

## Join Us for Tree-A-Thon 2012!

Are you ready for some fun? Here's your chance to make a difference! Gather your friends/family/colleagues and join us for our third annual Tree-A-Thon. 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, January 21st, 2012 to plant trees! It is a great way not only to garner much-needed support for the Foundation but also to enjoy a fun time outdoors with a terrific group of people and to benefit the community for generations to come.

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 back at Sebastopol's Meadowlark Field, near the site of the first Tree-A-Thon. The Open Space District's Matching Grant Program funds this planting project, and all the volunteer labor comprises part of the match. We anticipate more than 100 participants – all ages and abilities welcome! Together, we will plant 500+ oak trees and other native plants, and will celebrate afterwards with a pizza and awards party. Don't miss it!

Support the Tree-A-Thon by choosing a method that 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.

- **Become a Business Partner:**

**Sponsor the event** at one of several different levels. Sponsorship comes with many benefits; see sidebar for details.

**Participate in the event** by encouraging employees to fundraise as a team. Consider matching the donations your employees raise.

- **Donate to the Tree-A-Thon:**

Send in a general donation today in the enclosed remit envelope or sponsor one of our volunteer fundraisers.

**Awards!** Top Adult Fundraiser will get a brand new tablet computer, the **Kindle FIRE!** Top Kid Fundraiser will get a pair of Wild Bird Center **Waterproof Binoculars!** ALL fundraisers who raise more than \$100 will get a Laguna Foundation embroidered ball cap!

**Ready to sign up?** Visit [www.firstgiving.com/lagunafoundation](http://www.firstgiving.com/lagunafoundation) to sign up either as an individual or as a team. Or for more information, contact Nancy Hauptmann: 527-9277x109 or [nancy@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:nancy@lagunafoundation.org)



Volunteer Rose Zoia and her daughters at the 2010 Tree-A-Thon.  
Photo by Erin Sheffield.

### Business Sponsorship Benefits

#### Elderberry (\$250)

- Listing on our Sponsors' page on the Foundation's website with link to your company's website
- Subscription to *Meanderings*, the Foundation's newsletter
- Recognition in *Meanderings* and our monthly E-News
- Your business name on signs at the Tree-A-Thon
- Your logo (with active link) on our Facebook page
- 2 Tickets to our annual Garden Art Gala on September 9, 2012

#### Hawthorne (\$500)

All of the Elderberry benefits, plus 4 tickets total to our Gala

#### Box Elder (\$1,000)

All of the Elderberry benefits, plus 6 tickets total to our Gala

#### Oregon Ash (\$2,500)

All of the Elderberry benefits, plus 12 tickets total to our Gala

#### Valley Oak (\$5,000)

All of the Elderberry benefits, plus 15 tickets total to our Gala

For more information, contact David Bannister: (707) 527-9277 x103 or [david@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:david@lagunafoundation.org). Details can also be found online: [www.lagunafoundation.org/donate\\_sponsorships.htm](http://www.lagunafoundation.org/donate_sponsorships.htm)

## Executive Director Report - *David Bannister*

The mission of the Laguna Foundation is to protect, restore and educate the public about the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a Wetland of International Importance. We are constantly working to accomplish this mission through our three program areas: Restoration, Environmental Education and Conservation Science. Please read the articles on the following pages from the Program Managers to learn more about the various projects and activities that they are working hard on to achieve those goals. Funding for those activities comes largely from grants that the Program Managers pursue to achieve those objectives. Unfortunately, in these uncertain economic times many of the state and local agencies and private foundations that we traditionally applied to for program funding are cutting back.

In response to this financial reality, we have significantly downsized our staff. We currently employ just five full-time and one part time person, plus a seasonal field tech. We achieve a LOT with such a small staff thanks to all of you, our generous supporters! All of our Programs benefit from hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and we can't thank them enough. Additionally, we increasingly depend on financial support from the community. That is why you will see articles on other pages kicking off our Third Annual Tree-A-Thon Fundraiser, encouraging future Planned Giving support through the Laguna Legacy Society and thanking our recent Garden Art Gala supporters. We pursue all these fundraising efforts so that we can continue to accomplish the mission that brought us all to the Laguna Foundation in the first place.

