



Pictured: Karen and Vic Trione

Vic and Karen Trione Pledge \$50,000 Matching Grant

Sonoma County philanthropists Vic and Karen Trione have pledged a \$50,000 matching grant to fund Laguna Foundation's long-range, science-based programs throughout our 254 square mile Laguna Watershed. They will match all gifts up to \$50,000 made by December 31, thereby doubling your gift to conservation in Sonoma County's internationally recognized wetlands.

Vic and Karen explained, "We believe the Laguna Foundation understands the complex problems facing the Laguna watershed, creates result-focused plans to solve them, provides leadership to bring the partners together in collaborative action, and most of all... the Laguna Foundation has the field-experience and boots-on-the-ground to get the job done."

This generous matching grant will give the Laguna Foundation essential resources to improve water quality,

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Watershed Stewardship - In Action, Together

Kevin Munroe, Executive Director



John Hanses

Our first Strategic Plan (2017-2021) is done! After dozens of meetings over several years with stakeholders, partners, staff, board and volunteers, we're now excited to share our collective goals for the next five years. The Executive Summary of our plan will arrive in your mailbox (or Inbox) before the holidays. Keep your eyes open, and please let us know what you think!

To ensure a healthy and thriving Laguna for decades and generations to come requires a plan, and a roadmap. Just as important are passion, hope and many dedicated partnerships. Perhaps the most essential of those is a large-scale partnership with the public - the 400,000 people living in the Laguna watershed's 254 square miles. It starts of course with one person at a time, including you. We hope you can see yourself somewhere in the following five Goals; the keystones of our five-year plan:

- 1) Lead Our Diverse Partners Towards Collaborative Action and Shared Goals
- 2) Resolve Important Ecological Problems on a Watershed Scale
- 3) Educate Diverse Communities To Inspire Local Stewardship
- 4) Secure a Financial Future of Diversity and Growth
- 5) Cultivate a Strong and Creative Work Community: Board, Staff, and Volunteers

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Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, *Director of Restoration and
Conservation Science Programs*
Paul Weber, *Restoration Field Supervisor*

Yosemite vs. Mayacamas - It's About Home

I am so proud to be part of this incredible team, a constantly energized community of Laguna devotees! Wow, we accomplished SO much this year. Thousands of native plants installed, many new volunteer opportunities and programs each month, and a growing board and staff. Amazingly, this all took place at the same time as our countless Strategic Planning meetings – these people are unstoppable!

Part of what kept me energized, despite seven day work-weeks and 12 hour days, was a year of exploration. My first year as a Californian, I spent long weekends under giant fir trees at Yuba Pass and Salmon Lake, exploring the coastlines of Point Reyes and Santa Cruz, hiking in Yosemite and the White Mountains, and birding around Mono Lake. Criss-crossing the state, it was always special to return home to the land around Santa Rosa and Sebastopol I now call home. I also spent many hours exploring Windsor's town square and back roads, Cotati's pathways, Santa Rosa parklands and Sebastopol's Ragle Ranch. The western slopes of the Mayacamas (part of this watershed and where some of the Laguna's streams are born) may be my favorite.

Yosemite is awe-inspiring and grand, but a walk in our Mayacama hills, a visit to Cunningham Marsh, or volunteering on a Learning Laguna fieldtrip to Irwin Creek is magic in a different way. This is home; this is "our place." Yosemite is a vacation – a walk in the Laguna is a daily act of connection. A reminder that earth and water, plants and wildlife can be a daily part of our lives and neighborhoods, not just a TV documentary or an annual road-trip to somewhere far away.



Kevin Munroe
Executive Director

Matching Grant

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enhance wildlife habitat, develop climate adaptation strategies and conserve biodiversity in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. These efforts will be sustained by our network of diverse partnerships, hundreds of dedicated volunteers and the thousands of Sonoma County residents engaged in our education programs. The end result – watershed stewardship adopted and implemented by the whole community.

Your contribution helps to double this grant, providing a possible (and exciting!) total of \$100,000! You're creating an opportunity for the Laguna Foundation to provide innovative, collaborative and sustainable solutions, ensuring a healthy and thriving Laguna for generations.

For information about the matching grant or to donate stock, contact Bev Scotland at (707) 527-9277, ext. 106 or Bev@LagunaFoundation.org. To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website.

