



Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

# Meanderings

Preserving and Restoring Sonoma County's Richest Area of Wildlife Habitat

Spring 2005

## Coming Soon! The Laguna Learning Center at Stone Farm

*By Susan Churchill, Foundation Vice-President and Chair of the Laguna Learning Center Committee*

We are excited to announce that the Foundation will soon have a presence right in the heart of the Laguna: the Laguna Learning Center at Stone Farm.

The City of Santa Rosa and the Foundation are in the process of completing the lease terms for roughly 6 acres of land containing the historic Birdie E. Miller Ranch (or Valentine Ranch) located at the corner of Occidental and Sanford Roads. This site boasts a central location near the Laguna trail system being planned by the Open Space District, proximity to the Laguna channel, a concentration of wetland and natural resources, significant historical buildings and convenient road access. It's the ideal location for a facility where the public can enjoy the Laguna, learn about its systems and their restoration, and see and learn about our county's agricultural tradition.

The property, often referred to as Stone Farm as Lester and Arleth Stone were the last operating owners, was purchased by the City in 1984. The entire 112-acre

property contains the historic farmhouse, two barns and several other farmstead structures. 86 acres of the property are irrigated using treated wastewater from the City of Santa Rosa's Llano Road treatment facility. In the past, the City has leased the irrigated part of the property to a local dairy rancher to graze his dairy cows. Driving along Occidental Road it is easy to spot the white two-story farmhouse with its distinctive towering 30-foot palm trees.

According to local historian Dennis E. Harris, the farmhouse, a vernacular Greek Revival or Homestead Ranch-style, was built sometime around 1863 by Harrison Valentine, a native of North Carolina who came to Sonoma County following the discovery of gold. At this age, it is one of Sonoma County's oldest remaining complexes of farm buildings that is still in a rural setting. The ranch changed hands several times and for a time was a hop farm. In 1903, Birdie Miller purchased the ranch and converted it into a working dairy, which it remained until the City bought it.

Last year, the Foundation approached the City's Board of Public Utilities to ask that the Foundation be allowed to lease



*The Laguna Learning Center at Stone Farm  
(Artist's Rendition by Molly Eckler)*

and restore the Stone Farm structures, currently boarded up and deteriorating, for use as offices, an interpretive center and educational facilities. The Board unanimously supported the concept and we began to negotiate a lease.

During this time, we began the important task of choosing an architectural firm to help us bring our vision to reality. After interviewing several applicants, the firm of

**(see p. 2)**

## Executive Director's Report—Dan Schurman



As usual for this column, I get to report on exciting new developments across all our programs and projects. The pace is brisk around here, so hold on.

We've been talking about Stone Farm for what feels like forever, and at last we're at the point where all those words will give way to action on the ground at Stone Farm. We've successfully negotiated a long-term lease of the historic buildings, allowing us the opportunity to create a Foundation headquarters and

Laguna Learning Center. We expect the lease will receive its formal approvals from the city in March, about which time we'll be unveiling the results from the master planning process we've been working on with the architectural firm of Siegel & Strain.

After that, it'll be your turn to get involved in the project, either on the ground at community workdays, by offering expertise and advice, by donating funds, or by helping to generate more awareness, donations or participation. It's a huge project and will need the support and participation of many

people, but the pay-off will be a grand resource for our community and a lasting legacy to future generations.

Our Laguna Ecosystem Restoration and Management Plan (RMP) project is nearing its halfway point after almost a year. Stimulating and productive stakeholder involvement sessions have begun to pave the way toward the agreements and solutions that need to be worked out before significant restoration and enhancement projects can get underway. Groups are meeting focusing on key Laguna issues

**(see p. 2)**



Rich biodiversity characterizes the Laguna's vernal pools, a habitat type found in only a handful of places in the world. (Photograph by Peeter Vilms)

## Laguna Learning Center *from page 1*

Siegel & Strain Architects was selected. Their experience included the restoration of an 1860s farmhouse for the County of Alameda Waste Management Authority and creation of an Outdoor Education Center for the Mono Lake Committee, making them the ideal candidate for our project. As an added bonus, Siegel & Strain has been used by the City to consult on its new green building code. The Master Plan phase for the Stone Farm Laguna Learning Center is under way and we anticipate its completion by mid-April.