THANK YOU, on behalf of all of us here at the Foundation but also on behalf of the thousands of students we educate and the "voiceless" plants and animals of the Laguna for all the ways that you help support our mission!

### Board of Directors

Guy Smith, *President*  
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David Bannister, *Executive Director*  
Hattie Brown, *Conservation Science Program Manager*  
Christine Fontaine, *Director of Education Programs*  
John Guardino, *Restoration Program Manager*  
Maggie Hart, *Administrative Director*  
Nancy Hauptmann, *Membership Assistant*  
Brent Reed, *Restoration Assistant*



Guy introducing his live auction package at the Gala.  
Photo by Greg Zirbel.

## Guy Smith, Board President

Guy has lived along the Laguna de Santa Rosa's western shoreline for nearly all of his life; he was only two years of age when his parent's relocated from southern California to Sebastopol's fertile farmland. Guy is a man of many talents. He is a pilot and has flown many rare WWII aircraft. His videography skills from the air are often requested. He is past President of the Pacific Coast Air Museum and flies over Sonoma County as often as he can. He is also an antique car collector and has contributed to a number of rare automotive books, as well as automotive related projects for the History Channel and feature films. A long time Board member of Sonoma County's Historical Society, Guy has been instrumental in preserving much of our county's historical treasures. Guy owns and operates a heavy equipment business servicing many large landowners' agricultural operations.

Guy fully understands the need for seeding environmental enthusiasm in youth as a key to our sustainable future; he assisted for many years with Willowside Middle School's Outdoor Education program. Guy is married with three adult children and has four grandchildren and another on the way. His entire family has a love for the Laguna de Santa Rosa and they spend many hours hiking the shoreline, taking particular note of the many seasonal changes. Guy is very proud of his involvement with the Laguna Foundation and is pleased to have played an active role in the reconstruction of the farmhouse that is now our office, and the Laguna Learning Center construction project.

Thanks Guy!

# Learning Laguna Fun!

Christine Fontaine, Director of Education Programs

You know the Laguna Foundation has an environmental education program for 2nd-4th grade students and you probably know that *Learning Laguna* has been continually working with classes all over the watershed and supporting teachers by helping them meet their curriculum standards since 1999. But, do you know what the program is really all about? Here is an overview of just a couple of the dynamic activities that docents facilitate in the classroom and during field trips.

**Migration Game.** Played on a custom designed and illustrated activity map, each student is assigned the role of a bird species. The students then try to meet the nutritional requirements of their bird by acquiring enough of the appropriate food to survive the winter or to migrate, depending on species. Environmental situations such as flooding and drought are presented by the docent, and students predict the effects of these events on the food supply. We are introducing the concept of migration, why it occurs and the importance of food availability to migrating birds and discuss the importance of wetlands as food and resting sites.

**Wetland Model.** This activity focuses on a physical model of a healthy wetland abutting a water body, and an adjacent area without wetland vegetation. Students observe differences between the biotic and abiotic features of the two examples and learn what makes wetlands significant by comparing the qualities of common, known objects such as sponges, coffee filters, strainers and nests to the water-filtration function of a wetland. Students then spray water on the model to simulate a rain storm. They quickly observe that wetland vegetation slows storm water flow and prevents sediment from entering the water body, while a land mass without wetland vegetation will erode to introduce a plume of sediment in its receiving waters during a storm.

During the field trip portion of the *Learning Laguna* program, students' inquisitiveness is encouraged and fostered through their explorations and investigations with the natural world. Structured educational activities are provided to students as well. Examples include:

**Aquatic Center.** Students use magnifiers to investigate the aquatic life in water collected at the field trip site. Through discussion and questions posed by docents, students are guided to think about how aquatic animals are adapted to live in that environment how changes to the environment such as pollution, flooding, and sediment deposition affect life in the water and how those impacts would affect the larger food web.



Docent Adriene Malley demonstrating how to make a Tule Bittern during a field trip.  
Photo by Dana Vallarino.

