,000	--	708,498
Expenses:				
Program services				
Restoration	245,922			245,922
Conservation science	216,252			216,252
Education	130,383			130,383
Laguna Learning Center	51,738			<u>51,738</u>
Total program services	644,295	--	--	<u>644,295</u>
Supporting services				
Management and general	126,561			<u>126,561</u>
Fundraising and member services	111,134			<u>111,134</u>
Total supporting services	237,695	--	--	<u>237,695</u>
Total expenses	881,990	--	--	881,990
Change in net assets	-178,492	5,000	--	-173,492
Net assets, beginning of period	<u>1,325,022</u>	<u>15,670</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>1,350,692</u>
Net assets, end of period	<u>\$1,146,530</u>	<u>\$20,670</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$1,177,200</u>

EXPENSES



REVENUE





It's where the water goes.

Every drop of rain which falls inside the green line flows to the Laguna, then into the Russian River to the Pacific Ocean.



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www.lagunafoundation.org
Tax ID: 94-3155180