



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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



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Dear Friends,

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation has taken enormous strides during the past twelve months. The most significant accomplishment is the construction of the Laguna Learning Center. Opening in early 2012, this Center will be a multi-use facility where the public will be able to come learn more about the Laguna, a Wetland of International Importance. Pathways around the facility will take visitors past interpretive signage where they can learn about the natural and human history of the Laguna as well as the importance of wetland ecosystems. The grounds will include picnic areas, a bridge over a swale and an observation deck along a pond with great views to Mt. St. Helena. The deck is perfectly situated for birdwatching or stargazing.

The Learning Center building itself will include a small bookstore stocked with information about the Laguna, brochures about places to visit to experience the Laguna up close and personal, watershed maps and more. The building will host a variety of educational seminars and talks, docent training classes, Laguna themed art shows, members' only events, etc. Look for news about a spectacular Grand Opening Event in May of 2012. The building and grounds will also be available to rent on an hourly basis for other uses. The Foundation is extremely grateful to the California Coastal Conservancy for primary funding of the Center. Additional funding came from The Soroptimists International- Santa Rosa, The Bothin Foundation, and Rick Theis.

We have much to do to further our mission to preserve, protect, restore and educate the public about the Laguna ecosystem and are looking forward to having the Center to use to help us make great strides to accomplish that mission. Come visit us at the Laguna Learning Center and become a member to get information about all the exciting events that will be taking place here.

Guy Smith
President, Board of Directors



David Bannister
Executive Director



Laguna Foundation gets press for new building construction!

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Laguna de Santa Rosa Center Takes Shape

By Bob Norberg

July 7, 2011

Workers Thursday began raising the walls of the Laguna Foundation educational center, a barn-shaped structure meant to meld with the farmland it stands on.

The building will be central to the non-profit foundation's work to educate 1,000 elementary school children a year about the value of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and also expand it to middle and high school grades, said David Bannister, the foundation executive director.

"We have an educational program called Learning the Laguna that involves both classrooms and field trips for elementary school kids," Bannister said. "We also have adult walks where we have docent-led walks into the laguna."

The laguna is a 16-mile waterway from the Russian River to Cotati that is rich in wildlife and plants and also acts as a winter floodwater basin.

It recently was designated as a Wetlands of International

Importance by the Ramsar Convention, a group represented by 160 countries, including the United States.

The Laguna Foundation also is building an outdoor learning center that will include trails, an observation deck and a pond stocked with fish and plants native to the laguna.

It will be open to the public for drop-in visits when it and the educational building are finished in January or February.

The \$800,000 project, financed by a California Coastal Conservancy grant, is the second phase of construction on the foundation's six-acre property.

"We are in a renovated 1860s era farmhouse that was turned into office, which we moved into two years ago," Bannister said. "From this farmhouse you will be able to throw a rock and you can hit the pond or new building."

Photo by Christopher Chung, The Press Democrat

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Education

Raising Public Awareness and Providing Environmental Education for Youth

- During the 23rd & 24th seasons of *Learning Laguna*, over 975 students from 38 second, third and fourth grade classes learned directly about Laguna plants and animals and the importance of wetlands through interactive classroom activities and experiential field trips to the Laguna.
- We gratefully acknowledge the work of 50 Laguna docents who skillfully and heartfully contributed more than 1055 hours of teaching time to *Learning Laguna*.
- \$2297.00 in bus scholarships were awarded to 45% of participating *Learning Laguna* classes, enabling 450 students to experience the Laguna.
- Laguna docents provided outreach at four public events and led nine Laguna adventure walks reaching over 650 people.
- Nineteen new docents completed the 10-week docent training class in spring
- Education team wrote, designed and worked with an interpretive artist to create six educational panels to be installed at the Laguna Learning Center's outdoor classroom.

Restoration

Bringing Back the Laguna's Natural Abundance

- Completed second Tree-a-Thon event: 85 volunteers planted 500 trees on Irwin Creek.
- Community volunteers planted 650 trees and acorn plots along 4 acres of west Duer Creek on the City of Santa Rosa's Kelly Farm.
- Students from Summerfield Waldorf school planted 700 native plants near the confluence of Santa Rosa creek and the Laguna main stem.
- Volunteers from Shomrei Torah planted several hundred willow trees in the Laguna Middle Reach area on Meadowlark field in Sebastopol.
- Crews from Sonoma Youth Ecology Corps, North Bay Conservation Corps' Project ReGeneration, Cardinal Newman High School, and South American exchange students donated over 1,000 hours of volunteer hours removing old restoration hardware from established plantings.

