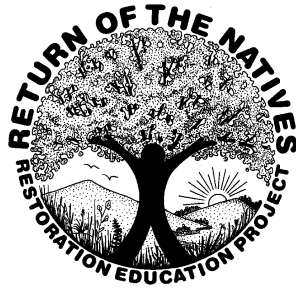


RON/WEOP will be active over the summer.

Need help this summer with special RON school gardening projects? If you can use 7-8 volunteers for either a full or a half-day at your school, call Laura lee at 393-3689 and she will arrange a group of WEOP Restoration Interns and their mentor to come to your school site for a day of work. They can assist in the construction of temporary greenhouses, help build beds, install drip irrigation systems, transplant seedlings, pull weeds, etc. Your job will be to provide the tasks necessary materials, and to keep the kids busy. Interns will be available Mon-Wed, from June 19 to August 11. WEOP Interns have a wonderful summer of work and learning before them. Their four day work week will consist of a rotation of experiences ranging from pulling iceplant on coastal dunes, gathering native plant seeds, working in the greenhouse, watering the



Natividad Creek Park plantings, and helping with the Salinas Storm Drain Stenciling Program. One day a week will be dedicated to a field trip to see other restoration sites in the area.

RON Offers Plantsitting Services

Worried about your RON native plants as you leave school this summer? Tricia Lowe has offered to plantsit at the WEOP greenhouse here at CSUMB. She will also transplant them if necessary. Tricia has a new phone number 393-3683, so give her a call to arrange for pick-up or delivery times.

RON Teacher Training Planned for October 6,7 & 8.

Mark your calendars now if you have never attended one of RON's three day training in native plant and habitat restoration. Or, if you know of someone who really "should" attend one of these trainings, ask them to save the dates.

Topics include: native plant ecology and propagation, school garden design and installation, school and community involvement in the Natividad Creek Restoration Project, and curriculum sharing and networking. Workshop: presenters include RON and WEOP staff, landscape architect, Joni Janecki and other restoration specialists.

The cost for the three day training is \$55 which includes, dinner Friday, lunches Saturday and Sunday, morning snacks and a large RON binder of materials. If more than one person per school or program **RON Teacher Training**

Continued: attends the workshop the second and subsequent persons need pay only \$25 which, however, will necessitate sharing the RON binder.

Training times are:
Fri., Oct 6, 5-9 p.m.
Sat, Oct 7, 8 a.m.-5p.m.
Sun, Oct 8, 8a.m.-3p.m.

Last date to register is September 28, 1995.

To register send a check for \$55 to RON at CSUMB, c/o WEOP, 100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA 93955-8001. FAX: 393-3691 or TEL: 393-3689.

RON Natividad Creek Planting Big Success-450 Plants-200 Volunteers

April 22, 1995 was a beautiful day. The sweeping vies of the Gabilan Mts. in the distance were a breathtaking backdrop as 200 volunteers clad in orange safety vests, left Virginia Rocca Barton School and headed out across the park. Walking to the drumbeat of the Lost Boys Drum from the Tena Native Council, participants young and old experienced the grandeur of the park and surely felt the sacred importance of their day's mission.

Highlighting the importance of the days work to the City, was Mayor Alan Styles who

read a proclamation honoring Salinas as a "Tree City USA".

Over 450 native willows, oaks, buckeyes, elderberries, currants, and sycamores were caringly placed in the ground during the one to two hours of the actual planting. In the weeks following the planting, the late rains and overcast skies helped keep the soil moist until the new drip irrigation system was installed in early May.

Special thanks go out to all the April 22 volunteers and especially Rita Uribe and the Staff of Virginia Rocca Barton School for hosting the April 22 Planting Day.

Natividad Creek Update

Tricia Lowe reports that the all is well with our plantings in Natividad Creek Park. Aside from a few acts of vandalism, all the plantings appear healthy. Tricia has been assisted this spring by two Alisal High School students through the WEOP Intern Program.

Another group of WEOP interns under the direction of Mentors Ross Clark and Dion Oxman have been conducting water quality monitoring experiments in the park and have received surprising results. In a test for nitrates (an indicator of

agricultural wastes in a system), the level was found to drop from over 5ppm upstream of the park to less than 2ppm below the hay bales which have impounded the water and allowed for natural filtration and cleansing. Ross and Dion plan to continue their monitoring of nitrates and other indicators of water quality in upcoming months.

Greenhouses to be constructed over summer

As part of the City of Salinas' Grant to RON for restoration efforts at Natividad Creek Park, six RON greenhouses are due to be constructed in Salinas schools this summer. The goal is to assist in the propagation of native grasses and wildflowers for outplanting in the Park.

Greenhouses will be constructed in the following schools: Sherwood (Peter Moras), Boronda (Nancy McDowell), Los Padres (Lynn Hamilton), Virginia Rocca Barton (Rita Uribe), Frank Paul (Jacquelyn Munoz et al) and Alisal High School (Pat McNeill).

