



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to restore and conserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa and to inspire public appreciation for Sonoma County's Wetland of International Importance.



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Dear Friends of the Laguna,

"Change and Growth" best describe the last 12 months for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation. We celebrated our 25th anniversary with a toast to all that has been accomplished. At the same time, we continued to move forward with new leadership, new board members,

new supporters, and a wealth of new projects and programs to better serve our Laguna. Among these additions, Dr. Wendy Trowbridge joined our staff as Director of Restoration and Conservation Programs. Wendy received her Ph.D. at UC Davis and was research faculty at the University of Nevada. The scope of her scientific expertise (especially her understanding of ecology and ecosystem functions) is crucial as we tackle the most pressing issues facing the Laguna such as water quality, groundwater resources and climate adaptation strategies.

This report summarizes current and future restoration, conservation science and education programs. It also acknowledges the many partnerships and collaborations we have with residents, landowners, the agricultural and business community, government agencies and other non-profit groups. Thank you to everyone whose name is listed in this report. You make all the work possible and we believe it is important to acknowledge everyone who sustains our ongoing work. Donations of every size allow us to move forward with confidence, and larger Leadership Circle gifts enable us to work at a scale broad enough to address the urgent needs to protect the 254-square mile Laguna Watershed.

As we approach 2016, we are invigorated and inspired by the tremendous potential of working in the largest freshwater wetlands complex on the northern California coast. The Laguna watershed stretches from Windsor to Cotati, from Hood Mountain to the hills of Sebastopol, and includes all of Santa Rosa. Our work will take us to every corner of the watershed in the next 25 years. This is an endeavor of partners and community builders, and we invite you to be both, with us.

With your help, the Foundation will continue to be the leading voice for Sonoma County's most spectacular land and water asset. Together, we will make sure our magnificent Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland and Watershed is in even better health at our 50th anniversary.

For the Laguna,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raini Sugg".

Raini Sugg
President, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Munroe".

Kevin Munroe
Executive Director

P.S. Although our new Executive Director, Kevin Munroe, didn't join us until August (two months after this report's timeframe), he is excited to be part of such a dynamic, productive and community-based organization. We'll hear more from Kevin in the next annual report, in the coming issues of *Meanderings* and at upcoming programs and events.

YEAR AT A GLANCE: RESTORATION & CONSERVATION SCIENCE PROGRAMS

There are many ecological challenges facing the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed. To address these challenges, the Restoration and Conservation Science Department broadened its scope and focused its work in five areas:

Water Quality

- Wetlands act as important filters protecting the water quality of the Laguna. Over the past year, we planted, maintained or monitored over one thousand wetland plantings on 76 acres at six different sites. Plantings will begin on an additional three sites in 2016.
- In partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, we expanded our Historical Ecology Study of the Laguna de Santa Rosa to document the historical extent of wetlands, the riparian corridor, and land use changes over time in the Laguna main channel and surrounds. This study will help inform our work to better restore the Laguna wetlands.
- We were involved with the development of a water quality credit trading system to offset potential nutrient releases into the Laguna.
- In partnership with Prunuske Chatham, Inc. and the City of Sebastopol we drafted the Laguna Wetlands Preserve Restoration and Management Plan. With significant public input, the Plan outlines the important resources of the Preserve and suggestions to guide long-term management and restoration opportunities in this highly visible and popular area.

Invasive Species

- We completed a multi-year study in Sebastopol's Laguna Wetlands Preserve testing the efficacy of tarping vs. herbicide to control perennial pepperweed. Since neither control technique was 100% effective we will continue to evaluate other best practices in the Laguna for invasive species control.
- Interns remapped three major invasive species in the middle reach (Hwy 12 – Occidental Rd.) creating a map that can be used to track their abundance over time and compare their extent in 2006 when the original mapping was completed.
- Our long-term goal is to collaborate with major land owners in the middle reach to create a collaborative plan for invasive species management including grazing, restoring native grasses and an integrated pest management strategy.
- We expanded our Native Plant Nursery at Stone Farm to grow a wider range of native species including narrow leaf milkweed, native grasses, sedges and rushes in order to diversify our restoration projects.

Endangered Species

- Planning was initiated for the removal of trash and woody debris from the lower Laguna channel north of Guerneville Road. The eventual restoration of this important segment of the Laguna is critical to the migration of endangered salmon and steelhead.

- We completed our 9th year of the Adopt a Vernal Pool (AVP) Program. As the longest running, most comprehensive native plant assessment program in Sonoma County, the AVP program collects data to monitor and protect three endangered plant species in the Laguna Watershed.

