

Woodpeckers and Watersheds: Greetings, New Neighbors and Colleagues

Kevin Munroe, Executive Director

"Hey, is that a Nuttall's Woodpecker or a Downy? And wait, could that song have been a Lazuli Bunting? That would be a lifer for me!"



Male Nuttall's woodpecker
(*Dryobates nuttallii*)
(Wikipedia)

I'm not sure if that's what an executive director interview is supposed to sound like, however when Raini Sugg and Carolyn Johnson each took me for a tour of the Laguna Wetlands Preserve, my inner nature geek emerged full of questions, and was excited to be surrounded by Sonoma County wildlife.

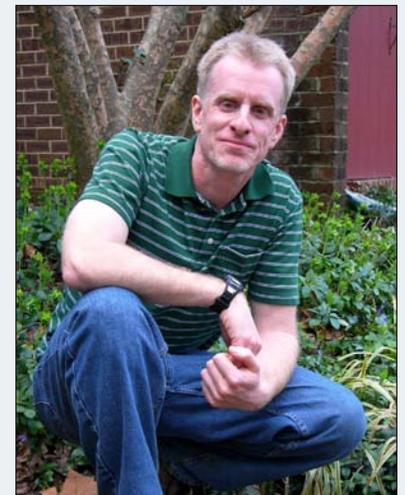
This was my second trip to Sonoma County, sixth visit to California, and most importantly, only my second

sighting of a Nuttall's Woodpecker. The time I spent on this visit walking the preserve and Stone Farm grounds, and meeting the Laguna Foundation board and staff, was however even better than spotting a life bird. Everyone was so generous with their time, and did an amazing job of making me feel welcome and at home. I am thrilled to be moving to Northern California, honored to be invited into this dynamic, impressive team and excited to meet the rest of the Laguna Foundation community. We've all heard it takes a village to raise a child; a watershed is several times more complex and layered, and usually takes a network of villages to protect and restore. You've worked 25 years to develop that network, and I can't wait to be part of it. I look forward to doing everything I can to both help and learn from all of you as we work together to make sure the Laguna is in even better health at our 50th Anniversary.

I've enjoyed the leadership roles I've been lucky enough

to hold in my career, and hope I can help steer the Laguna Foundation in the direction you envision. However, I'm not in a rush to "direct" – my first goal will be to spend these first few months learning as much as I can, meeting as many of you as possible, listening, and listening some more. As you tell me about the Foundation's strengths and challenges, past accomplishments and future goals, I hope to find ways that I can contribute, facilitate, build, and lead when needed.

I ask for your patience and guidance, remember I'm the new guy from Virginia, and don't be offended if I stop in the middle of our tour to watch the White-tailed Kite hunting off Sanford Road. I'm here to help, learn, and bird watch when possible.



Kevin Munroe is excited to be joining the Laguna Foundation as Executive Director!

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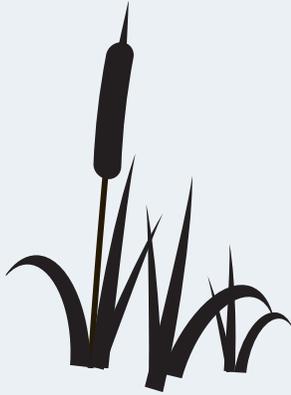
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Thank you to our Members!

For 25 years, the Laguna Foundation has created partnerships and collaborations to address the challenges facing the Laguna watershed. Our members make all of this work possible! Membership gifts are essential if we are to sustain key projects currently underway, and to take the lead role in developing and implementing long-range collaborative initiatives. Your gifts support our efforts to:

- Collaborate with landowners, government agencies, businesses and the agricultural community to improve water quality and groundwater resources for all.
- Protect threatened and endangered animals in the floodplain by restoring habitat.
- Bring together technical experts, land managers and policymakers to create effective climate adaptation strategies that preserve natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Remove invasive species including water primrose, pepperwood, Harding grass and pennyroyal.
- Educate and inspire people of all ages to appreciate the Laguna through workshops, volunteer opportunities, and our landmark school program, *Learning Laguna*.
- Attract ground breaking scientific research to the Laguna watershed.