So what exactly is the Foundation's vision for the Learning Center?

Our first Phase includes restoration of the farmhouse to be used as the Foundation's administrative headquarters. We will preserve its farmstead appearance and adhere to any requirements of the Cultural Heritage Board, as it is a listed site, while providing conditioned space for our staff. If this isn't daunting enough, we also plan to stabilize the large hay barn, which is literally being held up by the hay bales stacked inside, clean up the building compound area, plant landscaping typical of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century family farm in the Santa Rosa Plain and create an entrance off Sanford Road in this first phase of work. Phase II anticipates rebuilding the smaller historic barn to use as a nature interpretive center and an interim classroom for educational gatherings and Phase III will include a new structure that is architecturally compatible with the historic buildings to use as a permanent classroom and interpretive center.

We project that the Laguna Learning Center at Stone Farm will become the beacon of the West County, leading young and old to learn about the Laguna de Santa Rosa and all of its wonders.

We hope you will want to share in this adventure with us! We have plenty of opportunities for everyone to become involved and welcome all contributions toward this important amenity for Sonoma County. Please watch for more detailed information in the media and in *Meanderings* as we move forward.

Creating the Laguna Learning Center will bring unprecedented public visibility and momentum to our vision of preserving and restoring the Laguna. With your help, it will become a beloved Sonoma County landmark cherished by future generations.

—Susan Churchill

## Executive Director's Report *from Page 1*

such as agriculture, hydrology, water quality, biodiversity, public access, etc. For more info, contact RMP project manager Joe Honton or visit the RMP section of our website ([www.lagunadesantarosa.org](http://www.lagunadesantarosa.org)).

The RMP has also yielded significant progress on the invasive plant problems in the Laguna. Whether it's *Ludwigia*, pepperweed, purple loosestrife, Harding grass, or something else, the issue of invasive species will be a major element of our work in the Laguna in the years ahead. Symptomatic of a system imbalance, the unchecked proliferation of these plants would drastically alter the Laguna ecosystem in many harmful ways, including possibly severe flood control impairments and the potential elimination of habitat for some of the Laguna's signature and endangered plant species. While recovery of a healthy balance in the Laguna ecosystem is our ultimate goal, the threat posed by these invasive plants is so pernicious and immediate that drastic short-term action is required, if we are to have any hope of succeeding in the long term. Our proposals to use herbicides in this effort may seem contradictory to our purpose of healing or "cleaning up" the Laguna, but our research convinces us that judicious, precise use of appropriate herbicides is an absolutely necessary first step in a comprehensive ecosystem restoration approach to curing the Laguna's ills.

We also understand and embrace our role as leaders in developing solutions to some very daunting and complex problems. That means that sometimes, perhaps often, we'll have to stick our necks out and have the courage to suggest and push for alternatives that may not be entirely popular, or to run interference for projects that might have long-term beneficial impacts but are disruptive or harmful or misunderstood in the short term. We'll continue to remain true to our mission and vision and to collaborate and communicate with as many diverse interests as have a stake in the healthy future of the Laguna.

Our education program continues to dazzle under the leadership of the incomparable Mary Abbott. We're receiving more and more inquiries from teachers, prospective docents, and hikers about our classroom visits, field trips, and guided walks. And Mary's program of continuing education for the docents means our docents are always learning more about the Laguna's flora, fauna, geology, and cultural history. The docent family embodies our organization's love and passion for the Laguna. To have such a committed group spreading the Laguna word to all those kids is truly a blessing for the Foundation and our entire community.

I never cease to be amazed at the tremendous bounty of generous spirits that animate the Laguna Foundation. There are many, many caring, dedicated, highly skilled, very special people involved in our work and I'm honored to work with them. To all of you who give and do so much for the Laguna and the Foundation, I thank you and our community thanks you.

And, last and most importantly, we all want to send our best get-well wishes to docent Christine Engel. Hope you're back on the trail soon, Chris!

