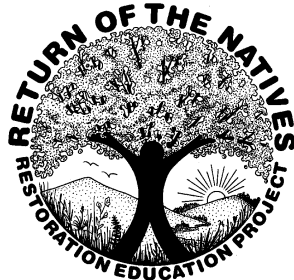


Annual RON Teacher Training October 25-26

**Share this news
with Colleagues
and Friends,** RON
does one introductory
teacher workshop a year
and this is a date not to
be missed. This year the
workshop is being co-
sponsored by the
Monterey Bay National
Marine Sanctuary.

Our intensive two day
training is the best way to
get fully integrated into
the RON network.
Workshop topics include
native plant ecology and
propagation, an
introduction to school
garden design and
implementation, habitat
monitoring, Native
American perspectives on
habitat and plant usage,
and community
involvement in the many
watershed based RON
projects. Workshop
presenters include RON
teachers and staff,
landscape architect, Joni
Janecki, BLM Botanist,
Bruce Delgado, and
RON staff members,
Tricia Lowe, Bruce
Stewart, and Laura Lee
Lienk.



. The cost for the two day
training is \$50 which
includes, dinner Friday,
breakfast and lunch
Saturday, and the large
binder of RON materials.

Training times are:
Friday, Oct. 25 5:00-9:00
pm and Sat. Oct 26, 8:00
am to 5:30 pm. All
sessions will take place at
the Watershed Institute,
CSUMB and on nearby
Ft. Ord Public Lands.

Registration is limited to
30 teachers and will be
on a first come, first
served basis. Last date to
register is October 18,
1995.

To register sent a check
for \$50 to RON, c/o
Watershed Institute, 100
Campus Center, Seaside,
CA 93955-8001.

RON Numbers TEL: 582-3689 FAX: 582-3691
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RON Schools to Help Restore Ft. Ord Public Lands

RON has received a
grant from the National
Fish and Wildlife
Foundation to bring our
program to the the Ft.
Ord Public Lands. The
grant monies will
promote the involvement
of more schools and
additional members of
the general public in
hands-on, real life habitat
restoration projects.
Funding will allow for
the construction of 2
RON greenhouses in
schools close to the
BLM controlled lands.
These new greenhouses
will be the first outside of
the Salinas Area and will
propagate native grasses
and seedlings for
outplanting in the unique
perennial grasslands and
maritime chaparral
habitats on the former
military base. Receiving
greenhouses are Central
Coast High and Los
Arboles Middle Schools,
both of MPUSD.
Community and School
based plantings will be
scheduled for Jan/Feb
1997. This is a joint
RON-BLM Project.

Students from The Salinas Community pose in the "Discovery Garden's" Monkey Tree after a day of volunteering.

Children's Discovery Garden Emerging in Natividad Creek Park

Thanks to the efforts of RON schools, teachers, students, and other RON supporters, the RON to Natividad Creek Park Project has been extended by the City of Salinas. Our new challenge is to create interactive nodes and signage to interpret the natural beauty and the restoration efforts in the park. The crown jewel of the interpretive elements will be the "Children's Discovery Garden", a Maze of natural discovery experiences is now under construction in the Park.

The "Children's Discovery Garden" elements such as: "Monkey Flower Flats", "Arroyocito", "Lizard Rock", "Native American Cultural

Corner", "Sensory Garden", and "Rainbow Circle" are sure to please all levels of learners.

Construction of the "Discovery Garden" is well underway thanks to the help of the Salinas Community School, the Salinas and Ft. Ord Americorps, the city of Salinas Department of Recreation and Parks, and the hard work of other volunteers.

Community support in the form of building supplies or services has to date come from: Assured Aggregates (hauling of sand and decomposed granite), RMC Lonestar (sand and Dolemite), Doc's Towing (hauling), Granite Construction-Pebble Beach (decomposed granite), and the Pebble Beach Corporation (rotatilling services) and Chris Reynolds (earthmoving). A big thank you goes out to these and all RON supporters.