Thank you to all of our members. Your support will ensure a lasting and healthy Laguna watershed.

For the Laguna,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raini Sugg".

Raini Sugg
Board President

Nature's Corner: Meadow Barley

Aaron Nuñez, *Restoration Technician II*



Hordeum brachyantherum, often referred to as meadow barley, is a native perennial grass found throughout the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Compared to invasive Mediterranean barley, meadow barley has a slender inflorescence which gives off a purple like hue while the blades themselves have a slightly sliver look to them. This native species of grass is great for stabilizing barren landscapes, suppressing the ability for invasives to become established, as well as help aid in erosion control issues. As a native groundcover plant it can create dense populations yet still allow for other native sedge and rush species to flourish. Perhaps its best quality today is its ability to compete with highly invasive species such as Harding grass and Italian rye to help maintain native grasslands throughout the Laguna.

The Laguna Garbage Pile-Up and Clean-Up Effort

Wendy Trowbridge, Director of Restoration and Conservation Science Programs

There is a giant pile of garbage in the lower Laguna and *we need your help*. Between Guerneville Road and River Road, trash and wood debris have been building up in the channel for years. Old hot water heaters, tires, and plastic bottles wash down Santa Rosa Creek and tangle with logs and other debris from Mark West Creek to create a channel-clogging mess. This mess traps sediment, builds up the height of the channel, blocks fish migration and floods the local farms. Farms along the Laguna have always flooded in the winter. Farmers count on these winter floods to deposit nutrient rich sediments on their fields, but now, as the channel fills up, spring and even summer rains are inundating their fields and drowning their crops. Every year they have to wait later and later to get their corn and tomatoes and peppers in the ground.

How did the garbage get there? Like the Great Garbage Patch in the Pacific Ocean, the movement of water in the Laguna brings together all the litter from the watershed into one big patch. If you lose a soccer ball in Cotati, or

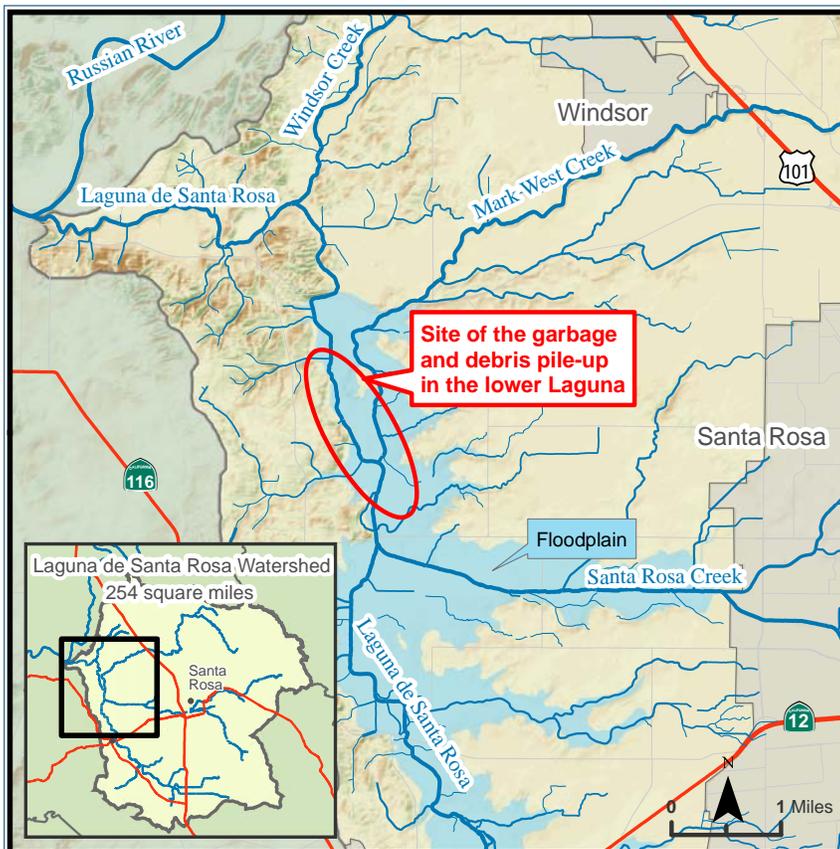


The great garbage pile clogs the river and causes damaging floods to local farmlands. (Conner Jay/The Press Democrat)