2015-2016 Laguna Watershed Report

Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, Dir. of Rest. and Cons. Science Programs

On Thursday, September 22, we had our first annual watershed report and invasive species feast to celebrate the start of the new water year. We gathered at Heron Hall to eat wild boar, turkey, fennel salad, and blackberry pie, and to discuss the 2015-2016 water year. Below are a few highlights. For more information and for a list of ways that you can get involved with watershed science, from otters to vernal pools, check out the summary on our website, www.LagunaFoundation.org.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed had more rainfall last year than we since the 2011-2012 water year, but it was still below the long-term average. While we didn't get the big storms we were hoping for, thanks to public water conservation and changes in the way we manage our reservoirs, we actually have an above average amount of water stored in our reservoirs. The major cities in our watershed used 29% less water this year than four years ago at the start of the drought.

Watershed Stewardship

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Each Goal has a list of Strategies and Benchmark Programs that together realize the Goal. Some of these are shared in the Executive Summary we'll be mailing out later this year. Here, as brief examples, are a few Strategies we'll be using to accomplish these Goals:

- Develop long-term solutions to water quality issues by reducing current sources of pollution, ameliorating the impact of historic pollutants and supporting improved stormwater management.
- Strengthen outreach efforts to reach specific groups that are new to, or underserved by, the Laguna Foundation — both geographically and demographically.
- Develop and celebrate partnerships with the agricultural community to demonstrate the interdependencies between a sustainable economy and the environment.



Although we received some early rain in September, the water levels in the Laguna really started to come up in early December, just in time for the Coho salmon to migrate upstream to their spawning grounds in Mark West Creek and Santa Rosa Creek. We received a good storm in mid January and another late storm in March. The rainy season ended with a final small sprinkle in June.

These Goals and Strategies you've helped us create are ambitious, but we believe also pragmatic. With your help, we know we can get them done. None of this happens without dynamic partnerships, and none of this happens without long-term support. We're also counting on you to help provide the passion, energy and hope we mentioned earlier. **We can all be watershed stewards - in action, together.**

Add More Joy to Your Life! Train and Become a Learning Laguna Docent.

Volunteer in 2nd-4th grade classrooms throughout the watershed and in the field at special Laguna preserves. Volunteers expand their knowledge about the Laguna during lively classes that take place on 10 Mondays between March 6 – May 22, 2017. Docents-in-training also shadow working docents in the classroom and the field to put all the training into context. You are guaranteed to make new friends, stretch, grow, and have lots of joyful experiences! Join us to make a difference for Sonoma County school children and contribute to a healthy future for the Laguna.

Contact Christine about becoming a docent!

**Visit our website, give her a call: (707) 527-9277, ext. 102
or email christine@lagunafoundation.org**

Celebrating the Laguna Education Team Volunteers

Christine Fontaine, Director of Education Programs



Learning Laguna docents circling up before students arrive for a field trip. (L-R: Kitty Ritz, Angela Sturr, Linda Widdifield, Jeani Ritter, Wendy Evans & Anne Sobol)

It is difficult, nay, impossible to imagine a Laguna Foundation without education volunteers. Volunteers created our docent training program back in 1998 and, quickly on its heels they created Laguna specific classroom and field activities that became the Learning Laguna school program in 1999. By teaching adults about the Laguna whose volunteer service would be teaching children in Learning Laguna, right out of the gate the Laguna Foundation was serving multiple age groups. The first education director wasn't even hired until 2005 so it was volunteer docents who organized every detail of the program, taught the program, and trained the next class of volunteers each year. We are fortunate that some of the docent training and Learning Laguna developers are still contributing to the programs 17 years later! Today, with staff direction and support, the volunteer docents bring the Laguna to 95% of the school districts within the watershed and teach 1,500 2nd-4th grade students at the Laguna each year.

Working with school children is essential and remains vital to the goals of the Laguna Foundation, and we are ever expanding our education offerings. Our public education program started in 2005 as a series of docent-guided walks around Sebastopol's Laguna Wetlands Preserve. Through hiring additional staff in 2012, the program has grown into a vibrant selection of more than 35 events annually including awe-inspiring Laguna walks, dynamic talks, and creative art workshops. Again, it is volunteers who make the program possible. Trained Laguna Guides support every event and even lead many of them as well.

From teaching about the Laguna in the field, to facilitating classes in Heron Hall, to parking duty and working the check-in and welcome tables, and, probably too often, washing dishes and sweeping floors, Laguna Guides make our Public Education world go round!

This summer, fourteen people graduated from the 32-hour Laguna Guides Training course and they were celebrated and welcomed at a festive party on June 23. Congratulations and heart-felt appreciation goes out to the newest members of our volunteer Education Team.

Laguna education volunteers are stalwart and honorable community members who step forward and say: YES! I want to learn more and be part of the solution for the Laguna! I have time to give for that which I value! I am flexible and willing to do what needs to be done! I enjoy working as part of a team of people coming together for a greater good: the health and reverence of our home environment! While I may have just put words into their mouths, the results are clear: we have an amazing circle of people on the Education Team and our education programs couldn't exist without their thousands of volunteer work hours, dedication, and the heart they bring to every event.

