

Guest Article: Bird Releases in the Laguna

Mary Ellen Rayner, Executive Director, The Bird Rescue Center



Volunteers carefully move the birds from vehicles to the release site along the Laguna. Photo: Tom Reynolds.

Every year, The Bird Rescue Center (BRC) and International Bird Rescue (IBR) partner to rescue and rehabilitate fledgling herons and egrets from the West 9th Street rookery in Santa Rosa. For many years, this colony has picked an unfortunate nesting site in a residential neighborhood, and when the youngsters fall to the ground some inevitably hit the roadway or sidewalk.

The birds are initially rescued by members of the public and BRC volunteers and transported to IBR in Fairfield for evaluation and care. They are determined ready for release when their medical issues (bone or bill fractures, bruising, emaciation, etc.) are resolved, and they are flying, perching and foraging capably (at approximately seven weeks of age).

This year BRC and IBR established a plan to release all herons and egrets rescued from the 9th Street rookery to sites in or near the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Appropriate release sites were evaluated and approved by BRC, IBR, and Denise Cadman, Environmental Specialist for the City of Santa Rosa, with the support of the Madrone Audubon Society and the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation.

Birds ready for release were delivered from IBR back to The Bird Rescue Center in Santa Rosa and released early the next morning, giving them the best opportunity to become familiar with their new



Above: A young Cattle Egret takes a look at his reflection before taking flight shortly after being released back into the wild. Photo: Sarah Silver

surroundings and establish themselves in the local population of herons and egrets. The inaugural release of three black-crowned night herons took place on June 1st. Over the course of the next 12 weeks, a total of 133 herons and egrets were successfully rehabilitated and returned to the wild at this location.

We are grateful to everyone involved in the rescue, rehabilitation, transportation and release of these beautiful water birds. It truly "takes a village."



2013 Releases

- 67 Black-Crowned Night Herons
- 55 Snowy Egrets
- 5 Great Egrets
- 3 Green Herons
- 2 Cattle Egret

A Total of 132 Birds Released!

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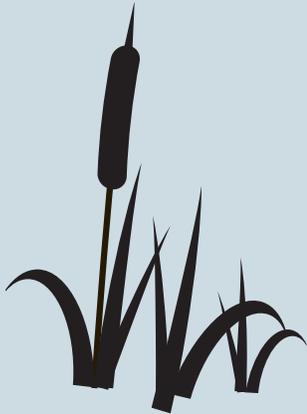
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Executive Director Report

As fall arrives, Laguna lovers can't help but look forward to winter rains and the changes they bring to the Laguna ecosystem. Rainfall fills the floodplain creating open water and the invasive aquatic species Ludwigia (*Ludwigia hexapetala*) that clogs the Laguna is covered by winter rains and dies back. These two major events provide open water habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors along with river otter, mink, and muskrat.

The observation deck here at the Laguna Environmental Center provides excellent viewing opportunities during these events. Irwin Creek on our north boundary floods regularly and turns into an instant seasonal wetland attracting a variety of bird species. We regularly see common and hooded mergansers, several species of heron and egret, and shorebirds all showing up right on cue when the flooding occurs.

Winter also opens up opportunities for us to get out and see the Laguna and its denizens. The same open water that attracts the birds also allows kayakers a unique experience on the Laguna. If you prefer exploring by foot, the new trail between Hwy. 12 and Occidental Road is an excellent place to enjoy the winter scenery. A segment of that trail may flood during major rainfall events. When this occurs, use the Occidental Road trail head. From that side you can reach an observation deck that offers a spectacular view over the floodplain. I'll be doing my annual talk and slideshow about kayaking and hiking the Laguna on Saturday, December 14th at 3:00pm at the Laguna Environmental Center for those interested in learning more about how to navigate the floodplain, and what you might see out in your boat!

