

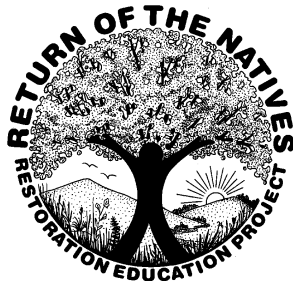
**YOUR HELP
NEEDED TO GET
THOSE PLANTS
IN THE GROUND:
RON Community
Planting Day
Saturday, Feb. 10
9:00-12:00**

**RON Teachers Needed
to:**

**#1 Share this
opportunity with
colleagues, parents,
and students**

**#2 Come and
participate as group
planting leaders. Call
Laura Lee at 582-3689
if you can be a leader!**

For all RON community planting experiences, children must be accompanied by an adult. If you are bringing a child, other than your own child you must bring a signed note from the child's parent saying



that you are responsible for their child, or you can request a waiver from the RON program.

Important and exciting RON Opportunities Listed in the Newsletters - Don't Lose Out

The purpose of the RON newsletter is to share exciting opportunities with RON members. We know that everyone is deluged with printed matter and information. To make things easier for you we will try to list the hottest opportunities on this cover. So every month for the very least scan this page. Thanks!!

**Landscape
Architect, Joni
Janecki to present
RON Enrichment
on School
Landscape Design
Sherwood School
Tuesday, Feb. 27
4:00-7:00 p.m.**

This very popular hands-on training has been rescheduled from January when it had to be canceled because Joni was ill.

While there is light we will work outside highlighting Sherwood School's native plant garden. Then we will go inside to work on techniques of design and on making those first steps on individual school plans. Participants are encouraged to bring their own school landscaping or architectural plans
Registration fee: \$5/person. Phone registration at 582-3689 is required.
**Thanks to RON
Phone Tree
Leaders:**

The following folks have agreed or been coerced into being RON phone tree leaders. This means

that when we have a special RON opportunity they will be calling you and/or leaving a message sharing the event. The leaders are: Foster Hoffman, John Hannum, Nancy McDowell, Pat McNeill, Marilyn McGloughlin, Edith Frederick, James Starkewolfe, Phyllis Jones, Linda Steager, and Peter Moras. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Natividad Creek Planting Reports:

Students and community members have been busy planting in Natividad Creek Park. Thousands of grasses and wildflowers, and most of our remaining trees and shrubs have been planted along the creeksides and slopes of the park. On December 2, 1995 over 100 community members including scout troops, CSUMB students, teachers, and County Supervisor Simone Salinas, worked at an astonishing pace to put over 750 trees and shrubs into the ground. Their labors were lightened a bit with several dance breaks led by the Eagle Feather Dancers. Thanks to all who attended and worked.

RON GREENHOUSE PROPAGATION PROJECT: A 20,000 PLANT SUCCESS!!

The goal of this RON-City of Salinas project was to construct

greenhouses at six city school and involve students in the propagation of a targeted 18,000 native plants for use in restoring habitat in Natividad Creek Park. La Verne University graduate student and RON steering committee member, Peter Moras collected data via phone surveys of the lead teachers from the six schools. Highlights of Peter's data are as follows:

- A total of 1,354 students were involved in the care of the greenhouses and in raising and transplanting the plants
- Over 20,000 plants grown to outplanting size.
- 53 teachers and 24 parents involved
- Average rating of 9 on how enjoyable the greenhouse has been on a 0-10 scale.
- Average rating of 7.9 given by teachers of educational benefit to students (0-10 scale).
- Total number of 28 vandalism incidents, ranging from slashed plastic, tipped over trays, switched tags, to the sad fire at the Boronda Greenhouse.
- All of the six greenhouses are still growing plants for the Life Lab, LASERS, and RON Programs
- In response to a question on support from the site principal, two were rated as really supportive, three moderately supportive

and on principal slightly supportive. Their support was evidenced by their presence at the ribbon-cutting, project advocacy, help with red tape, staff meeting support, newsletter space.

Following Peter's empirical report to the RON Steering Committee, greenhouse lead teachers shared comments and suggestions:

- "Why not do it full scale?"
- "It was helpful to have help from CSUMB students." (2 schools)
- "It will be easier next year."
- "Having the support of Danica (RON helper) with necessary materials was really great."
- "A great deal of professional growth on part of other teachers in the school was seen"
- "I saw more teachers taking their classes outside"
- "I forgot to take our sprouting data. Data collection was difficult. Record keeping needs to be simplified."