- We received additional funding to continue our management work on a Sonoma County Regional Parks property between Hwy 12 and Occidental Road. This property has some of the last remaining populations of Sebastopol meadowfoam which had been in decline but is now recovering thanks to a combination of mowing and careful treatment of invasive pepperweed.

Groundwater Resources

- We were involved in creating the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed Groundwater Management Plan. Specifically we provided expertise to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Basin Advisory Panel which will determine how to monitor and sustainably manage our groundwater. In the coming year the Technical Advisory Committee will apply for funding to establish both a well monitoring and a seepage monitoring program. Once funded, we will be involved in implementing these programs.

Climate Adaptation

- We worked with the North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative (NBCAI) to plan and implement a conference at Sonoma State University and a Forum at the Laguna Environmental Center that brought together community leaders to discuss climate adaptation strategies.
- We secured funds for the second phase of a restoration project on Colgan Creek. Urban greening is particularly important in areas like Southwestern Santa Rosa where there are few parks and the urban heat island effect is strongest.



YEAR AT A GLANCE: LEARNING LAGUNA AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS



4th graders learning about bird migration. (Kathi Jacobs)

Learning Laguna

Learning Laguna is the only program for elementary school students focused on the Laguna de Santa Rosa's interwoven mosaic of habitats. Since its inception in 1999, over 15,000 second through fourth graders throughout the watershed have experienced the dynamic classroom activities and engaged their senses while observing, interacting, questioning and learning about the Laguna, their home environment.

The teachers tell us that their students gain an understanding of the Laguna and why it is such an important part of Sonoma County, and that the program fits in perfectly with their Life Science and Social Studies curriculum. However, it is when the students tell us that they want to bring their families to the Laguna and teach them all about the Laguna, that we know the program truly meets its goals!

Learning Laguna remains strong and vibrant due to the thousands of hours the Docents contribute to teaching the program. In the 2014-15 school year they worked with 48 classes, in 19 schools, within 12 school districts, serving nearly 1,300 students.

This year we are on target to bring the program to over 1,500 students in 55 classes. This increase is thanks to the dedication of long-serving volunteers and the addition of the 2015 Docent training graduates.

Twenty-two new Docents came on board this year. We look forward to increasing service to schools for years to come, engendering a love of the Laguna in the next generation of Sonoma County citizens.

Public Education Programs

In addition to the Laguna Environmental Center being open for the enjoyment of the community, each month we offer multiple indoor and outdoor learning adventures for diverse audiences that help inspire appreciation for the Laguna.

During the last fiscal year, approximately 2,100 people participated in the extensive selection of 48 Laguna walks, talks, classes, Environmental Center Open Houses, and art receptions in Heron Hall. These programs are exciting "points-of-entry" to the Laguna and the Foundation's work, attracting long-devoted and new community members alike. Many events are offered in partnership with local agencies or other non-profits, broadening our reach into the community. The Laguna Guide volunteers contribute to the success of each program by engaging visitors, teaching about the Laguna and the Foundation, and managing the site.

Additionally, Heron Hall was rented twenty-six times over the year to regional professional groups for trainings, workshops and educational retreats. Over 2,300 people came to the Laguna Environmental Center through the rental program, creating more outreach opportunities for the Foundation.

In the coming year, look for more walks to explore the watershed further, including visits to sites with completed and on-going restoration projects. Opportunities for all ages to learn from Docents, Guides, staff, board members, plus local and visiting experts will cover a spectrum of topics from Laguna flora and fauna (of course!) plus wide-ranging subjects from astronomy, geology, hydrology, and anthropology, to native plant use and botanical illustration. Be on the look out for sunrise, sunset and after dark explorations!

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, **252 volunteers** contributed their time and skill in our restoration, education, and development departments. To all of our docents, guides, interns, tree planters, debris and weed removers, plant monitors, landscapers, special event and office support, Laguna Keepers and Team Prunus... we are grateful for your support.