Some of you may remember our first Flash Fundraiser Kayak Trip on the Laguna we hosted last year. Good News! I plan on continuing the tradition again this year! When I see a perfect window of opportunity, I will send out an email to all our friends of the Laguna. The first 15 people to respond and agree to make a donation of \$100 will go on a guided kayak trip with me. We provide the kayaks and access to a private put-in spot. Last year I sent out the email on Dec. 23 during the height of the storm for a trip the next day - Christmas Eve! The trip filled in only a few hours and turned out to be a spectacular day! We didn't know at the time that would be the last significant rainfall of the season. Here's hoping for a rainy winter! If you are interested in the Flash Fundraising Kayak Trips, make sure we have your email address. You won't want to miss out on this opportunity!

For the Laguna,

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

David Bannister, *Executive Director*

Rent Heron Hall For Your Next Special Event!

Renting Great Blue Heron Hall is a wonderful way to support the Laguna Foundation! Your rental fee goes directly to supporting our mission to protect and restore the Laguna de Santa Rosa and to educate the public about this amazing wetland of International Importance.

- New building in a peaceful, pastoral setting
- Historic location overlooking the natural beauty of the Laguna de Santa Rosa
- Flexible space with a wide range of table and seating configurations
- Outdoor patio and grounds landscaped with native plants
- Wildlife observation opportunities
- State-of-the-art AV equipment
- Caterer-friendly kitchen
- Convenient location with ample, free parking

For more information, see www.lagunafoundation.org, or contact Anita Smith at (707) 527-9277 x110 or anita@lagunafoundation.org.

Photo: Julie Mikos



Photo: Gretchen Gause

Laguna Re-Leaf Day: Our Annual Tree-A-Thon Event

Dr. Dianne Smith, Board of Directors



After only four years, the Laguna Foundation's successful spring Tree-a-Thon event (now known as The Laguna Re-Leaf Day) has become a signature environmental activity in Sonoma County. Now, the **Laguna Re-Leaf Day** Tree-a-Thon is poised for expanded success and participation.

After planting over 500 trees in a single day in Spring 2013 and raising \$100,000 in much needed donations over the past four years, we are inspired to intensify this great planting adventure, as

well as the support it provides for our mission. To this end Laguna Foundation Members, volunteers, and fans are invited to come and brainstorm with Board Members Raini Sugg, Dianne Smith, Bob Rubin, and Denise Cadman. This fall we will begin a conversation and build a Task Force that can achieve our expanding goals.

Interested in joining in? Have ideas, talent, or a little time to share?

As we envision it, our Re-Leaf Task Force would form this fall to plan and shape activities through to the event in April. Meeting frequency and tasks will be determined by the Task Force members. Objectives for the group will include planning new ways to increase donor participation, developing prizes or recognition for top fundraisers, event marketing, and many other structural and inspirational elements.

As you know, repairing and restoring our natural world requires so much more than recycling cans or hopping on a bicycle. Come join the conversation and **help us make the Laguna Re-Leaf Day become Sonoma County's signature environmental event.** If you would like to participate or check us out, please send us a note ASAP and tell us about yourself, your talents, and the time you have to share to: releaf@lagunafoundation.org.

Coming of Age at the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

Rachel Mansfield-Howlett, Board of Directors President

We have truly come of age because of generous donors and volunteers like you. Through years of sincere effort, the Foundation is now recognized as an important leader in the restoration and conservation of the magnificent Laguna de Santa Rosa and for the excellence of our educational opportunities in Sonoma County's expansive world renowned wetlands.

As we look forward to the new year, there is no better time to chart a course from *Coming of Age* to the building of a *Golden Age* for both the Laguna and its loyal steward, the Foundation. Your generous end of year donation will help us renew our efforts to restore, conserve and educate the population in the years ahead.

Restoration Work

The Laguna Foundation is responsible for planting and fostering more than 13,000 native plants and trees along waterways and uplands. Your donation today will help purchase additional native trees and plants, expand staff hours for planting days, supervise the conservation of already planted areas, and purchase essential small tools and equipment.