a plastic water bottle in Santa Rosa it all eventually winds up in the lower Laguna. This is a natural process; when the creeks come up in the winter, they pick up debris from the bank and the storm water system and carry it downstream. Then when this fast-flowing water from the tributaries hits the flat Laguna and the backwater from

the Russian River, it slows down and drops whatever it is carrying. This is the process that created the historical string of lakes that once made up the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Sediment and woody debris from Santa Rosa Creek and Mark West Creek used to dam up the Laguna and create large, deep lakes. At the beginning of the 20th century these dams were removed to reclaim the wetlands and create the fertile farming lands we have today. Before there were so many people living in the watershed it was possible for the farmers to clean up after us, but more garbage combined with more regulation has made that impossible. The debris that accumulates in the Laguna today is not just logs and mud. Now we find partially full bottles of insecticide, 55 gallon drums full of oil, and television monitors. The Laguna Foundation is working with the Sonoma County Water Agency to find a solution.

What can we do about it? The first step is clear; we need to get the trash out of the Laguna. We did a pilot project in summer of 2013 with the Sonoma County Youth Ecology



It is vitally important to the health of the Laguna and the 254-square mile watershed that garbage is cleaned up and kept out of the river's tributaries.

Map ID: 815-A ©2015. Data Sources: Laguna Foundation, Sonoma County ISD, USGS. Cartography: Hattie Brown

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22 New Docents for Learning Laguna!

Christine Fontaine, Director of Education Programs

After ten weeks of learning through presentations, reading, hands-on experiences, field trips and shadowing working docents in the classroom and the field, twenty-two new volunteers took their "final exam" and graduated from the docent training program on May 11, 2015. This was our largest graduating class ever and we are so pleased to welcome them to the Laguna Education Team! Congratulations to all!

In the 2014-15 school year, docents visited 48 classrooms and led 48 field trips to the Laguna, providing over 1,300 students with the Learning Laguna program. Those 48 classes came from 19 schools in 12 school districts within the Laguna Watershed. Docents contributed over 1,250 hours of direct teaching time this school year.

With all the new docent power for the 2015-16 school year, we will likely be able to increase our service to the schools by about 30% and inspire many more students, teachers and parents to appreciate, keep learning about, and become stewards of the Laguna.



*Seated, L-R: Pete Davis, Lise Melin, Diane Benson, Rosemary Ward, Nihala Tompkins, Laura Close, Teri Schmidt, Christine Fontaine (trainer). Standing, L-R: Debbie Dean, Richard Peterson-Jones, Anne Schroder, Mary Cordill, Anne Sobol, Judith Rousseau, Terry Lemenager, Brigitte Grimshaw, Raini Sugg (trainer) Marna McKenzie, Christine Dreyer, Jennifer Creeth, Karen Fendrick, Sarah Pinneo, Wendy Evans, Steve Test, Carolyn Johnson (trainer).
Not pictured: Denise Cadman (trainer)*

Grab your camera and hit the Laguna trails... The Laguna Foundation is having a photography contest!



(Wild Raddish, Janet Gelfman)

The Laguna Foundation invites both beginner and experienced photographers to submit images to our special 25th Anniversary Photography Contest and juried exhibit: *A Photographic Journey through the Laguna de Santa Rosa.*

What does the Laguna mean to you? Color photographs

of any of the myriad elements of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the landscape, it's flora, fauna or inhabitants (people excluded) are welcome. Work may be of any photographic style from realistic to fanciful. Prizes will be awarded in several categories. Entries are limited to three per person.

The deadline to enter is August 3 so head outside and capture the natural beauty of the Laguna today!

