

Return of The Natives

Special Announcements

- *River of Words Training*
October 7
- RON- "*The Restoration Cycle*" A curriculum training October 14
- War on Weeds Symposium
November 17-18
- *GLOBE Soils workshop*
December

RON's New Native Plant/Weed Curriculum "The Restoration Cycle" Introduced in Saturday, October 14 Workshop

Tell Your Colleagues!!! Call in your own reservation. Join RON staff members, Jon Detka, Bree Candiloro and Laura Lee Lienk for a hands-on introduction to RON's first curriculum—"The Restoration Cycle". The training will be the debut of this standards-based curriculum features math, science, and language arts components which is designed for grades 5-8. "The Restoration Cycle" has been developed for RON by CSUMB student and Weed Warrior, Jon Detka. Teachers who pilot the materials will be eligible for free buses to bring



their students to planting events on the Ft. Ord Public Lands and for loan of the accompanying tool box of classroom materials.

The six hour "Restoration Cycle" training (9 am-3 pm on Saturday, October 14) is a great initiation into the RON network of environmental change and school support. The charge for this workshop is \$15 to cover snacks, lunch, and supplies. CSUMB CEU units may be available.

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River of Words The Competition The Training

Join Pamela Michael, Director of the internationally acclaimed "*River of Words*" program on Saturday, October 7 from 9:30-2:00 at Garland Park in Carmel Valley for a delightfully creative training on environmental poetry, art, and writing. Receive practical ideas which will assist you in guiding your students to become thoughtful and purposeful poets, writers, and artists. Your students are then eligible to enter the prestigious River of Words competition with Feb 15, 2001 due date. (One of Barbara Novelli's 5th grade, Branciforte Elementary students was a national finalist in 2000.)

The cost of the workshop is \$15 and covers materials and snacks. Registration is required by Wednesday, October 4. Participants should bring a sack lunch and should wear comfortable walking shoes and informal clothes for this outdoor training.

GLOBE: SOILS Protocols Trainings Continue

December 1-2

For teachers who have taken the introductory GLOBE trainings or who want a refresher on the soil protocols. GLOBE Soil Protocols: December 1-2 (Fri-Sat) The soils training goes 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

“Environment As Integrating Context for Service and Learning” training possible

This summer at the Adopt-A-Watershed Leadership Training in Bend Oregon, Laura Lee presented this in-depth standards-based EIC training to teachers from around the world. A similar training is appropriate for school or district level teams wanting to integrate environmental themes with the required standards, eg., tying the language arts standards to local environments. The training can be adapted to take place in 5-10 hours. Contact Laura Lee if you are interested. Check out to see the research which supports student test score gains while learning in the environment.

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, Bree Candiloro and assisted by YESS Team members Bird Navarro and Gloria Avalos, the 8 summer interns worked collecting native seeds and bashing weeds in the backcountry, transplanting small seedlings, and training visiting youth groups in restoration techniques. Summer Interns included: Paul Leyva, Erika Romero, Joshua Deese, Andrew Baker, Kenny Cepello, Augustine Laredo, and Chimera Baldwin.

School Greenhouse Program Underway

Bree Candiloro is RON's new school "greenhouse mom" and she and the RON staff are now busy contacting our 11 school greenhouse sites to see that native seedlings are planted prior to October 1 so that they will be ready for our rainy season plantings. Teachers from RON's greenhouse program are urged to call Bree to arrange for a time for her to come to your schools. Bree can be reached at 582-3687.

School Planting Days on Ft. Ord

This coming rainy season we have scheduled seven (7) days of restoration planting on the Ft. Ord Public Lands. Schools in our greenhouse program receive one free bus to the plantings. Other schools wanting to participate and who can pay for their own buses are invited to book a 90-minute time slot for one of the plantings. School planting dates include: Th-Dec 7, Fri-Dec 8, Th-Feb 8, Fri-Feb 9, Th-Feb 15, Fri-Feb 16, and Fri-Feb 23. Call Drew to reserve a date. (582-3686)

A Native Garden At Your School Site???

If you are thinking about having a native garden at your school site, now is the time to start planning. It is the time to convince the "powers that be" and your school colleagues this is what you want and that you are committed to making it happen and maintaining the garden for many years to come. You lay the groundwork now and get the buy-in and from February to May a CSUMB Service Learning student can be sent to work with you and your students in implementing your plans. Schools must make a commitment to contribute up to \$500 toward the purchase of plants, soils, and supplies. To get your name on a list for

a service learning student call Laura Lee at 582-3689.

SCHOOL GARDENS INSPIRE US ALL

Want to see some beautiful school native gardens visit: Los Padres Elementary (Mike Hartman), Jesse Sanchez Elementary (Dana Mills), Steinbeck Elementary (Gordon Mayfield), Gonzales' Fairview Middle Nature Trail (John Washburn), Los Arboles Middle (Eric Bull), Kamman Elementary (John Hannum), and the Moro Cojo Slough Restoration at North Monterey County High (Traci Matfin). If we missed your school and the hard work of you and your students, call us and we will highlight you in our next RON newsletter.

