



2018 | 2019
ANNUAL REPORT

Our Community Update

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE LAGUNA,



When I look at the Laguna watershed in 2019, I can't help but think about the state of the creeks that travel across the Santa Rosa Plain. It is hard to imagine the gravel-lined ditches stripped of their trees and shrubs of 40 years ago. Following drastic changes and channelization, in the 1970s these creeks were declared "devoid of life." For the past 30 years, the Laguna Foundation has been working to bring these creeks back to life. Working with public agencies and private landowners, the Laguna Foundation has been able to positively impact the streams that feed the Laguna channel by improving water quality and building lush riparian vegetation that offer habitat and wildlife corridors.

We recognize the importance of the Laguna Foundation's contribution to mitigating the climate crisis. Reducing carbon emissions is not enough. At this critical juncture we all must do more in mitigating climate change. The more than 70,000 trees and shrubs planted by the Laguna Foundation are drawing carbon from the atmosphere. By the same token, our grasslands management and invasive plant control programs are sequestering carbon and increasing biodiversity.

In this annual report, we share many of the accomplishments and impacts we are having in the vast Laguna watershed where two-thirds of Sonoma County lives. In addition to the excellent restoration and sediment reduction work, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders and Camp Tule attendees who experience our environmental education programs are exposed to life-changing experiences in nature. If you have attended our community education programs at the Laguna Environmental Center or in the field, or are one of our 600 volunteers, you have experienced other important ways we are sharing the many qualities of the Laguna with the public.

Your ongoing generosity truly makes all of these accomplishments and community involvement opportunities possible. Thank you for sharing our vision and stepping forward to make it possible for us to pursue our dreams of a swimmable and fishable Laguna.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Johnson".

Carolyn (CJ) Johnson
President, Board of Directors

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation works to restore and conserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to inspire public appreciation for Sonoma County's Wetland of International Importance. The Foundation is the steward of the Laguna wetlands, its streams and habitats. Our work focuses on the health and well-being of the environment and its connection to the surrounding community and economy. We do this through restoration, conservation, and education.

We all depend on a healthy watershed — not just to live, but to live *well*.



Improving water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat through

RESTORATION & CONSERVATION SCIENCE

The Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed faces multiple ecological challenges, from threats to endangered species, to impaired water quality, and climate change. We partner with both public and private entities to find innovative solutions to these problems and to restore a diverse, ecologically sustainable Laguna.

Irwin Creek Restoration

This year marked the completion of our restoration project at Irwin Creek in Santa Rosa. When we began in 2014, the creek channel was choked with 15'-tall invasive Himalayan blackberry among a narrow strip of trees.

The blackberry has been replaced by native sedge beds and other riparian plants and trees that resist reinvasion of non-native species. The riparian corridor is now 400'-wide and includes vernal pools, native trees, and large patches of native milkweed to attract Monarch butterflies.

Gravenstein Creek Restoration

Our successful restoration project on Gravenstein Creek is now in its third year. Alongside Sonoma Resource Conservation District and Point Blue Conservation Science, we are working to extend this project upstream to restore an additional 2.5 acres.

Restoration Department INTERNS

Anna Colarusso	Nicholas Powell
Jesse Zubiato-Kelly	Elizabeth Porter
Vince Schwartz	Samantha Elias





Expanding our Impact with

NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2018-2019 we worked on more than 30 diverse projects that included trash clean-up throughout the watershed, growing endangered plant species, and implementing conservation grazing methods to help control invasive plants, support vernal pool habitat, and mitigate fire risks.

Conservation of Sebastopol Meadowfoam

Our conservation grazing program at Balletto Field in Santa Rosa has expanded to include the conservation of endangered Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vincularis*). From 400 seeds collected in spring, plants grown in our nursery produced an incredible 130,800 seeds. The meadowfoam will be replanted in Balletto Field, adjacent to the Laguna where it once thrived. This successful project will help the recovery of this declining species.

Restoration of Cunningham Marsh

In collaboration with the California Native Plant Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, we have launched a restoration project to ensure the continuance of the endangered Pitkin marsh lily (*Lilium pardalinum ssp. pitkinense*), in its last known location at Cunningham Marsh in Sebastopol.

Over the next three years we will remove invasive Himalayan blackberry and velvet grass, and restore important habitat for native azalea, black oak woodland, and ensure the protection of the beautiful native lily.

