

# Return of The Natives

## Special Announcements

- *RON/AAW Annual Workshop-April 7-8*
- *GLOBE workshops*
- *Adopt-a-Watershed Trainings March 22-25*
- *Earth Day 2000 Events*
- *High School Symposium*

## RON WORKSHOP Offered ONCE YEARLY

April 7/8

Friday, 5-9 pm and  
Saturday, 8:30-5:00

Tell Your Colleagues!!! The Annual Ron Teacher Workshop will be presented April 7/8. This is the best initiation into the RON network of environmental change and school support. Teachers/leaders who attend this workshop then become eligible for RON classroom and garden assistance, for participation in RON planting days, for other enriching opportunities.. This year, as in the past, the RON workshop will feature several Adopt-A-Watershed units, native plant propagation and school gardening and garden



design techniques, and War on Weeds activities. The workshop will take place at the Watershed Institute of CSUMB, in Salinas' Natividad Creek Park, and at one of the RON School gardens. The cost of the Workshop is \$55/person and includes a RON binder of native plant ideas, dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Registration in the form of a check or district PO must be received by April 4.

**Contacting RON** Tel:582-3689 FAX: 582-3691  
Watershed Institute, 100  
Campus Center, Seaside, CA  
93955-8001

[Laura\\_Lienk@monterey.edu](mailto:Laura_Lienk@monterey.edu)

[Drew\\_Ready@monterey.edu](mailto:Drew_Ready@monterey.edu)

## GLOBE Trainings Continue

For teachers who have taken the introductory GLOBE trainings or who want a refresher on the soil or water protocols—here are some great opportunities.

GLOBE Soil Protocols:  
March 10-11

GLOBE Water Quality  
Protocols: April 14-15

Both trainings go from 9-5:30 daily, are offered at CSUMB's Watershed Institute with a \$10 per session fee charged for snacks and coffee.

Registration must be received five days prior to events.

Contact Gretchen Andreasen  
at tel: 459-5770 or

[hampt@aphrodite.ucsc.edu](mailto:hampt@aphrodite.ucsc.edu)

## Free Adopt-A-Watershed Teacher Workshops March 22-23 & 24-25

Through the cross disciplinary Adopt-A-Watershed curricular units, students participate in hands-on activities in their local watersheds. Teachers who want to involve their students in this standards based curriculum are urged to participate. AAW Primary Grades Units, "Animals" and "Streamside Communities"

will be offered March 22-23 at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

Intermediate/Middle School Units, "Landforms" and "Forest Ecosystems" will be offered on March 24-25 at the Watershed Institute of CSUMB. Registration is through local AAW coordinator, Barbara Novelli of Branciforte Elementary School tel: 429-3898 or [bnovelli@sccs.santacruz.k12.ca.us](mailto:bnovelli@sccs.santacruz.k12.ca.us)

**Adopt-A-Watershed Touchback Session Planned for Saturday, April 29, 9-12, TBA call Laura Lee for info**

HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT – WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY, MAY 13

9:00am-5:00pm

High school students and teachers are encouraged to attend the sixth annual watershed symposium

RON is one of the most successful environmental action organizations in the area. We operate on a very tiny budget, are loosely organized, and try to meet restoration and educational needs at the same time. Once yearly we gather to chart directions for the future. Please join the RON staff (Laura Lee, Drew, Bree, Jordan, Lydia, Sue, etc) for a few hours of planning. We will meet at the Watershed

Institute. Call to say you will be coming.

**Harden Foundation funds RON YESS Team- High School Students Involved**

The Harden Foundation is funding RON's first YESS (Youth Environmental Services –Salinas) team for the upcoming school year. YESS will be a team of area youth who will meet twice weekly after school (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and two Saturdays per month to work on environmental projects in Salinas.. YESS team core members will consist of graduates of RON's Summer 1999 High School Internship program. These experienced YESS team members will be paid from Monterey County Youth Employment Program funds, while Harden funds will be used to fund the RON YESS Coordinators, Lydia Nielsen and Maya Kedzior. Other high school students are invited to join the YESS team to complete required community service hours. The YESS team will meet in Natividad Creek Park on Tuesdays from 3:30-6:30. Thursday meetings (same times) will be at various Salinas locations. Call Lydia at 582-3687 to find out where the YESS team will be meeting.