Milkweed plants in the Laguna Environmental Center landscape attract Monarch caterpillars and teachers during a recent habitat workshop. (Anita Smith)

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Marianne Daft
Ann Dannelly
Frances G. Davis
Melvin & Nancy Davison
Loralee Denny
Fran Dixon
Robin Dorn
Kim Dow
Gail Dubinsky Spielman
Rich Duisenberg
Jeff Dunbar
China Dusk & Steven Tierra
Sandy Eastoak
Helen Effron
Michael Ellis
Kathleen A. Emery
Barbara Fabrizio
Ellen & Robert Falkin
Michele Farley
Linda Farmer

Gloria Feiertag
Wendy Free
Elizabeth Gans
Flora Lee Ganzler
Karen Gardner
Donald Gass
Susan Gonzalez
Barbara Goodridge
Joany Goodwin & David Baker
Marlys Green
Natalie Griffith
Zoe Griffith-Jones
Janet & Gay Guidotti
Arthur Haake
Sandra Haley
Michael & Susan Harrow
Beth Haylock
Amy Higashihara
Ann Hines
Rich & Wanda Holmer
Mary Ann Huckabay
Lisa Hug
Jeff Hughart
Beth Huning
Helen Hunter
Barbara Iannoli
Angelica Jochim
Natosi Johanna
Beth Johnstone
Charles Kennard
Gretchen Kishbaugh
Lucy Kortum
Kathleen Kraemer
Wally Krampf
Candace Krout & Shoshona Smith
Karen Kubrin & Susan Rode
Donna Lamke
Brooks Leete
Dr. James & Jeannie LeMesurier
Michelle Lua
Judith Lutsky
Rita MacPherson
Delphine & Dennis Mangan
Devi Mathieu
Katrina Matos
Barbara & Andrew McCarthy
Elizabeth McCarthy & Marko Castor
Sean McCarty
Lynda McDaniel
Matthew McGarey & Shelley Edwards
Christine McNamara
Lucia Milburn
Rita Miller
Robert Moody
Linda Mori
Celeste Murad
Alan Nannini
Barbara Neal

Eileen Newill
Donna Norrell
Chris & Susan Oaks
Connie Peabody
Paula Pearce
Barbara Phillipson
Ralph & Tecla Pierotti
Ann Possinger
Kalee Powell
Tom Pringle
Sara Ratekin
Denee Rebottaro
David Reichard & Susan Joice
Nancy & Willard Richards
Jeani Ritter
Lilith Rogers
Susan & Jerry Roth
Bill & Kathy Rueve
Anthony Sadoti
Nicholas Sansone
Emily Sawyer
Rita Scardaci
Rhea Schnurman
Lena & Richard Schuman
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Dennis Studebaker
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Linda Tauzer
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Eric Walters
Karin Wandrei
Patrice & David Warrender
Kathleen Watson
Rodney Weathers
Jack Welch
Moey Yates
Jennifer York & Joe Ruffatto
Louis & Carol Zanardi

In-Kind Donors
A La Heart Catering
Acorn Winery
Ah Shayh Skincare
Susan Amalia
Holly Anderson
Andy's Produce Market

Warren Arnold
 Gerald Arrington
 Balletto Vineyards
 Abby Bard
 Enid Barnes
 Nancy Bauer
 Peter Beaman
 Joel Bennett
 Ken Berman
 Bistro 29
 Bleating Heart Cheese
 Michelle Bledsoe-Agost
 Bohemian Creamery
 Margaret Bolt
 3-D Eddy
 Alan Brickman
 Burnside Road Winery
 Rebecca Burtech
 Patricia Canfield
 Anna Carlson
 Carol Shelton Wines
 Cast Estate Vineyard & Cellars
 Scott Charter
 Choose the Heart, Adrianna Kalember
 Coffee Catz
 ComputerLink
 Cheryl Constantini
 Cowgirl Creamery
 Cult Winery
 Rene Dayan-Whitehead
 Deana Dennard
 Dehlinger Winery
 Dhyana Center For Therapeutics
 Dierk's Parkside Café
 Jerry Dodrill
 Dressers Clothing
 Dutton-Goldfield Winery
 El Flaco Wine Co.
 Ellen Solot, Body Worker & Somatic Therapist
 Elliott Family Cellars
 Ferrari-Carano Vineyards & Winery
 Fircrest Market
 Flipside Bar & Burger
 Flowers Winery
 Foppiano Vineyards
 Forchetta/Bastoni
 Fork Roadhouse
 Dr. James Forni
 Fort Ross Winery
 Francis Ford Coppola Winery
 French Garden Restaurant & Bistro Bar
 Fritz Underground Winery
 Mary Fuller
 G. Reedy Wines
 Lois Galloway
 Jane Garibaldi
 Gary Farrell Vineyards & Winery
 Geary, Shea, O'Donnell, Grattan & Mitchell, P.C.

