



2017 | 2018 Annual Report

A Year of Innovation & Action



EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Nurturing a Healthy Laguna

Dear Friends of the Laguna,

2017-2018 has been a whirlwind year of **innovation and action** for the Laguna Foundation. Our exciting achievements in restoration, conservation and education were only possible because of this dedicated and supportive community. We thank the many lasting partnerships we have in Sonoma County and are deeply thankful to each individual listed in this report. Together, you've made it possible for the Laguna Foundation to improve the health of our watershed and inspire our residents to value this crucial ecosystem.

Our county faced immense challenges in 2017 and your donations enabled us to meet them with new ideas. Through our partnership with the Agricultural and Preservation Open Space District, Laguna staff and volunteers **collected and germinated 30,000 native seeds** to replant our fire-scarred landscape. We also partnered with the Milo Baker chapter of the California Native Plant Society to construct a **state-of-the-art native plant nursery** to meet a rising demand for native plantings. Our favorite initiative was working with a local shepherd, **we used sheep to remove invasive plants** from Sonoma County's unique and vulnerable vernal pools.

Our acclaimed *Learning Laguna* environmental education program has served **19,000 students** since 1999. To meet this ever-rising demand for children to directly and personally experience nature, we created our first summer camp, **Laguna Explorers: Camp Tule**. Fifty children ages five through ten spent a fun-filled week exploring bugs, botany, and birds, and learning firsthand the value of wetlands and their **significance in our everyday lives**.

For three decades, we've been stewards of the Laguna wetlands, its streams and habitats. Through the support of this community our forward-looking restoration continues to improve water quality and wildlife habitat, while our creative education programs inspire volunteerism and stewardship in Sonoma County's youth. Together, we continue to work towards a restored, conserved, and fully valued Laguna ecosystem—for us, **our children and future generations**.

Kevin Munroe
Executive Director

Raini Sugg
President, Board of Directors

THE LAUGUNA DE SANTA ROSA FOUNDATION

Restore, Conserve & Inspire

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.

RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Ensuring a Healthy Watershed along the Laguna and Beyond

The Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed faces multiple ecological challenges from impaired water quality to invasive species. Thanks to the support of our donors, and local and federal grants, we expanded our reach through innovative conservation programs, fire recovery efforts, continued monitoring and maintenance of our restoration sites, and increased trail connectivity. We collaborated with private landowners, non-profits, and public agencies to clean up, restore, and strengthen the Laguna watershed.

New Projects & Partnerships

Sheep Restore Vernal Pool Habitat

We used sheep to remove invasive plants taking over vernal pools along the Laguna de Santa Rosa Trail—a multi-year conservation grazing program with Sonoma Regional Parks to protect endangered species and support vernal pool habitat.

Coho Salmon Living in Our Floodplain

We laid groundwork to begin a new study of how Coho salmon and their young use the Laguna floodplain. Our partners in this important project are California Trout, Ag + Open Space District, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

State-of-the-Art Native Plant Nursery

In collaboration with California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Milo Baker Chapter, we built a large nursery to grow the thousands of locally-sourced native plants we use each year to restore Laguna habitat. This new structure meets Best Management Practice requirements for growing disease-free plants and has already been used as a regional model.

Fire Recovery and Planting for Long-Term Resilience

In October's wildfires, more than 31,000 acres of oak woodlands burned, altering both human-made and natural environments. Nearly 18% of the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed was directly affected. In a quick response to the devastation, the Laguna Foundation restoration staff and volunteers collected 30,000 native seeds for future replanting. More than 350 batches of acorns were catalogued to capture the genetic diversity and uniqueness of our county. These plants are being given to our neighbors in need at no cost. We also worked with CNPS, State office, to author, contribute and review the *California Native Plant Society Fire Recovery Guide*.

65

Land owners (and counting!) have signed up to receive native plants

2,500

Native plants reserved in our nursery for fire impacted lands

5 Acres

Himalayan blackberry removed from Hessel Creek understory

34

Vernal pool properties monitored and data collected on rare plants

Multi-year Restoration Projects to Improve Wildlife Habitat, Water Quality and Public Access

We completed our restoration project at the Southern Laguna Discovery Trail, continued monitoring and maintenance at projects throughout the watershed, and installed pollinator habitat, wildlife cameras, new benches, and fire prevention measures at Uplands Preserve.