**Tule Bittern.** Expanding on the classroom activity Wetland Model, students are challenged to hypothesize about how the Laguna supported thousands of generations of Southern Pomo people before grocery stores, before cars, before modern construction. They discuss Laguna wetland animals and plants and the myriad ways these resources also provided what people needed to survive: food, and shelter. The wetland plant tule is highlighted for its strength, ability to float and qualities that make it useful for baskets and shelter. Students are taught to weave with pre-harvested and re-soaked tule to make the likeness of a wetland bird, the American Bittern. This is a traditional Southern Pomo toy that parents wove for children. Here students make a toy for themselves that children have played with for thousands of years.

Doesn't all that sound like fun? Perhaps 2012 is your year to join us for this rewarding experience.

**Docent training is just around the corner so make plans now to participate in the 10-week course from March 12 - May 21 on Mondays.** We need enthusiastic and curious nature lovers to become Laguna docents so we can keep up with the teacher demand for *Learning Laguna*. Visit the website [www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org), or contact Christine Fontaine with questions: 527-9277x102 or [christine@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:christine@lagunafoundation.org).

# Laguna Legacy Society Welcomes Two New Members

We want the Laguna to be a healthy part of our community, forever. Please join us in providing lasting support for the work of the Laguna Foundation in its mission to safeguard the Laguna by remembering the Laguna Foundation in your will or estate plan. Through this simple and effective method, you can contribute to the Laguna legacy and really make a difference. Your gift can be directed for general or specific purposes or as part of the Laguna Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation Sonoma County. In this way, the Laguna Legacy Fund will grow to provide enduring support for the future.

If you'll let us know that you have remembered the Laguna Foundation with a gift via your will or estate plan, we will provide a dignified attribution, invite you to become an honored member of the Laguna Legacy Society and ask you to join us for an exclusive Legacy Society event. When you step forward, others are encouraged to do

the same. Many thanks to Sharon Hawthorne and Chris Engel, our newest Legacy Society members.

*"I get a good feeling every time I cross the Laguna... knowing that I will be making a contribution to preserving this sacred place."*  
–Sharon Hawthorne

*"Leave a true legacy for your children and future generations. One sure way is to include the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation in your estate plans. I invite you to join me."*  
–Chris Engel

To help determine the type of gift that is right for you, please contact David Bannister: 527-9277x103 or david@lagunafoundation.org.

## In Development - A New Field Guide to Vernal Pools of the SR Plain!

Hattie Brown, Conservation Science Program Manager

In partnership with the California Native Plant Society we are developing a *Field Guide to the Vernal Pools of the Santa Rosa Plain*. This new volume will serve as a complement to our *Field Guide to the Laguna - A Manual for Identifying Common Plants and Animals* published in 2009. The new field guide should be ready in time for vernal pool monitoring this spring (fingers crossed!). It will be a handy tool for any new or experienced Citizen Scientists identifying native and non-native species in our unique seasonal wetlands.

This new publication will highlight our three endangered vernal pool plant species: Sebastopol meadowfoam, Sonoma sunshine, and Burke's goldfields as well as other common and rare vernal pool sights.

We are also working with Cal-Flora to use smart-phone technology that will allow paper-phobic and tech-savvy volunteers to use phones instead of printed field guides to identify plants. Whether you like to botanize using a printed page or hand-held screen, now is the time to get involved with the *Adopt a Vernal Pool* Citizen Science effort.

Donate towards the field guide! The California Native Plant Society Milo Baker Chapter offered a challenge grant of \$1,000 to produce the new field guide. Your contributions will help us meet this goal and get the field guide printed and published. Contact Hattie Brown: 527-9277x105 of [hattie@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:hattie@lagunafoundation.org) for more information on the field guide, donations, or how to become a Citizen Scientist.

### Here's a sneak preview of the new field guide:



**Trifolium variegatum** Native Wetland  
White tipped clover  
Fabaceae: Legume family

Trifolium variegatum is easily identified and aptly named by its large (1.0" in diameter) flower which is pink with white tips.



