

Return of The Natives

- **Special Announcements**
- *School Earthday 1999 Celebration on April 16th at Natividad Creek Park*
- *5th Annual Symposium for High School Students in Restoration*

Get Ready for EARTHDAY: April 16th

Earthday 1999 is quickly approaching! On April 16th, a huge School Earth/ Arbor Day Celebration will take place at Natividad Creek Park. All school classes are invited to join in the celebration. The day's activities will include tree planting, kite-flying, oil recycling, music by the All City Band and presentations by the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and the California Condor Project and much, much more! A highlight of the event will be the 10 am opening of a brand new Bridge to Bridge Nature Trail created by Cliff Gilkey and Jim Menendez's classes at Frank Paul School. Five interpretive



signs designed by students in Jeannie Echenique's class at Frank Paul will also be unveiled. Help us celebrate beautiful Natividad Creek Park! Bring lunches and parent chaperones. Teachers will be responsible for supervising their own classes. For more information contact Recreation Parks Services at 758-7152.

National Volunteer Week-Kick Off: Join RON for Tree Planting in Natividad Creek Park-Sat, Apr 17, 9-3.

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Fifth Annual Symposium in Restoration Ecology for High School Students
May 8th from 9am to 5pm

Attention High School Teachers and Students! :Join CSUMB students and scientists at the 5th Annual Symposium in Restoration Ecology for High School Students on Saturday, May 8th from 9 to 5. Along with learning how over the last 250 years, Monterey County's natural habitats have been altered by humans, you will participate in actions that will concretely improve the condition of the planet. We will also be recruiting students for this year's High School Internship Program at the symposium. Some free busses will be available for Salinas Union High and Monterey Peninsula Unified School Districts, contact Laura Lee Lienk @ 582-3689.

See RON on our WEBPAGE

<http://www.monterey.edu/academic/institutes/watershed/>

Thank you for your participation in the 1998-1999 Planting season!

With the help of over 1,200 students and volunteers, more than 33,000 native plants were outplanted on the Fort Ord Public Lands during the 1998-1999 planting season.

This past season was sprinkled with a very special accent, our Weekend Musical Planting Events. From mariachi to harp to folk artists, local musicians filled each one of our planting days with inspiring songs and sounds. RON would like to extend a special "thank you" to Drew Ready who orchestrated these spectacular events. Funding for the 1999 plantings came from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation.

A Very Special Thank You to all of Our Wonderful RON Teachers!

RON would like to extend a very special "Thank You!" to all of the teachers that participated in raising plants, tending gardens, creating interpretive signs and trails, adopting portions of Natividad Creek Park and attending one of our many planting events.

RON Bids Farewell to Sarah Margolis, our Project Coordinator and Welcomes Drew Ready

Sarah Margolis will be getting married this April and moving to San Antonio, Texas. We have enjoyed having her on board with us and we wish her the best of luck at this exciting time! Taking Sarah's place will be Drew Ready who has worked with RON for three years managing the greenhouses, coordinating planting events, and adding special artistic and musical touches to our programs.

Summer 1999 RON Student Restoration Internships Offered

This year we hope to offer nine RON Student Internship positions which will involve high school students in restoration and monitoring projects throughout the Monterey Area. Eligible students from low-income families can apply through the Monterey County Youth Employment Services. Other interested high school students are encouraged to attend the 5th Annual Symposium in Restoration where more information will be available.

RON's summer internship will start on June 7 and will run until August 6.

Teachers Endure Four Action Packed Days of GLOBE!!!

Twenty two in-Service and pre-service teachers joined together for a successful GLOBE Workshop. Across the county, implementation by teachers is happening. This is due, in part, to the assistance of some dedicated CSUMB students. Congratulations to Dana Mills and her students who were the first to post their data on the Web. Congratulations also to Steve Rovell and his class, they were second to post their results.

Four Schools Actively Implement the Adopt-A-Watershed Curriculum

Captain Cooper, Aromas, Laurel Wood and El Gabilan Schools are adopting the Adopt-A-Watershed Project. With the support of many teachers, such as Helen Hayes has been spearheading a school-wide Adopt-A-Watershed program at Captain Cooper School in Big Sur. At Aromas School, Joan Costello and Wendy Gurnee have taken on this project while working on a River Day event at their school on April 22. Penny

Immel is implementing at Laurel Wood and Debbie Delatour and Mike Stevenson are involving their students at El Gabilan. RON will be hosting another RON/AAW Workshop in September or October, so keep your calendars open. If you have ideas for content or dates call Laura Lee at 582-3689.

Fundraising *Frenzy* at RON This Spring!

The RON staff has been working to secure funding for future RON programming. Thirteen grants requesting a total of over \$275,000 have been sent out through Creative Environmental Conservation or through the CSUMB Foundation. Recently RON received \$50,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for our War on Weeds Project and \$12,450 from the Community Foundation of Monterey for our on-going work with the Gateway developmentally disabled adults. RON also received \$1,800 from the Monterey Bay Aquarium for the construction of a school greenhouse at Los Arboles School and transportation of their students to our restoration events. Finally, RON recently was given \$3,000 from the Chevron Corporation to cover the support costs of growing

native plants at our school greenhouses.

