

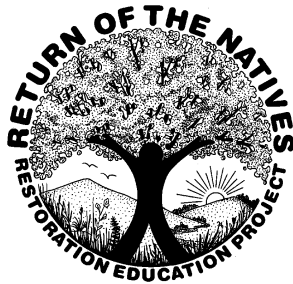
**“RON Crawls the
INTERNET with
Pat McNeill”**

**RON Enrichment:
Thursday, May 9
4:30-7:30 p.m.**

**At Alisal High
Computer Lab**

Alisal High science mentor, and RON steering committee member, Pat McNeill will host RON teachers and their guests for a fun evening exploring the Internet looking for environmental and science information and treasures. The session is free though we will take up a collection to send out for pizzas and sodas for dinner. Reservations are required since there is a limit of 15 participants. Call Laura Lee at 582-3689 to reserve a place.

RON Numbers
TEL: 582-3689
FAX: 582-3691



**RON goes to
Earth Day at
Toro Park
April 20, 9:30-
5:30.
Volunteers
needed**

RON teachers and their families are invited represent our group at the 1996 Earth Day Celebration. Times when volunteers are needed are 9:00-12:00, 12:00-3:00, and 3:00-5:30. This is a great opportunity to share RON with the general community. Call Laura Lee at 582-3689 if you can help out. See you at Earth Day!

**RON Teachers
Needed to
Volunteer for
Barnyard
Gardening
Event, April 27
9:30-5:30**

Contact Laura Lee ASAP to sign up for a time period to host the RON/Watershed Institute booth at this special Barnyard event, entitled “A Garden Affair”. Gardening experts will host discussions on topics ranging from “Gardening in Monterey Bay Microclimates” to “The Advantages of California Native Plants in Your Garden.” Enjoy the beauty of the Barnyards flowers, listen to live jazz with the Steve Goodman Quartet, and share the excitement of the RON project with hundreds of visitors.

Volunteer times include 9:30-12:00, 12:00-3:00 and 3:00-5:30. Call Laura Lee at 582-3689 to choose time to volunteer.

Thousands of Native Grasses and Wildflowers Planted

This rainy season RON sponsored six school planting days and two community planting days in various locations throughout the park. Our not so precise count shows 1730 students and 240 members of the general public showed up to get dirty, restore habitat, and enjoy the blossoming of the park. Furthering our calculations, if each of those 1970 people planted only 10 plants each (and most planted more than that), our minimum total of plants into the ground comes to 19,700 plants. WOW! A super big thank you to everyone who came out and planted. Schools who participated included, Boronda, Alisal High, Frank Paul, El Gabilan, Monterey Park, Sherwood, Los Padres, Gavilan View Middle, and Virginia Rocca Barton.

RON to Produce Interpretive Elements for Park

Due to savings on material and plant costs in the original grant which funded RON involvement in the Park, \$50,000 will be available to design and construct special interpretive zones or nodes throughout the Park. RON staff and landscape architect, Joni Janecki with guidance from several RON teachers have begun the plans for the zones and for park signage. The goal is to have the interpretive zones and signage installed by the summer.

First Phase of Park May Open in Late Summer

Salinas City Park Planner, Ed Piper (a RON member) reports that the first elements of Salinas' newest and largest park should open in the late summer. By that time restrooms, an amphitheater, nature areas, a playground, parking lots, and basketball and tennis courts should be ready.

1995 Fire Brings Glorious Field of Poppies

Last summer vandals set a grassfire which burned several acres on the northwest side of the park (and adjacent privately held lands). Luckily damage was minimal and this year the bounty of that event is being reaped in fields of golden poppies. Go out to the park on the west side of the creek and above Freedom Parkway to see for yourself.

Motorcycles a problem on restored hillsides

Motorbikes and BMX type bikes have tracked up areas previously planted by RON. We need to send a clear message to after school bikeusers to stay on established trails and roadways until the park opens its BMX trails.

