

The Laguna Foundation

The Laguna Foundation is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1989. Our mission is “To preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and to inspire greater public understanding and appreciation of this magnificent natural area.”

The Foundation implements restoration projects, works with landowners and public agencies to protect and improve Laguna resources, conducts education programs for children and adults and scientific research to inform our education and restoration activities, and creates opportunities for walking, riding and paddling in the Laguna.

Our board includes recognized leaders from throughout our community who share the vision of the Laguna as a thriving natural, educational and recreational amenity for Sonoma County’s future.



Santa Rosa, CA 95404
P.O. Box 7886, Santa Rosa, CA 95407
707.527.9277
www.lagunafoundation.org
Tax ID: 94-3155180



2006 Annual Report

Mission Statement

*“To preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna de Santa Rosa,
and to inspire public understanding and appreciation
for this magnificent natural area.”*

Board of Directors

Susan Churchill, President
David Bannister, Vice President
Brad DeMeo, Secretary
Jim Beyers, Treasurer

Directors

Jeannette Anglin
Alan Bertozzi
Bill Bettinelli
Denise Cadman
Dick Carlile
Caroline Christian, PhD.
Jim Shelton
Guy Smith
Virginia Strom-Martin
Retired from the board
Edmund Smith, Ph.D
George Tuttle

Staff

Dan Schurman, Executive Director
Mark Green, Associate Executive Director
Mary Abbott, Education Program Director
Patrick Band, Project Technician
Catherine Cumberland, Education and
Restoration Program Assistant
Maggie Hart, Administrative Director
Joe Honton, Watershed Data Manager
Amber Manfree, Project Technician
Wayne Mitchell, Director of Campaigns and
Individual Giving
Julian Meisler, Restoration Program Director
Christina Sloop, Ph.D., Research Director

Board Committee Rosters – March 2007

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Churchill,
President
David Bannister,
Vice-President
Brad DeMeo, Secretary
Jim Beyers, Treasurer

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Denise Cadman, Chair
Virginia Strom-Martin
Jeannette Anglin

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Raini Vallarino
Vicki Riley
Christine Fontaine

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Brad DeMeo, Chair
Susan Churchill

MARKETING &

COMMUNICATIONS
Alan Bertozzi, Chair

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Virginia Strom-Martin, Chair
Jeannette Anglin
Bill Bettinelli
Jim Shelton

FINANCE

Jim Beyers, Chair
David Bannister
Alan Bertozzi

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Glenn Minervini-Zick

SCIENCE

Caroline Christian, Chair
Denise Cadman
Caroline Christian
Christian Sloop, Research
Director

RESTORATION &

STEWARDSHIP
Denise Cadman, Chair
David Bannister
Guy Smith

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Jenny Blaker
Betty Burrige
Sheri Emerson
Tom Lambert
Richard Stradford

LAGUNA LEARNING CENTER

Dick Carlile, Co-chair
Guy Smith, Co-chair
Bill Bettinelli
Denise Cadman
Susan Churchill
Jim Shelton

COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Stuart Schroeder
Lorelle Ross
Raini Vallarino



SHAY PICKTON

Leadership Message

Since 2002, when the Laguna Foundation made a strategic decision to hire a director and begin expanding the vigor and scope of our programs, we have seen a dramatic increase in the public's attention to the Laguna de Santa Rosa and in our own capacity to capitalize on the many opportunities for restoration, learning and public stewardship of the Laguna's unique ecosystems and history.

In that time, the Foundation has expected that after a period of "taking flight", our efforts would level off into a steady but measured annual expansion. Yet as opportunities continued to mount and the movement to preserve, restore, enjoy and learn from the Laguna gained further public visibility and support, if anything the Foundation's work arced even more steeply upward this year. The community's investment in our vision for what the Laguna can and should be is still rising, and we now see that we may not yet even be able to imagine just how high and far that movement may soar.

