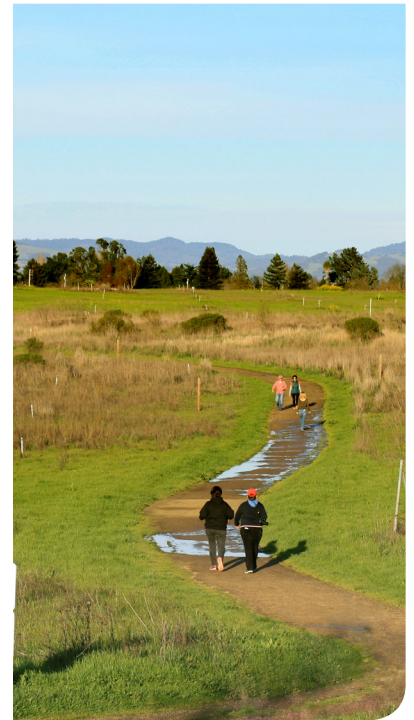




2017 | 2018 Annual Report

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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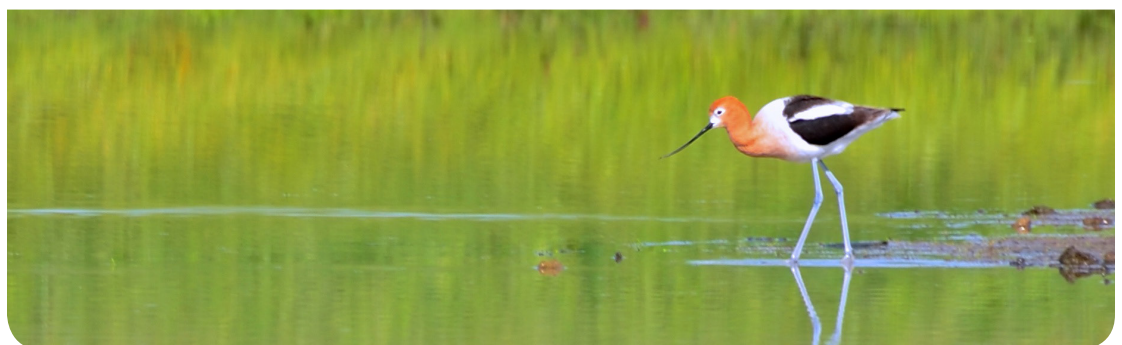
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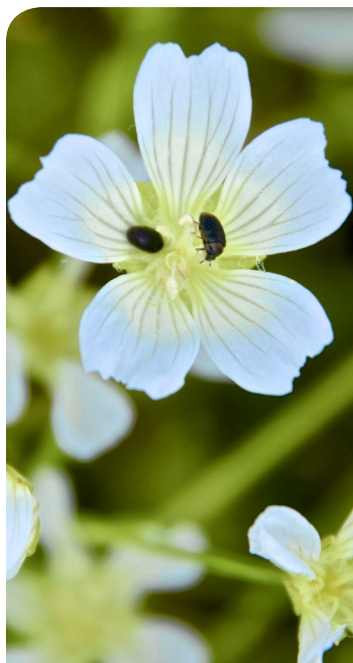
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 Carol Shelton Wines
 Jose Contreras
 DeLoach Vineyards
 Frank and Jackie Dono
 DRNK Wines
 Farmstead Cheese
 Fircrest Markets Inc.
 Harvest Moon Estate & Winery
 Walter and Julie Harvest
 Hawley Winery
 Hog Island Oyster Company, Inc.
 Hook & Ladder Winery
 Hopmonk Tavern
 Carolyn Johnson and Rick Theis
 Marcia and Ralph Johnson
 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
 California Native Plant Society, Milo Baker Chapter
 City of Santa Rosa
 City of Sebastopol
 Conservation Corps North Bay
 Earle Baum Center for the Blind
 Federal Aviation Administration
 Fledgling Fund
 Kimball Foundation
 LandPaths

Prunuske Chatham, Inc.
 San Francisco Estuary Institute
 Sarah K. de Coizart Article Tenth Perpetual Charitable Trust
 Sonoma County Ag + Open Space
 Sonoma County Airport
 Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission
 Sonoma County Regional Parks
 Sonoma County Water Agency