Building on our existing Zimpher Creek restoration project, we worked with the City of Sebastopol to place a bridge over Zimpher Creek, extending the existing trail to connect Sebastopol Youth Center, Tomadachi Park, and the Joe Rodota Trail.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Ensuring a Healthy Watershed along the Laguna and Beyond

Learning Laguna

46

Classrooms

18

Schools

1,100

2nd-4th Graders
Participated in FY
2017-18

19,000

Children Participated
since 1999

Our Flagship Program: *Learning Laguna*

Since 1999, the Education Department's highly successful program, *Learning Laguna*, has inspired thousands of Sonoma County school children to create meaningful bonds with the natural world of the Laguna. Each year, our incredible team of docents brings enthusiasm and dynamic activities to each classroom they visit, building excitement for the exploratory, hands-on field trips every class will take to learn about their Laguna.

Our First Camp! Laguna Explorers: Camp Tule

The vision of a children's day camp at our Laguna Environmental Center has been a dream since 2012. This summer that dream came true! We held two joyful sessions of this outdoor, week-long camp with nearly 50 five through ten year-olds. Together with our invaluable docents and interns, the children delighted in Laguna expeditions, clay art, native plant teachings, sensory awareness, singing, games, picnics and quiet reading-times under shady oaks. We look forward to hosting three week-long sessions in 2019.

Innovative High School Storm Water Solutions

Big strides were made in developing a stewardship program for high school students. The goal: inspire teens to make changes on their own school campus that improve water quality in adjacent creeks. We were fortunate to work together and learn from esteemed partners at Envirichment and Montgomery High School. We're excited to explore ways to continue working with teens.

Dynamic Community Education Programs

Our vibrant, year-round walks, talks and classes provide an opportunity for members of our community and beyond to learn more about the Laguna, and to become inspired stewards of their home environment. Some events are designed specifically for seniors and families, and several were offered collaboratively with other non-profits, Ag + Open Space, and Regional Parks. We also launched a new initiative—Laguna Watershed Perspectives—to meet residents in their neighborhoods and build connections between our creeks and their daily lives.

Outreach

13

Donated
Radio Spots

6

Farmers
Markets

3

Community
Festivals

Community Education

2,120

Participants

56

Programs

45%

New visitors to the
Laguna Foundation

16

Science/
Natural History
Presentations

15

Guided Walks
& Hikes

13

Art Workshops
& Receptions

3

Fire Recovery
Programs

2

Film
Screenings

2

Themed Open
Houses

2

Child-oriented
Presentations

2

Kayak
Adventures

1

Comedy
Night

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The Laguna Foundation is grateful to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who made a contribution from July 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. *Thank you!*

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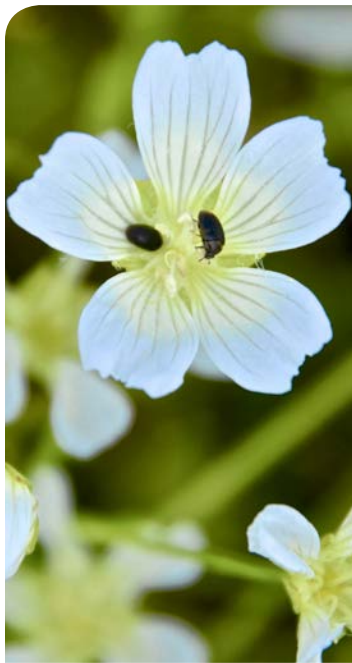
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Lynn and Rod Berglund