Four years ago, the Foundation's tiny office held a single staff member. Now our 11 employees are bursting the seams of a suite of offices in Santa Rosa and we're looking ahead to moving into the Laguna Learning Center. Our programs have expanded, our collaborations with other organizations and institutions have deepened, and our relationships throughout the community have strengthened. This year, we invested thought and effort in rendering more robust and capable our internal financial systems, data management, planning and communications, even as our scope of program activities continued to expand.

We understand that the long trajectory of achieving the Foundation's mission requires strategic direction, energy and planning for ongoing renewal, continued strong leadership and a wide range of partners. There is much to do before the Laguna's natural systems are again functioning well and the general public truly treasures its value.

But from here, we can see that time coming. Rising through the clouds, wind at our backs, we see blue skies ahead for Sonoma County's most important natural treasure.

Susan Churchill
President

Dan Schurman
Executive Director

Laguna Learning Center

The campaign to create the Laguna Learning Center made great strides in 2006, despite considerable challenges presented by Mother Nature. The heavy rains of winter prevented successful completion of a percolation test until late in the year, delaying the issue of permits for the first phase of construction.



While awaiting approval to begin work, we took advantage of the hiatus to retool nearly every element of the campaign to build the Learning Center, rendering it smarter, more effective, and more connected with the community leadership that will lead to its success. These improvements ranged from seemingly mundane details like conversion into a new and powerful database tool and refining our campaign messaging and materials, to profound steps such as hiring an experienced general contractor, Jim Murphy and Associates. We developed relationships with key potential investors in the Learning Center, and successfully recruited Wayne Mitchell, an experienced director who joined our staff to spearhead the capital campaign. Entering 2007, the Foundation's capacity to raise the outstanding balance of the \$6 million campaign goal and build the Laguna Learning Center has become more robust at every level.

Coming Soon, to a Natural Treasure Near You

In September, we did at last secure the necessary permits, and work began on the ground. Installation of the mound septic system for the facility was completed in time to avoid the winter rains, and generous in-kind contributions of labor and materials resulted in conversion of the non-historic milking shed onsite into a construction office.

As 2006 waned, the Foundation looked forward to our expected completion of Phase I of the Learning Center project by the end of the 2007. It's an exciting time, and we can hardly wait to be in residence at the Center, welcoming the public to explore the Laguna with us.



DON JACKSON

LAGUNA LEARNING CENTER

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE:

Connie Coddling, Chair
Renée-Eva Amochaev
Bill Bettinelli
Susan Churchill
Brad DeMeo
Bill Geary
David Katz
Mike Reilly
Greg Sarris
Wes Winter



Education

The Foundation's Education Department works to inspire a sense of connection to our local landscape and a passion for learning and the natural world. Taught by our Docent Circle of trained interpretive volunteers, our **Learning Laguna** program provides a wetlands science and cultural education program to elementary students through classroom visits and field trips. Engaging children with a fun, interactive program of hands-on activities, Learning Laguna communicates fundamental concepts about the natural world and helps to instill caring for our environment at a critical time in students' development. For many, it is their first chance to see the teeming wildlife that lives right in their own back yards.

The Foundation makes a particular effort to serve underprivileged communities, and among the schools we serve are those facing the greatest challenges in socioeconomic status, district budgets and language diversity. For some of the children who experience Learning Laguna, their field trip to the Laguna is the very first time they have ever left the cities where we live—an eye-opening fact when we still tend to think of Sonoma County as a “small town” place. This year, the Education Program focused on expanding and refining the scope of its activities, and among the improvements we implemented a **bus transportation scholarship** fund to help disadvantaged schools participate in the Learning Laguna program.



JULIAN MEISLER



Communicating our Sense of Wonder

Learning Laguna brought the magic of the Laguna to nearly 800 students in 12 school districts in 2006, with a waiting list of 12 additional classes hoping to participate. The Foundation's annual 50 hour docent training graduated 21 new docents, expanding the active Docent Circle to over 50 active volunteers. We held 20 **continuing education events** and workshops to continue the steady development of our docents' understanding of the Laguna's history and wildlife, and 500 attendees of all ages explored the Laguna through our regular program of **docent-led community walks**.