—Dan Schurman

# Laguna Foundation Project areas

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles

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**Swale and Hummock project**  
California Department of Fish and Game

**Ludwigia management area**  
California Department of Fish and Game

**"Laguna Learning Center"**  
at Stone Farm

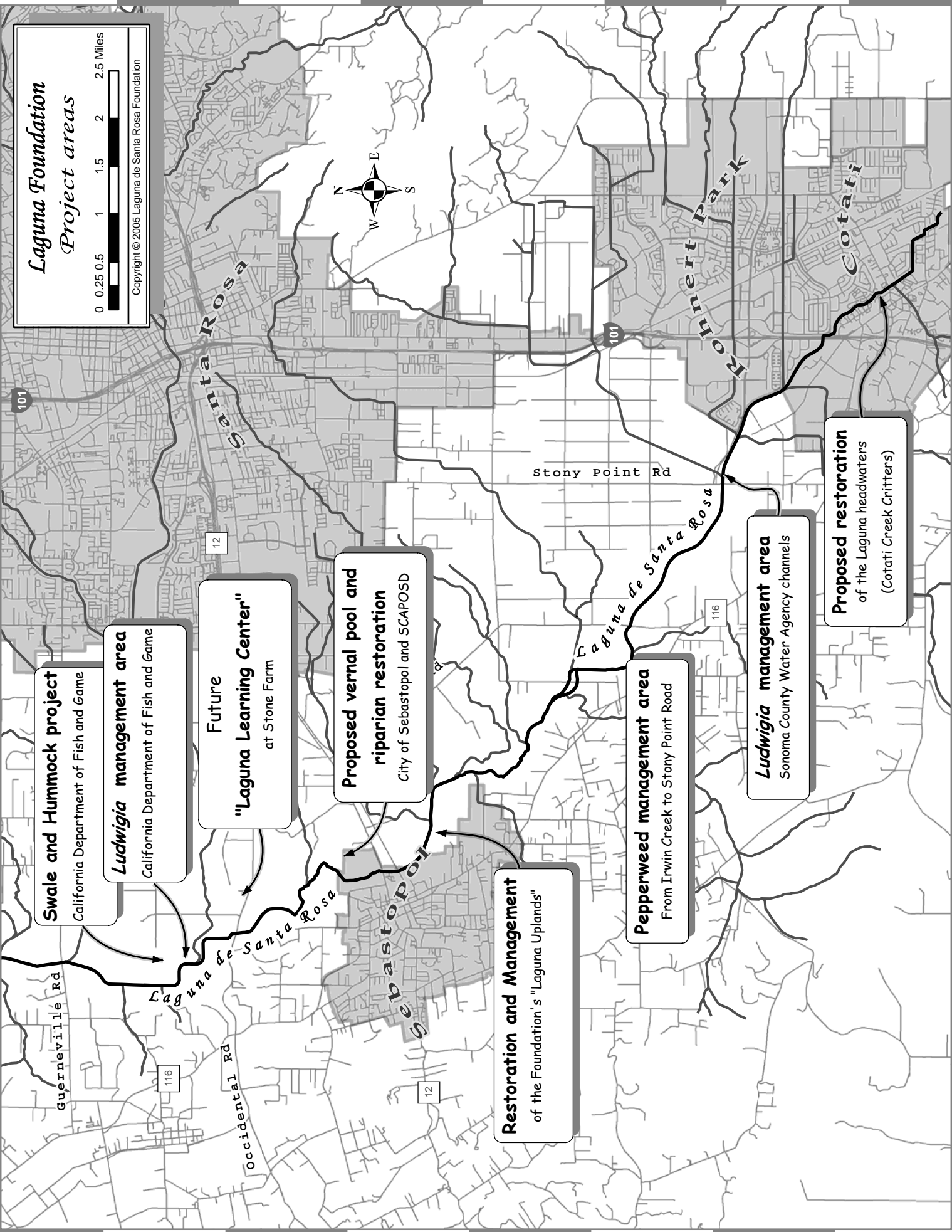
**Proposed vernal pool and riparian restoration**  
City of Sebastopol and SCAPOSD

**Restoration and Management**  
of the Foundation's "Laguna Uplands"

**Pepperweed management area**  
From Irwin Creek to Stony Point Road

**Ludwigia management area**  
Sonoma County Water Agency channels

**Proposed restoration**  
of the Laguna headwaters  
(Cotati Creek Critters)



# The Docent Circle: A Learning Experience *Mary Abbott, Education Coordinator*

"I feel so passionate about the importance of giving children an experience outdoors, one they will never forget. That is why our program is so important. But I want to keep learning too!" The docent who shared this with me echoed the sentiments of most of the 50 in our Docent Circle. Docents know and experience the difference they are making in children's lives every time they participate in Learning Laguna. One teacher recently impressed upon me the fact that most of his third graders only get "outside" when they are able to take a field trip. He also felt that the experience in nature for the children who never get out, was priceless.

