

## Special Interest Articles:

- Establishing a native Grassed Waterway
- Winning the War on Weeds while supporting Local Youth
- Standing out in your field, or?

## Individual Highlights:

- Partner Highlight 1
- Active Outreach 1
- Hollister Champs 2
- War on Weeds 2
- Upcoming Events 2

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California State Plant Material Committee, Central Coast Cluster Newsletter  
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## Elkhorn Slough Foundation Farmland

Over the past few years the Elkhorn Slough Foundation in North Monterey Co. has acquired and managed over 3500 acres of hillside farmland, forests, wetlands and rangeland. These lands contain many animal and plant species that are threatened or endangered. One such farm was planted in strawberries on sandy soils for many years. Many years of erosion and impacts to the water quality have been

documented by the ESF, NRCS and the RCD of Monterey Co. The farm has been restored to take the steepest areas over 15% slope out of production and preserve threatened maritime chaparral. The current farmer grows raspberries using sustainable farming methods. The ESF is working with the farmer to install and plant a Grassed Waterway with locally obtained divisions of Creeping wild rye, *Leymus triticoides*. This

project has taken three years to unfold. It is adjacent to a protected stand of Monterey spineflower. Congratulations ESF!

Photo courtesy of Kim Hayes



## Manzanita Park Weed Warriors

A local librarian from Castroville saw promise in the faces of local underprivileged Hispanic youth and took on a partnership called Friends of Manzanita Park with the County of Monterey Parks Dept., Agricultural Commissioner's office and many others to remove invasive pampas grass, yellow starthistle and French broom from Manzanita Park in Monterey Co. The sheer scope of this work would be daunting to even the toughest Weed Warriors,

but leader Sally Childs and her group of young adults have accomplished miracles around the softball and soccer fields, the BMX track and along paths in the hills for hikers and horses. They have also planted native coyote brush to take the place of the invasive non-natives near the fields. Manzanita Park is home to many rare plant species, notable, Yadon's rein orchid, *Piperia yadonii* and Hooker manzanita, *Arctostaphylos hookeri*.

Numerous field trips on weekends to haul out the plants, gaze at progress and support local efforts have paid off –Big time!

Courtesy of Sally Childs





Cover Crop and Willow Windbreak in Cherry Orchard

## San Benito and Santa Clara County Field Office

Folks in San Benito County have been busy over the past year helping farmers, orchardists and ranchers with design and installation of conservation practices such as windbreaks, cover crops, range and critical area planting. Bob Rohde and John Warner have found their niche, and are making great strides. These practices improve water quality, conserve water, improve soil quality, prevent soil and wind

erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. You just never know who might show up; like District Conservationist, Bob Rohde in a range planting and Area II Engineer, David Robledo checking on an Underground Outlet and Critical Area Planting of native Creeping wildrye, *Leymus triticoides*. Great job!

Photos courtesy of Bob Rohde and John Warner, Hollister



**“A weed is just a plant out of place.”**

Neil Ledford, Hartnell College Agriculture Instructor

## Weed Management Areas Take Aim

Land managers have been working hard for years to control invasive and noxious weeds. One mechanism that has been helpful is the creation of Weed Management Areas (WMA) across the state. Usually, a county has its own WMA, and the county Agricultural Commissioner's office is responsible for this area. In 2006, the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture launched a grant program and

requested proposals from WMAs for projects that result in weed containment, management or eradication. 1.5 million dollars was made available for collaborative efforts for 2007 to 2008 for funding of approved proposals. On the Central Coast, the Monterey County WMA, War on Weeds (WOW) Partnership proposed containment of cape ivy, yellow starthistle and

pampas grass in targeted areas of the coastal zone of the county. The group came together in a short amount of time to draft a proposal, map project areas at Big Sur, the former Fort Ord, and the Elkhorn Slough Watershed that amounted to \$87,500. Partner's matching contributions reached over \$350,000. This type of collaborative effort is occurring all over California and the NRCS needs to support it.



Young weed warriors pull and wrench jubata grass from a threatened stand of Maritime Chaparral in Prunedale

## Upcoming Events and Newsletter Information

- March 4 – 6, 2007 20<sup>th</sup> California Farm Conference, Monterey [www.californiafarmconference.com](http://www.californiafarmconference.com)
- May 2 – 3, 2007 CA Plant Material Committee Meeting & Tour, Salinas

The Central Coast Cluster Newsletter is an employee publication that is intended to provide a forum for posting projects, activities and information about plant material topics. To submit articles or pictures please contact the current PMC

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