**YESS Team to help with school Greenhouses/Gardens**

On Thursdays after school the RON YESS team will be available to help with weeding and planting in RON school gardens or in the RON greenhouses. Call Lydia at 582-3687 to schedule the YESS team to your Salinas school.

**YESS Team to Host RON Weekend Workdays in Natividad Creek Park**

Again this year we will be involving the general public, youth and civic groups, and families in planting and workdays at Natividad Creek Park. These Saturday events will take place on Oct 23, Nov 5 and 19, Dec 4 and 18, Jan 5, Feb 5 and 17, and March 4 and 18. Gather together a group of friends and come on down to the Park from 9 am –Noon. Always lots of fun and that great sense of civic accomplishment.

**CSUMB Students Available February-May 2000**

From February through early May 2000, CSUMB Service Learning Students will be available to work with RON schools in establishing native plant gardens or nature areas on school sites. In order to qualify to receive the assistance of a student a school site needs to have a core of 2-3 teachers who have attended a RON workshop (see front page), to have the complete approval of the school administration, to have a commitment of up to \$500

for the purchase of plants, student gardening tools, etc. It is also crucial that a site be selected and approved prior to requesting a student. To get your school on the waiting list call Laura Lee at 582-3689.

### **School Greenhouse Report**

RON currently has 11 greenhouses growing native plants for our various restoration projects and for outplanting at the schools themselves. Over the summer new greenhouses have been built at Calabasas Elementary School in Watsonville, at Los Arboles Middle School in Marina (funded by a grant from the staff of the Monterey Bay Aquarium), and at Castroville Elementary School. RON staff will be reconstructing the Los Padres Elementary greenhouse which was burned to the ground by vandals on July 5. The cost of what has become the standard RON greenhouse with film sides is \$1500 which includes labor, materials etc. Our more vandal proof version with fiberglass siding is \$2000. This year's "RON Greenhouse Mom/Coordinator" is Christina Hurley. Messages can be left for Christina at 582-3687.

### **Developmentally Disabled Adults Assist RON while Training in Greenhouse**

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for Monterey County, groups of

developmentally disabled adults are able to come to the RON/Watershed Institute greenhouses 3-4 days per week for work training in greenhouse methods. Groups currently come from Gateway Industries and from the Monterey County Office of Education. Other agencies working with developmentally disabled adults are invited to contact RON coordinator, Christina Hurley at 582-3687.

### **RON Summer Interns the VERY BEST**

With funding from the McMahon Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and in partnership with the Monterey County Summer Youth Employment Program, RON was able to present an eight week summer internship program for high school students this past summer. Led by RON staffer, Lydia Nielsen, the interns worked 40 hours a week gathering native plant seeds, transplanting seedlings, serving as leaders for visiting youth volunteers, weeding in various restoration sites, sprucing up Natividad Creek's Discovery Garden, experimenting with solar ovens for sterilizing soils, and conducting research into invasive weed species and Native American uses of plants. RON's nine wonderful summer interns were: Gloria Avalos and Manuel Ponce - Salinas High, Jessica Chaidez-Alvarez High, Kenny Copello-

North Salinas High, Karla Ascencio, Maria Navarro, and Margarita Ochoa-Alisal High, Emilia Rodriguez-Humboldt State University, and Alexia Walters-Monterey High. Several of these youth will be the core leaders in YESS.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Major**

#### **RON Supporter**

In that never ending game to keep financially afloat, RON and our wonderful Ft. Ord Public Lands/BLM partner have formed a great relationship with NFWF. NFWF monies support our numerous rainy season plantings and our growing War on Weeds Program. RON is entering our fourth year of funding for planting projects on BLM land and we are while our weeds programs are in their second year of funding.

