

Working closely with the Eel River Recovery Project, Friends of the Van Duzen River was able to continue its decade long project of installing 18 temperature probes in the Van Duzen Watershed. The temperature probes take the temperature every hour on the hour for months at a time. They are attached to a metal plate and placed in flowing water and/or in deep pools. There are two parts to this process : placement and retrieval.

FOVD recruits local elementary and high school students to install and recover them in the Lower Van Duzen from Wolverton Creek to the mainstem at Rainbow Bridge. Clyde, the 8-year-old son of Kevin and Melanie Cunningham from Shakefork Farm, has been active in the process for the past 4 years. He is my youngest student. FOVD is dedicated to training young scientists.

This summer we were fortunate to have recruited Logan McDermitt to assist in the probe process. Logan is a 29-year-old environmentalist from West Virginia, who has been living and working in California for the past 2 years with the Watershed Stewards in Hayfork and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in Humboldt. This year he assisted the FOVD in the upper reaches of the Van Duzen River and its tributaries. He represents the next generation of environmentalists.

A special thank you goes out to Mike Connich, wildlife biologist, hydrologist, and keeper of the salmon tanks for Humboldt Redwood Company for taking me to upper Yaeger Creek to install and retrieve a temperature probe. I look forward to taking kids to see this dynamic salmon exhibit in Scotia.

Due to the pandemic, I was unable to complete my current Cereus Grant. Instead of going to schools this fall, I am now developing and sharing curriculum materials. Nurturing Nature consists of a 3-part series of lessons beginning with writing a paragraph Talking to Nature, drawing a picture of the Tree of Life, and writing a tree poem. Kahlil Gibran says, "Trees are the poems that the earth writes upon the sky." These lessons can be found on my web site [www.fovd.org](http://www.fovd.org) under Cereus Grant 2021.

Additionally, I have been exploring the Internet and found a phenomenal video series for students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Called Generation Genius, it offers phenomenal lessons in science and math. Check out this website <https://www.generationgenius.com>

Lessons are divided into three grade levels K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Cost is only \$175 per teacher with an automatic renewal each year. There is also a free trial period.

After discussion with the Trees Foundation, we have decided to use the remaining funds from the existing grant during the rest of the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you, Trees Foundation and the Cereus Grant.