Our docents are very well educated once they graduate from our 10 week Spring training. And as docents, we want to deepen our learning continually. The Laguna Foundation has been able to provide a series of lively, diverse, and fun continuing education opportunities for the Docent Circle. Last year, docents and their families enjoyed two night hikes: one in the Sebastopol Preserve, which we conducted as an individual silent walk as the full moon rose to meet us on the trail. We experienced night sounds, smells and temperatures and quietly shared our experiences afterward. We also experienced the unbelievable amount of Highway 12 traffic noise that permeates the night – and empathized with all the critters, having to live with the traffic all the time! Our second night hike, also scheduled to enjoy a full moon along with early evening birds, was full of conversation as we looped around Delta Pond and sharing a lovely summer evening together.

Docents have been eager to learn more about Native American culture that existed in the Laguna. We welcomed Susie Moore, a Pomo storyteller to our year end celebration in June. The Pam and Harvey Moskovitz's hosted an evening of Pomo Indian films and discussion. We learned more about basketweaving and local ceremonies and how to see the culture in a contemporary context. Julia Parker, a well known Coast Miwok-Pomo basket weaver came to speak and demonstrate making a tule basket and, to share the story of her life. And recently, Marty Falkenstien, former National Park Ranger, talked and demonstrated many of the local Indian traditional skills such as hide tanning, basketry, cordage. Tools and traditions are an excellent window in learning more about Indian culture.

And for docents who have wanted to increase their knowledge of birds, we hosted a six week series of short, early morning bird watching outings in the Laguna watershed. We focused on using our senses of seeing and listening to identify birds. Docents were richly rewarded with many commonly seen birds along with uncommon views of Saps Phoebe, American Pipit, Hermit Thrush, California Thrasher, Eurasian Widgeon and most spectacularly, a Peregrine Falcon – at Third and Fulton Streets!

Last August, docents got together to learn more about "Where Do Birds Nest?" and, with the help of volunteer tradesmen Glenn



*Foundation Docents Raini Vallarino and Franny Minervini-Zick talking with Susie Moore, Pomo storyteller, at the summer 2004 docent graduation event.*

## Docent-led Walks in the Laguna

Our popular docent-led hikes for adults and families give you the chance to ask all the questions you may have about the Laguna. Upcoming dates are:

**Saturday mornings 9:15 – 10:45 am** on March 5, April 2, May 21, June 25, July 30 and August 27; and **Wednesday evenings** on May 4 (6:00), and June 1 (6:30), July 13, August 10 (7:00).

Please come to the parking lot behind the Sebastopol Community Center Youth Annex (425 Morris St.) and bring your binoculars. A \$5 donation is requested for non-members of the Foundation. The walk is about 1 ½ hours long and children are welcome.

*Please call or email to reserve your space. Phone Mary at 527-9277 or email [mary@lagunadesantarosa.org](mailto:mary@lagunadesantarosa.org).*

This year we are planning a workshop on bird migration and a field visit to Docent Veronica Bowers' baby bird hospital, which operates during nesting season. We plan on getting together with members of the California Native Plant Society to see a breathtaking display of California Fawn Lilies. Trips to vernal pools and more bird expeditions are on the calendar.

Our overall goal for the Docent Circle's continuing education program is to keep "Learning in the Laguna" alive and growing. Judging by the growing enthusiasm for all our education programs, that goal has been accomplished. In the meantime, our little community has found friendship and camaraderie. We are growing together, and sweetest of all, we share what we love most with the children.

## Invasive *Ludwigia* in the Laguna and West Nile Virus: An Overview

Last year, the mosquito-borne West Nile virus arrived in Sonoma County, focusing attention on areas of the Laguna where mosquito control has become impossible due to the invasion of the non-native water primrose *Ludwigia*. The plant creates extensive dense mats which prevent introducing mosquito larvae into the water. West Nile Virus is a potentially deadly threat to humans, horses and wildlife, particularly birds.