Kistler Vineyards
Korbel Champagne Cellars
KRCB Radio
Lagunitas Brewing Company
Lynmar Estate
Don Landis and Marian Doyle-Landis
Glenn and Franny Minervini-Zick
Mikaela Scheldt
Mombo Pizza
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Nancy Boy
Nicasio Valley Cheese Company
Oliver's Market
Owl Ridge Wine Services
Petaluma Creamery
Point Blue Conservation Science
Press Democrat
Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery
Russian River Vineyards & Corks Restaurant
Safeway
Shady Oak Barrel House
Steve Shaffer
Marybeth and Gary Sheppard
Guy and Michelle Smith
Sonoma County Gazette
Stark Reality Restaurants
Three Twins Ice Cream
Cowgirl Creamery
Trione Vineyards and Winery
US Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
Valley Ford Cheese Company
Village Bakery
Weirauch Creamery
York and Sally Westgate
Wm. Cofield Cheesemakers
John Wright

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 Mason
Bev Scotland
Roger and Ellen Sherron
Mike and Barbara Shepherd
Dr. Dianne Smith
Raini Sugg and Steve Vallarino
Arlene Ulmer

12 Members of the Board of Directors

10 Members of the Advisory Council

55 Learning Laguna Docents

37 Laguna Guides

28 Tabling Volunteers

75 Student Interns and Groups

57 Native Plant Nursery Volunteers

86 Garden Volunteers

166 Laguna Stewards

42 Vernal Pool Citizen Scientists

42 Event Support

6 Office Support & Management

6 Facilities Management

2 Heron Hall Art Committee

Thank You!

624
Volunteers

12,224
Hours Contributed
Supporting Our Programs

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Activities for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES AND SUPPORT				
Government Grants & Contracts	\$ 353,030	\$ 34,440	\$	\$ 387,470
Contributions	658,289	29,000		687,289
Program & Miscellaneous Income	163,038			163,038
Net assets released from restrictions	91,137	(91,137)		0
Total Revenues and Support	\$ 1,265,494	\$ (27,697)	\$ 0	\$ 1,237,797
EXPENSES				
Program Services				
Restoration & Conservation Science	\$ 518,276			\$ 518,276
Education	242,412			242,412
Heron Hall Comm. Programs & Rentals	50,559			50,559
Total Program Services	\$ 811,247	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 811,247
Supporting services				
Administration	\$ 194,805			\$ 194,805
Fund Raising and Outreach	209,149			209,149
Total Supporting Services	403,954			403,954
Depreciation	57,389			57,389
Total Expenses	\$ 1,272,590	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,272,590
Change in Net Assets	\$ (7,096)	\$ (27,697)	\$ 0	\$ (34,793)
Net Assets, beginning of period	2,145,211	140,506	10,000	2,295,717
NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD	\$ 2,138,115	\$ 112,809	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,260,924

Grant & Contract Partners

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Position as of June 30, 2018

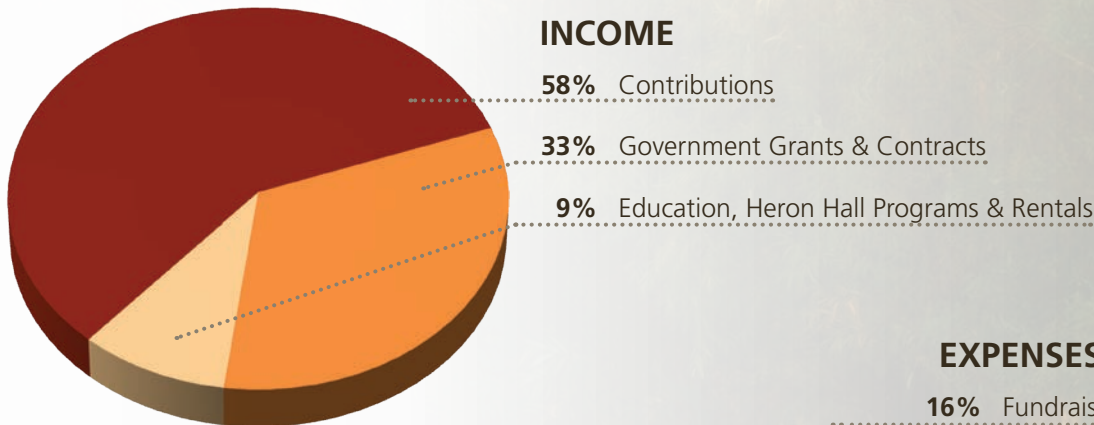
ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 127,658
Accounts Receivable	167,373
Prepays	7,945
Total Current Assets	\$ 302,976
Fixed Assets	
Land ¹	\$ 150,000
Building and Property Improvements	2,066,302
Furniture & Equipment	119,240
Vehicles	14,092
Accumulated Depreciation	(442,625)
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 1,907,009
Other assets	
Lease Gift-In-Kind Less Value Discount	\$ 166,214
Endowment Fund	9,707
Total Other Assets	\$ 175,921
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,385,906