**Limnanthes douglasii** Native Wetland  
Common meadow foam  
Limnanthaceae - Meadowfoam family

Flowers of *L. douglasii* are white on the Santa Rosa Plain, though described as white with yellow centers elsewhere. Compared to its endangered relative (*L. vinculans*), *L. douglasii* flowers slightly earlier, grows slightly more upland, and has a more dissected leaf.

**Parentucelliaviscosa** Introduced Wetland and Upland  
Yellow parentucellia  
Scrophulariaceae: Figwort family

*Parentucellia* is found both in vernal pool bottoms and surrounding upland. Flowers are yellow. Stems and leaves are sticky and coated in tiny hairs. Do not confuse with *Triphasaria versicolor* which is not sticky.



**Briza maxima** Introduced Upland  
Rattlesnake grass  
Poaceae: Grass family

One of the easiest grasses to identify, *Briza maxima* fruits look and sound like rattlesnake rattles.



# The “New Look” Restoration Department

*John Guardino, Restoration Program Manager*

Fall is the season of change and transitions. Students get new classmates in school or leave home for college. Shorter days and cooler temperatures bring rich fall foliage. Summer sandals are traded in for muck boots. Good-bye, summer barbecues. Hello, apple-picking and pumpkin carving. Who’s ready for fall?



Just as the seasons are not static, neither are people. We are often at our best when we’re open to new ideas, flexible with life’s unexpected changes and willing to explore. As many of you already know, I succeeded Catherine Cumberland as Restoration Program Manager in August. In the spirit of personal growth and change, Catherine left the Foundation to pursue a graduate degree at Colorado State. Change and the pursuit of higher education have continued to shape the Restoration Department. Our veteran Restoration Assistant Jesse Heiny is also departing so his wife can begin a graduate program in Pasadena. In the brief time we’ve worked together I’ve quickly come to appreciate Catherine and Jesse’s incredibly hard work and genuine dedication to the Foundation’s mission.

The expected anxiety that typically accompanies rapid change was quickly replaced with relief as we quickly rebuilt our team in an equally short amount of time. I’m delighted to introduce our new Restoration Assistant, Brent Reed. Brent was a long-time employee of Circuit Rider Productions and has extensive experience in environmental restoration, botany and field supervision. He also has considerable experience engaging volunteers, students and community groups in restoration projects. We’re very fortunate to have Brent as part of our team. I hope you’ll have a chance to meet him soon.

Looking forward, I can’t tell you how excited I am to contribute to all of the great works the Foundation has accomplished over the years. I look forward to getting to know and work with all of the incredible people who make up this great organization, especially our volunteers. It certainly seems that I’ve joined the Foundation at an exciting and dynamic time in its history. So much is happening with the construction of the Laguna Learning Center and the companion native plant landscape as well as many other exciting endeavors. We also currently have several important restoration projects in-process and others scheduled to begin in early 2012. Laguna Foundation Members and the community at large will have many opportunities to get directly involved in protecting and restoring the Laguna. One of the best ways to jump in is by attending a Laguna Keepers event (calendar on the right). All ages and skill levels are welcome, so please join us and become a part of the Laguna’s future!

## LAGUNA KEEPERS EVENT CALENDAR

All workdates are from 9 AM to noon.  
Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to get dirty.  
Snacks provided, but bring gloves, water, and friends!  
Only heavy rain cancels.

**November 19**

### **Meadowlark Field**

Continuing the expansion of the riparian forest at this huge field, where we’ll also establish oak savanna habitat on the drier east side. Meet at the Chevron station just east of the Laguna bridge crossing at 5640 Hwy 12.

**December 3**

### **Cotati Creek Critters**

It’s always a pleasure to celebrate community spirit with our friends in Cotati. They’ve got a new project site this year — come take a look! Meet at Ladybug Lot on Lakewood Avenue in Cotati. Detailed directions on the Cotati Creek Critter’s website: [www.cotaticreekcritters.info](http://www.cotaticreekcritters.info).

**January 21**

### **Rain date: January 28**

### **Tree-A-Thon**

This is a fundraising event that we sure hope Laguna Keepers will support by signing up as volunteer fundraisers! Contact [Nancy@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:Nancy@lagunafoundation.org) to sign up, or visit our Tree-A-Thon web page. If you don’t want to fundraise, but want to participate in the event as a team leader, please email [John@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:John@lagunafoundation.org).