No single factor has created this problem: it is a result of degradation of the entire Laguna ecosystem. The problem can only be permanently solved by improving the health of the entire system.

Until then, unless it is curbed there is a real danger that *Ludwigia* will radically reduce biodiversity in the Laguna, driving away migrating birds by covering open water and threatening public health and wildlife with West Nile virus.

After nearly two years of study the *Ludwigia* Task Force of public agencies and scientists reached unanimous agreement on an interim plan for curtailing the plant. The plan includes combined use of low-toxicity herbicide and mechanical removal. Although it is always of concern to consider herbicide use in a wildlife area, none of the experts investigating the *Ludwigia* invasion has concluded that the plant can be controlled without herbicides as one element of the control strategy. Pulling the plant alone will only worsen and spread the problem: *Ludwigia* roots and regenerates from a 1" fragment of root or stem. The Foundation continues to research permanent control strategies.

The scope of the problem—over 150 acres of solid *Ludwigia* in the two project areas where the problem is most pronounced—is enormous. The Foundation is currently securing funding for the interim control effort, which will begin in July.



The invasive creeping water primrose *Ludwigia hexapetala*.

**None of the experts investigating the *Ludwigia* invasion has concluded that the plant can be controlled without herbicides as one element of the control strategy.**

## *Ludwigia* Research Turns Inside Out

Anna Sears, PhD, Research Director

Research on *Ludwigia hexapetala* has now jumped out and beyond the Laguna. Thanks to good fortune, good timing, and good communication with ecologists at UC Davis, one of the local USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) groups has taken on *Ludwigia* as a central part of their research program.

Dr. Brenda Grewell, leading the *Ludwigia* research, is specifically targeting her efforts at finding ecological or restoration-based methods that don't involve herbicide spraying. One of her colleagues is beginning research to develop a biological control organism (bio-control) for *Ludwigia*. He is starting out by looking at the flea-beetles that have been found eating *Ludwigia* in San Diego, and which we believe are also present in the Laguna. If a resident insect can be developed as a bio-control, this will rapidly reduce the time it would take to bring a control into use.

Most of us working on *Ludwigia* believe that a sustainable solution will consider many factors, like restoring riparian forest, reducing sediments, and improving water quality (these are all linked). We have also talked about water-level management. *Ludwigia* has a fairly narrow 'ecotone' or range of

water-levels that it tolerates. While draining the land may not seem like a good idea, removing sediment – perhaps restoring one of the historic lakes – would offer many advantages beyond managing *Ludwigia*.

However, restoration-based methods have to begin with good research. Since *Ludwigia* is a relatively new problem, we need to study its population biology, how it is spread, and how it reacts to environmental conditions. Dr. Grewell and her researchers, based at UC Davis, will begin study of the plants and animals in invaded and un-invaded parts of the Laguna to get a sense of *Ludwigia*'s impacts. Measuring soil profiles, water quality, and light levels at different *Ludwigia* patches, Dr. Grewell hopes to sort out conditions favoring *Ludwigia*, and how *Ludwigia* changes environmental conditions. This spring, she will begin experiments and field studies to evaluate *Ludwigia*'s response to different water depths, sediment conditions, and shading levels. Lily Verdone, a Master's student at Sonoma State, has already begun this kind of research on *Ludwigia*'s response to nutrients.

The USDA-ARS group will do a fly-over in June, *Ludwigia*'s peak flowering time, to map its extent

in the Laguna, and potentially along the Russian River. They will bring equipment for hyperspectral imagery, which may be able to pick out *Ludwigia* where it is in small patches, or growing among other plants. This is a cutting-edge technique which has been successfully used to track invasives in other parts of the country such as purple loosestrife, iceplant, and jubata grass. Other remote-sensing projects are being considered, including a collaboration with NASA, which wants to find domestic uses for its technology.