See page 3 for information on the next opportunity to join the education team: Learning Laguna docent training, Spring 2017.



Guides Class of 2016: L-R. Front to Back: Heather Rush, Linda Fraley, Constance Sinclair, Kris Hall, Alison Duke, Dan Gurney, Conley Guy, Shannon Strong, Karen Gardner, Jerry Schoenstein. Not pictured: Suzanne Knecht, Marna McKenzie, Cathy McClelland, Alexander Ocegvera.

Upcoming Public Education Events

Get to Know Your Laguna Watershed!

Join us for a walk, talk, or workshop. More events added regularly to our website, www.LagunaFoundation.org.
Make sure we have your email address so we can notify you of these special opportunities.

Climate Change and the Laguna:

North Bay Climate Ready Highlights

Presentation and Discussion with Dr. Lisa Micheli
Saturday, November 12, 3:00-4:30pm
\$10 (non-refundable). Pre-registration required.

History of Agriculture in Sonoma County

Presentation with Dr. Mara Vejby
Thursday, December 1, 7:00-8:30pm
\$10 (non-refundable). Pre-registration required.

Papermaking with Plants of the Laguna

Two-day workshop with Jane Ingram Allen
Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4, 9:30am-4:00pm
\$150. Pre-registration required.

Discover the Laguna Discovery Trail

Natural History Walk with Laguna Education Team
Saturday, December 10, 9:00am-12:30pm
\$15 (non-refundable). Pre-registration required.

Ducks Day Open House

Displays and activities for all ages at the
Laguna Environmental Center
Saturday, January 14, 2017, 11:00am-2:00pm
FREE. No RSVP required.



Waterfowl of Sonoma County and California

Presentation with
Dave Barry
Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017,
3:00-4:30pm
\$10 (non-refundable).
Pre-registration required.

Waterfowl of the Laguna and Pacific Flyway

Sunrise natural history walk with Dave Barry
Sunday, January 15, 2017, 7:30-11:00am
\$30. Pre-registration required.

Photography at the Laguna

Workshop (one evening and one full day)
with Susan and Neil Silverman
Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7:00-9:00pm and
Saturday, January 28, 7:00am-4:00pm
See website for cost and details. Pre-registration required.



Cordage Making Materials and Techniques

Workshop with
Charlie Kennard
Saturday, February 4, 2017
9:30am-3:30pm
\$85. Pre-registration
required.

The Winter Landscape in Your Nature Journal

Watercolor journaling workshop with Kristin Meuser
Saturday, February 18, 2017, 9:30am-3:30pm
\$150 (includes art supplies kit). Pre-registration required.



Drawing Green Leaves and Stems in Colored Pencil

Workshop with Nina Antze
Saturday March 4, 2017
10:00am-3:00pm
\$85. Pre-registration required.

Spring Birding in the Laguna Series

Birdwatching and Natural
History Walks with Lisa Hug
Sundays, March 26, April 23,
and May 21, 2017
\$45 per class.
Pre-registration required.

*Stay tuned for Flash Kayaking
events this winter!*

All events take place or begin at Heron Hall, at the Laguna Environmental Center at 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, Ca.
To register or for more information, please visit our website at www.LagunaFoundation.org
or, contact Anita Smith, Public Education Manager at (707) 527-9277, ext. 110 or Anita@LagunaFoundation.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Maggie Hart, Outreach Coordinator



Our volunteers are key to the success of our native plant landscape!

Garden Volunteer Days

First Friday of the Month, 9am – Noon

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

Share your passion for pollinators by helping our native plant garden thrive! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Activities include planting, weeding, spreading wood chips, and general site cleanup.

Location: The Laguna Environmental Center's native plant landscape includes wildflowers, grasses, sedges, trees, forbes and herbaceous plants. The site also includes beautiful views, spots to have a picnic, a living willow tunnel in the Children's Playscape, a bridge over a swale, a pond with wetland plants and an observation deck.

No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn. Training and tools will be provided, plus abundant and hearty snacks! Wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty. RSVP only if you are planning on bringing a group of 5 or more people so that we can have enough supplies. Only heavy rain cancels.

For more information, please contact: Maggie Hart, Outreach Coordinator at (707) 527.9277, ext. 100 or email MaggieHart@LagunaFoundation.org.

Laguna Stewardship Days

Once a month on a Saturday, 9am – Noon.

2016: Sept. 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 10

2017: Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13

Summer Break: June – August

Help care for the Laguna and restore critical wildlife habitat! Each month we offer a different opportunity to take part in ensuring a brighter future for the Laguna. Tasks vary depending on the season and include removing old irrigation hardware from successful restoration projects, sewing seeds, planting native plants and trees, and weeding.

