

The CSUMB Connection

The Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project is the education and outreach component of the Watershed Institute of CSUMB. On campus, RON programs center around our “mother greenhouses” and our native plant garden.



CSUMB Service Learning Students are integral to the work of Return of the Natives. Coordinating school gardens, leading groups on planting days, and partnering with high school students to produce interpretive signs for restoration sites, these special college students gain multicultural teaching and mentoring experiences with the diverse students in our area.



The Greenhouse staff, hosts numerous day visits where K-12 students engage in service learning projects prior to going on tours of the campus. The goal is to grow future college students as well as native plants.

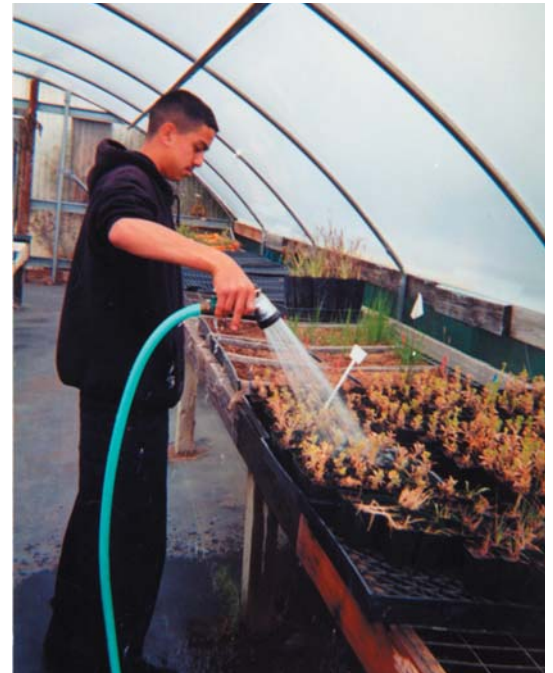


“A College Experience for All”



Each year the Watershed Institute sponsors a Watershed Symposium for Area High School Students. Over 100 youth gather to learn about watersheds, to participate in service, to interact with college science students, and to share their projects from their individual campuses.

The WI Greenhouses are the focal point for the work of a summer internship programs for high school students. Over 75 interns have served since the program's inception in 1995.



The “Greenthumbs”, a group of developmentally disabled adults contribute hundreds of volunteer hours at the nursery while at the same time gaining physical, social, and work related skills. Greenthumb groups from the Gateway Centers and the Monterey Office of Education are with us every day of the week.



1994 - 2003

After nine years, Return of the Natives is off to a great start. With each passing year, more children are learning about the natural world first hand, and plant by plant, more habitat is being restored.



540,000 plants

70+ sites

375+ school planting days

115+ public planting days

20 school greenhouses

**25,000 school children
involved**

**650 CSUMB student
leaders and researchers**

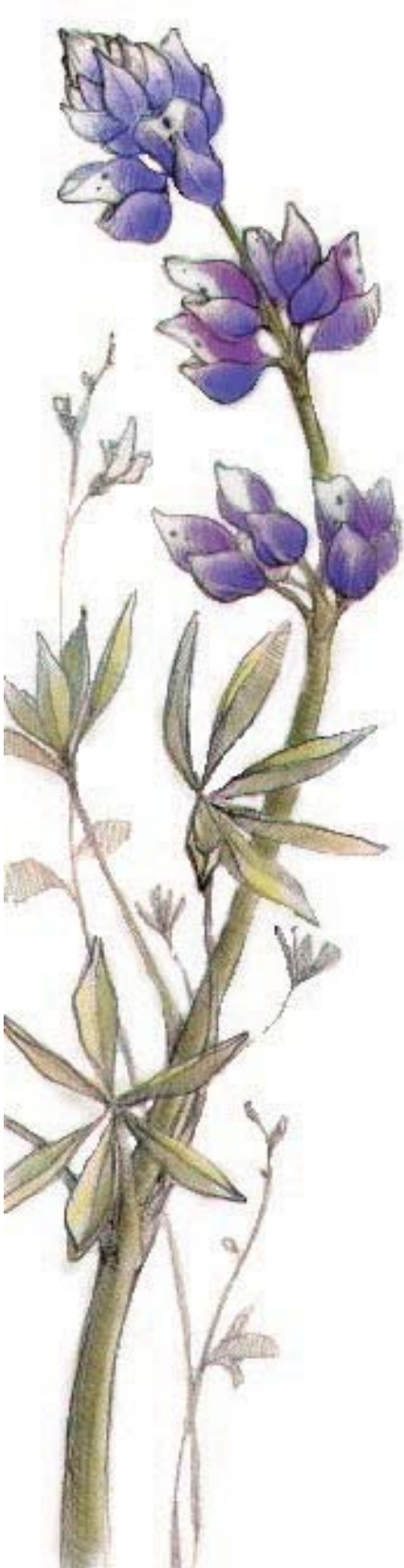
88 Summer Interns

**3,500 General Public
Volunteers**

**496 High School Students
at annual Watershed
Symposia**

620 Teachers Trained

Return of the Natives thanks these supporters and partners:



Monterey Bay Aquarium Staff Donation Fund *for Greenhouse Construction*

Harden Foundation *for programs with youth in Salinas*

Community Foundation *for Monterey County for support of Greenthumbs*

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation *for work on Ft. Ord Public Lands*

Tiger Fund of the San Francisco Foundation *for general support*

David and Lucile Packard Foundation *for work on Ft. Ord Public Lands and in the watersheds of Salinas*

McMahan Foundation *for support of youth programs*

Chevron—Texaco *for support of youth programs*

BLM Ft. Ord Public Lands

City of Salinas

CA Dept. of Water Resources-Urban Streams Program *for work in the Creeks of Salinas*

California Coastal Conservancy *for restoration support on the dunes of Salinas River State Beach in Moss Landing*

Friends and family of Bill Klein *for support of the Greenthumbs*

Coast Weekly Fund of Community Foundation for Monterey County *for support of the Garden of Learning, Farm to School Program, and RON*

Whole Foods of Monterey *for funds for school busses for RON and Garden of Learning Programs.*

Gateway Center and Monterey County Office of Education

Bob Cromeenes and Jack Massera - Weed Warriors Extraordinaire

Earth Systems Science and Policy Department - CSUMB

Service Learning Institute - CSUMB

Academic Affairs - CSUMB

And many more friends and supporters...