Why all this interest in *Ludwigia*? It is a 'new' problem weed for California, but it is starting to spread throughout the state. The US Bureau of Reclamation is grappling with it in the San Diego River, it is in streams and ponds of the Bay Area, rice fields and canals in the Central Valley. It has all the characteristics of an emerging regional crisis. Federal and State scientists, like scientists and citizens of Sonoma County, are concerned about *Ludwigia*'s wide range of impacts, from creating mosquito habitat to blocking water channels and reducing biodiversity. Building on the work of the Foundation and the *Ludwigia* Task Force our *Ludwigia* is an ideal system for testing new approaches to aquatic weed control.

## Planning as a prerequisite to restoration

*Joe Horton, Project Manager, Laguna Ecosystem Restoration and Management Plan*

The Laguna Foundation is developing a plan for restoring and managing the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. What will this plan include and how will it help to improve the place we've come to know and love?

Conceptually the plan will do a few things: it will identify the *impairments* that have occurred to the Laguna's ecological health, it will suggest *opportunity* areas where beneficial changes can be made, and it will provide guidance and good stewardship principles for the ongoing *management* of the Laguna.

So what are the impairments to the Laguna that need to be addressed? For convenience we can lump them into some basic categories: water, biodiversity and people being three of the most important.

Water supply and water quality are first on people's minds, and rightly so because the Laguna's wetlands define its essential character. It comes as no surprise to learn that the Laguna's waters are polluted with excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, too much suspended soil, elevated temperatures and low dissolved oxygen. Our floodplains are hemmed by levees. Our water supply is tapped to its limit. These are the impairments that are foremost in our considerations.

But even though water may be first on our minds, loss of biodiversity is probably our most serious concern. "Biodiversity" is simply the jargon that we apply to a fundamental ecological concept: diverse biological communities of native plants and animals sustain each other in dynamic and complex natural cycles. Species that are introduced into this mix from outside sources can occasionally wreak havoc on the balance, and eventually tip the scale towards out-of-control invasions. This impairment is most often seen with exotic plants, but it equally applies to insects, fish, and mammals when the natural checks and balances of an area are removed.

Adding to water quality impairments and biodiversity concerns, are of course the human impacts to the Laguna: urban sprawl, fragmentation of habitat, destruction of natural corridors, air quality, noise, etc. Also included in this list, but sometimes overlooked, is our own personal impact: nesting birds need a space away from free-roaming dogs, shy mammals need a space to retreat from hikers and bikers, amphibians and reptiles need undisturbed places to sun, and so forth. Thus the lack of set-aside sanctuaries, away from human activities, can be identified as a special type of impairment.

On the flip side of every problem lies an opportunity. So for each of these identified impairments our planning process is looking closely at what can be done to remediate their impacts. Pragmatically, this also means looking at where to carry out restoration projects: we can't restore riparian habitat without a

## Upcoming Events

- **Public educational forum on *Ludwigia***: April 14, 7-9 PM, Cooperage II, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park.
- ***Save the date!*** Laguna Foundation's annual Art & Garden Gala: Sunday, September 11, 3-6 PM.

willing landowner adjacent to a stream, we can't think about restoring healthy functioning vernal pools without a good clay pan site to work with, and so on. Thus one important aspect of our work is identifying willing land owners and land managers within the Laguna who share our vision of an enhanced ecosystem. This search for potential restoration sites has led us in three different directions: private landowner opportunities, public land opportunities, and regional opportunities. We'll talk more about this exciting part of our work at a later time.

Beyond thinking about the problems we face and the opportunities these problems provide is the whole question of finances. And there is good news here too. Funding for many different types of environmental projects is available from the government. As citizens, we have repeatedly supported two kinds of legislation: 1) legislation governing the use of our natural resources, such as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act, and 2) taxes which we impose upon ourselves to be used in restoring the lost resources that our prior negligence caused. For the Laguna de Santa Rosa, these two come together, giving us the possibility of relief through on-the-ground projects targeted towards each of the three types of restoration sites: private, public and regional.

To obtain these funds, program administrators set up guidelines that help them to fairly apportion disbursements. These guidelines list prerequisites that any successful applicant must fulfill: a clear demonstration of the environmental impairment being addressed, a proposed program for making changes that will remedy the problem or enhance the resource, well stated goals that can be used as a yardstick for measuring the success of the project, and in most cases a management regime and ongoing monitoring program to ensure long term viability of the project.