RON to Reach NEW TEACHERS

Drew Ready, RON Program Coordinator, is currently developing an exciting program with CSUMB's future teacher program, Las Aliancas. A curriculum and toolbox will be used to initiate future teachers to the goals and strategies of RON, both inside the classroom and out. Future teachers from Future Teacher Clubs at CSUMB, local community colleges, and high schools will be introduced to "The Restoration Cycle" curriculum created by weed warrior Jon Detka.. The future teacher participants will receive lesson

plans for hands-on activities that they can take directly o the classroom. Drew is pleased to announce that he is putting together activites that will allow us to use the Watershed Institute mural as a teaching tool, educating the countless visiting groups we receive about our region's natives: furred, finned, flying, and fungal. Plugging new teachers into RON just got easier!

RON PLANNING RETREAT DRAWS A CROWD OF 25

June 21st was the date of our annual RON Retreat. Twenty-five RON staff and partners gathered in the warmth of the Carmel sun to Review, Reflect and Renew our collective commitment to RON's organizations motto of Environmental Awareness through Hands On Action in Our Community. Goals of particular programs were shared and updated. Strategies for the future were developed in small groups, and results were shared in the round. Three committees were formed including, RON Youth Programs (headed by Bree Candiloro), RON School Programs (Laura Lee Lienk) and RON Restoration Programs (Christina Hurley). Individual committees will be meeting between now and the next retreat in December or January. Participation in RON's planning retreats is a great way to influence the

organization. Special thanks to these community partners who spent the day with us, Dale McCormick (Natividad Creek Park), Debbie DeLatour (RISE), Hester Parker (Rural Development Center), Penny Immel (Laurel Wood Elementary), Dana Mills-Helman (Jesse Sanchez Elementary), Eric Bull (Los Arboles Middle School) and Emily Daniel (BLM-Ft. Ord).

RON LEADERS CHANGE SCHOOLS - WHO ELSE??

LynnHamilton has moved to Washington Middle School and Peter Moras, back from a year in India, is at Kamman Elementary. Dana Mills-Helman is on leave for a year and is willing to do inservice trainings for schools. Tell us, if you to have moved .

RON STAFF CHANGES

RON's wonderful campus greenhouse managers, Clara Sander and Lindsay Leland having graduated are now off on world adventures. We shall miss them greatly. Greenhouse operations are being coordinated by Christina Hurley and Peter Nelson with assistance from Roberto Chavez and Julia Alpers.

War on Weeds Symposium November 17 and 18 Restoration to be Theme

The ever popular War on Weeds Symposium sponsored by RON and the BLM-Ft. Ord Public Lands wil take place on

Fri-Sat, Nov 17, 18. The theme this year is: "Restoration: The Other Half of the War on Weeds". Held at the beautiful new Moss Landing Marine Labs, the conference will look at weed-free landscaping practices and will include field trips and guided walks around the wonderful landscaping of the new lab. The cost each day of the symposium is \$25 or \$10 without lunch or snacks. Registration is recommended since participation is limited to 125 participants daily and we usually fill up.

RON-Weed Warriors making a splash at Exotic Pest Plant and Weed Conferences

This fall and winter, Weed Warriors, Jon Detka and Thor Anderson will be making presentations at statewide weed conferences. They will be presenting the new RON curriculum, "the Restoration Cycle" which has weeds as a major focus, as well as a new presentation on "Recommended Native Alternatives in Landscaping". For example we are recommending the large native grass, Muhlenbergia or deer grass rather than the very invasive pampas/jubata grass or the newly emerging invasive-fountain grass..

YESS Team Heads Weekend Programs in Natividad Creek Park

**Oct 14-Dec 16
All Invited to Work**

From 9-12 every Saturday morning, from October 14 through December 16 RON's YESS (Youth Environmental Services to Salinas) team will be meeting to do service in the park. *Families, individuals, community groups and students needing community service hours are encouraged to come and work with the team.* Key to the success of the program is the dedication of Gloria Avalos (Salinas High) and Maria "Bird" Navarro (Alisal High) who serve as leaders to other high school students and youth

New Grant Funds Weed Warrior for Toro Creek Watershed Area

RON and the many partners of the Ft. Ord Weed Management Area just learned that we have received funding for another CSUMB student Weed Warrior. This new member of the team will focus her/his energy on the Toro Creek Watershed and will conduct 6 weed bashes in that area in the coming year, will GPS map part of the new watershed and will work with local schools in combating weeds.

RON's Many Funders

Though a small organization, RON has many partners and funders, our primary partner is CSU Monterey Bay through the Watershed and Service

Learning Institutes. Our partners on our restoration sites include the BLM/Ft. Ord Public Lands,

Carr Lake Park Dream

With this spring's passage of Propositions 12 and 13, Parks/Clean Water the dream of making the now mostly dry lakebed on Ft. Ord