

Return of The Natives

Three RON Teacher Trainings Sept. 19-20 & Oct. 25

Share these dates with your friends and colleagues!

#1 RON Introductory Teacher Training:

September 19-20. Friday 5-9 pm and Saturday 8:30-5:00.

RON Teacher Trainings are offered twice annually (September and February). This introductory level workshop is the gateway into the RON Program. Included in the workshop will be; an introduction to the values of native plants by BLM botanist Bruce Delgado; a native plant exploration laboratory; Native American storyteller and educator, Linda Yamane; propagation and greenhouse techniques; schoolyard landscaping with



Landscape Architect, Joni Janecki, and an afternoon of field studies. The cost for the two day training is \$55 which includes; dinner Friday, breakfast and lunch Saturday, and the large binder of RON materials. All sessions will take place at the Watershed Institute, CSUMB.

Registration is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. Last date to register is September 17.

To register send a check, or Registration is limited and will be on a first come, first served

basis. Last date to register is September 17.

To register send a check, or purchase order for \$55 to RON, c/o Watershed Institute, 100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA 93955

#2. RON/Adopt-A-Watershed Field Research Workshop

Saturday, September 20 1:30-4:30 pm at Natividad Creek

Park, Salinas. Participate in field research investigations applicable for students grades 4-12. We will study bird, amphibian, and plant populations, in addition to taking and analyzing water samples. This field sessions will also serve as an introduction to the "Adopt-A-Watershed" curriculum program.

Preregistration is necessary and must be received by September 17. Fee \$10. Send to RON.

#3 ADOPT-A-WATERSHED TEACHER TRAINING

Saturday, October 25, 8:30-5pm. Virginia Rocca Barton School, Salinas

RON is proud to announce that we will be hosting our first official "Adopt-A-Watershed" training as part of RON's new partnership with that acclaimed national program. Four national trainers will be coming and in addition to presentations on this exciting program, will present grade level trainings from the following units:

Kinder: What is a Watershed?

Primary: Stream side Communities

Middle School: Aquatic Ecosystems

High School: Water Quality (a cross disciplinary unit)

Registration will be limited to 40 pre-registrants. Fee: \$15/teacher includes training and lunch. Fee will be refunded if grade level units are purchased. Send check or money order to RON.

Register early because this popular workshop will fill up rapidly.

Sponsorship of this workshop comes from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary another RON partner.

RON PARTNERS WITH ADOPT-A-WATERSHED

RON is now an official partner of the Adopt-A-Watershed (AAW) Program headquarters in Hayfork, CA. This partnership came about as Laura Lee Lienk (RON Program Coordinator), Debbie Delatour (El Gabilan School), and Penny Immel (Laurelwood School) attended a week-long AAA Coordinators Training in Yosemite this summer. Watershed educators from all over the US were in attendance where we experienced the five AAW program elements (which are very similar to the RON goals).

The AAW elements include:

- Science Concepts Applied to Local Environments
- Long-term Field Studies
- Watershed Restoration
- Community Involvement
- Reflection

Laura Lee will be coordinating AAW trainings and programs as part of our on-going RON program, while Debbie and Penny will be field testing AAW units within their own schools and assisting in the training of more teachers.

One part of the Yosemite training involved an

examination of our vision for our watershed. As we engaged in this process we envisioned restoration and protection of the many small watersheds in the upper Salinas Valley into a continuous riparian corridor paralleled by a recreational bike and hiking trail. Imagine going from the foothills beneath Fremont Peak to the ocean at Moss Landing. (This has been a constant vision of RON co-founder, Peter Moras). As a result of this envisioning process we will attempt to focus much of our work in the Upper Salinas Valley including the Ft. Ord Public Lands.

RON Receives National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Funds for Ft. Ord Public Lands Restoration

For the second year in a row, RON has been awarded National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Funds for community and school based restoration on the Ft. Ord Public Lands. Part of the funding is to continue the planting of badly eroded areas begun in the winter of 1996-97 while companion monies will be spent on program to eradicate exotic weeds which frequently hinder the restoration of native species.

These two programs will continue; involving RON school greenhouses in propagating quick growing natives for winter outplanting; providing busses for school plantings of the natives; spurring on an active propagation program at CSUMB's watershed Institute; and, several seminars on the "War on Weeds" targeting the general public and local landholders.

It is hoped that though RON's involvement (that's all of us) with BLM in the 1997-98 year, restoration on the Ft. Ord Public Lands will be pushed forward at the same pace that BLM/Americorps members have set over the past three years. Sadly, this October will see the last of these wonderful Americorps folks leaving the BLM so RON's work on the Ft. Ord Public Lands is even more important.