**February 11**

### **Laguna Uplands**

Our annual Valentine’s Day visit to give the Uplands some TLC. A new task this year: wood chips on the path. We love wood chips! Meet at the end of Palm Avenue in Sebastopol, just south of Palm Drive Hospital.

**Questions?** Contact John Guardino: 527-9277x108 or [john@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:john@lagunafoundation.org). The full Laguna Keepers event calendar is available online at [www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org).

**To receive reminder emails** about upcoming workdays, please email [Nancy@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:Nancy@lagunafoundation.org) to be placed on our electronic mailing list.

## 8th Annual Garden Art Gala Sets Fundraising Record!

The Foundation's 8th annual garden party fundraiser took place at the beautiful Vine Hill House on September 11th and it was our most successful yet. The wonderful Gala Committee— Barnee Alexander, Yvonne Giambrone-Martin, Joany Goodwin, Ramona Haller, Sandy Mays, Franny Minervini-Zick, Jan O'Connell (co-owner of our host Vine Hill House), Mary Reed, Barbara Shepherd, and Ellen Swenson- worked the entire year to plan and improve the event. Guests enjoyed lots of good food choices, plus fabulous local wines. The silent auction featured outdoor "garden" art, and a great selection of special wines including some that only a couple weeks later were awarded Gold Medals and "Best of Class" at the Harvest Fair! The live auction featured a variety of exciting items, from kayaking in the Laguna to a week in a private vacation home in Mexico, and let's not forget the five case "instant wine cellar" from Trione Winery.

The Foundation is profoundly grateful to the many, many people that made this Gala one of our best: generous sponsors, the many artists who donated their work for auction, donors of the exciting live auction items, exquisite wines enjoyed onsite and auctioned, and the volunteers who made the Gala possible. Thanks also to all of the event attendees who bought tickets and purchased auction items; the success of the event depends on all of these supporters!

Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9th, 2012 for the 9th version of this great event. The committee is already talking about ways to make it even better! If you are an artist and would like to donate locally made garden art, please contact Maggie Hart: 527-9277x107 or [maggie@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:maggie@lagunafoundation.org).



Volunteer wine pourers, Connie Ayers and Christine Woodward, at the Gala. Photo by Greg Zirbel.

### Thank You Event Sponsors

#### **Bald Eagle \$10,000**

Lynn and Anisya Fritz, Lynmar Estate  
Vic and Karen Trione

#### **Golden Eagle \$5,000**

Vine Hill House, Private event site of  
O'Connell Vineyards & Winery

#### **Otter \$2,500**

Codding Foundation  
Zainer Rinehart Clarke, CPA Firm

#### **Bobcat \$1,000**

Carle, Mackie, Power & Ross LLP  
Gallo Family Vineyards  
Michael and Barbara Shepherd  
Anne and Clay Stephens  
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ZIX Cookies

#### **Heron \$500**

AMS Entertainment - Santa Rosa  
Bill and Gail Bettinelli  
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Sonoma County Gazette  
Sonoma Land Trust  
Sonoma West Times & News  
Summerfield Cinemas

#### **Egret \$250**

Food and Wine Trails  
Harmony Farm Supply and Nursery  
Hopmonk Tavern  
Jan Randall & Bruce MacEvoy  
Pat and Paul Schoch  
Peggy Tourje and Jane Krensky  
Sprint Copy Center  
Solar Works  
Stone Horse Farm  
Tree House Hollow Community School & Play Garden  
Raini and Steve Vallarino

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

## New Members

Barbara Arbunich, Ronald and Monika Balsamo, Helen and Robert Berg, Jennifer and Richard Burt, Rob and Gwynn Catterton, Ceylan Crow, Marsha Vas Dupre and Jack Dupre, Maggie and Bill Hart, Donna and John Jones, Linda Lebovics, Betsy Livingstone, Suzanne Llamado, Stephanie and Roger Nacouzi, Larry Nagel, Harry and Dee Richardson, Bill Ronchelli, Judith Rousseau, Ken and Elizabeth Sawyer, Larry and Barbara Sawyer, Paula and David Shatkin, Kate Sullivan, Joe and Arlene Ulmer, Joann Whitbeck.