Symposium in Restoration Ecology for High School Students

RON and the Watershed Institute will be sponsoring an all-day Restoration Ecology Symposium for High School Students on Saturday, April 13 on the campus and the Ft. Ord Public Lands. Notices have gone out to the high schools. For more information contact Laura Lee at 582-3689

RON's "Send a Plant to College" to be part of CSUMB April 23, Earth Day Celebration

CSUMB's Service Learning Institute through a National Learn and Serve Grant, Planet Otter-the campus ecology club, and RON's "Send a Plant to College" project will be the CSUMB Earth Day Sponsors. The main purposes of the day are to introduce CSUMB students to the area's environmental groups, to highlight CSUMB's new sustainability task force, to celebrate together for the planet, and in the case of RON's project, to do something concrete and positive for the environment. RON staff and RON's CSUMB Service Learning Students will also be hosting students from Seaside High School and

Manzanita Elementary School who will spend the day on campus, planting in the Oak Woodland Restoration Area, touring the campus, and participating in the Earth Day Celebration.

RON and Service Learning Students to Work with Boys and Girls Club

Four Applied Watershed Service Learning Students and RON staff will be presenting a four week-long mini course in native garden construction at the Seaside Boys and Girls Club starting on April 12. Headed by students Kelly McKree and Michelle Coughran, 15 Club participants will plant two mini native plant demonstration gardens in front of their building. In addition to planning and planting the gardens, participants will visit a dune and oak woodland habitat to see "in the wild" the types of habitats they will be recreating. RON participation in this project is support by grants from the National Learn and Serve Foundation and the California Campus Compact.

Send Your Plants to College

RON will babysit your plants over the summer vacation. Bring them

over or call Laura Lee at 582-3689 to arrange for pick-up.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park Receives Second Wave of Plants.

Biology students from Sharon O'Brien's Salinas High classes visited the park on a glorious March day and really worked hard!! The 170 students planted over 2000 grasses and wildflowers on the hillsides and lowlands of this developing park. RON involvement in Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park is supported by a grant from the Harden Foundation.

Peace Builders at Frank Paul School

Laurie Singer's 4-5-6 combo Peacebuilder class at Frank Paul School has been building model Peacebuilder Parks. RON staff person, Laura Lee Lienk, visited their classroom to see their ideas for quiet spaces, praise boards, and little encounter areas. It is possible that the ideas of these students will be incorporated into the interpretive plan for Natividad Creek Park.

Los Padres School Native Garden Moves Ahead

Los Padres School Moves ahead with its native garden in front of

the school thanks to help from the Pebble Beach Company. Drive by Los Padres later in the school year and see how they've done. The LASERS program at Los Padres has also received a RON related boost with the addition of CSUMB Service Learning student, Lupe Ceja to their community team. For Lupe, a junior Earth Systems Science and Policy major, this is the first time she has been in back in an elementary school since her own experience there. It's possible that she will continue on into the field of science education. Go, Lupe!

Boronda Greenhouse Again Filled with Seedlings

Anticipating a large scale fall 1996 planting along the Calle del Adobe leading into the Boronda neighborhood, RON and Boronda School have started wildflower and native grass seedlings in their greenhouse. The Boronda neighborhood is to receive Monterey County Redevelopment Funds to revitalize the neighborhood. RON plans to work with the landscape architectural firm of Sutherland and Associates in bringing back native plants to the streetscapes of the neighborhood.

Alisal High Plans 10-Day Earth Day Celebration

Pat McNeill and the Science Department of Alisal High School are inviting every class at the school to do something environmental in their classes in the ten days surrounding Earth Day this semester. All classes are invited to cruise the Internet for environmental sites if they visit the school's computer lab. And, students in the Integrated Science Program are growing plants in their RON greenhouse for transplanting around the school on Earth Day itself (April 22).

Salinas High Plans for Native Landscaping

Sharon O'Brien and the Science Department at Salinas High School are working with district officials and school planning committees to insure that when the new high school is finally completed the landscaping will be comprised of native plants. This could be a long wait, considering the delays in the building project, but this gives more planning time.

RON Curriculum Library Now at Watershed Institute at CSUMB

The RON Curriculum Library formerly housed at the IMC at Salinas City Schools has found a new home at CSUMB. Boxes of field guides and curriculum materials made the 10 mile trip up to the campus and are currently being catalogued and shelved by Leslie Mattlack, Service Learning Student.

Soon to be added to the RON resource materials is \$1000 worth of field guides, curriculum materials, and water testing equipment purchased through a small grant from the California Campus Compact. Orders have been placed for "Adopt a Watershed" materials, GEMS guides, children's environmental literature, the British "Learning Through Landscapes" materials, Hach Water Quality Testing kits, and field manuals for water quality testing. Once received, these materials will be catalogued and will be available for loan to all area teachers.