For other contest rules and details on how to enter your photos, please visit our website or contact Anita Smith at (707) 527-9277 xt. 110 or anita@lagunafoundation.org.

Laguna Explorations and Learning

Join us at one of our public education events coming up!

All programs listed below take place (or at least begin) in Heron Hall at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa.

Laguna Environmental Center Open Houses

Second Saturday of the Month, 10:00am-3:00pm

July 11, August 8, September 12, and so on . . .

Free, all ages, no RSVP required

Learn about the natural and cultural history of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and historic Stone Farm by taking a guided tour or exploring a variety of hands-on activities.

Birdwatch from the observation deck. Stop by for a visit and take in the beautiful views. Bring a picnic! Enjoy our gift shop in Great Blue Heron Hall and a new art exhibit "Breathing Space" of Susan Ball paintings (on display through August 30.)

Special Themed Open Houses Coming Up:

- July 11, Creating Wildlife Habitat, with special presentation at 3pm by habitat landscaper Tony McGuigan
- August 8, Laguna Wildlife with special presentation at 3pm by photographer Tom Reynolds
- September 12, A Photographic Journey through the Laguna de Santa Rosa, special exhibit in Heron Hall in celebration of the Laguna Foundation's 25th Anniversary
- October 10, Birds of Prey, with special presentation at 3pm by raptor expert Larry Broderick



Habitat It And They Will Come

With Tony McGuigan
Saturday, July 11, 3:00-4:30pm
\$10. No RSVP necessary.

Join us for this entertaining and informative talk about the why, who, and fun-how of creating animal habitats in residential gardens.

How to Create Residential Wildlife Habitat

Hands-on Workshop with Tony McGuigan

Sunday, July 12, 10:00am-4:00pm

\$55 (\$45 for members) Pre-registration required.

Learn how to "think like a plant," "think like a critter," and how to creatively foster wildlife habitat and thriving biodiversity in your own yard.

Wildlife of Northern California and Sonoma County

Photo and Video presentation with Tom Reynolds

Saturday, August 8, 3:00-4:30pm

\$10 at the door. No RSVP necessary.

Drawing Summer's Fruits:

Colored Pencil Techniques

Workshop with botanical

illustrator, Nina Antze

Saturday, August 22,

10:00am-3:30pm

\$85. Pre-registration required.



A Photographic Journey through the Laguna de Santa Rosa Laguna Foundation's 25th Anniversary Photography Contest and Juried Exhibit

On Display from Sept. 4, 2015 - Jan. 4, 2016

Opening Reception, Sat., Sept. 26, 3:00-5:00pm

For details on this exhibit and the opening reception, please visit our website.

Creative Photography at the Laguna

Workshop with photographers Susan and Neil Silverman

Sunday, September 27, 7:30am-3:30pm

\$75. Pre-registration required.

In this workshop you will work with creative techniques, work with the lighting conditions (good and bad), spark your compositional ideas, and come away with a "new" perspective on your photography.

More Upcoming Programs:

- October 10-11, Birds of Prey presentation and field trip with Larry Broderick
- October 24, Natural Paints workshop with Ane Carla Rovetta
- November 1, Tule Basket Workshop with Charlie Kennard
- November 5, Beavers on the Comeback presentation with Kate Lundquist
- December 5, Finding Wisdom for Your Walk workshop with Liza Weaver Brickey
- February 13, River Otter Ecology Project presentation

We continually add new events. Please visit our website www.lagunafoundation.org/laguna_walks_classes or contact Anita Smith, Public Education Coordinator at (707) 527-9277, ext. 110, anita@lagunafoundation.org.

