

Copeland Creek Collaboration with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

By Wendy Trowbridge, Director of Restoration and Conservation Science Programs

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria are excited to announce the kick off of a new collaboration on Copeland Creek. As part of their commitment to preserve the environment for future generations and support the local community, the Tribe has awarded the Laguna Foundation a \$289,000 grant for conservation and environmental education in the Copeland Creek watershed. This is a terrific opportunity to collaborate with the Tribe to achieve our common goal of restoration in the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed while working to restore one of the Laguna's critical sub watersheds.

Copeland Creek is an important tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. It is one of only three steelhead bearing tributaries and a valuable wildlife corridor connecting Sonoma Mountain to the Laguna and western Sonoma County. It is also a critical greenway through Rohnert Park connecting the City and Sonoma State University to the larger Copeland Creek and Laguna watersheds. The Copeland Creek trail is an important pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare that connects with the multiuse SMART trail and will eventually connect to Crane Creek Regional Park.

Despite the potential, there are many challenges facing Copeland Creek, including serious water quality problems, such as temperature, nutrients and sediment. The erosive soils in the headwaters lead to a massive accumulation of sediment downstream which the Sonoma

County Water Agency removes annually to prevent flooding. We will focus on stabilizing upstream sediment sources in Fairfield Osborn Preserve to keep Copeland Creek clear while also reducing the amount of fine sediment exported to the Laguna. Impervious surfaces in the City further exacerbate the flooding threat. The riparian corridor is degraded by invasive species, trash, and illegal camping. Individual stakeholders have done small isolated projects to address these issues, but the lack of coordination and an overall shared vision has limited the success.

This generous funding will allow the Laguna Foundation to collaborate with the Tribe, and other Copeland Creek

Continued on page 7: Copeland Creek



Sediment basin at Snyder Lane where the Sonoma County Water Agency removes coarse grained sediment to prevent flooding in Rohnert Park.



Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*).
Photo ©Michael Leahy

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Message from the Board

By Carolyn (CJ) Johnson, President, Board of Directors

Everything changes but change itself. Everything flows and nothing remains the same... You cannot step twice into the same river, for other waters and yet others go flowing ever on.

~ Heraclitus

We see change in the natural world daily, seasonally, and yearly. Seeds germinate, flowers form, seeds develop, birds mate, broods hatch, fledglings fly, rains come, water rises, wildlife migrate, water recedes, seeds germinate...

Inside the Laguna Foundation change is afoot as well. We are losing our passionate leader of four years. Kevin is dutifully responding to sudden changes in health of a family member in his home state of Virginia. Such challenges often result in reflection and Kevin finds himself wanting to return to his joy of teaching and habitat restoration. As Executive Director, Kevin led us through our first Strategic Plan, built public and private partnership throughout the watershed, and helped us expand our vernal pool program, furthering our efforts as the first non-profit organization to support a program dedicated to Sonoma County vernal pool conservation on both public and private lands. Kevin explains, "I don't think Laguna Foundation has ever had a stronger staff, board, and volunteer community, and the future is as bright as it's ever been for us. Please continue to make the Laguna Foundation part of your community and support its important work." We extend a big THANK YOU to Kevin for his years of dedication and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

An extensive search for a new Executive Director has been in progress since May. We expect to introduce our new leader to our Laguna community this Fall.



Photo by Ellie DeMarse.

Nature's Corner: Look What's Cookin' In Our Shade House!

By Sarah Gordon
Conservation Science Program Manager

The Laguna Foundation nursery is a temporary home to many different native plants species before they are transplanted to their permanent homes at restoration sites throughout the watershed. Currently we have a very special resident in the nursery, Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vinculans*). This extremely rare annual plant is restricted to vernal pool wetlands in Sonoma County, with only a single known occurrence from outside, in nearby Napa County. The Laguna Foundation is growing Sebastopol meadowfoam plants for "seed bulking" to enhance and restore a diminished population of meadowfoam that occurs within Sonoma County Regional Parks Balletto Fields wetlands, adjacent to the Laguna main channel. Last year we collected 476 seeds, with the hope of growing them in our nursery and bulking them into 4,000 to 8,000 seeds. Collecting and growing an endangered species requires a special permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife – so these precious plants have reached celebrity status in our nursery, with many of our staff and community checking in on them regularly to watch their progress. After our first seed harvest (2,000 seeds), it appears we will end up with 50,000 seeds or more - surpassing even our highest hopes!