Location: Details of the site location announced 1-2 weeks in advance of the workday by email and on our website (various sites along the Laguna in Santa Rosa in Sebastopol, Rohnert Park and Cotati).



Restoration Field Supervisor, Paul Weber, plants an oak tree during a volunteer workday.

For more information, please contact: Brent Reed, Ecological Programs Manager at (707) 527.9277, ext. 101 or email Brent@LagunaFoundation.org

Tool Drive

We are in need of used or new tools that are in good working condition. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors, especially if you see them cleaning out their garage! Some of the tools we need are:

wheelbarrows	sheet metal cutters	wire brushes
chainsaws	ratchet set	cleaning brushes
pickaxes	allen wrench set	heavy-duty flashlights
mattocks	drill bit set	large chest coolers
general shop tools	hand pruners	10 gal. water dispenser
pliers	hula hoes	step stool
bench vice grip	digging bars	ladders
wire cutters	rubber boots	extension cords.

Dropping off tools? Stop by our office during our open hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.
Questions? Contact Paul Weber: Paul@LagunaFoundation.org.

Thank You, Rotarians!

Maggie Hart, Outreach Coordinator

On Saturday, September 24, we hosted a Rotary Day at the Laguna Environmental Center for facilities maintenance and repair. The volunteer turnout was fantastic! There were 29 volunteers from 4 different Rotary Clubs (Rotary Club of Sebastopol, Rotary Club of Santa Rosa, Rotary Club of Santa Rosa West and Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Sunrise). It was our biggest multiple Rotary Club workday and we hope to make it an annual event because it was wonderfully collaborative and fun!

These enthusiastic and capable volunteers assisted with three main projects: painting our birding observation deck and bridge, adding heavy gravel to our pathways, and shoveling gigantic mounds of mulch and compost onto our native plant landscape. We are so grateful these hardworking and dedicated Rotarians spent their Saturday helping us keep the Laguna Environmental Center in great shape, as well as beautifying this local community resource. We hope they come back and visit often!

Special thanks to...

- Ellen Harrington and Tom Lambert from the Rotary Club of Sebastopol for spearheading this effort and recruiting



Rotary club volunteers spreading mulch at the Laguna Environmental Center.

so many volunteers!

- Chip Rawson (Rotary Club of Santa Rosa) and his professional painting crew for donating the power washing and painting supplies.
- Guy Smith (Rotary Club of Sebastopol) for hauling and delivering the gravel.
- Whole Foods Market for donating the food.
- Stony Point Quarry for donating the gravel.
- Sonoma County Water Agency for donating the mulch.
- City of Santa Rosa for donating the compost and the use of the tractor.

Congratulations Julie Atwood!

Dr. Dianne Smith, Board of Directors Vice President



Julie Atwood, Laguna Board Director and the Founder of the HALTER Project in Sonoma County, received a national award from Tim Manning, Deputy Director of Community Preparedness at FEMA in Washington, D.C.

The Laguna Foundation Board, Staff, and friends send hearty congratulations to Laguna Board member, Julie Atwood, for her recent national FEMA award for founding and directing the non-profit organization known as HALTER (Horse and Livestock Team Emergency Rescue).

Julie describes this important organization as an Individual Community Action project. HALTER is dedicated to providing rural communities within our Laguna Watershed as well as surrounding areas with information and resources for livestock emergencies such as fire, flood, earthquake, landslide, and road or field accidents. The Laguna Foundation invites our rural neighbors and friends who raise livestock or just enjoy their own domestic animals to check out this great website for more information at www.HalterFund.org.

We salute Julie for her extensive volunteer activities at the Laguna Foundation as well as many other non-profit and agricultural organizations throughout Sonoma County.



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



NEW Art Exhibit in Heron Hall!

Photographs of the Laguna de Santa Rosa by Joan Humberstone, in Memoriam
On display through January 3, 2017

Reward yourself by visiting this beautiful exhibit in Heron Hall. The Laguna Environmental Center is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm, but because of the variety of hall uses during the week, **please call ahead** to make sure you can view the art: Contact Adrienne Gause, Admin. Manager at (707) 527-9277, ext. 107.



Planned Giving

Help ensure that the Laguna is a healthy part of our community forever by remembering the Laguna Foundation in your will or estate plan.

Let us know if you have designated a planned gift to the Laguna Foundation. All Laguna Legacy Society Members will be invited to our annual Legacy luncheon early next year. To find out more about the luncheon or to join the Legacy Society, contact Bev Scotland at (707) 527-9277, ext. 106 or email Bev@LagunaFoundation.org.