Garbage

Continued from page 3

Corps. Corps members worked hard to remove dumpsters full of trash and huge piles of wood, but this was just the beginning. They will be coming back each summer for several years to come to pull the trash out of the Laguna and pile it up on the banks where it can be recycled or properly disposed of. By the end of the project the channel will be clean and free of debris, but that is not the end of the story. We need to make sure it doesn't just build up again. **This is where we need your help.**

We need to get the word out in the community that all our trash doesn't just wash "away" when the creeks come up. That dead tree that you had to cut down next to the

creek won't just disappear once it floats downstream, it will all end up in the Laguna Garbage and Debris Pile-Up. We need to keep everything from Fido's favorite tennis ball to plastic water bottles out of our streams. This summer the Laguna Foundation will be getting the word out through the local media, our public education events and social media. Our goal is to raise awareness and start a conversation about how we deal with our trash.

The Laguna Foundation will also continue to work with the Water Agency to alter the way the trash moves through the watershed so that it will be easier and less costly to remove in the future. We are looking for solutions that not only remove the trash but also allow salmon and steelhead to return more easily to their spawning grounds up Mark West and Santa Rosa Creeks.

Another Successful Re-Leaf Day!

Adrienne Gause, Office Manager



(Jerry Dodrill)

Many thanks go out to all who raised money, volunteered and came out to plant on April 11 for our 6th Annual Laguna Re-Leaf Day! In just one day, volunteers planted **over 900** trees, shrubs and non-woody perennials – far exceeding our expectations for the day! These plants are essential to the expansion of the riparian corridor along Irwin Creek, creating healthier wildlife habitat, mitigating climate change, and improving air and water quality. We hope all of our sponsors, volunteers and fundraisers know how important their contribution is to the health and restoration of the Laguna for generations to come.

Please be sure to stop by our sponsors' businesses and show your support. Without their financial contributions, the Laguna Re-Leaf Day would not be possible. Check out some of the wonderful photos taken by our volunteer photographer Jerry Dodrill on our Facebook page.

Thank You to Our 2015 Re-Leaf Sponsors!

Oregon Ash \$2,500

Pacific Gas & Electric Sandborn Tree Service, Inc.
Carolyn Johnson & Rick Theis

Box Elder \$1,000

Calpine at The Geysers Susan Mackowski
Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club John Weinstein & Heidi Stewart

Hawthorne \$500

Tom & Julie Atwood Laguna Vineyards
Brelje and Race Taylor Maid Farms Organic Coffee
Curt & Vicki Groninga Redwood Credit Union
Hugh Helm & Christine Engel Bob & Sharon Rubin
Whole Health Marketing

Elderberry \$250

Dianne Smith & Ben Benson Robin Fautley
Tyra Benoit LaFranchi Vineyards
Boyle & Stoll, CPAs Victoria Fullerton
Chuck & Deanne Cadman Tree House Hollow Preschool
Marlene & Martin Stein

Gifts In-Kind

Jerry Dodrill, Photography Oliver's Market, Montecito Center
Guayaki Starbucks, Farmers Lane
Don Jackson, Photography Coffee Catz
Lagunitas Brewing Co. Terra Vino Pizza

Thank You to Our 2015 Re-Leaf Fundraisers!

Julie Atwood	Curt Groninga	Ashley Moreda
Helen Baum	Hugh Helm	Sheila & Scott O'Brien
David Bannister	Carroll and John Hirsch	Brent Reed
Janine Barnes	Nils-Michael Langenborg	Kitty Ritz
Julia Bertolero	Melissa and Dave Laurice	Bob Rubin
Denise Cadman	Stephan McMahan	Rob & Betsy Sanville
Frank Dono	Franny and Glenn	Bev Scotland
Christine Engel	Minervini-Zick	Dianne Smith
Christine Fontaine		Raini Sugg