DOCENTS

Barnee Alexander	Elizabeth Haylock
Jeannette Anglin	Helen Heal
Dana Blake	Tara Henteleff
Sandra Bodley	Don Jackson
Veronica Bowers	Jennifer Joell
Barbara Briggs-Letson	Carolyn Johnson
Denise Cadman	Cheryl Johnson
Bob Caricato	Marcia Johnson
John Condon	Mat Keller
Catherine Cumberland	Christine Kennedy
Nancy Dakin	Lanny Keyston
James Dempsey	Lana Koloboff
Magi Discoe	Judith Krist
Frank Dono	Sharon Mansfield
Jeanette Doyel	Richard Mayer
Christine Engel	Gretchen McIndoe
Andrew Fleming	Franny Minervini-Zick
Daught Geiger	Pam Moskovitz
Kathy Gilliam	Bob Murnane
Joany Goodwin	Patricia Newland
Ramona Haller	Joan Przekop
Sheila Handley	Lynn Renn
Linda Hanes	Lilith Rogers

“My students and I want to thank all of our docents for the “best field trip all year!” What happened today at the Laguna was magical. Thank you to all of your staff for teaching my students to slow down and observe the world around them...By teaching them the wonders of the natural world, they will grow up to be the stewards we so desperately need. I cannot wait until next year's trip and classroom visits.”
– Sharon Schuler, teacher
Jack London Elementary School

Elizabeth Sanville
Susan Shea
Erin Healy Sheffield
Sandra Steele
Anne Stephens
Virginia Strom-Martin
Raini Vallarino
Patrick Woodworth

JOE HONTON



Restoration and Research Programs

We feel great pride in the 2006 accomplishments of the Foundation's Restoration and Research Departments. Primary among them: publication of *Enhancing and Caring for the Laguna*, a 577-page restoration and management plan for the entire watershed. Two years in the making with participation by hundreds of stakeholder groups and individuals, the plan is a framework for restoring and stewarding the Laguna which is being embraced enthusiastically by stakeholders and decision makers, and will drive the Foundation's restoration work for years to come. We congratulate Joe Honton, project manager for the plan, on a job well done.

Meanwhile, this was also a year of achievement for the Foundation's direct restoration work in the Laguna. As we began Year 2 of the **Ludwigia Control Project**, we found that our approach to controlling this aggressively invasive weed has resulted in improvement in the Laguna's functioning. Channels remained remarkably clear following Year 1, and wildlife have begun to return in affected areas: staff now routinely observe river otter in project areas which were formerly completely covered in *Ludwigia*, with a great influx of great blue herons and great white egrets, and ospreys and kingfishers hunting in open water. After 2 years, we have pulled enough vegetation out of the channels to cover a football field twelve feet deep, and several miles of channel are now clear which were once clogged with the plant. 2007 will be the final year of this three-year effort, and the Foundation has already begun to work with its partners to develop long-term control and restoration strategies in the affected areas.

We launched the largest wildlife habitat restoration project in the Laguna's history in 2006, the **Middle Reach Restoration Project**. Restoring streamside, floodplain and oak woodland vegetation along