Conservation Science

Understanding and Protecting the Laguna Watershed

- Celebrated the listing of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex as a Wetland of International Importance on February 2, 2011 in a reception attended by Ramsar property owners as well as local politicians including Lynn Woolsey and Efren Carillo.
- Published the *Biodiversity Action Plan* – a plan outlining priority actions to preserve biodiversity in Sonoma County.
- Conducted the 5th year of the *Adopt a Vernal Pool* program – a volunteer Citizen Scientist led effort to gather annual data on endangered plant populations.
- Evaluated water quality on creeks and streams in the lower Laguna watershed.
- Restarted the Ludwigia Task Force – a collaborative effort of stakeholders to develop methods to manage the invasive aquatic weed.
- Continued Long-Term Bird Surveys establishing a baseline for assessing potential impacts of trails in the Laguna and evaluating the success of the Middle Reach Restoration Project.



Photo by Peggy Flynn

DONORS

\$10,000+

Lynn and Anisya Fritz, Jean Schulz, Soroptimist International, Vic and Karen Trione.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Codding Foundation, Raini and Steve Vallarino.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Sherry Catlett, Bart and Ditty Deamer, John and Claire Werner.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Bill and Gail Bettinelli, Carle, Mackie, Power & Ross LLP, Clover Stornetta Farms, Inc., Bill and Joyce Cox, Gallo of Sonoma, General Hydroponics Inc., Kevin and Sherry Kearney, Guy and Michelle Smith, Sonoma Land Trust, Anne and Clay Stephens, The Heck Foundation, Janis and Warren Watkins, Mike and Katie Wright.

\$500 - \$999

ASK Realty/Sharon Hawthorne, Terry and Steve Beck, Lawrence and Eliana Brooke, Denise Cadman and Stuart Schroeder, Marcia Coleman, Brad and Rosalie DeMeo, Frank and Jackie Dono, Chris Engel and Hugh Helm, Arnie Feldsher and Britta Schoemer, Joe and Susan Gorin, Janet Randall and Bruce Mac Evoy, Pat and Tim Preston, Tom and Mary Reed, Paul and Patty Schoch, Arthur and Judith Slater, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Rick Theis and CJ Johnson, Jim Wilson, Winifred and Harry B. Allen Foundation.

\$250 - \$499

Nina and Don Arrabit, Martha and J.M. Baeli, Mike Bocklund, Dino and Nina Bonos, Chuck and Deanne Cadman, Mike Center and Marlene Russell, Connie Codding, Molly Eckler and Doug Emery, Harmony Farm Supply and Nursery, Greg and Kathi Jacobs, Marcia and Ralph Johnson, Arlene and Brad Kallen, Glenn and Franny Minervini-Zick, Moss Adams LLP, Larry Nagel, Alexis and Angela Persinger, PG&E Corporation Foundation, Richard and Trish Power, Kate and Denis Quinlan, Ray Carlson and Associates, Betsy and Rob Sanville, Robert Sargent, Catherine Sharp, Jim and Sandy Shelton, Robert Thille, Peggy Tourje and Jane Krensky, Tree House Hollow Community School & Play Garden, Jan Vannatta, Linda Widdifield, Bosworth and Kathrin Williams.

\$100 - \$249

Richard Abazia, Keith Abeles and Amy Levin, Barnee and Gary Alexander, Jeannette and Butch Anglin, John Anton, Harold Appleton, David and Maripat Bannister, Reginald and Margaret Bayley, Tony and Phyllis Black, Dee and Ken Blackman, Benn Blincoe, Joan Bossart, Betty Burrridge, Dennis Calabi and Gretchen Whisenand, Chez Jeanne, Hall Cushman and Caroline Christian, Nancy Dakin and David Woltering, Buzz and Cindy Danner, Laraine Downer, Herbert and Jane Dwight, Steve and Pat Edelstein, Steve and Patricia Ehrmann, Phyllis Elmo, Mary Ely and Wayne Salk, David and Sally Ewald, Mark and Jean Farmer, Andrew and Nancy Fleming, Christine Fontaine, Victoria Fullerton, Jim and Kathy Gilliam, Melanie Goodpasture, Alex and Margaret Guo, Sarah Glade and Dan Gurney, Susie Hagemeister, Linda and