Public Education

Recent expansion in Adult Education programs at the new (and wonderful) Great Blue Heron Hall has included lectures, classes, films, workshops, family events, and monthly open house days. The

growth of adult education opportunities has brought substantially higher numbers of visitors to our new Laguna Environmental Center on Sanford Road. Your generous support can increase our adult educational activities as well as add additional depth and breadth to future events.

Children's Education and Learning Laguna Program

Since its inception, attendance in our acclaimed Learning Laguna classroom and field experience for elementary age children has exceeded 11,000 elementary students. We are proud of this and we hope you are too. The program has become so popular that we do not have enough trained docents to handle all of the students who want to participate and we have had to turn away eager teachers and their students. A generous donation from you will assist us in training additional docents to expand this popular program to handle more students.

2015 Marks the Laguna Foundation's 25th Anniversary!

The Foundation is now bustling with events, visitors, and restoration work on a daily basis. Thanks to the support of our forward-looking donors and volunteers, we will have much to celebrate. If you share our dream of building a new *Golden Age* for the Laguna and Foundation, please accept our sincere invitation to help this come true. Begin with a generous end of year donation today.

Restoration Update

Brent Reed, Restoration Assistant

Southern Laguna Restoration Project



It is always exciting to find monarch caterpillars on newly planted milkweed!

Many of you may have participated in last April's Tree-A-Thon fundraiser planting trees and shrubs at the Southern Laguna Restoration Project located on the main Laguna de Santa Rosa Channel behind the main Santa Rosa Wastewater Treatment Facility. We are excited to announce that these plantings are THRIVING! The site looks amazing and we are seeing lots of wildlife while we are out doing our maintenance work there. We planted narrow leaf milkweed in a few places and monarch butterflies have already

found them. It was fun to check on the monarch caterpillars and monitor their growth as we weeded and checked irrigation lines. The Tree-A-Thon planting was just one small part of the much larger restoration project that will stretch all the way between Stony Point and Llano Roads along the Laguna. This winter, we begin the second and final phase of planting on the south side of the Laguna towards Stony Point Road. This project is a joint venture of the Laguna Foundation, Sonoma County Water Agency, and Proposition 84 funding as part of the River Parkways initiative. A multi-use trail and interpretive signs will be part of this project in the next couple of years allowing visitors to access this lesser known area of the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Irwin Creek North

Another project that we are going to be breaking ground on this winter is a native riparian expansion on the north side of Irwin Creek located off the east side of Sanford Road. This planting is on the City of Santa Rosa's Stone Farm, part of the property that the Laguna Environmental Center calls home. We are really excited to have a project literally in our

own backyard! This project will add to other riparian restoration along Irwin Creek off the south side of Sanford Road, and become a larger, more integrated habitat area. Planting in this area will be part of our Laguna Re-Leaf Day this spring. Stay tuned for more information on the Laguna Re-Leaf Day and how you can help with the Irwin Creek restoration project!

LEC Learning Landscape Update

The native plant landscaping around the Laguna Environmental Center is beginning to really take off! Laguna Keepers, community volunteers, and interns from Sonoma State and SRJC have all put their collective sweat into planting and maintaining this landscape with a minimum of time from the LF staff. Tony McGuigan from SporeLore.com and Stuart Schroeder from Stone Horse Farm (our neighbor on the farm), have pooled their equipment and knowledge the last couple of weeks to move some large pieces of salvaged, fallen wood and build habitat structures in various places in the landscape. This is an all volunteer effort on their part with the help of SSU and SRJC volunteer interns. We cannot thank them enough!



Brent Reed, Kendra Smith, Stuart Schroeder, and Tony McGuigan worked together to bring large pieces of fallen wood to the Children's Discovery Garden.

The Children's Discovery Garden is the next big piece of the landscape that we will be installing. This a natural play environment that will feature logs and rocks for climbing on, a willow tunnel to crawl in, and a dry stream bed to investigate. This will be a safe and natural playground for children to make their own discoveries. Stay tuned for more.