Restoration of Roseland Creek

We began a new restoration project along Roseland Creek in Santa Rosa that will replace invasive shrubs and trees with native trees and sedges. This is the beginning of a larger collaboration with the local community and the City of Santa Rosa. The protection and restoration of remnant patches of native forest will also enhance Roseland Creek Elementary School's ability to provide a beautiful spot for students to explore and be inspired.

Fire Recovery at Hood Mountain

Over 20 different species of seed have been collected from burned and unburned areas at Hood Mountain Regional Park. This effort will restore bulldozer lines where top soils were removed and plant life has not reestablished on its own following the 2017 wildfires. Our new nursery will soon be occupied with seedlings to be planted next fall.



PROTECTING

the Laguna's flood capacity

Last winter's floods showed us how important the Laguna floodplain is to the Russian River watershed. Unfortunately, the floodplain is rapidly filling in with sediment that washes out of the hills and is deposited in the Laguna. As this happens, the holding capacity of the flood basin is reduced and flooding becomes more severe in communities along the Laguna de Santa Rosa and the Russian River, from Sebastopol to Guerneville.

In an exciting partnership with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, we have begun to identify the origins of sediment in the upper watershed. Beginning in Copeland Creek in Rohnert Park, an important tributary to the Laguna, this project addresses the erosion issues at their source. In addition, we are studying how wildlife use this important corridor. In ongoing collaborations with the City of Rohnert Park, Sonoma State University, and local schools, we are working to restore this valuable creek while addressing impacts of erosion along the Laguna.

Restoration Department
**LAGUNA STEWARDS
& TEAM PRUNUS**

Gabriela Arango	Marcus Lipton
Max Caruso	Elias Lopez
Kelly Dabney	Don Martin
Deeanne Edwards	Jeffrey Muse
Pete Edwards	David Pyland
Skip Ginsburg	Bill Pinkus
Earl Herr	Luke Salazar
John Horrell	Greg Sharpe
Marcia Johnson	Carole Van Aelstyn
Brett Lane	Giel Witt
Noma Lane	



Teaching the value of our wetlands through

LEARNING LAGUNA

Our flagship program, *Learning Laguna*, remains in high demand with 2nd-4th grade teachers because it brings learning to life for students through classroom exercises and hands-on experience along the Laguna. Teachers appreciate that the activities teach to curriculum standards and are relevant to the children's daily lives. The students express their excitement to learn the importance of taking good care of the Laguna—for wildlife *and* for us.



By the numbers...

20,200

Children participated since 1999

1,200

Students reached in FY 2018-19

46

Classrooms

13

Schools

Education Department VOLUNTEER DOCENTS

Suzanne Abrams	◇ Jim Dempsey	◇ Diana Laczkowski	Doris Parker	Heidi Stewart
Jim Allen	DJ DeProspero	Terry Lemenager	◇ Richard Peterson-Jones	◇ * Angela Sturr
◇ Connie Ayers	◇ * Frank Dono	Teresa Losh	Sarah Pinneo	Peggy Tourje
◇ Sandra Bodley	Christine Dreyer	Linda Marietta	Raymond Rapp	Raini Sugg
Ursa Born	Wendy Evans	Elizabeth Meirik	Jeani Ritter	Jerry Wagner
Nita Brock	Karen Fendrick	Richard McMurtry	◇ Kitty Ritz	Rosemary Ward
Brendan Brown	Linda Fraley	Lise Melin	Barbara Rosen	Carol Wegner
Tish Brown	Victoria Fullerton	* Franny Minervini-Zick	Teri Schmidt	Linda Widdifield
Linda Clopton	Brigitte Grimshaw	Jennifer Minnifield	Anne Schroder	Jack Ziegler
Laura Close	◇ Kathi Jacobs	Dexter Nardella	Decker Smith	
Deborah Collins	* Marcia Johnson	◇ * Laura Neumann	Anne Sobol	
◇ Patricia Currie	◇ Arlene Kallen	Sheila O'Brien	Lisa Sorensen	

◇ *Learning Laguna Day Leaders* * *Camp Tule Docents*

1,250

Docent teaching hours

Inspiring the next generation of stewards at
CAMP TULE

Our summer day-camp is thriving! This year we grew the program by 30%. For one quarter of the children, attendance was made possible through the generosity of donor-provided scholarships, some of which were designated to children in foster care. Staff and docents led three adventurous week-long sessions. Five student counselors and four teen interns supported our ability to provide the highest level of engagement, care and ensured lots of fun for all. Joy, curiosity and shrieks of delight abounded as we climbed, hiked, caught insects, created art, planted sedges, and made new friends.