Summer 2019 Walks, Talks, and Classes!

The Laguna Community Education Program brings regional specialists and experts to Heron Hall and watershed trails to spark our enthusiasm, caring, creativity, and curious mind. We invite you to attend an upcoming art workshop, nature talk, or trail excursion to broaden your appreciation for our home environment and for the joy of the experience.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pre-registration is required for all events unless otherwise noted.

Events take place, or begin at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Vamos Afuera: Aventura en la Laguna

Programa con Landpaths

Thursday, August 15, 5:30-8:30pm. FREE

Conjuring the Laguna through Abstraction

Acrylic Painting Techniques Workshop with Angela Zocco Sturr

Saturday, August 17, 10:00am-3:00pm. \$68

The State of Water: Understanding California's Most Precious Resource

Presentation and Book-signing by Obi Kaufmann

Thursday, August 29, 6:30-8:30pm. \$14

Coiled Willow Basket

Workshop with Charlie Kennard

Sunday, August 31, 9:30am-3:30pm. \$100

Painting Oak Galls and Branches in Gouache

Workshop with Lucy Martin

Saturday, September 7, 10:00am-3:00pm. \$95

Fresh Pressed Flowers

Workshop with Jan Lochner

Sunday, September 15, 1:00-4:00pm. \$35

Fall Impressions: A Natural Dye and Eco Print Workshop

With Shelly Spriggs

Saturday, September 21, 9:00am-2:00pm. \$20

Natural Remedies

Workshop with Amy Charnay, MS, CNS

Sunday, September 22, 10:00am-1:00pm. \$65

Wild Lives of Wildlife

A Wildlife Camera Workshop with Shelly Spriggs

Saturday, September 28, 9:00am-12:30pm. \$35

A River's Last Chance

Documentary Film Screening

Thursday, October 10, 6:30-8:30pm. \$14

CNPS Milo Baker Native Plant Sale and Laguna Foundation Open House

Saturday, October 12, 10:00am-3:00pm. FREE

Plant sale ends at 2:00pm.

Birding Across the Watershed

Special Event with Pepperwood Preserve

Saturday, October 19, 8:30am-3:30pm. \$50

HERON HALL ART GALLERY



CURRENT EXHIBIT:

"Into The Fold" Oil and Acrylic Paintings by Angela Zocco Sturr

On display through August 27, 2019

Into the Fold, refers to how Angela's experience of training and becoming a Laguna docent has broadened her awareness of both the natural and cultural richness that is the Laguna de Santa Rosa. This art show is a celebration of the work that the outdoor education program called *Learning Laguna* is about. Visit her online at: angela-sturr.squarespace.com

UPCOMING EXHIBIT:

"A Watershed Event" Pastels and Oil Paintings by James Reynolds

September 3 – December 20, 2019

Opening reception: Saturday, September 14, 2019, 3:00–5:00pm

The Heron Hall Art Gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9am – 5pm. Because of the various uses of the hall, **please call in advance** to ensure the exhibit is available for public viewing of the art, 707-527-9277, ext. 107. The Heron Hall Art Gallery exhibits multiple shows per year of nature-themed art. Art sales support conservation and education in the Laguna watershed.

A Glorious and Sunny Wings, Wine & Wetlands

By Bev Scotland, Development Director

June 9th was sunny and hot but it made Wings, Wine & Wetlands even more glorious. With the surrounding native plant garden in full bloom, the grounds were bursting with color. This year's event celebrated the Laguna Foundation's 30th anniversary and focused on our wide-ranging conservation and education programs throughout the watershed.

The highlight of the event was Gaye LeBaron's presentation of the Watershed Hero Award to Karen and Vic Trione. This award recognizes extraordinary commitment to the protection and conservation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed for the people, wildlife, and communities that depend on it. As only Gaye could, she gave an inspiring tribute to Vic and Karen's contributions to our community, interwoven with the history and importance of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. We are grateful for Vic and Karen's generous and continuous support of the Laguna Foundation's restoration and education programs.