Nic Clare and his mother, D'Anna Clare.

It was with great shock and sadness that we learned in mid-October of our dear friend and colleague, Nic Clare's death from a swimming accident in Taiwan.

In Memory of Nicholas James Clare

The Foundation's heartfelt sympathies go out to Nic's family and friends. He would have been 25 years old this December.

Nic began at the Foundation in 2012 as an intern in the restoration department and later joined the staff as a Restoration Technician. This past August, he left the U.S. on an exciting new adventure to Taiwan to teach English to young children. Nic loved working at the Laguna Foundation and often shared stories with his family. When his mom asked why he was giving up such a great job that he enjoyed so much, he said "I know mom, but I want to see the world too!"

Nic grew up surrounded by rice fields and wetlands in the California central valley

town of Colusa. He was athletic and loved participating in many sports. He graduated from Sonoma State in 2011 with a degree in Environmental Science with a focus in Biology. His bright eyes, generous smile, keen sense of humor, and abundant kindness were thoroughly enjoyed by his colleagues, many friends, and dear family. Nic was a hard worker, dedicated and dependable, and an integral part of the restoration team. He cared about the Laguna Foundation and believed in its mission, often spending time outside of work hours volunteering on projects. Nic's memory lives on in our hearts, and in all the blood, sweat, tears and laughter that he poured into the Laguna.

Spotlight: Laguna Guides

Christine Fontaine, Director of Education Programs

Since the Laguna Environmental Center opened in June of 2012, Laguna Guides have been hosting monthly open house events, leading tours of the site, teaching about the Laguna through conversations and hands-on activities, and inviting visitors to get involved. Guides are also the friendly faces you see at the public education classes and art receptions, helping to host the events while ensuring that all the participant needs are being met. They have also tabled and led walks on the Laguna Trail. Plus, with the growing popularity of the LEC, every month we receive requests for special tours of the grounds. It is the Guides we turn to for welcoming and teaching community group members. In the last 10 months alone the Guides have had contact with over 1400

people! Foundation membership has been increasing, Heron Hall rentals are on the rise, and Docent and Guide recruitment is getting a big boost! Their work certainly is important to the mission of the Laguna Foundation!

Congratulations to the Laguna Guides class of 2013: Helen Baum, Jennifer Chadwick, Ginny Doyle, Barbara Fabrizio, Adrienne Gause, Keith Hall, Sharon Hawthorne, Don Jacobs, Eve Lynch, Patricia McGinty, Kenneth Melia, Alexis Orr, John Speck and Kathleen Wolfe. On June 27th they finished up their 9-session training and got right to work at the LEC. The next Guides training will be offered in the autumn of 2014.

Docent Training is Right Around the Corner!

Are you retired or do you have a flexible work schedule and just happen to be looking for a meaningful, rewarding, and enjoyable activity to add to your life? Do you care about the Laguna and enjoy sharing nature with children? If you answered yes, Learning Laguna docent training may be just the ticket! Now is the time to make plans to join the 2014 course.

Christine would be delighted to talk with you to figure out if being a Learning Laguna docent is right for you. Visit the website or give her a call at 527-9277x102. Then, send in your application, plan to attend orientation on **Thursday, February 20 from 6:00-7:30pm in Heron Hall**, and mark your calendar for a dynamic learning experience each Monday starting March 10th through May 12th. You are guaranteed to make new friends, stretch, grow, and have lots of fun. Join us to make a difference for Sonoma County school children and contribute to a healthy future for the Laguna.



Illustration by a Biella Elementary 3rd grader

"I liked looking through the telescopes because you could see everything closer and that inspires me."

- 4th Grader, Sonoma Country Day School



Left and below illustrations by Learning Laguna 3rd grader



10th Annual Garden Art Gala Sets New Records!

David Bannister, Executive Director

The Foundation's 10th Annual Gala was once again hosted at the beautiful Vine Hill House in Sebastopol on September 8th. We welcomed more guests than ever before whose generous donations reached a new record, up 20% from last year!