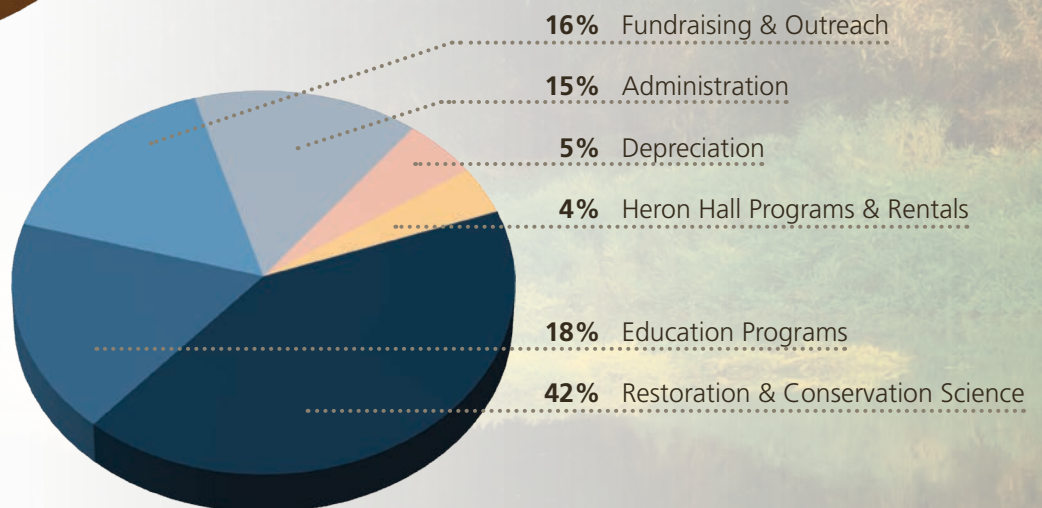
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 14,490
Accrued Vacation	29,487
Accrued Wages	20,928
Payroll Liabilities	8,754
Line of Credit	44,000
Other Payables	7,323
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 124,982
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$2,138,115
Temporarily Restricted	112,809
Permanently Restricted	10,000
Total Net Assets	\$2,260,924
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$2,385,906

INCOME



EXPENSES



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



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Janine Barnes, Vice President
John Weinstein, Treasurer
Suzanne Knecht, Secretary

Linda Fraley
Carolyn "CJ" Johnson
Richard Peterson-Jones
Eric Roos
Robert Rubin, Ph.D.
Dianne Smith, Ph.D.

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Denise Cadman
Connie Coddling
Bill Cox
Caryl Hart
Claudia Luke, Ph.D.
Steve Olson
Steve Rabinowitsh
Rick Theis
Vic Trione

STAFF

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Bev Scotland, Director of Development
Christine Fontaine, Director of Education Programs
Dr. Wendy Trowbridge, Director of Restoration & Conservation Science Programs
Adrienne Gause, Administrative Manager
Anita Smith, Public Education Manager
Brent Reed, Ecological Program Manager
Sarah Gordon, Conservation Science Program Manager
Walter Earle, Nursery Manager
Maryanne Romanowski, Financial Administrator
Maggie Hart, Outreach Coordinator
Moira Hill, Heron Hall Coordinator
Sierra Castillo, Donor Services & Communications Assistant
Paul Weber, Restoration Field Supervisor
Asa Voight, Restoration Field Technician II
Hannah Werdmuller, Field Technician

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