After being greeted with Korbel champagne, our guests got up close and personal with interactive displays, including a watershed model and discovery boxes used by our Education Program to connect people to nature. Our Restoration and Conservation Science program highlighted a comprehensive vernal pool display and rare plants from our native nursery. Audubon Canyon Ranch – Living with Lions Project also joined us to inform our guests about their work studying our

region's mountain lions and the importance of living side-by-side with these wild neighbors.

Attendees also enjoyed delectable treats from Denise Cadman's farmstand, Hog Island Oysters, and a bevy of local wines, brews, and cheese. Guests participated in a raffle to win a 5-day stay in Maui generously donated by long-time friends of the Laguna, Frank and Jackie Dono.

This year's Fund-A-Need Paddle Raise benefitted the Laguna Foundation's Camp Tule Scholarship Fund, which seeks to give access to our nature based day camp to all children. Camp Tule also provides jobs to teens to enhance their leadership skills, while building the next generation of Laguna stewards. Dr. Morgan Marchbanks, mother of three successful young adults and foster mom to three returning campers, gave a moving speech on behalf of all children in today's society, including her own, and the benefits of connecting children to their environment through exploration and creativity. Her speech was compelling and heartfelt. One generous donor was so moved by Dr. Marchbanks' observations, she created a scholarship fund which will allow six children in foster care to attend camp this summer at no cost.

Our sincere gratitude to our many event sponsors, exhibitors, and volunteers who made this event successful, engaging, and fun for all. On behalf of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Laguna Foundation, *thank you!*



Thank You!

TO OUR GENEROUS 2019 WINGS, WINE & WETLANDS SPONSORS

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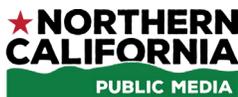
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FOOD & BEVERAGE



Tools for Life

By Christine Fontaine, Director of Education Programs



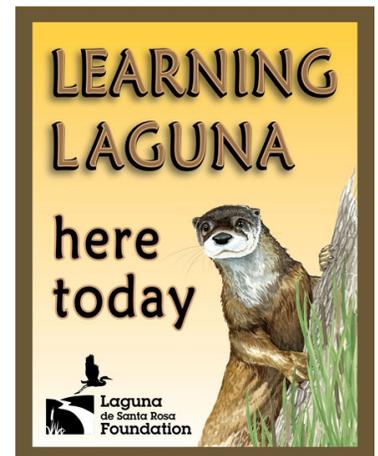
Throughout the year, our Community Education programs encourage children and adults of all ages to connect with nature.

The first program of the Laguna Foundation, Learning Laguna, was developed and entirely run by community volunteers for its first seven years and is still taught by dedicated docents. As the program celebrates 20 years and more than 20,000 children, its goals and practices endure: To educate and inspire community volunteers as caring Laguna ambassadors now, and to provide meaningful, close-to-home learning experiences for 2nd-4th graders so the children will know their Laguna watershed today, and become tomorrow's stewards. This practice not only demonstrates the value of volunteering; it shows the children that their community cares about their education and the environment. The learning experiences are engaging and real, not virtual. The need for Learning Laguna endures. The program encourages children's natural love of nature,

teaches concepts that build a scaffold for understanding natural processes, and provides tools for meaning-making so the children can move into their curiosity... Tools for Life!

Our Community Education program also provides intellectual and experiential tools that foster learning, growth, and creativity. Join us to watch birds feed nestlings or the full moon rise over the watershed. Sign-up and pick up a paint brush to learn watercolor techniques or how to artistically express your love of the viewscape. Come experience a new place in the watershed or learn more about one of your own special spots. With more than 50 programs each year, we provide access to experts, access to new experiences, references, perspectives, and tools that help build understanding and relationships with our shared home environment, and ultimately, with yourself.

All this tool sharing and life enrichment is only possible with the dedication of a vibrant community of Laguna enthusiasts. Whether you have supported Laguna education endeavors with your participation, volunteer heart and energy, philanthropy, or all of the above, do know that your efforts make a difference today for the lives of community members and for the Laguna's future.



