

BONE YARD TO NATURE SITE: CREATING AN AQUATIC EDUCATION SITE

Description: How can you make a vision a reality? This session will describe the process of turning a 60-year old state-owned fish hatchery and bone yard into a free aquatic education site, the Friant Interactive Nature Site (FINS).

Learn about the development process of the real gem of the site: The Small Fry Children's Discovery Trail. No plastic playground here; this is a peaceful space where the children learn while playing and exploring. Explore multiple educational features and the layers of learning incorporated into this natural park setting. Lessons learned along the journey and helpful tips on how you can create a site too. You will learn about the rewards of building a universal Parkway Trail for various user groups, developing a public access nature site, and the importance of keeping an aquatic education site thematic.

Explore the process of navigating through grants, design, engineer and permit elements, managing construction projects, adding artistic and aquatic educational elements, eradicating invasive species, growing your own native plants and understanding irrigation. Discussion topics will also include valuable ways to save funds, utilizing your resources, working with volunteers, other agencies and public offenders, incorporating visitor information and visitor improvements, deterring vandalism, improving water quality by turning a storm water ditch into a functioning bioswale, hosting school groups, providing public access, and creating a free aquatic education site.

Location: Diamond Peak Room

Session Time: Wed., 3:30 PM

Presenter: Cheryl Moxley, Fish and Wildlife Interpreter II, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Cheryl Moxley

Cheryl has lived in the California Central Valley all her life and is currently in her 20th year working for The California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

All of her work activities have been in fisheries program with the last 11 years as a Fishing and Wildlife Interpreter. She coordinates the Trout in the Classroom Program, leads public tours, and assisted staff with the development of Trout Fest events. She is the project lead for two public access and aquatic education construction projects on state property.