

Return of The Natives

DON'T MISS THESE:

- *GLOBE Teacher Training*
- *Project Wet and AAW Teacher's Workshop*
- *Free Busses to School Planting days at Ft. Ord*

GLOBE Teacher Training

Jan. 19, 20, 21, 22

8:00-5:30 daily

Open to 15 Area Schools

Vice Presidents Al Gore's flagship program, GLOBE, "Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment" will make a Monterey County debut this January 19,20,21, and 22 when a four (4) day workshop will be presented at CSUMB.

Students and teachers in the GLOBE program conduct hands-on experiments that have real scientific significance.

Their daily or weekly observations, together with those from other students and scientists from around the world detail an environmental picture of the globe. The training will be FREE, but 4 release days must be paid for by the district as well as the cost for the monitoring



Equipment which ranges from \$400-\$600. There will also be a \$20/person coffee/snack fee. GLOBE flyers are being sent to you, to the schools or you can request a flyer by e.mailing Jeff_Conger@monterey.edu or calling him at 582-4425

Don't miss the

Project WET/ Adopt-A-Watershed Workshop

Saturday, March 6, 1999
9:00-5:30.

RON and the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary are teaming up to bring you a unique Project WET/ Adopt-A-Watershed Workshop. This exciting, first-time-ever teacher's workshop will feature an introduction to watersheds using the Project WET curriculum and activity

guide. We will be exploring methods of bringing this information together into a larger storyline using the five major principles of the Adopt-A-Watershed curriculum. Along with experimenting with a hands-on "Enviroscape" watershed model that teachers can use in their classrooms, we will be GETTING ACTIVE by participating in storm drain stenciling and the planting of native plants.

The cost for this all day workshop is \$30 which includes lunch, snacks, the WET curriculum, Spanish translations of several activities, as well as maps, flyers and a resource list of watershed information to take back to your classroom. The workshop will take place on March 6th, 1999 from 9:00 to 5:30 at the Watershed Institute at CSUMB.

Last date to register is March 1st. Advance registration is critical as we will cancel if we have fewer than 12 participants. Contact Sarah Margolis at 582-3686.

Contacting RON

Telephone: 582-3686
FAX: 582-3691

Laura_Lienk@monterey.edu or
Sarah_Margolis@monterey.edu

c/o Watershed Institute,
CSUMB, 100 Campus Center,
Seaside, CA 93955-8001

***Spread the word about
the 1998-1999 Weekend
Planting season which
includes***

**A SPECTACULAR
MUSICAL SERIES!!!**

This year's weekend planting events will take on an exciting new flavor as musical guests join our weekend plantings at Ft. Ord. The first of these special outdoor in-the-dirt musical planting events will take place on Dec. 12th. Other Ft. Ord musical plantings will take place on Jan. 16 & 30, and Feb. 6, 14 & 27. All Ft. Ord events will held from 9-12 and from 1-4. The musical portion of each day will be from 11am-2 pm. So bring your lunches. Groups and classes welcome. Call 582-3689 for directions.

**GREAT READING or
Holiday Gift: Paradise by
Design by Kathryn Phillips.**
This is the story of RON

landscape architect, Joni Janecki and her work.

**Natividad Creek Park
Cleanups and Plantings**

Dec 19, Jan 24, Feb 20

9am-Noon

Saturday, December 19 RON is joining with the Vista Nueva and Acosta Plaza Neighborhood Associations for a clean-up of what we are starting to call the Lower Natividad Creek Park (downstream of Virginia Rocca Barton School). The clean-up will start at 8 am and will go until noon when the neighbors have promised some food. RON volunteers are asked to park in the main parking lot in the Park (near the bathrooms) and to walk 10 minutes downstream. See you there

The January 24th event will be coordinated by John Woolery, this will be his Eagle Scout project and will include lots of opportunity to plant. Come to the area near the main amphitheater.

**Toro Park -Girl Scout
Nature Trail Project
(off of HWY 68, Salinas)**

Saturday, February 13

9am - Noon

Join Girl Scouts from all over the area as they plant native plants along a new handicapped accessible trail in

the area of the environmental center. The trail and RON's involvement in the project is sponsored by the Foundation for Monterey County Parks. Clara Sander, RON staff person and CSUMB student is in charge of this project. For more information on this planting call Clara at 582-3687.

HURRY!! !and

**Sign up for FREE Busses to
School Planting days on Ft.
Ord**

A limited number of free busses are available for school planting days at Ft. Ord. The dates for these plantings will be Jan. 21 & 22 and Feb. 11 & 12. One and a half hour slots will be given to groups of 60 students between 9:00am and 2:30pm. To make reservations call Sarah Margolis @ 582-3686 before December 22 because the dates will go fast and you will need time to reserve busses.

**RON Welcomes its new
Project Coordinator,
Sarah Margolis**

Many of you may have already met Sarah at your school, at a community planting event, a teacher's workshop or at the War on Weeds Symposium. A native Chicagoan, Sarah comes to us via Stanford University and the Ventana Wilderness

Sanctuary in Big Sur. Sarah is enthusiastic about working with schools and helping to organize this year's planting events. If you see Sarah at a planting event, or visiting your neck of the woods, introduce yourself!

**Exciting Things are
Happening in Natividad's
Children's Discovery
Garden**

Many spectacular happenings are taking place in the Children's Discovery Garden at Natividad Creek Park: Angela Beauchamp's 3rd grade class at Virginia Rocca Barton school has adopted the Ant World, Tianne Rios's K-4th class at Lagunita has adopted the Monkey Tree and the 4th-8th grade class has adopted Lizard Rock. These groups have been busy weeding, trimming, planting natives and keeping their areas free from litter. In addition, Dawna Garcia, a CSUMB student, has been working with a group of children at Frank Paul School to develop signs for the six areas of the garden. Look for these signs in the spring. Also, come check out the new rock scape in the Native Cultural Area that, this project was coordinated by Troy Osteraa of Salinas High School as a portion of his Eagle Scout Project. Special thanks for

supervising this project goes to David Norris, Laura Lee's new husband and RON helper.