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

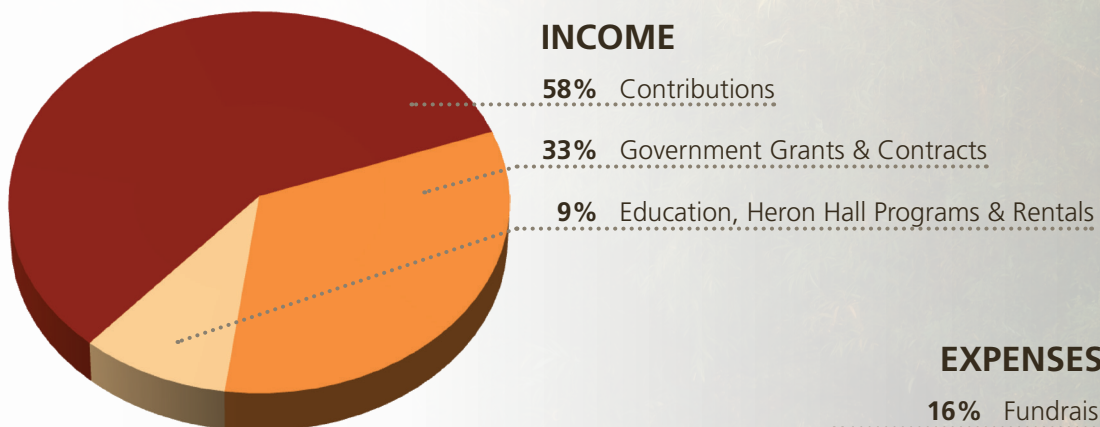
Accounts Payable	\$ 14,490
Accrued Vacation	29,487
Accrued Wages	20,928
Payroll Liabilities	8,754
Line of Credit	44,000
Other Payables	7,323
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 124,982

Net Assets

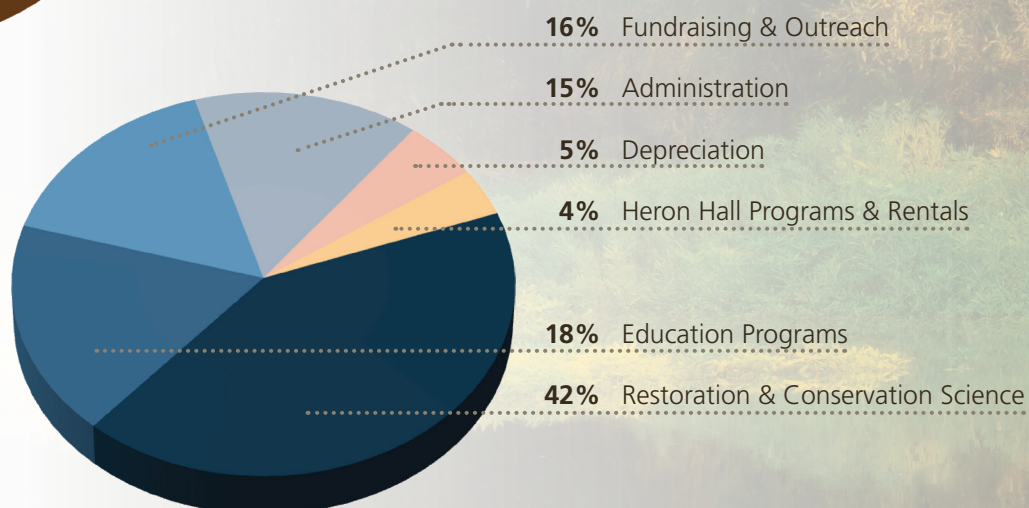
Unrestricted	\$2,138,115
Temporarily Restricted	112,809
Permanently Restricted	10,000
Total Net Assets	\$2,260,924

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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www.LagunaFoundation.org

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Maggie Hart, Outreach Coordinator

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Sierra Castillo, Donor Services & Communications Assistant

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Asa Voight, Restoration Field Technician II

Hannah Werdmuller, Field Technician

PHOTO CREDITS

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RENEW YOURSELF...BECOME A LAGUNA EDUCATION VOLUNTEER!



Volunteers are at the heart of our education programs and it takes many people to teach 1,200 students and reach 2,200 adults each year. The 2019 training course promises to be exciting and full of opportunities

to renew yourself and build your circle of friends while contributing to the community and the Laguna's future.

We offer 3 education volunteer opportunities:

Learning Laguna Docents

Teach our curriculum to 2nd-4th grade children in their classroom and on field trips to the Laguna.

Laguna Guides

Teach about the Laguna and support public education programs and trail walks.

Laguna Greeters

Support the smooth running of Heron Hall and provide outreach tabling at community events.