This year's goal for the Ft. Ord restoration is the propagation and outplanting of 50,000 plants. Yikes! We have a great start here at the Watershed institute where over 15,000 chaparral plants like ceanothus, manzanita, coyote brush, and sticky monkey flower are challenging the capacity of our facilities.

Bruce Stewart, RON Director has been instrumental in

obtaining these grant monies-- which keep our program alive.

SCHOOL PLANTING DAYS for Ft. Ord Public Lands

Throughout the rainy season we will be having a series of outplanting days for school students. Funding for student buses will be available to active RON teachers. Three 90 minute slots involving 120 students/slot will be available (9-10:30, 10:30-12:00, and 12:30-2) on each of the following dates.

Friday, Nov. 21

Friday, Dec. 5

Friday, Dec. 12

Thursday, Jan 22

Friday, Jan 23

Thurs., Feb. 12

Friday, Feb. 13

A reminder note will go out later in the year, but if you want to plan well in advance contact Laura Lee at 582-3689 to secure a time slot.

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS for Ft. Ord Public Lands

These weekend events are great for families, civic groups, clubs wishing to do community service. So, put them on your calendar now and share them with the leadership of any groups to

which you belong. We will need an army of volunteers to plant the 50,000 plants that we hope to have ready for outplanting.

1997-98 Ft. Ord Public Lands Community Plantings

Saturday, Nov. 22

Saturday, Dec. 6.

Saturday, January 10

Saturday, January 24

Saturday, February 14

Times for these community plantings will be from 9-12 am and 1-4 pm with each having the goal of getting 5,000 plants into the ground. This means that we need lots of volunteers and group participation.

RON Summer Restoration Internship Huge Success

This summer 12 great high school students from all over the area participated in the third annual Restoration Internship Program. Over their eight week involvement, the interns transplanted thousands of native plants, collected native seeds, conducted nature tours for grade school children, guided seniors in the Elder hostel program through planting experiences, worked on the dunes at Moss Landing and on other Watershed Institute restoration sites throughout the area.

These great participants include: Allison Banks of Seaside High, Barry Garcia who will be attending CSUMB in the fall, Anthony Ybarra of Alisal High, Issac Perez of Alisal High, Angelica Garcia, Elvira Toledo, and Gustavo Mendoza entering Hartnell College. Apple Do and Lerna Sikiyan of Monterey High, Anne Peattie entering Lewis and Clark College, and Kent Rodriguez of Salinas High.

Supervising the Interns were: Tony Orr of Moss Landing Marine Labs, Amanda Quintero of CSUMB, and James Moore and other BLM/Americorps members.

Funding for part of this program came from the Community Foundation for Monterey County. Some participants were funded through the Monterey County Summer Youth Employment Program.

RON Greenhouse Program: A New Year Beginning

Last year RON greenhouses raised over 15,000 plants for RON's many restoration and landscaping projects, including. This year our goal is 30,000 plants--mostly wild blue rye, sticky monkey flower, black sage, and some sedges. Plants will be outplanted on the Ft. Ord Public Lands, in Salinas'

Chavez Park, on school grounds and on restoration sites throughout the county. RON staff will be contacting school greenhouse coordinators to arrange for times to seed etc. This year, RON will be hiring a part-time greenhouse coordinator to support the school planting programs.

News from Natividad Creek

On Saturday, June 24, Natividad Creek Park was officially opened to the public. As part of the opening ceremonies, RON was honored by the presentation of a beautiful plaque of commendation by Mayor Alan Styles.

RON staff assisted by CSUMB students, Chris Hughes, Eric Chappins, and Maria Borden worked feverishly to complete several interpretive signs for the grand opening.

Come visit the park and see how the native plants in the creek and on the hillsides are thriving, and how the Children's Discovery Garden is coming along.

CSUMB Service Learning Students to be Available to Implement School Site Demonstration Gardens

Applications are currently being accepted for school sites wishing to have CSUMB Service Learning students

assigned to work with the school in implementing a demonstration native plant garden. Under the direction of RON Landscape Architect, Joni Janecki, students will work with your school and students in planning, citing, and planting. CSUMB involvement will be from early September through early December and should result in a completed planning project for the two member student teams. In order to receive this student help, interested schools need to insure the following prior to applying:

- a. Commitment from school administration.
- b. Sufficient funding to pay for native plants (\$300-\$500), student tools, and possibly an irrigation system.
- c. A firm commitment (in writing) from your district's landscape maintenance director that they will assist in the maintenance and watering of the garden-especially during school vacations.
- d. A teacher/mentor who will agree to work with both the students and RON in this process.

To place your name on the list to receive a CSUMB Service Learning Student call 582-3689. Schools already on the list include: Roosevelt Elementary, Hardin Middle, and Barden School.