Bill Geisinger
 Yvonne Giambrone-Martin
 Golden Nectar
 Christine Gonzalves
 Grapevine Trading Company dba California Harvest
 Graton Ridge Cellars
 Barbara Gray
 Micca Gray
 Gypsy Café
 Hanna Winery
 Caryl & Mickey Hart
 Hartford Family Winery
 Harvest Moon Estate & Winery
 Hawkes Wine
 Hawley Winery
 Andrea Herold
 Cynthia Hipkiss
 HKG (Hop Kiln) Estate Wines
 Garth Gordon Hokanson
 Hole In The Wall
 Hook & Ladder Winery
 Hopmonk Tavern
 George Houghton
 Anne & Bill Howson
 Idle Cellars
 Jaime Jean
 K&L Bistro
 The Kefiry
 Korbel Champagne Cellars
 Kutch Wines
 La Bodega at Sonoma Wine Shop
 Laguna Farm
 Lagunitas Brewing Co.
 Lambert Bridge Winery
 Don Landis
 Mary Laures
 Le Reve
 Anne Bibbons Loarie
 Longboard Vineyards
 Magic Touch by Linda Brand
 Diana Majumdar
 Marimar Estate Vineyards & Winery
 Mickey Marshall
 Martin Ray Winery
 Mikio Matsumoto
 Medlock Ames

Merriam Vineyards
 Moonlight Brewing Company
 Daniel Moore
 Michele Morehouse
 Gary Morgret
 Marge Mount
 Nationwide Compliance Service
 Chris Nelson
 Mary Neuer Lee
 New Family Farm
 Nicasio Valley Cheese Company
 Pat O'Connell
 Dan & Jan O'Connell
 Oliver's Market
 Edie Otis
 Owen Scott Shirwo Photography
 Owl Ridge Wines
 Pacific Market
 Paradise Ridge Winery
 Petaluma Creamery
 Peter Lowell's Restaurant
 Pilates Collective
 Portalupi Wine
 The Press Democrat
 Radio-Coteau & County Line Vineyards
 Ramen Gaijin
 Ramey Wine Cellars
 Rawson Painting
 Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery
 Reed Brothers Furniture
 Ridge Vineyards
 River's End
 Robert Young Estate Winery
 Rochioli Vineyards & Winery
 Rosso Roticceria & Eventi
 The Rotary Club Of Santa Rosa
 Russian River Vineyards & Corks Restaurant
 Tamra Sanchez
 Scherrer Winery
 Patricia Schueler
 Sebastopol Hardware
 Seghesio Family Vineyard
 Fritzie Seidler
 Shady Oak Barrel House
 Amy Smith
 Paula Smith & Keith Howell
 Sonoma County Distilling Co.

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 Sunshine Coffee Roasters
 Sushi Tozai, 8 Cuisine & Wine
 Taft Street Winery
 Taylor Maid Farms
 Terra Vino Restaurants & Round Table Pizza
 Scott Terribery
 Toad Hollow Vineyards
 Trader Joe's Market
 Traditional Medicinals
 Truett Hurst Winery
 Valley Ford Cheese Company
 Village Bakery
 Viva Mexicana
 VML Winery
 Walter Hansel Wine Bistro
 Weirauch Creamery
 Becky Wells
 White Oak Vineyards & Winery
 Whole Foods Market
 Wild Brine
 Wild Flour Bread
 Willow Wood Market Cafe
 Willowbrook
 Windsor Vineyards
 Heather Wirtz
 Woodbrine Fermented Products
 Woodenhead Winery
 Woodfour Brewing Co.
 Kathleen Woolfe
 Marlon Young
 Greg Zirbel
 Debey Zito & Terry Schmitt
 ZMOR Winery

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 Christine Engel
 Barbara Gay
 Sharon Hawthorne
 Carroll & John Hirsch
 Ellen & Wayne Krebs
 Barrie Mason
 Dr. Dianne Smith
 Ellen Storz
 Arlene Ulmer
 Melinda Walker & John Van Sinden



Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES AND SUPPORT				
Government Grants & Contracts	\$319,309			319,309
Other Grants	52,750	9,523		62,273
Contributions	491,384	1,000		492,384
Program & miscellaneous income	132,703			132,703
Net assets released from restrictions	27,329	-27,329		0
Total revenues and support	\$1,023,475	-\$16,806	\$0	\$1,006,669
EXPENSES				
Program services				
Restoration & Conservation Science	\$323,116			323,116
Education	149,184			149,184
Heron Hall Programs & Rentals	50,771			50,771
Total program services	\$523,071	\$0	\$0	\$523,071
Supporting services				
Administration & Heron Hall management	\$187,161			187,161
Fund Raising and Outreach	130,263			130,263
Laguna Environmental Center costs	7,821			7,821
Total supporting services	\$386,860	\$0	\$0	\$386,860
Depreciation	61,615			61,615
Total expenses	\$909,931	\$0	\$0	\$909,931
Change in net assets	\$113,544	-\$16,806	\$0	\$96,738
Net assets, beginning of period	\$2,225,832	\$37,145	\$10,000	\$2,272,977
NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD	<u>\$2,339,376</u>	<u>\$20,339</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$2,369,715</u>

These statements are unaudited and for internal use only.

Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2015

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash and equivalents	\$68,913
Accounts receivable	83,689
Retainage receivable	0
Prepays	7,528
Other receivables	17,301
Pledges receivable, current	20,500
Other current assets	<u>100</u>
Total current assets	\$198,031

Fixed assets

Land ¹	\$150,000
Building and property improvements	1,999,386
Furniture & equipment	109,992
Vehicles	14,093
Accumulated depreciation	<u>-260,228</u>
Total fixed assets	2,013,243

Other assets

Lease gift in kind less value discount	179,336
Endowment fund	<u>9,273</u>
Total other assets	211,609

Total assets **\$2,422,883**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$19,098
Accrued vacation	10,736
Accrued wages	15,653
Line of Credit payable	0
Rental deposits	5,275
Payroll liabilities	146
Other payables	<u>2,260</u>

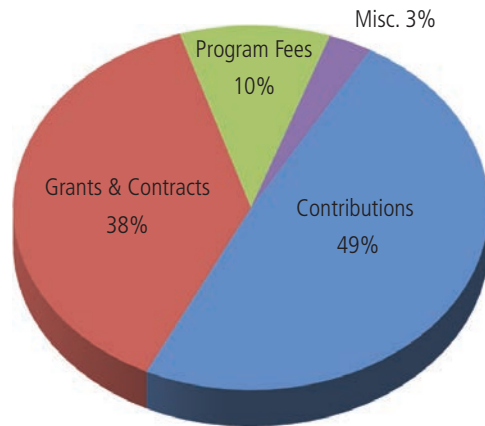
Total current liabilities **\$53,167**

Net assets

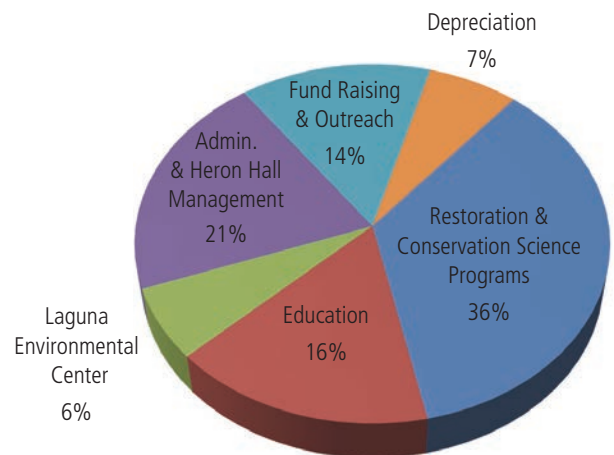
Net income	\$96,738
Unrestricted	2,242,638
Temporarily restricted	20,339
Permanently restricted	<u>10,000</u>
Total net assets	\$2,369,715

Total liabilities and net assets **\$2,422,883**

Income by Source



Expense by Activity



Contract Partners

- California State Coastal Conservancy
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- Prunuske Chatham, Inc.
- San Francisco Estuary Institute
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- Sonoma County Water Agency

Note 1 - Laguna Uplands. Land is shown at current appraised value. The property is encumbered by a conservation easement.



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THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA FOUNDATION RESTORE, CONSERVE & INSPIRE: NURTURING A HEALTHY LAGUNA

For 25 years, the Laguna Foundation has been the voice for Sonoma County's most spectacular land and water asset - The Laguna de Santa Rosa. Working closely with our partners on conservation, restoration and education programs, we focus our efforts to:



*Peregrine falcon
(Thomas Reynolds)*

- Collaborate with landowners, government agencies, businesses and the agricultural community to improve water quality and groundwater resources for all.
- Bring together technical experts, land managers and policymakers to create effective climate adaptation strategies that preserve natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.

- Educate and inspire people of all ages to appreciate the Laguna through workshops, volunteer opportunities and our landmark school program, Learning Laguna.

- Remove invasive species including water primrose, pepperweed, Harding grass and pennyroyal.

- Attract ground-breaking scientific research to the Laguna wetland and watershed.

- Protect threatened and endangered plants and animals by restoring habitat.



*Education volunteers enjoying the Laguna.
(Christine Fontaine)*