

Redbird 2011 Spring Newsletter

Children of Many Colors Powwow Moorpark College, July 15-17, 2011

Redbird will host the 11th Children of Many Colors Powwow, returning to the new location at Moorpark College, which is flat and closer to the parking area. This year our head staff will be split on Saturday and Sunday, to allow some of the most talented young dancers in the arena today a chance to lead us into the arena. Kyle Laitenenan, Rachel Landry, Shandiin Yellowhorse, Monica Bartelt, Johnny Bartelt, Austin Hernandez, Susan Jackson and Ferdinand Salazar will compose our head staff for the weekend. Hale and Company, Wildhorse, Blue Star and, unconfirmed but anticipated, Crooked Hat will join us as northern and southern drums. Michael Reifel will MC the powwow.

Special events include the Friday evening Open Flute Circle and Potluck, beginning at 6 PM in the dance arena. All flute and wind instrument players are welcome to this evening of relaxed enjoyment.

On Saturday at 2 PM Margaret Morin of the Chumash Nation will once again host the Prayer For the Children in the dance arena. All children, and their parents, are welcome.

On Sunday, in the dance arena at 11 AM we will have a Veteran's Honoring as a part of the Gourd Dance Ceremony. All veterans, native or non native, men and women, are welcome and encouraged to take part.

Welcome New Board Members

We are very excited to add Lupe Villa-Bartelt and Gil Reyes to Redbird's 2011 Board of Directors. Lupe has worked quietly and tirelessly to promote Redbird for many years. Gil has also demonstrated his commitment to our educational and charitable goals for a number of years...probably more than either of us remember. Both bring their positive energy and dedication forward just in time to be a part of Redbird's emergence as an organization committed not only to Native American cultural preservation, but to a better understanding of the ecology of our planet through the Forest Recovery Project.

US Forest Service and Redbird Partner for Environmental Education

*Forest Recovery Project on U.S. Forest Service
Website
Native American group collaborates with USFS
in environmental education*



Most of us have a simple understanding of fire. Fire is bad. The Station Fire of August 2009 was a devastating example, taking homes, the lives of two Los Angeles County firefighters, and charring a quarter of the Angeles National Forest.

Bad is not the only reality of fire, however, which is why the US Forest Service has a link on its official website to the Forest Recovery Project, a visual documentary of the natural processes taking place within the forest. The US Forest Service, as well as Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division and a host of other local non profit and environmental groups, believe the Forest Recovery Project is an excellent educational tool and resource to fulfill that goal.

Created by Corina Roberts, the Forest Recovery Project is nearly two years in the making. Examining all of the major habitats in the Angeles, including chaparral, riparian and hardwood/conifer forest, the Forest Recovery Project illustrates the less understood reality of fire; its power to rejuvenate natural biomes. The online version is under ten minutes long and documents the forest from September

2009 to January 2011. Live presentations run approximately one hour and are tailored to the age, education and interest levels of the audience.

The USFS web page link is <http://tinyurl.com/4zkkbx3>

To go directly to Redbird's website, visit www.RedbirdsVision.org

Chilao – Redbird's 2011 Raffle Horse

Redbird's 2011 raffle horse, Chilao, is a liver spotted leopard appaloosa gelding which will be finished with men's riding regalia. Chilao made his public debut on April 9 at the El Camino College Powwow, and will be at the Malibu Powwow on April 16 and 17, the Standing Bear Powwow June 3-5, and other locations where raffle tickets can be purchased. Last years' raffle horse, Sacred Smoke, which was dressed out in Plains-style womens' regalia including a loaded travois, was won by Kay Whitecloud (AKA Grandma Kay, Whitecloud Singers). Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased via mail or at any event where Redbird is present. If you make a donation to Redbird via Paypal before July 1, you will receive a number of tickets equal to your donation. (We cannot sell raffle tickets nor can the word raffle be used in any transaction).



Chilao, liver spotted leopard appaloosa

Pinon Project looks for home

Pinon (pronounced and sometimes spelled pinyon) is a kind of pine from which we get the very delicious pine nut or pignolia. Pinyon grows at an elevation of 4,500 to 6,000 feet in California, needs the support of birds and other animals to spread its seed to new locations, is

susceptible to drought, has a slow reproductive cycle and takes fifty to seventy five years to mature into cone-bearing, seed-producing trees.

Because of the high fat content of the nut, the US Forest Service cannot store pinyon in a seed bank for more than two years; after this time period the nut turns rancid and will not grow. Because of this, pinyon must be grown by planting the fresh seed, either at an elevation similar to their natural climate, or after three months of refrigeration to simulate winter weather conditions.

Native American people throughout the western hemisphere relied on pinon as a seasonal staple in their diet. The Pinyon Project seeks to reconnect people with this natural food source by raising a target of 2,000 two year old pinyon seedlings to be planted in the Angeles National Forest. We will start by planting 2,200 to 2,500 pinon seeds. The project was originally slated to be hosted by Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center, but we are now seeking an alternate location, preferably between 4,500-6,000 feet in elevation, in the forest.



Coulter pine seedlings at Henniger Flats, L.A. County Fire Forestry Division facility

Everything We Do...

Depends on the ongoing support of our friends and tiospaye, our extended family. To book a presentation of the Forest Recovery Project or make a donation:

redbirds_vision@hotmail.com

Redbird is a 501(c)(3) non profit association
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