GET INVOLVED! VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Native Plant Garden Volunteer Days

First Friday of the month, 9am – Noon

Upcoming Dates: (Break July – August) September 6, October 4, 2019

Location: Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA

Laguna Stewardship Days

Once a month on a Saturday, 9am – Noon

Upcoming Dates: (Break June – August) September 21, October 19, 2019

Details and location announced 1-2 weeks in advance of the workday.

All ages and abilities welcome. No experience necessary. Tools and snacks provided. RSVP requested for groups of 5 or more. Only heavy rain cancels.

Please save the date for our **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on Friday, September 27, 5-8pm at Heron Hall.** This is our main event to honor ALL of the Laguna Foundation's volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to our organization. We could not accomplish our mission without their generous heart!



The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Tribal Council (L-R): Gene Buvelot (Treasurer), Lawrence Stafford, Melissa Elgin (Secretary), Greg Sarris (Chairman), Lynn Silva, Robert Stafford Jr., and Lorelle W.B. Ross (Vice-Chair).

stakeholders, to create a shared vision and watershed scale approach to the restoration of Copeland Creek. The Laguna Foundation's experience working with some of these same stakeholders to create a vision for the lower Laguna de Santa Rosa will help provide the framework for this process. We are already collaborating with Sonoma State University and Point Blue Conservation Science on a restoration project along Copeland Creek on the University campus. This funding will allow the Laguna Foundation to leverage our

strengths in environmental education and restoration to raise public awareness and to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in this important Laguna sub-watershed.

In addition to on the ground conservation activities, we will also focus on teaching the community about Copeland Creek. Our Education Department will expand our Learning Laguna program in Rohnert Park. Learning Laguna educators have been teaching 3rd grade students in Rohnert Park about the Laguna by utilizing specially designed classroom and field trip activities since 1999. With this grant funding we will develop a rich, second field trip opportunity to extend student learning about Copeland Creek and the Laguna watershed through stewardship work to improve ecosystem function and wildlife habitat. Active stewardship focuses children's attention and helps them build relationships with their home environment through time spent interacting with the plants and animals they encounter. Equally important, the children and their families will be able to return to the stewardship sites to watch them develop and naturalize over time.

We are grateful to the Tribe for their generosity and hope this will be the continuation of a strong collaboration to further our shared goals for the Laguna.

Irwin Creek - Gratitude for Another Successful Project

By Brent Reed, Ecological Program Manager

The Irwin Creek riparian habitat restoration project has officially graduated to our list of successful restoration projects. The main goal of this project was expanding the riparian (streamside) forest along Irwin Creek, a tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The project area is located just north of the Laguna Environmental Center and Irwin Creek flows into the Laguna a few hundred yards west of Sanford Road. The plan restored 5 acres of riparian forest within 100 feet setbacks for ½ mile on both sides of Irwin Creek. We pushed the plantings a bit wider and we ended up planting nearly 8 acres with native trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, sedges, and rushes. We are truly grateful to our project partners, volunteers, interns, and staff who all had a hand in this highly successful project.

Funding, plants, livestock fencing, irrigation supplies, and water for irrigation were provided by: State of California Coastal Conservancy, Sonoma County Ag + Open Space, and the City of Santa Rosa.

Volunteers were instrumental in removing old fencing,

cutting invasive Himalayan blackberry, planting more than 2,000 native plants, site maintenance, trash cleanup and removing planting hardware. Volunteer groups included: Laguna Re-Leaf participants (2014 and 2015), Laguna Stewards, student interns, SSU and SRJC class activities, local school groups, and Eagle Scout projects with local Boy Scouts of America.



A young oak sapling planted at Irwin Creek. ©Jerry Dodrill.

Keep an eye on the growth of this young riparian reforestation by looking east as you cross over Irwin Creek on Sanford Road and stay tuned for outings to this successful restoration site through our Community Education programs.



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www.LagunaFoundation.org



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

Founded in 1989, the Laguna Foundation is a place-based organization focused on the Laguna de Santa Rosa. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization 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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The hills beyond our backyard at the Laguna Environmental Center. Photo by Allison Titus.