\$100 - 249 Continued

David Hanes, Bob Hart and Jan Davis, David and Sarah Hehman, Anne Higgins, Carroll and John Hirsch, Andrew and Jean Holroyd-Sills, Ezbon Jen, Deborah Klein and Lois Cohen, Nell Kneibler, Ellen and Wayne Krebs, Eunice La Dell Escola, John Lambert, Bob Landman and Helene Morneau, Louisa Leavitt, Les and Nancy Lewis, John and Kim Lloyd, Nancy Lo Dolce and Clay Takaya, Jan and Stephen Lochner, Loma Del Sol Vineyards, Inc., David Maris, Steven and Heidi McNeal, William and Elizabeth Monnet, Scott Morris, Barbara Moulton, Anthony Mountain and Cheryl Maynard, Jane Nielson, Oak Grove School, Sheila O'Brien, Persinger Architects and Associates, Eric and Kathy Pierce, Linda Reid, Mike and Margo Requarth, Harry and Dee Richardson, Larry Robinson, Dawn Ross, Saint Dizier Design, Gary and Peggy Searby, Patricia and Bryan Sesser, Kathleen Shaffer, Patricia and Peter Shapiro, Don and Joyce Sherer, Rhonda Berney and Richard Shipps, Alan Siegle and Shelley Brown, Silveira Pontiac-Buick-GMC, Christina and Marc Sloop, Margaret Spaulding, Elise and Steve Stansbery, Heidi Stewart and John Weinstein, Willard and Ellen Stillman, Calvin and Elenita Strobel, Jack and Jane Stuppin, Ellen Swenson, The Iannotti Family, The Wine Shop Merchant Of Showplace Square, Victor and Olesta Urbach, Bill and Robyn Watson, Sharon Whitten, Gene and Mary Wilkinson, Sara Winge, Abigail Zoger, Kevin Zucco.

Laguna Foundation is grateful to every one of the individuals and organizations who made a broad range of financial gifts from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2011

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES AND SUPPORT				
Grants	\$520,920	\$46,632		\$567,552
Contributions by individuals	181,784	63,243		245,027
Contracts	103,466			116,220
Program income	29,508			103,466
Other income	14,922			29,508
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>74,889</u>	<u>-74,889</u>		<u>0</u>
Total revenues and support	910,567	34,986	0	945,553
EXPENSES				
Program services				
Restoration	153,272			153,272
Conservation science	83,038			83,038
Education	89,107			89,107
Laguna Learning Center	36,723			36,723
Total program services	362,140	0	0	362,140
Supporting services				
Management and general	149,571			149,571
Fundraising and member services	63,001			63,001
Total supporting services	<u>212,572</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>212,572</u>
Total expenses	574,712	0	0	574,712
Change in net assets	335,855	34,986		370,841
Net assets, beginning of period	1,470,708	4,925	10,000	1,485,633
Prior period adjustment, Note 1	<u>-2,338</u>	<u>2,990</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>625</u>
Adjusted net assets, beginning of period	<u>1,468,370</u>	<u>7,915</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>1,486,285</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD	<u>\$1,804,225</u>	<u>\$42,901</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>1,857,126</u>

Note 1 - To reclassify current liability to temporarily restricted fund due to change in contractual relationship

These statements are unaudited and for internal use only.

Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2011 and 2010

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash and equivalents	\$3,460
Accounts receivable	189,364
Retainage receivable	31,297

Other current assets	<u>20,307</u>
Total current assets	244,428

Fixed assets

Land, See Note 1	150,000
Building and property improvements	1,515,135
Property net of accumulated depreciation	6,837
Total fixed assets	1,671,972

Other assets

Lease gift in kind less value discount	201,207
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Endowment fund	<u>12,776</u>
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Total other assets	<u>213,983</u>
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Total assets	<u>\$2,130,383</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$131,310
Accrued vacation	10,972
Current portion, long term debt	47,841
Payroll liabilities	500
Other payables	<u>4,085</u>
Total current liabilities	194,708

Long term liabilities

Loan payable, See Note 2	<u>78,549</u>
Total long term liabilities	78,549

Net assets

Unrestricted	1,804,225
Temporarily restricted	42,901
Permanently restricted	<u>10,000</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,857,126</u>

Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$2,130,383</u>
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Grants and Contracts