The outstanding 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, Maggie Hart, Anita Smith and Nancy Hauptmann worked the entire year to plan and improve the event. New this year was an olive and olive product tasting station which was a nice addition to our local heirloom tomato tasting, cheeses donated by fabulous local artisan cheese companies, Pizza Politana's fresh pizzas, and more. We also had a lot of new wineries pouring and donating products to the silent auction, and once again the silent auction featured outdoor "garden" and "wearable" art.

The live auction saw spirited bidding especially for new packages like the whale watching from the air and the villa on a lagoon on the Mayan Riviera! The Foundation is profoundly grateful to the 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!

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, September 14th, 2014 for the 11th Anniversary of this great event. The committee is already talking about ways to make it even better!



All Gala Photos: Owen Scott Shirwo

Thank You to All of Our 2013 Gala Sponsors!

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Warren and Janis Watkins

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

New Member Donations since the Last Meanderings

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Membership Renewal Donations since the Last Meanderings

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Volunteer/Membership Appreciation BBQ Donations

Christine Cobaugh, Djubaya, Moonlight Brewing Company, Oliver's Market at Stony Point Rd., Whole Foods Market in Sebastopol.

Other Donations

Agilent Technologies, Theodora Amaroli, Laurel Anderson, Lenore and Al Carrion, Terry and Joanne Dale, Gay Deady, Keith Howell, Michelle Keip, Bryce McCannell, PG&E Corporation Foundation, Joan Przekop, Donald Read, Real Community Properties, Inc., Sebastopol World Friends, Jacqueline Senter and John Gnam, Sonoma Mountain Village, Deborah Thayer, Rick Theis and Carolyn Johnson, Jan

Vannatta, Vintage Chevrolet Club Of America, Redwood Empire Chapter, Zainer Rinehart Clarke, CPA.

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In Memory of Lillian Cianfichi

Florence Capps Hedges, Donna Cianfichi, Frank Corcoran, Don and Jan Le May, Patty Newland.

Gala Participating Artists

Don Ajello, Barnee Alexander, Gary Alexander, Susan Amalia, Warren Arnold, Gerald Arrington, Abby Bard, Joel Bennett, Don Bishop, Tony Black, Margaret Bolt, 3-D Eddy, Christine Boyd, Alan Brickman, Susan Churchill, Cheryl Costantini, Rene Dayan-Whitehead, Tamsen Donner, Leti Duenas, Mary Fuller, Jane Garibaldi, Yvonne Giambone-Martin, Christine Gonzalves, Micca Gray, Mark and Ben Grismer, Cynthia Hipkiss, Garth Gordon Hokanson, George Houghton, Mary Laues, Petr Lenda, Joyce Libeu, Nancy Lorenz, Sandra Maresca, Mickey Marshall, Claire Fenlon May, Tom McQuaid, Daniel Moore, Marge Mount, Mary Neuer Lee, Sheila O'Brien, Pat O'Connell, Edie Otis, Connie Peabody, Duncan and Mary Reed, Carla Sarvis, Linda Sauter, Janet Seaforth, Amy Smith, Paula Smith and Keith Howell, Dana Vallarino, Greg Zirbel.

Gala Participating Wineries

Acorn Winery, Alexander Valley Vineyards, Atascadero Creek Winery, Balletto Vineyards, Benovia Winery, Carol Shelton Wines, Churchill Cellars, Cult Winery, Dehlinger Winery, DeLoach Vineyards, Dutcher Crossing Winery, Dutton-Goldfield Winery, E&J Gallo Winery, Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery, Fritz Underground Winery, Graton Ridge Cellars, Hanna Winery, Hartford Family Winery, Hook & Ladder Winery, J Rickards Winery, Joseph Swan Winery, Kosta Browne Wines, La Follette Wines, Littorai Wines, Longboard Vineyards, Lynmar Estate, Martin Ray Winery, Merry Edwards Wines, Mill Creek Winery, O'Connell Vineyards, Owl Ridge Wines, Papapietro-Perry, Peterson Winery, Preston Winery, Radio Coteau, Ramey Wine Cellars, Ridge Vineyards, Robert Rue Vineyard & Winery, Sandole Wines, Scherrer Winery, Seghesio Winery, Silver Oak Winery, Star Winery, Taft Street Winery, Trione Vineyards, Truett Hurst Winery, VML Winery, Watkins Family Winery, White Oak Vineyards and Winery, Willowbrook Cellars, Woodenhead Winery.