The restoration and management plan for the Laguna which we are currently developing will fulfill all of these requirements. With this watershed plan in place, we will be able to apply for funding for restoration efforts with a high level of confidence that our proposals will be accepted. And of course, when restoration funds begin flowing, the real work of restoration will begin and the real benefits of an enhanced Laguna de Santa Rosa will be close behind.

## Caring for the Laguna

*...forever.*

Creating a Laguna Preserve and Learning Center for future generations is work not just for today, but for the future. To achieve this vision, the Laguna Foundation must remain a strong institution able to continue the work of restoring, educating and advocating for the Laguna's health for decades to come.

That's why a growing number of supporters are including the Laguna Foundation in their philanthropy and estate planning, incurring tax benefits for themselves and helping the Foundation to thrive.

If you are planning your estate or philanthropy and would like to include the Foundation, we can help. Call Mark Green, Resource Development Director, at 527-9277 or email [mark@lagunadesantarosa.org](mailto:mark@lagunadesantarosa.org) to request our brochure, *Planned Giving to the Laguna Foundation*. Thanks for considering the Laguna in your financial planning.



Joan Humberstone

### *Thank You to our generous supporters...*

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*...and, of course, all our donors, volunteers, and YOU!*

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### *Become a Friend of the Laguna!*



Laguna  
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Founded in 1989, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation works to preserve, restore, and provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn about the Laguna, Sonoma County's richest region of wildlife habitat.

The Foundation is a nonprofit organization supported by contributions and grants. IRS ID #94-3155180. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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**The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation**, founded in 1989, works to preserve, restore, and provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and learn about the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a rich and extensive complex of freshwater wetlands on the North Coast of California. The Foundation implements preservation and restoration projects, works with landowners and public agencies to protect and improve Laguna resources, conducts educational programs, and works to develop appropriately managed recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy the Laguna.

The 14-mile Laguna is the largest tributary of the Russian River: a complex of marshes, creeks, vernal pools and oak woodlands draining a 240-square-mile watershed extending from Cotati to Windsor and Forestville. A major stop on the Pacific Flyway for migratory waterfowl, it is home to over 200 species of birds, river otter, bobcat, coyote, mountain lion, gray fox, and rare species such as California tiger salamander and Sebastopol meadowfoam. The Laguna mitigates flooding and provides critical habitat and beautiful views in the heart of the Santa Rosa Plain.

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## Volunteers: The Foundation's Heart and Soul

Of all the Foundation's many great resources for advancing our mission, none is more important than our wonderful volunteers.

On any given day in the Laguna Foundation offices, you may find a single volunteer or an army of volunteers busily working on projects. Six or seven Saturdays a year, LagunaKeeper volunteers go into the Laguna to do cleanup and restoration work, and at other times, LagunaKeepers are working on individual projects in the field, maintaining the Uplands Preserve, or patrolling the trails. The Swamp Dawgs, the notoriously vigilant volunteer patrollers, are on the scene weekly.

And each Fall and Spring, our trained docents bring *Learning Laguna*, our environmental education program, to elementary school children and help to train new docents. Docents represent us at events, host events, and lead walks in the Sebastopol Preserve. Our event volunteers organize the annual Art and Garden Gala fundraiser. And our volunteer board of directors, of course, is active in every aspect of the organization's work. All of this adds up to create an impressive and happy workforce, all to benefit the Laguna.

We decided to record volunteer hours and crunch some numbers for 2004, and they're pretty impressive: over 600 docent hours, 1,330 LagunaKeeper hours, 50 hours of office support, 130 hours put in by the Swamp Dawgs, 400 hours by the Art and Garden Gala volunteers, and 70 additional hours of miscellaneous volunteering. That's more than 2,580 hours, or nearly *four months* of continuous person-hours volunteering to help preserve, restore, and raise public appreciation for the Laguna. And that doesn't even count all the work by our board of directors and board committee volunteers!

We're continually amazed by our volunteers' commitment and enthusiasm. We have fun while accomplishing great things for the Laguna and our community!

To join in the Foundation's efforts as a volunteer, call our offices (527-9277) and ask to speak with Mary Abbott, Education Coordinator.



*Volunteers of the Foundation's LagunaKeepers program plant oak trees in the Laguna (photo by Denise Cadman)*