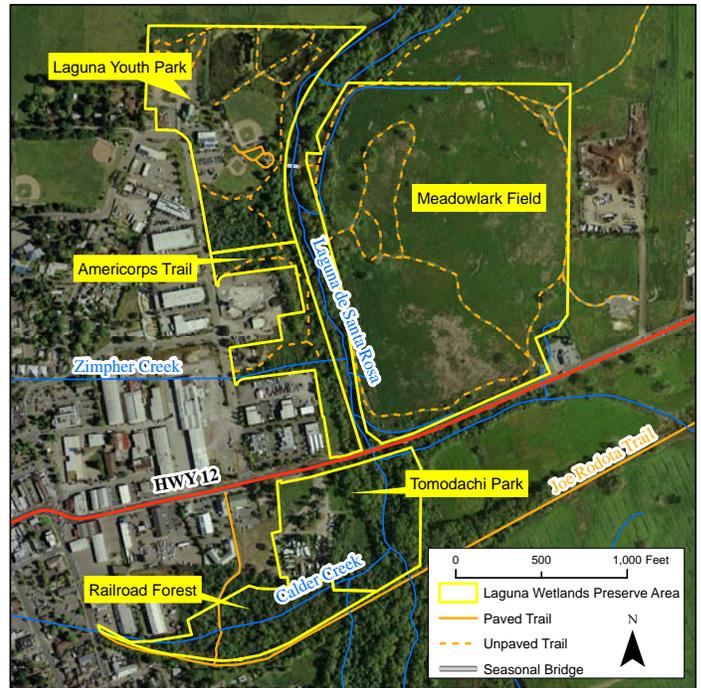
City of Sebastopol's Laguna Wetlands Preserve Management Plan

Hattie Brown, Conservation Science Program Manager

In partnership with local environmental consultants Prunuske Chatham, Inc. (PCI) we are working with the City of Sebastopol to develop a Restoration and Management Plan for the City of Sebastopol's Laguna Wetlands Preserve.

The Preserve, spanning several properties along the Laguna and Hwy 12, marks the eastern entrance to the City of Sebastopol. The Preserve encompasses the Laguna Youth Park (home to ball fields and the Community Center), the Americorps Trail, Meadowlark Field, the Railroad Forest and Tomodachi Park. Work on the Preserve began in 1998 and we continue to work with the city to enhance ecological function, support biological diversity, protect habitat and water resources and promote beneficial public use.

The Plan will suggest restoration opportunities, identify potential trail connections, and recommend methods for ongoing management of invasive species.



The Laguna Wetlands Preserve

Map ID: 816-A ©2015. Data Sources: Laguna Foundation, PCI, Sonoma County ISD. Aerial imagery: 2011. Cartography: Hattie Brown



Thank you to Our 2015 Gala Sponsors

(List to Date)

Bald Eagle \$10,000

Vine Hill House Vic & Karen Trione
Jan & Dan O'Connell Bob Rubin

Golden Eagle \$5,000

Raini & Steve Vallarino

Bobcat \$1,000

The Press Democrat Sprint Copy Center
Sonoma West Times and News Whole Foods Market, Sebastopol

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G. Reedy Wines Ridge Vineyards
Idle Cellars Rochioli Vineyards & Winery
Korbel Russian River Vineyards
Lambert Bridge White Oak Vineyards & Winery
Martin Ray Vineyards & Winery Woodenhead

Would you like to become a sponsor or donor? Visit lagunagardengala.org to find out how you can support this important fundraising event.



Founded in 1989, the Laguna Foundation is a place-based organization focused on the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a Wetland of International Importance. 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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Santa Rosa, CA 95401
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www.lagunafoundation.org



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(Willowswept, Susan R. Ball)

**“Breathing Space” - Paintings by Susan R. Ball
On Display Through August 30, 2015**

Reward yourself by visiting this beautiful exhibit in Heron Hall Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm. Because of the variety of uses of Heron Hall, please call ahead to be sure the Hall is open to the public. Another great time to view the art exhibit is during our FREE Monthly Open Houses, every 2nd Saturday, 10am-3pm.

Coming up next, a special Laguna-focused photography exhibit in honor of the Foundation’s 25th Anniversary.
Opening Reception: September 26, 2015, 3:00-500pm



Join the Legacy Society

Help ensure that the Laguna is a healthy part of our community forever. Please join in providing lasting support for the work of the Laguna Foundation by remembering the Laguna Foundation in your will or estate plan.

To join the Legacy Society or to find out more about planned gifts, contact Bev Scotland, at (707) 527-9277 ext. 106 or email Bev@lagunafoundation.org.