Great Things are Happening at North Monterey County High School!

With \$13,000 awarded by the Coastal Conservancy, RON has been working with North Monterey County High on restoration projects in the Moro Cojo Slough with science teachers and students from North Monterey County High School. Over 1000 trees and shrubs have been planted and their greenhouse is in motion for this spring. RON also held a 3 day restoration and curriculum planning workshop for NMCHS teachers. Headed by Tracy Matfin, NMCHS teachers are now in the process of developing new curriculum units on restoration. Moro Cojo Slough is immediately adjacent to the high school and is a critical wetland area in North Monterey County. Brenda Dotson, Keith Gonzales, Dierdra Roberts, Ryan Holland, Matt Bender, and several others have also been involved in this exciting program.

Our work with Gateway Center Continues...

Thanks to the assistance of now RON volunteer, Bill Klein, RON is working to reforge relationships with Gateway and other agencies serving developmentally disabled adults. Bill Klein has scaled back his work with this program as he learns to live with a life-threatening condition. Bill's continuing efforts have inspired RON to seek funding for this project from the Community Foundation of Monterey. In march we received \$12,450 as a result of this effort and we are looking forward to expanding our outreach to the developmentally disabled next year.

April 17, 9-12 School Native Plant Garden Tour!!!

Interested in seeing some of RON's beautiful native plant school gardens in East Salinas? Join RON teachers and students for short presentations at their gardens. Families should be urged to attend. The tentative schedule is:

9:00 Los Padres School, John Street-Lynn Hamilton

9:45 Jesse Sanchez School, Sanborn Street-Dana Mills

10:30 El Gabilan School-Linwood Street Debbie Delatour

11:15 Natividad School.
Rochex Street, John Hannum
12:00 Children's Discovery
Garden, Natividad Creek Park

Notes from the BLM Public Lands...

Pre and Post-Visit Curriculum lessons focusing on native plants and their role in combating erosion are now available! To receive a copy, call 394-8314 and ask for Roberto. This program was piloted by Michael Hartman's class at Los Padres Elementary School and was evaluated by CSUMB student, Danielle Lowrey. Other exciting additions to education on the Ft. Ord Public Lands includes a self-guided nature trail around Henniken's Lake designed by a CSUMB team led by graduating senior, Thor Anderson.

Spectacular Native Plant Guide Designed by Dana Mills is Now Available!

Jesse Sanchez teacher, Dana Mills, has created a wonderful native plant guide complete with illustrations for teachers and students. If you are interested in receiving a copy of this guide please send a written request to Laura Lee:

RON Restoration Participation Survey

RON extends a special thank you to teachers at Fairview Middle School, Alisal High School, Los Padres Elementary and Aromas School for their participation in the survey. The results indicate that some RON teachers are successfully utilizing local environments for their introductory work, but more work is needed in the areas of long-term field studies and the incorporation of the RON restoration events into the school curriculum. The implementation of the GLOBE program may assist in filling this gap. We are distributing the survey one again and the same **BRIBE** of a gallon size native plant applies, so turn that in as soon as possible and claim thy prize!

RON Partners with Linda Yamane

RON and Linda Yamane will be partnering in an exciting new trail sign project for the National Park Service. The sign will be located on the Anza National Historic Trail which crosses the Fort Ord Public Lands. The sign will feature sedgebeds and the Native American uses of sedge rhizomes in traditional and contemporary basket weaving. In her work, Linda will be partnering with a CSUMB Service Learning Student and a Seaside High Student.

Hints on Wildflower Preservation

Ever wonder how to preserve the beauty of your wonderful native wildflowers? Try color copying them on a background of white paper for truly beautiful results.

Rocks in Your Head.

On Saturday, May 1 the American Association of Petroleum Geologists is hosting a workshop called "**Rocks in Your Head**" for teachers who would like to include geology exercises in their classes. The course has a \$10 registration fee. For further information, contact Christina Wilder (cswilder@earthlink.net or 415-330-1573).

Natividad Creek Park Logo Contest

Our Park needs a logo. Signs are being made this summer so we hope that one of the RON students' work will be featured in the Park long into the future. The City of Salinas wasn't a symbolic (no words) integration of the natural and urban nature of the Park. A logo which will capture the essence of the Park—ie, "Jewel of Salinas" Student generated designs should be sent to Laura Lee by May 1.

1998 SUMMER INTERN SHINES at SYMPOSIUM

Monterey High Senior, Arma Ermita and RON intern presented a poster on her summer's work in habitat restoration program at the recent Monterey Bay Sanctuary Research Symposium.

Nature Trail at Toro

RON teamed with local Girl
Scouts in a beautiful new
handicapped trail in Toro Park.
Come check it out!!