Education Department
CAMP COUNSELORS

Caitlin Grace Evelyn Remley
Lhasa Gray Sonja Schendel
Calvin Kulpa

INTERNS

Eren Pierson-Jurik Alexa Pina
Aedan Seaver Satleen Gill





Sharing the wonders of the Laguna at our

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

This dynamic, year-round collection of programs drew devoted Laguna advocates and newcomers alike, inspiring deeper connections to our home environment for all participants. More than 1,475 people joined us for one of the 51 programs we offered this last year. From sharing the awe-inspiring moments of watching bird nestlings, to weaving plant materials into baskets, these experiences built community and provided a place to celebrate and grow appreciation for the natural world.

Highlights included talks and workshops by regional experts on traditional environmental knowledge and climate change, wetland birds of the Laguna, mountain lions, and the state of the ocean off Northern California. Additional programs included a walk focused on wild food and medicine, an expressive nature photography class, colored pencil drawing and watercolor workshops for beginning and skilled painters.



Education Department VOLUNTEER GREETERS & GUIDES

Steve Abrama	Joseph Currie	Michael Fanning	Judy Kupfer	Tonia Seidita
Suzanne Abrams	Richard DiTommaso	Heidi Fantacone	Cathy McClelland	Jerry Schoenstein
Susie Albrecht	Frank Dono	Linda Fraley	Marna McKenzie	Constance Sinclair
Helen Baum	Marian Doyle-Landis	Barbara Gay	Clark Miller	Decker Smith
Sandra Bodley	Alison Duke	Terri Griffin	Jacqua Miller	Edwin Spear
Sharon Bouton	Christine Engle	Kris Hall	Franny Minervini-Zick	Bernie Stephan
Patricia Bowen	Barbara Fabrizio	Carroll Hirsch	Tammi Ramirez	Jerry Wagner
Barb Brown	Gail Fanning	Marcia Johnson	Heather Rush	Vicki Wedegaertner

Sharing our vision with help from
VOLUNTEERS



Last year, 639 volunteers contributed more than 12,000 hours of service

The Laguna Foundation appreciates volunteers in all forms! Whether they are one-time volunteers or ongoing, we understand the power of community involvement and therefore strongly support our volunteers to ensure a positive, productive experience. Volunteer opportunities are available in each of our core program areas: Education, Restoration and Conservation Science, and Administration. All of our programs are stronger and more effective thanks to our generous and skilled volunteers.

Volunteers greatly increase our organization's capacity well beyond what staff alone can achieve. We embrace volunteer engagement as a core strategy, increasing our impact significantly. On a daily basis, we involve volunteers across the organization, are committed to volunteer engagement, train volunteers effectively, and measure volunteer impact. In return, volunteers expand our budget and extend the services of our organization.

Administration Department
**OFFICE, FACILITIES & EVENT
SUPPORT**

Peter Beaman	Kayla Lopez
Denise Cadman	Rachel Mathiau
Ron Dodge	Katrina Mounivong
Nick Dunlop	Nick Powell
Chris Engel	Anne Schroder
Ellen Harrington	Stuart Schroeder
Sue Hoey	Guy Smith
Marcia Johnson	Diane Van Anda
Tom Lambert	Chris Watson

**HERON HALL ART
COMMITTEE**

Krista Anandakuttan
Yvonne Giambrone Martin
Joyce Libeu

*The Laguna Foundation is grateful to the following supporters who made generous contributions
from July 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. Thank you!*

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Troy & Carol Stenlund
Jeff Stucker
Gail & Michael Sullivan
Kimberly Susukida
Mitchel & Nancy Thiele
Mark Thorn
Thao Tran
Bob Truax
Julie Trudel
Peter & Noni Verbiscar-Brown
Peter Warner
Tom Wegge
Shirley Weisman
Susan Wielk
Debra Willett
Simone Wilson
Roseanna Woods
Jennifer York & Joe Ruffatto
Patricia & Bruce Yoxall

Gifts-In-Kind Donors

Alquimista Cellars
Audobon Canyon Ranch
Balletto Vineyards
Bohemian Creamery
Brendan & Tish Brown
Denise Cadman
Lois Cohen
Baseline Consulting
DeLoach Vineyards
Ron & Sandy Dodge
Frank & Jackie Dono
DRNK Wines
Nick & Michelle Dunlop
E&J Gallo Winery
Furthermore Wines
Steve Gibbs
Gonzague & Claire Lurton
Vineyards
Hanna Winery, Inc.
HenHouse Brewing
Hog Island Oyster Company, Inc