Bothin Foundation

California Department of Transportation

California Native Plant Society

California State Coastal Conservancy

California Water Resources Control Board

California Wildlife Conservation Board

City of Santa Rosa

City of Sebastopol

Community Foundation Sonoma County

Dean Witter Foundation

Kimball Foundation

Medtronic Foundation

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission

Sonoma County Water Agency

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and
Open Space District

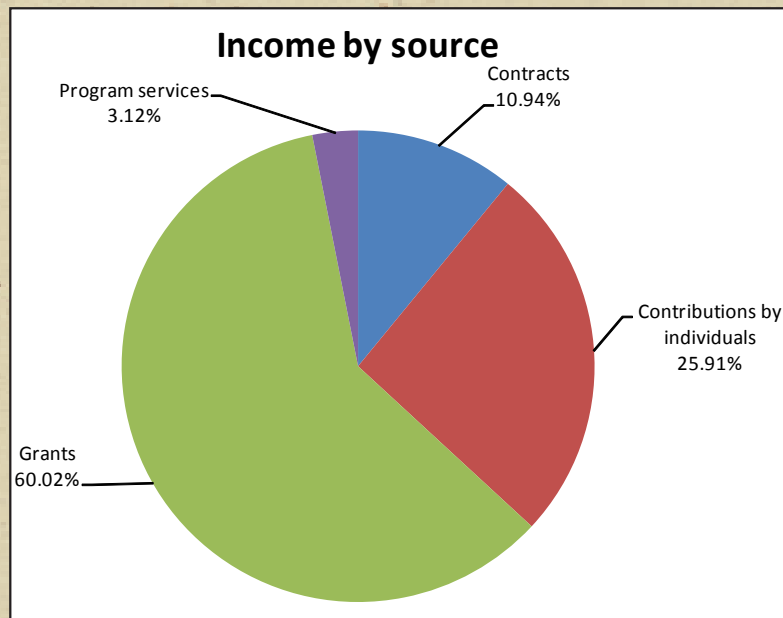
US Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

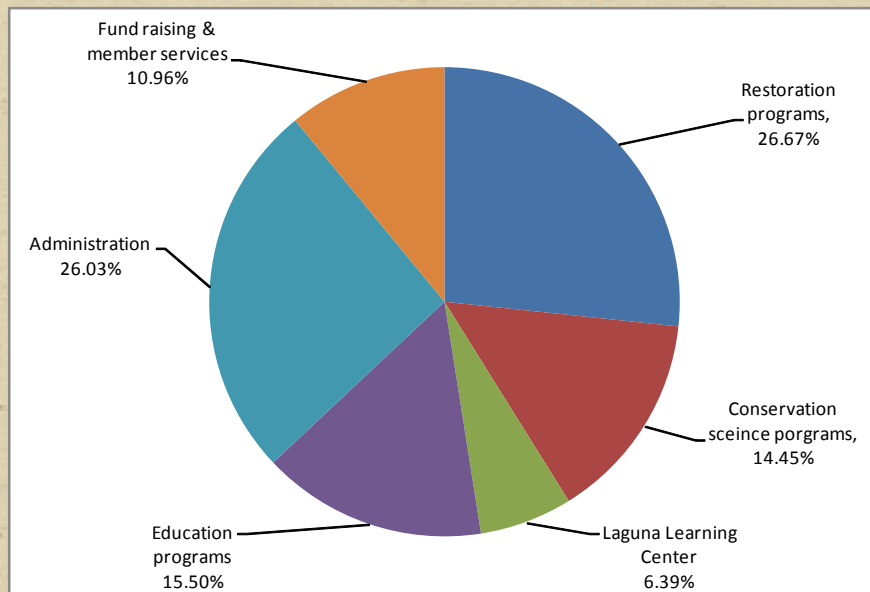
Note 2 - Note dated June 24, 2010, with principal-only payments through June 30, 2013. Simple interest accrues on principal balance at a rate of 5% per annum. Interest to be waived upon completion of principal payments in accordance with terms of note.

FY 2011 Revenue



Contracts	103,466
Contributions	245,027
Grants	567,552
Program fees	29,508
TOTAL REVENUE	945,553

FY 2011 Expenses



Personnel	368,224
Professional services	23,424
Other project/program costs	88,570
Office & administration	55,602
Fund raising event costs	12,553
Training & volunteer costs	2,778
Loan interest	8,561
Merchandise production	6,698
Depreciation/miscellaneous	11,888
TOTAL EXPENSES	574,712