## Membership Renewals

Theodora Amaroli, Martha and J.M. Baeli, Michelle Beko, D.V.M., Lynn and Rod Berglund, Jim Bray and Anne O'Brien, Louise Brewer, Judy Brinkerhoff, Steve and Robin Brown, Phillip and Gale Brownell, Sandra and George Bush, Chuck and Deanne Cadman, Kim and Bill Cordell, Bart and Ditty Deamer, John and Patricia Dervin, Robin Dorn, Molly Eckler and Doug Emery, Peter and Deeanne Edwards, Steve and Patricia Ehrmann, Tom and Mary Feige, Roxanna Fiamma, Angela Ford, Victoria Fullerton, Joe and Susan Gorin, Natalie Griffith, Marjorie and Ross Grossman, Linda and David Hanes, Lisa Harris and Timothy Beutel, Ann and Bill Hartman, Paula and Peter Henze, Jeremy Joan Hewes, Greg and Kathi Jacobs, Mia James, Nancy and Jon James, Nell Kneibler, Bill and Beth Krumbein, Lynne March, Michael Dean Marek, Jude Mariah, Linda Marietta, Sandy and Jeff Mays, Herb McGrew, William and Winifred Medin, Claudia Cleaver, Dianne and John Namkung, Suzanne and Gary Nelson, Donna Norrell, Randy Piazza, Tom Pringle, Steve and Linnie Rabinowitsh, Larry Robinson, Natalie Rogers, Robert Ryan, Ruth Sanford, Frank Schueler, Joan Schwan and Geoffrey Skinner, Patricia and Bryan Sesser, Shirley Silver, Susan Spencer, Shirley Spina, Anne and Clay Stephens, Stevenson Supply, Heidi Stewart and John Weinstein, Denice Stokes, Arline Thomas, Karen True-Samson, Alton and Anita Vanderford, Jan Vannatta, Bill and Robyn Watson, Arlene and Bob Weis, Gene and Mary Wilkinson.

## Gala Donors

A La Heart Catering, Don Ajello, Barnee and Gary Alexander, Susan Amalia, Warren Arnold, Atascadero Creek Winery, Connie Ayers, Balletto Vineyards, Joel Bennett, Don Bishop, Tony and Phyllis Black, Jeff Bolt, 3-D Eddy Born, Ruth Anne Bowdon, Christine Boyd, Yasko Cadby, Denise Cadman, California Flora Nursery, Churchill Cellars, Susan Churchill, Marsha Connell, Cottage Gardens Of Petaluma, Cultivate: Kitchen, Home & Garden, Dehlinger Winery, DeLoach Vineyards, Gerry Dodson, Leticia Duenas and Petr Lenda, Dutton-Goldfield Winery, Elliott Family Cellars, Emerisa Gardens, Empire Nursery, Chris Engel and Hugh Helm, Eric Kent Wine Cellars, French Garden Restaurant and Bistro Bar, Frizelle Enos Feed, Mary Fuller, Gallo of Sonoma, Garden Art, Yvonne Giambrone-Martin, Joany Goodwin, Grab n' Grow Soil Products, Graton Ridge Cellars, Micca Gray, Barbara Greensweig, Green Greenwald, Glen Halverson, Hanna Winery, John Hart, Hartford Family Winery, Cynthia Hipkiss, Hook & Ladder Winery, Hopmonk Tavern, Iron Horse Vineyards, Ellen Fishburn