### **RON to Enter Fourth Planting Season on Ft. Ord Public Lands**

Thanks to continued funding from the NFWF, RON will again be involved in the restoration of degraded areas on the Ft. Ord Public Lands. Actually, our work for the 1999-2000 rainy season began last February as we started many woody plants such as manzanita from cuttings, throughout the summer our interns gathered seeds, and now we are sowing our many greenhouses. Our goal for Ft.

Ord is to plant about 30,000 plants this year on weekend and school day plantings. Our funding allows us to fund a limited number of busses to bring students to Ft. Ord to help with the plantings. RON schools with greenhouses are given first preference for planting day busses. We are keeping a waiting list of names of schools without greenhouses for any other available busses. Mary Cunov of Sherwood Elementary is first on that list. Consider calling NOW to place your name on the waiting list or better still commit to funding your own bus and give us a call. Notices for school planting days on Ft. Ord will go out in late October.

### **Four Saturday Ft. Ord Public Planting Days scheduled**

**Dec 11, Jan 29, Feb 12, and Feb 26**

### **WEED Warriors Reign**

Exotic invasive weeds are perhaps the greatest impediment to our native habitat restoration work. With that in mind, RON and the BLM, with funding from NFWF have begun an aggressive campaign to educate the public about the serious nature of this problem. This summer four RON sponsored, CSUMB student interns worked with six other Ft. Ord Weed Warriors in pulling, mowing, wrenching,

hacking, poisoning some of Ft. Ord's worst invaders (iceplant, broom, pampas grass, Australian fireweed, yellow star thistle, poison hemlock, and Italian thistle. In addition the weed warriors began weed research projects utilizing GPS and GIS technologies, and planned an active Weed Warrior Public Involvement Campaign which will take place almost every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd Saturday from September through June 2000.

### **War on Weeds Weekend Events Calendar-Saturdays**

**October 9, 23 November 20, January 8, 19 February 5, 19**

**March 4, 18 call 582-3689 for details on events.**

### **WEED WARRIOR to design Weed Activities for Schools**

CSUMB student and Weed Warrior, Jon Detka is producing a weed activity box, web based activities, and lesson plans for schools. He will be looking for teachers to pilot these short units. If interested, e.mail Jon at

[Jon\\_Detka@monterey.edu](mailto:Jon_Detka@monterey.edu)

### **ASTHMA ATTACK TAKES WEED WARRIOR**

Leslie Matlack, Weed Warrior, beloved CSUMB student, and RON assistant died this summer while hiking to an overnight camping site. Fellow weed warriors who were hiking with her correctly

used all rescue methods but Leslie's heart gave out and she passed away. Quite naturally, RON, CSUMB, BLM—just everybody was stricken. Leslie's wonderful family has set up a CSUMB memorial account to place a bench and native garden here on campus. While completing her Service Learning requirements here at CSUMB, Leslie worked on some native plant gardens at Seaside High School. Everyday we pause in her fine memory.

### **Dana Mill Helmen's Plant Guide Gets Better and Better**

Into its second edition, RON teacher, Dana Mill Helman's guide "Native Plants and Habitats of Monterey and California" is a great resource for all area teachers. Contact Dana at 375-9183 and arrange for her to send you a copy at a really nominal price (ie., less than \$6). Or contact Dana at [dhelman@redshift.com](mailto:dhelman@redshift.com)

### **RON School Garden Tour-in Spring 2000 for sure**

This past spring RON tried to have a school garden tour in Salinas. Laura Lee and Lynn Hamilton enjoyed seeing several wonderful school gardens and though we were

the only ones on the tour it turned out to be inspirational as we shared many successes, pulled a few weeds, and came away assured that all RON members would really benefit by such a tour. If you would like to include your garden in the tour, contact Drew at 582-3686 or [Drew\\_Ready@monterey.edu](mailto:Drew_Ready@monterey.edu)

Let's plan for a date in early April when all the gardens are lush. Remember that you can get a native garden started or refresh an existing one by hosting a CSUMB service learning student in your classroom starting next February.

**See RON on our WEBPAGE**

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

#### SPECIAL INSERTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

1. RON Planting/Weekend Calendar
2. Notice about "Adopt-A-Species" program. Please contact them if you are interested in an endangered species program.