Stett Holbrook
Hook & Ladder Winery
Hopmonk Tavern
Carolyn Johnson & Rick Theis
Marcia & Ralph Johnson
Lynn & Rod Berglund
Chris & Charles Judson
Korbel Champagne Cellars
Lagunitas Brewing Company
Brett & Noma Lane
Mary's Pizza Shack
Cathy & Craig McClelland
Jacquelyn Miller
Glenn & Franny Minervini-Zick
Mombo Pizza
Kevin Munroe
Nicasio Valley Cheese Company
Northern California Public Media
Point Blue
The Press Democrat
Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery
Rialto Cinemas
Kitty Ritz
Safeway
Sangler Cellars
Sebastopol Hardware
Lowell's Restaurant
Eleanor Rose Silberman
Sonoma County Gazette
Heidi Stewart & John Weinstein
Three Twins Ice Cream
Cowgirl Creamery
Trione Vineyards & Winery
Raini Sugg & Steve Vallarino
Valley Ford Cheese Company
Jerry & Karen Wagner
Whole Foods Market

Legacy Society

Anonymous (2)
William and Florence Dodson
Chris Engel
Barbara Gay
Linda and David Hanes
Sharon Hawthorne
Carroll and John Hirsch
Carolyn Johnson
Ellen and Wayne Krebs
Barrie Ann Mason
Bev Scotland
Mike and Barbara Shepherd
Roger and Ellen Sherron
Dr. Dianne Smith
Raini Sugg and Steve Vallarino
Arlene Ulmer
Gretchen Whisenand

Activities for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUES AND SUPPORT			
Government Grants & Contracts	\$ 390,770	\$ 303,130	\$ 693,900
Contributions	460,781	56,500	517,281
Program & Miscellaneous Income	140,767		140,767
Net assets released from restrictions	92,862	(92,862)	0
Total Revenues and Support	\$ 1,085,180	\$ 266,768	\$ 1,351,948
EXPENSES			
Program Services			
Restoration & Conservation Science	\$ 496,429		\$ 496,429
Education	235,159		235,159
Heron Hall Comm. Programs & Rentals	25,089		25,089
Total Program Services	\$ 756,677	\$ 0	\$ 756,677
Supporting Services			
Administration	\$ 201,683		\$ 201,683
Fund Raising and Outreach	213,002		213,002
Total Supporting Services	\$ 414,685	\$ 0	\$ 414,685
Depreciation	\$ 66,602		\$ 66,602
Total Expenses	\$ 1,237,964	\$ 0	\$ 1,237,964
Change in Net Assets	\$ (152,784)	\$ 266,768	\$ 113,984
Net Assets, beginning of period	2,135,586	122,809	2,258,395
NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD	\$ 1,982,802	\$ 389,577	\$ 2,372,379

Grant & Contract
PARTNERS

California Environmental Protection Agency	Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria	Sonoma County Airport
California Native Plant Society, Milo Baker Chapter	Fledgling Fund	Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission
City of Rohnert Park	Kimball Foundation	Sonoma County Regional Parks
City of Santa Rosa	LandPaths	Sonoma County Water Agency
City of Sebastopol	Prunuske Chatham, Inc.	Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Conservation Corps North Bay	San Francisco Estuary Institute	Sonoma State University
Earle Baum Center for the Blind	Santa Rosa Junior College	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Federal Aviation Administration	Sarah K. de Coizart Article Tenth Perpetual Charitable Trust	
	Sonoma County Ag + Open Space	

These statements are unaudited.