During the course all trainees will be together on Tuesday evenings to learn about wetlands, ecology, plants, birds and other animals of the Laguna de Santa Rosa in the classroom and in the field at Laguna Preserves. Then, trainees are divided into tracks to learn and practice the specifics of each volunteer job. Docents train on Mondays and spend time observing in elementary classrooms and on school field trips. Guides train on Saturdays. Greeters attend one Tuesday and one Saturday class. Everyone has the option to participate in additional educational outings to Laguna locations not usually open to the public.

Training starts in late February. Keep an eye on our website for exact training dates. Plan now to attend an orientation for all the details! Two dates are available, and will be held in Heron Hall, 6:00 – 8:00pm:

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019 **or** Monday, Feb. 11, 2019

Curiosity, enthusiasm and a desire to learn, grow, teach and explore the natural world of the Laguna is all it takes to get started. Join the Laguna Foundation for these rich, rewarding and renewing experiences!

GET INVOLVED! MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Native Plant Garden Volunteer Days

First Friday of the Month, 9am – Noon

Upcoming Dates: November 2, December 7, 2018 & January 4, February 1, March 1, 2019

Location: Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA

Laguna Stewardship Days

Once a month on a Saturday, 9am – Noon

Upcoming Dates: November 10, December 15, 2018 & January 12, February 16, March 9, 2019

Details and location announced 1-2 weeks in advance of the workday.

All ages and abilities welcome. No experience necessary. Training and tools provided, plus abundant and hearty snacks! Wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty. RSVP only if you are planning on bringing a group of five or more people so that we can have enough supplies. Only heavy rain cancels.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for exploring and learning about the Laguna de Santa Rosa at one of our Community Education Programs (also known as *Walks, Talks, and Classes*). Pre-registration is required for all events. New events added regularly. All events take place, or begin at the Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, California.

Expressive Nature Photography in the Laguna Watershed

Workshop with Brenda Sharp

Saturday, November 17, 8:00am – 5:00pm. \$125

Nature Journaling at the Laguna

Workshop and field trip with Marley Peifer

In Partnership with LandPaths and Ag+Open Space District

Sunday, November 18, 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Free

Film Screening: ALBATROSS

Directed by Chris Jordan

Thursday, November 29, 7:00 – 9:00pm. Free

Painting Mushrooms in Gouache

Workshop with Lucy Martin

Saturday, December 1, 10:00am – 3:00pm. \$95

Weave a Willow Basket

Workshop with Charlie Kennard

Sunday, December 2, 9:30am – 3:30pm. \$95

Traditional Environmental Knowledge and Climate Change

Presentation with Pomo Tribal Elder, Nick Tipon

Thursday, December 6, 7:00 – 8:30pm. \$12

Wild Food & Medicine: Crane Creek Regional Park

With Laguna Foundation and Regional Parks

Sunday, December 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm. \$10

Film Screening: The Most Unknown

Directed by Ian Cheney

Thursday, December 13, 7:00 – 9:00pm. \$5-\$20

Watershed Perspectives Outing: Colgan Creek

Walk with Regional Parks and City of Santa Rosa

Sunday, January 13, 2019, More details coming soon.

From Climate to Creatures: The State of the Ocean off Northern California

Presentation with Farallon Institute E.D., Dr. Jeffrey Dorman

Thursday, January 17, 2019, 7:00pm – 8:30pm. \$12

Winter Colors: Branches, Leaves, and Winter Fruit

Colored Pencil Techniques workshop with Nina Antze

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 10:00am – 3:00pm. \$95

For information on these or any of our events, please visit our website at: www.LagunaFoundation.org

LAGUNA FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLEDGE \$75,000 MATCHING GRANT

Our Board of Directors will match all gifts to the Laguna Foundation received by December 31 thereby **doubling the value of your donation!**

Funds will be used immediately to enact long-term solutions to the most pressing issues facing the Laguna. Your donation and this match will help fund salmon restoration research, design the state's first county-wide vernal pool sanctuary, create more fire-resistant landscapes, improve water quality and wildlife habitat in numerous streams and bring 35% more children to our second year of Camp Tule!

Turn \$75,000 into \$150,000! Let's move closer to reaching our ambitious goal: restore the waters of the Laguna to a clean, swimmable and fishable condition.

Return your donation in the enclosed envelope or make a secure online gift at www.LagunaFoundation.org. Questions? Please contact Bev at (707) 527-9277, xt. 106 or bev@lagunafoundation.org

Thank you for your support!