**Natividad Creek
BRIDE TO BRIDGE
Trail Guide is in the
Works!**

With the help for Maria Mederos and Laura Madrigale, two CSUMB students, Cliff Gilkey's and Jim Melendez's classes from Frank Paul School have begun developing a nature trail guide for Natividad Creek Park. This trail guide will be completed and officially dedicated at the Natividad Creek Park Earthday Events on April 16th & 17!

**A New Trail at
Natividad Creek Park**

High above the Amphitheater at Natividad Creek Park, a group of Boy Scouts, helped to create a new trail. This event was coordinated by Scout Randall Zielke with help from the Salinas City Youth Center and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Come check out this new addition to the park!

**Natividad Creek Park
Planting Day for Schools:**

Friday, February 19

9 am-2 pm

**Call Sarah at 582-3686 to
reserve a time.**

***More than 125 People
Attend The 2nd Annual
War on Weeds
Symposium***

On October 30th, more than 125 weed warriors from all over the Pacific Northwest gathered at CSUMB for the 2nd Annual War on Weeds Symposium. Attracting twice as many participants as last year's symposium, this conference was a huge success. The day was filled with wonderful presentations, as well as lively discussions and debates on the most effective and least harmful weed control methods. After this portion of the conference, a dedicated group of Weed Warriors ventured out in to the BLM Fr. Ord Public Lands for a backcountry fieldtrip. This conference was a BLM/ RON collaboration sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

***Wanted: School yard
Weed Warriors to Keep
your eyes peeled for
Monterey's Six Most
Unwanted Weeds***

Cape ivy, yellowstar thistle, pampas grass, french broom, ice plant and arundo; these are Monterey's most unwanted weeds. That vine with large green leaves climbing your

school's tree might be cape ivy, if your school is near a stream—like Pacific Valley School. That succulent ground cover near the parking lot could be ice plant, and those pretty bushes with yellow flowers on the playground sure look a lot like french broom. As the stewards of your land or school yard, get to know what these plants look like and why they are dangerous. If you do find one or more of these weeds, contact RON for information on how to eradicate these pests. RON is currently developing a Monterey's Six Most Unwanted Weeds brochure which will be available in the spring

"River of Words" Environmental Poetry and Art Contest

RON teachers are encouraged to enroll their classes in this annual poetry and art contest on the theme of watersheds. Using observation, listening, reading, discussion, and a variety of tools like research, analysis, and oral history to collect the metaphors and analogies that form poetry and art, "River of Words" encourages students to be creative. The deadline for entries for the contest is February 15. For more information check out their website at <http://www.irn.org>

All entrants receive personalized Watershed Explorer Certificates and winners receive prizes of books, art supplies, and trips to Washington, DC. Teachers Guide materials and books of previous years winning material are available by contacting International Rivers Network, "River of Words Project", P.O. Box 4000-J, Berkeley, CA 94704 (510)-848-1155.

Thinking Ahead...

Would You Like a CSUMB Student to Help You Establish Your School's Native Plant Garden or to Implement Adopt-A-Watershed from February to May 1999?

Interested in a Native Plant Garden for your school in the Spring of 1999? A CSUMB student may be able to help you to plan and plant your own garden. Your school will have to commit up to \$500 for soils, plants, or other supplies, and you as the supervising teacher will have to contribute time to work with the CSUMB student. Or, if your school is adopting any Adopt-A-Watershed Units during the Spring of 1999 and you would like a once-a-week student assistant to be in your class call Laura Lee at 582-3689 and let's talk.

School Greenhouse Native Plants Returning to CSUMB

The count is not yet in but we are expecting that about 25,000 native flowers and grasses to be outplanted this year. Participating schools are: Boronda, Frank Paul, Alisal High, Los Padres, Central Coast High, Happy Valley, Jesse Sanchez, Rio Del Mar Elem, Harden Middle, North Monterey County High

Dana Mills has a Great Offer for RON Schools

Dana Mills from Jesse Sanchez School has written some really neat native plant trail signs for about 50 species in her school's garden. If you would like a copy contact her at dhelman@redshift.com and she will send you a copy.

***Special Offering:* Sierra Club & Nature Conservancy Magazines**

Peter Slattery is offering 3 years worth of Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy magazines to a teacher. If you are interested in these issues, please call Peter @ 663-5583.

Get Ready for Earthday '99 at Natividad Creek Park on April 16th and 17th

others are involved in this exciting school site program.

Review of Joni Janecki's book

A handicapped accessible nature trail is being constructed near the Environmental Center (about one mile from the entrance to the park). RON will be working with several area Girl Scout troops in the design, planning, and planting of native plants along the trail and at two interpretive nodes on the trail. This summer Girl Scouts, RON interns, and staff have been collecting native seeds from Toro and propagating them in our greenhouse area. Once the winter rains begin several Girl Scout planting events will be held. Involvement will be open to all area Girl Scout Troops.

Earthday '99 is quickly approaching, and we would like to see more teachers and children involved than ever before. This year, the Earthday committee has devoted an entire day, Friday April 16th, exclusively to school children. Please mark these dates on your calendar and begin planning activities or projects that you can share with other children on April 16th and with the entire community on April 17th. If you have any questions about Earthday,

please contact Sarah Margolis @582-3686.

Check this out...

The Let's Get Growing Catalog has a bunch of great activities and equipment related to native plants, and they are a local company! Call 1-800-408-1868 for a copy.