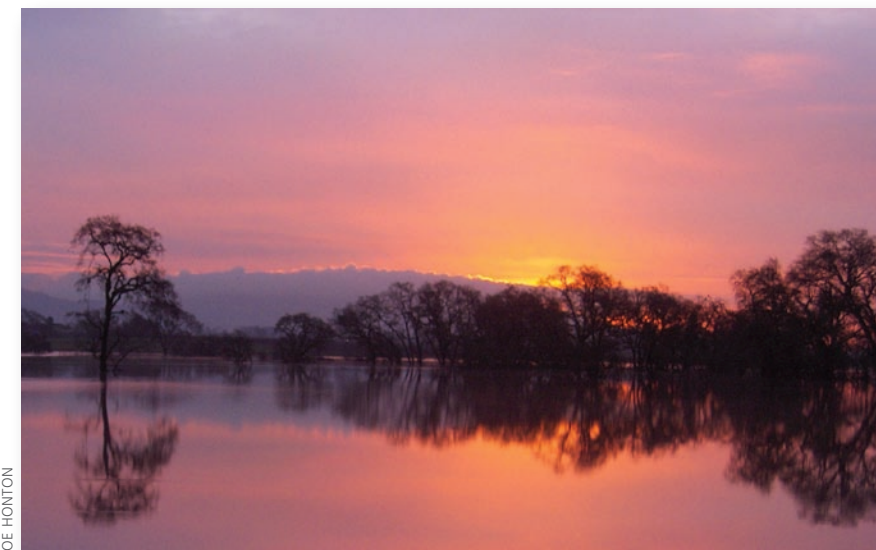
DENISE CADMAN

A Sweeping Vision, and Roots in the Ground

1.2 miles of the Laguna south of the Occidental Road bridge, this project will filter surface runoff, improve nesting and feeding habitat, help to preserve populations of endangered plants found in the project area, and infuse an area slated for a nearby Laguna trail with beautiful, shaded riparian forests. We installed irrigation infrastructure and began invasive species control in the project area in 2006—planting by staff and our **LagunaKeepers** volunteers will extend through 2007 and beyond.

The Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for the **Cotati Creek Critters**, which performs public education and habitat restoration in the upper reaches of the Laguna which traverse the cities of Cotati and Rohnert Park. The Critters did some fantastic work this year, attracting hundreds of volunteers from throughout the community to plant native trees and shrubs along 5,000 linear feet of the Laguna. In addition to hands-on restoration work, the Critters launched a monthly series of evening presentations featuring local experts to raise public awareness of creek-related issues. We extend our congratulations to the Critters for their diligent grassroots work.

Finally, 2006 was the year when the Foundation launched a **Scientific Research Program**. Understanding that our restoration and education efforts must be rooted in the most current scientific principles and findings, the scientists of our board of directors and staff recognized a need for prioritized and coordinated planning of research efforts in the Laguna. They initiated a planning process to identify pressing research needs and to design an integrative, long-term research program in partnership with local universities and colleges. This year, the Foundation started a collaborative conceptual modeling effort to evaluate the Laguna de Santa Rosa as a complete ecosystem. We also launched a long-term volunteer-based bird monitoring program in the project area of the Middle Reach Restoration Project to evaluate the long-term success of our restoration efforts. In 2007, the Research Program will develop and commence a number of initiatives, and begin development of the Laguna Ecosystem Database, an integrated, queryable repository for historical and contemporary scientific data gathered throughout the Laguna watershed.



JOE HONTON



MARK GREEN

Partnerships and Support

Education Program Supporters:

Dean Witter Foundation, Coddling Foundation, Community Foundation Sonoma County, Wells Fargo Bank, Summit State Bank, Firemans Fund Foundation, Agilent Technologies, City of Santa Rosa, Performance Design Group, Helen Heal, Raini and Steve Vallarino, REI, Don Jackson, Whole Foods Market Sebastopol.

Restoration Program Supporters:

California State Coastal Conservancy, California Wildlife Conservation Board, Sonoma County Water Agency, Santa Rosa Subregional Sanitation District, City of Santa Rosa, Community Foundation Sonoma County, Marin-Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District, ESRI.

Laguna Learning Center Capital Campaign Supporters:

Dan Smith and Joan Marler, Schulz Fund of the Community Foundation Sonoma County, Coddling Foundation, Gallo Family, Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria, Carolyn Johnson and Rick Theis (Fledgling Fund), Kirk and Pat Veale, Clay and Kim Clement, Mary Frances Laier in memory of James Laier, MaryLee Carli, Nancy Peter and Jeffery Orth, Clayton and Anne Stephens, Raini and Steve Vallarino, Susan and Ken Churchill, Gladys Sawyer, Sam and Mary Dakin, City of Santa Rosa, Glen Lippard, B&B Dual Roofing, Inc., EmCee Group, Bill and Cindy Gallaher, Susan Gorin, Brian and Jymmey Purtill, Les and Lori Perry, Larry Moskowitz and Eric Koenigshofer (Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller, Moskowitz LLP), Jack and Judy DeMeo in memory of Betty Ann Rivard Ohlinger, Tom and Sally Lambert, Tom and Anne McGinley in memory of Helen McGinley Adams, Joany Goodwin.