Position as of June 30, 2019

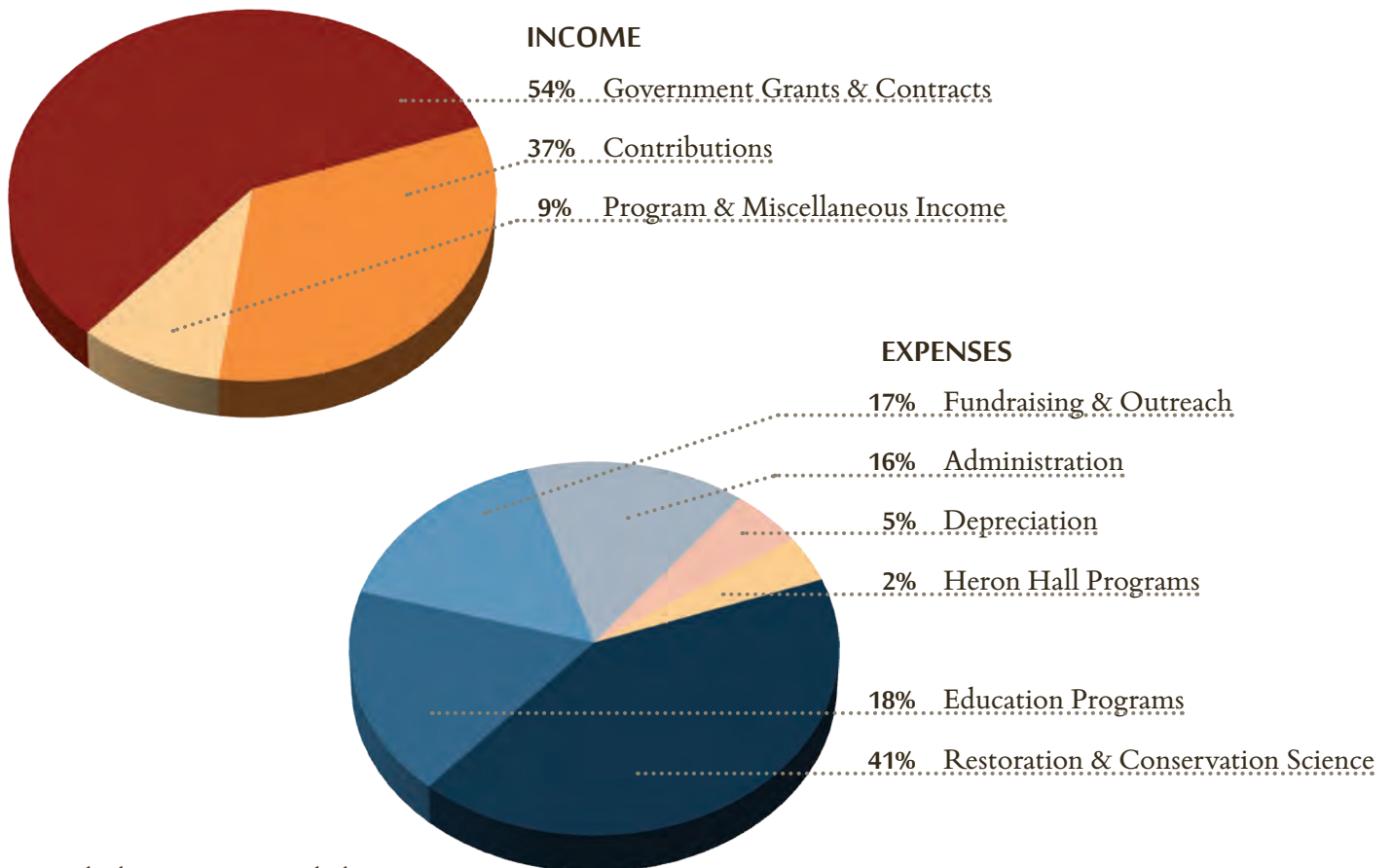
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 268,525
Accounts Receivable	122,106
Prepays	6,826
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 397,457</u>
Fixed Assets	
Land ¹	\$ 150,000
Building and Property Improvements	2,063,772
Furniture & Equipment	122,682
Vehicles	29,855
Accumulated Depreciation	(499,229)
Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 1,867,080</u>
Other Assets	
Lease Gift-In-Kind Less Value Discount	\$ 161,840
Endowment Fund	10,235
Total Other Assets	<u>\$ 172,075</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,436,612

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 13,627
Accrued Vacation	13,128
Accrued Wages	37,110
Payroll Liabilities	(59)
Other Payables	427
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 64,233</u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$ 1,982,802
Restricted	389,577
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,372,379</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 2,436,612



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



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www.LagunaFoundation.org

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Conservation Science Programs

Asa Voight, *Restoration Field Supervisor*

Paul Weber, *Restoration Field Supervisor*

Jesse Zubiante-Kelly, *Restoration Technician*

PHOTO CREDITS

All photos taken by staff unless otherwise noted: Cover: Sara Silver. Page 3 (top): Brenda Tharp. Page 11: Faye Heath.