RON staff members, Bruce Stewart and Laura Lee Lienk, and Amy Grant, Landscape Architect, of Joni Janecki and Associates, have been instrumental in planning the park's new interpretive elements.

Cesar Chavez Community park

Restoration Underway

Thanks to the great grant writing abilities of Ed Piper, Park Planner of the Salinas Recreation - Park Department, RON will be involved in restoring riparian habitat in the Cesar Chavez Community Park located just off Carr Lake in the Hebronn Heights section of Salinas. Nine acres including a 4 acre enhanced riparian area will be the focus of the restoration. As this newsletter is being written, huge earthmoving equipment is on the site, sculpting the basins, one of which will become an experimental vernal pool once native plants are reintroduced.

RON will sponsor three planting days in the park during the upcoming rainy season, and RON schools in the Salinas area will grow plants for eventual student outplanting days in January and February.

Future Natividad Creek Park Events

Two special events postponed from this autumn to next early next year are planned. The grand opening of the Park- a huge event- thanking all park helpers and a large Peace Corps workday. Go Salinas!! 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 supported 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 All

RON Members Needed to Lend a Hand Saturday, September 7, for Greenhouse Repair and Planting Workday

On Saturday, September 7, 1996 RON and three

schools will sponsor a marathon of greenhouse repair and native planting seeding. The Los Padres, Boronda, and Sherwood School greenhouses will receive new plastic coverings and a general overhaul.

Helpers are needed to make the work go quicker. RON staff will be madly running from site to site coordinating the work so that work times have yet to be finalized, though there will be work during both the morning and early afternoon. To find out about specific work times call:

- Los Padres School-Lynn Hamilton-753-5630
- Boronda School-Nancy McDowell- 753-5615
- Sherwood School-Peter Moras-758-6100

See you on September 7th. Help these schools get off to a green start.

Service Learning Courses Due to Begin Again Soon

Watershed Institute and RON Staff will again mentoring Service learning students in the education, campus landscaping, and restoration management areas. Service Learning

students frequently are assigned to work in schools and frequently help out in community and school planting days.

RON to Work with Noted Grassland Ecologist

Starting this fall, and for the next two years, RON will be working with noted grassland ecologist, Paul Kephart in a restoration along a PG&E power right of way in Seaside. Native grasses and shrubs will be grown for this long narrow restoration which is a possible site for a nature trail running from the top of Seaside to the ocean. Faculty, staff, and students from the Del Rey Woods School will be invited to participate in the project and may be eligible to receive a RON greenhouse to enhance their participation as well as their science program.

Pebble Beach Foundation, RON, and Central Coast High School Work on Landscaping

MPUSD's newest school, Central Coast High School, formed from the merger of Cypress and Marina La Via Continuation High

Schools will soon sport a new native plant landscape on the dune in front of the school. Prime coordinator behind this community service project is Gene Fryberger, Environmental Education Manager of the Pebble Beach Corporation. Pebble Beach will be hosting two CSUMB service learning students who will serve as liaisons between the company, Central Coast, RON, and CSUMB.

Sanctuary Supports RON Programs

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is supporting two RON programs this fall. With RON they are co-sponsoring the Annual RON teacher training, as well as, the sponsorship of a RON greenhouse for North Monterey County High's work with Moro Coho Slough Restoration work.

RON Curriculum Library Growth Continues

The RON Curriculum Library continues to grow with the addition of water quality monitoring test kits, "A Child's Place in the Environment" curriculum, the "Life Lab-Great Explorations" curriculum, several of the "Adopt-a-Watershed" units, and the entire

collection CSIN storyline units. CSUMB student, Leslie Mattlack is preparing a guide to the collection which should be available by October or November this year. This listing of all the materials will be sent to all RON schools. All RON library materials are for loan to teachers and CSUMB students.

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.

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.

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