General Support Donors:

The Foundation also wishes to thank our generous general support donors, including members of our Preservation Circle and all the fine people and businesses listed below who have given funds or in-kind contributions to advance the Foundation's work (partial list):

ACC Environmental, Inc.	Joan Przekop
B & B Dual Roofing, Inc.	Jymmey and Brian Purtill
Brad and Tina Baker	Gladys Sawyer
Allen Barbieri	Schulz Fund, Community
Bill and Gail Bettinelli	Foundation Sonoma County
Blue Rock Quarry	Dan Smith and Joan
Bohan & Canelis	Marler-Smith Fund, Community
Dave Bramham Trucking	Foundation Sonoma County
Marylee J. Carli	Guy Smith
Susan and Ken Churchill	Solomon's Water Trucks
City of Santa Rosa	Anne and W. Clayton Stephens
Clayton and Kim Clement	Sterling Environmental Corp
Coddling Foundation	Virginia Strom-Martin and Don
Sam and Mary Dakin	Martin
Delta Pre-Cast	Raini Sugg Vallarino
Jack and Julia DeMeo	Van Dyke and Associates
EmCee Group	Kirk and Pat Veale
Charles Evans	
Federated Indians of the Graton	
Rancheria	
Miles Ferris	
Fledgling Fund	
William and Cynthia Gallaher	
The Gallo Family	
Joany Goodwin	
Joseph and Susan Gorin	
Kadon Trucking	
Eric Koenigshofer	
Mary Frances Laier	
Tom and Sally Lambert	
Glen Lippard	
Tom and Ann McGinley	
Glenn and Franny Minervini-Zick	
Larry Moskowitz and Ouisue	
Packard	
Nathan M. Ohrbach Foundation	
Nancy Peter	



MARY ABBOTT

Statement of Condition

	December 31, 2006		
ASSETS		Income	
Checking/Savings	369,152	Contributions	391,703
Accounts Receivable	66,114	Grants	184,216
Pledges receivable, current	204,000	Temporarily restricted income	399,988
Prepaid Expenses	3,847	Special events	48,731
Total Current Assets	<u>643,113</u>	Fees for Service	771,018
Fixed Assets		In-Kind Donations	20,500
Office furniture	1,805	Miscellaneous	13,822
Office & Computer Equipment & Software	19,861	Total Income	<u>1,829,978</u>
Leased equipment	5,236	Expenses	
Fieldwork equipment	7,514	Personnel	597,835
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(7,373)	Professional Services	117,633
Laguna Uplands Real Property	337,200	Other Contracted Services	330,262
Total Fixed Assets	<u>364,243</u>	Direct Project Costs	94,420
Other Assets		Rent	40,853
Pledges receivable, non-current	165,000	Postage & Mailing	11,548
Discount	(19,012)	Printing	19,637
Endowment Fund	12,242	Insurance	2,321
Workers Comp Policy Deposit	1,670	Telephone	5,321
Security Deposits	500	Other Administrative Costs	29,461
Laguna Learning Center Improvements	238,948	Transportation, Conferences & Trainings	9,217
Total Other Assets	<u>399,348</u>	Volunteer Recognition	3,552
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,406,704</u>	Special Events Expense	15,988
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		Depreciation	4,066
Liabilities		Miscellaneous	3,262
Current Liabilities		Total Expenses	<u>1,285,376</u>
Accounts Payable	16,767		
Credit Cards	6,047		
Telephone Equipment Lease	1,600		
Vacation accrual	19,279		
Wages accrual	21,110		
403(B) plan deductions	3,500		
Payroll Liabilities	485		
Sales Tax Payable	1,019		
Total Current Liabilities	<u>69,807</u>		
Total Liabilities	69,807		
Equity			
Temporarily Restricted Funds	593,960		
Permanently Restricted funds	10,000		
Fund Balance	732,937		
Total Equity	<u>1,336,897</u>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,406,704</u>		

NOTE:
Includes accumulated pledges for Laguna Learning Center capital campaign.



JOAN HUMBERSTONE