Gala Participating Breweries

Moonlight Brewing

Gala In-Kind Donors

Bleating Heart Cheese, Hopmonk Tavern, Don Landis, Comapny, Nicasio Valley Cheese Company, Press Democrat, Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery, Santa Rosa Golf & Country Club, Owen Scott Shirwo, Photographer, Sonoma County Gazette, Sonoma West Times and News, Spring Hill Cheese Co., Sprint Copy Center, Taproot Farm, Valley Ford Cheese Company, Vine Hill House, Weirauch Creamery, ZIX Cookies.

Gala Bus Fund Donors

Tom and Julie Atwood, Brendan and Tish Brown, Connie Coddling, Nancy and James Dempsey, Frank and Jackie Dono, Mark Edelstein and Susan Baldi, Donald Floriani, Curt and Vicki Groninga, Carroll and John Hirsch, Lynne and Michael Lyle, Sandy and Jeff Mays, Tom and Mary Reed, Mike and Barbara Shepherd, Eleanor Silberman and Kitty Ritz, Anne and Clay Stephens, Heidi Stewart and John Weinstein, Ellen Swenson, Raini and Steve Vallarino.

Other Gala Donors

Sheila and Harold Einhorn, Patricia Newland and Lisa Peters, Tom and Janine Origer, Diana and Daniel Rich, Marlene and Martin Stein.



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 - 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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www.lagunafoundation.org

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TOURNAMENT

Save the Date! January 18, 2014

\$125 Entry Fee includes lunch

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Guaranteed \$2,000 First Place Prize!

Questions? Email David@lagunafoundation.org

Wish List

A volunteer carpenter/handyperson to help out around the Laguna Environmental Center.
Please contact Anita Smith: 527-9277x110 or anita@lagunafoundation.org.

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

Public Education Calendar

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 Winter offerings. Please join us and spread the word!

Laguna Environmental Center Monthly Open Houses

Hands-on activities, tours, art exhibits and gift shop
Second Saturday of the Month, 10:00am-3:00pm
November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, and so on . . .
Location: Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Free (donations appreciated)

Autumn Amble on Lower Stone Farm with LF Docents

Saturday, November 9, 11:00am-2:00pm
Location: Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center
FREE. Pre-registration required: Call (707) 527-9277 x110

Elephant Seals - The Consummate Divers

with Bob Rubin, Marine Biologist and LF Board Member
Saturday, November 9, 3:00-4:30pm (in conjunction with our monthly Open House)
Location: Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center
\$10 at the door, no RSVP necessary

Kayaking and Hiking the Laguna Presentation with David Bannister, LF Executive Director

Saturday, December 14, 3:00-4:30pm (in conjunction with our monthly Open House)
Location: Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center
\$10 at the door, no RSVP necessary

Once Upon a Wetland: Animal Tales from the Marsh Storytelling evening with Ane Carla Rovetta

Saturday February 8, 6:30-8:00pm
Location: Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center
\$10 adults, \$5 children (suitable for 5 years and older)
Pre-registration required at www.lagunafoundation.org

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

Saturday March 22, 10:00am-4:00pm
Location: Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center
\$65 (\$55 Laguna Foundation members)
Pre-registration required at www.lagunafoundation.org

Upcoming:

Wood Block Printing for Holiday Cards, All About Amphibians, Mid-Week Movie Nights, and much more!! Check our regularly-updated Public Education Calendar at lagunafoundation.org. Look under Outings & Events> Laguna Walks, Talks & Classes. For more information, contact Anita Smith: 527-9277 x110 or anita@lagunafoundation.org

Many thanks to our student interns, **Dawn Johnston** from SRJC and **Ruby Acosta** from SSU, for their fantastic help with communications and outreach for our education and restoration departments! Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Sonoma Mountain Village for being a sponsor of our Public Education Program.