and Paul Jaffe, Patty James, Joseph Swan Vineyards, Michael Kelly, Kim Kabot Landscape Specialist, Korbel Champagne Cellars, Kosta Browne Wines, Mary Laures, Joyce Libeu, Sandy Maresca, Martin Ray Winery, Mermaids Spa & Seaweed Bath Shop, Moonlight Brewing Company, Marge Mount, Cheryl Costantini and Mikio Matsumoto, Dan and Jan O'Connell, Oliver Ranch Foundation, Linda Ortiz, Edie Otis, Owl Ridge Wines, Pond and Garden Nursery, Aaron Poovey, Radio Coteau, Red Car Wine Company, Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery, REI Santa Rosa, Ridge Vineyards, Robert Rue Vineyard & Winery, Rose & Thorn, Sandole Wines, Betsy and Rob Sanville, Sarah's Forestville Kitchen, Carla Sarvis, Scherrer Winery, Janet Seaforth, Mike and Barbara Shepherd, Silk Moon Gallery, Guy and Michelle Smith, Amy Smith, Dianne Smith and Benjamin Foley Benson, Paula Smith, Susan Sohl, Sonoma Compost Company, Sonoma County Harvest Fair, Sonomarin Landscape Materials, Spring Hill Cheese Co., Allis Teegarden, Teldeschi Winery, Rick Theis and CJ Johnson, Traditional Medicinals, Vic and Karen Trione, Dana Vallarino, Valley Ford Cheese Company, Vine Hill Inn Bed & Breakfast, Jerry and Karen Wagner, Amanda Ward, Weirauch Creamery, Wild Rose Garden Co., Wine Creek LLC, Kathleen, John Wright, Greg Zirbel, ZMOR Winery.

## In-Kind Donors

David and Maripat Bannister, Frank and Jackie Dono, Hugh Helm, Moonlight Brewing Company, Pacific Market, Whole Foods Market, Wild Bird Center of Santa Rosa.

## Fund-A-Need

Andrea Steiner and David Draper, Carroll and John Hirsch, Janis and Warren Watkins, Kim Kabot, Mike and Barbara Shepherd, Sue and Peter Witter, Tom and Mary Reed, Vic and Karen Trione.

## Cotati Creek Critters

Rotary Club Of Rancho Cotati, Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy.

## Other

Wendy Born, Marcia and Ralph Johnson.

### Wish List

Compact binoculars (7 or 8 power x 24-32 mm objective lens) for students to use during *Learning Laguna* field trips  
Gift certificates in any amount to [www.AcornNaturalists.com](http://www.AcornNaturalists.com) to buy *Learning Laguna* teaching supplies  
Please contact Christine Fontaine: 527-9277x102 or [christine@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:christine@lagunafoundation.org).



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  
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Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
(707) 527-9277  
[www.lagunafoundation.org](http://www.lagunafoundation.org)

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We regularly post announcements and photos to our Facebook page.

## Construction of Laguna Learning Center Progress Update

*Ken Churchill, Construction Project Manager and Board Member*

It all started with a dilapidated farmhouse that had been abandoned for 34 years and six acres of land that was overgrown and used as a dumping ground for construction debris from road construction. But now it is about to become the fulfillment of a dream and a wonderful new home for the Laguna Foundation.

### The Laguna Learning Center will include:

- The beautifully restored Civil War era farmhouse, which is City of Santa Rosa Cultural Heritage Landmark #1 and now our Administrative offices.
- A 3,000 square foot barn-style Interpretative Building that will house displays and provide a place for meetings, lectures and community events.
- Four acres planted with the Laguna's native plants and trees and landscape features that will include interpretative signs, a pond with bridge, informational kiosk, bird watching area, picnic area, discovery garden, and a native plant nursery.

It will be a place where people from all over the country can come to learn about the Laguna and the important ecological services wetlands provide to all of us. The Center will provide environmental education to all ages, with citizen science workshops, docent led tours of the site and the Laguna, native plant classes, bird watching, aquatic life exploration and other activities. The onsite native plant nursery will offer opportunities to learn about and experience restoration science.



New red doors for the Laguna Learning Center.  
Photo by Maggie Hart.

### Would you like to help?

Once the construction is completed, we will need funds to operate and maintain the Center and purchase furnishings, displays, benches and picnic tables. If you can help with a donation, we would be happy to recognize you or a loved one with a recognition plaque on the item. For more information, or a private tour of the facility, please contact David Bannister: 527-9277 x103 or [david@lagunafoundation.org](mailto:david@lagunafoundation.org)