Greenhouses continued: RON will provide to each of these schools a temporary greenhouse, greenhouse tables, planting supplies,

staff enrichment sessions, and technical assistance to ensure success in the propagation.

The schools for their part will be responsible for the production of between 3,000 and 4,000 seedlings to be outplanted in January and February of 1996. Each school will designate a greenhouse manager who will be in charge of daily monitoring of the greenhouse to ensure that plants have adequate water and are not experiencing extremes of temperature.

Watershed Curriculum Resources New to IMC

The IMC of the Salinas City District will soon be receiving several excellent watershed related curriculum. Included is a computer-based display of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and the Gulf of the Farallones, for use on Macintosh computers. Also, the excellent stream monitoring and adoption materials from the *Save Our Streams* program of the Issac Walton League. And *The Stream Scene*, a watershed program from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Thanks go to Peter Moras for acquiring these materials.

Workshop in Hayward: "Teaching About Watersheds"

Nov 4 class
Nov 5, 11 & 12 field trips.
Laura Lee will send away for registration materials which should be available in September.

"Old River Channels could fight saltwater intrusion"

A Letter to the Editor of the *Salinas Californian* written by RON member, Pat McNeill.

People are hurting and lashing out because of the flood. Monterey County is being asked to clear brush and trees from river banks.

Before government acts, it would do well to tour the river with stream hydrologists and see what vegetation really aggravated the flood and what vegetation actually saved millions of dollars' worth of roads and homes.

Rivers didn't flood Castroville and Pajaro because of vegetation in channels. They flood those communities because every 30 years or so, for the last million years, heavy rains have exceeded the capacity of river channels. Because the cycle of 30-plus years is so long in

human terms farmers have claimed those "unused" channels and converted them to fields and orchards. They took risks and they lost.

The public is hearing from good people who took a big chance and want desperately to identify a culprit, buy a "fix", and go back to life as usual. They want to cut trees, build dikes, channel streams and blame government. They do not want to acknowledge that human endeavor must accommodate nature.

Some things are certain. The river will flood again. No one can predict when. No one can stop it. Nor should we try.

Before the next flood, millions of dollars will be spent to abate saltwater intrusion. Why? Because agriculture has claimed all the sloughs and river channels where historical flood waters percolated into the ground, recharging the aquifer and keeping saltwater at bay.

"Old River Channels could fight saltwater" (cont)

It would be cheaper to buy the older river channels and turn them into percolation ponds. That way, we seriously

address basin management and saltwater intrusion. That way, when the next big rain comes, everyone will be winners.

There are successful models to keep in mind. The Monterey County Water Resources Agency has always released water from upstream reservoirs into the Salinas at a rate that allowed near 100 percent percolation.

“Floods helped create area’s natural riches”

A Letter to the Editor, *Salinas Californian*, by RON member, Peter Moras.

About dusk, I stood outside Star Market in south Salinas, enjoying the view toward the Salinas River, Spiracles and the Santa Lucia Mountains.

As I took in the beauty, I felt refreshed, my burdens lightened by the power of that openness.

I was surprised to notice the very fields that were under water two weeks earlier, and for which there was so much lament, were already being irrigated by sprinklers. What a recovery.

Hundreds and thousands of “100 year floods” have occurred in this valley, bringing to life an ancestral abundance of

wildlife, wetlands, and a lake-and-slough system that is now mostly drained.

Our future happiness is bound inextricably to bringing those natural water collection, storage, percolation and purification basins back into existence with all their attendant greenery and habitat.

They will help control and confine future flooding of the Salinas River and its tributaries that will inevitably occur, for these lands are in a flood plain, ordained by nature to receive spillover. The spillover is a benefit.

One can logically deduce that if it weren’t for floods and the unfortunate human displacement and suffering they sometimes cause, Monterey County wouldn’t have its multibillion-dollar agricultural economy.

Thousands upon thousands of silt-carrying, debris-bearing floods have washed down the mountains, leveling the plains, producing the richness and loam that farmers enjoy and which city-dwellers should prize and protect, as single-mindedly as they do their bank and savings accounts.

When you think about, where does man’s wealth

come from? From the riches and natural resources of the earth.

Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary’s Bald Eagle Restoration Project

Students between 11 and 14 years of age are invited to apply for two five day wilderness experiences involving radio-telemetry tracking and eagle field study in the Ventana Wilderness. Call Carrie Cole at 624-1202 for more details and for information on their other exciting summer youth day camps.

RON Telephones:

Laura Lee Lienk 393-3689
Tricia Lowe and Sue Shaw 393-3683
Bruce Stewart 685-1442

Next RON Newsletter to come out in August

We need your news and events to fill the pages of this newsletter. Let us know what’s up and we’ll include it.