For information on how you can help bring more of these fun and informative events to our community through our Sponsorship Program, please contact Anita Smith at 527-9277 x110 or anita@lagunafoundation.org.

Heron Hall Art Shows

Great Blue and Beyond

Paintings large and small by Marge Mount through January 3

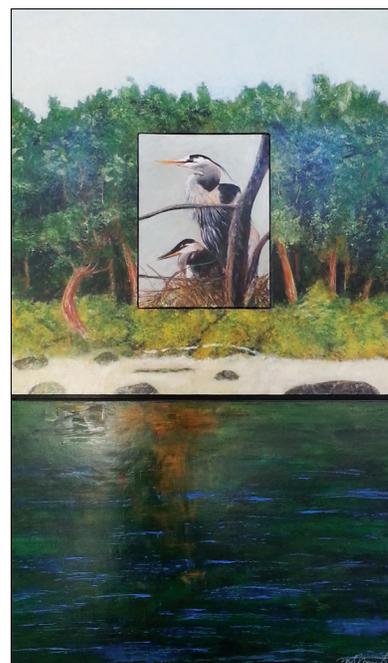
Visit the new art show by accomplished painter and friend of the Laguna, Marge Mount. Reward yourself by visiting this beautiful and inspiring exhibit of Marge's paintings, in Heron Hall during our second Saturday monthly Open Houses and Monday through Thursday, 9am-5pm.

Because of the variety of hall uses, please call ahead to ensure viewing availability during the week, 707-527-9277, x107.

Proceeds from art sales benefit the Laguna Foundation.

Location: Heron Hall, Laguna Environmental Center,
900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Up Next! Once Upon a Wetland, soil and pastel paintings by Ane Carla Rovetta
January 7 – March 24, 2014



"Heron Watch" by Marge Mount. Oil on linen on board.

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.



Laguna Keeper Cal Strobel helps plant trees at the Laguna Environmental Center.

November 2, Native Plant Propagation

Help us sew some seeds for the future! We will be potting up acorns and other seeds that we have collected from various sites in the Laguna. Keeping the genetic lines of our specially adapted native species is essential for successful restoration projects. There will be other opportunities to help out in the native plant demonstration landscape as well. Meet at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa.

December 14, Irwin Creek

Help us kick off this brand new section of an ongoing restoration project by planting native riparian vegetation along Irwin Creek. Meet at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa.

January 11, Laguna Environmental Center

Join us for an exciting day of installing various native plants and checking in on all the other plants that are flourishing in the landscape. Meet at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa.

February 1, Laguna Uplands Preserve

It's time for our annual trip to the Laguna Uplands Preserve. Check out the spectacular views of the Laguna and help us with some continued restoration of this beautiful rare habitat area. Meet at the end of Palm Avenue in Sebastopol just south of the Palm Drive Hospital.

March 1, Joint Wetlands 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 4300 Llano Rd. and follow signs to the Administration building parking area.

April 5, Laguna Re-Leaf Day

The Laguna Re-Leaf Day (formerly known as the Tree-a-Thon) is our annual fundraising 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 Laguna Re-Leaf day web page or contact Nancy at nancy@lagunafoundation.org or 707-527-9277 x109.

May 3, 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. Enter the gravel drive on the southwest side of Santa Rosa Creek on Willowside Rd. (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 resumes in September.

Questions? Contact Brent Reed: 527-9277 x101 or brent@lagunafoundation.org



Laguna Keepers are essential to our restoration efforts! Here is a group of LK volunteers planting native plants and trees at Gravenstein Creek.