Act Now!! "Send a Plant To College"

Program has Special Offer

Want to raise some shrub transplants for outplanting on the CSUMB campus? Want to bring your class to campus in April to put the plants in the ground?

A limited number of classrooms can receive flats of tiny shrubs for outdoor propagation this spring. RON will provide plants, larger pots, soil, teacher training, and possibly bus transportation to CSUMB for outplanting. Schools/teachers must provide transplanting and watering time and a secure outdoor space for the plants to remain until April. Interested teachers must:

- **Come to a brief training and materials pick-up on Wednesday, February 21, 3:45-4:15 p.m.**

- **RSVP Call Tricia Lowe at 582-3683 before Tuesday February 13 to reserve the number of flats (49) plants for which you will transplant and care.**

RON Video prepared by CSUMB student

A RON Video prepared in the fall of 1995 was debuted in December by CSUMB telecommunications student, Jennifer Freeman. The 15 minute video captures RON events beginning with our group's presence at the visit of President Clinton up to the December 2, 1995 Natividad Creek Planting Day. RON teachers, their students, CSUMB student learners, Vietnam

Vets, as well as the President are featured in the video. To borrow a copy, call Laura Lee at 582-3689.

Lynn Hamilton honored by CARE Council

The Community Achievement Recognition Council (CARE) honored RON Charter Member and Steering Committee Member, Lynn Hamilton at their January 20, Sherwood Hall banquet. Lynn's long-term leadership and work with RON, with the Salinas Composting and Storm Drain Stenciling Programs, the Salinas City Schools Conservation Committee helped to gain her this important community recognition. Congratulations, Lynn.

Tricia Lowe to Finish Masters Thesis

RON's Natividad Creek Park Restoration Manager, Tricia Lowe will be taking a break from her RON responsibilities to finish her Moss Landing Marine Lab masters thesis. Though we are sorry to let her go from our team for even a moment, we will try not to come running to her with every little question while at the same time applauding her dedication to her studies.

Tricia's many duties will be assumed by Danica Michael who has been apprenticing with Tricia and Sue Shaw this past fall. Welcome aboard, Danica.

RON Steering Committee Exploring Moving the Curriculum Library

The RON Steering Committee would like to hear comments from RON teachers regarding the possible movement of the RON Curriculum Library currently housed at the IMC of Salinas City Schools to the RON offices at the Watershed Institute on the CSUMB campus. This move is being considered because the Watershed Institute has received a grant for \$1000 from the Campus Compact Organization to purchase environmental education and restoration education materials for use by students in their

Proposed Moving RON Curriculum Library (continued)

service learning projects. The RON steering committee feels that the IMC materials, which have received very little use at the IMC, might see more use if combined with the new Watershed Institute materials and were housed in the RON offices. Materials will still be able to be circulated via the inner school "pony" service,

and a yearly listing of RON Resource Center offerings would be circulated to RON members and schools. Call Laura Lee at 582-3689 to comment.

Watershed Institute/RON receives Campus Compact Grant

A small amount of funding to support the RON coordinated programs at the Seaside Boys and Girls Club and Seaside High School has been received by the Earth Systems Science and Policy Institute at CSUMB.

More RON Success Stories Needed for Next Newsletter

Contact Laura Lee at 582-3689 with news on your work with native plants.

Come with RON State Wide and National Conferences

The call for presentations and workshops is out for two exciting conferences for next fall. Laura Lee and Bruce would like to invite any RON member to co-present with us at the California Science Teachers Association Conference (Oct. 4-6, in Sacramento) or the North American Association of Environmental Education Conference (Nov. 1-4 in

Burlingame). Contact Laura Lee ASAP so we can send in a proposal. Call 582-3689.

RON e.mail addresses

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stewart_ROM@monterey.edu

We ask RON supporters to keep their fingers (and toes) crossed for our success.

RON Staff Preparing Funding Grants to Continue Momentum

In the past few months RON staff have been preparing grants to continue the momentum we have gained in the past year. We are awaiting word on possible funding from the US EPA, Community Foundation of Monterey County, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, C.S. Fund, Patricia Price Peterson Foundation, and Chevron Corporation .