



Shasta Environmental Alliance

P.O. Box 993777 • Redding, CA 96099 • ecoshasta.org

July 2023 Newsletter

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Thank you to our donors!

UPCOMING SEA EVENTS



Heart Lake Hike

Saturday, July 15, 8am

Meet at Chase Bank parking lot on Dana Drive in
Redding to carpool/caravan

Caldwell Lake Hike

Saturday, July 22, 8am

Email david@ecoshasta.org to sign up

We Couldn't Do This Work Without YOU!

Please consider donating to SEA!

You can click the donate button below or go to ecoshasta.org to donate!

If you prefer to send a check, our mailing address is:

Shasta Environmental Alliance

P.O. Box 993777

Redding, CA 96099-3777

Redding General Plan Update: Take Action

The City of Redding has released its final draft General Plan for public comment and it is very important that those who are concerned about Redding's future environment comment on the update. The City will be holding informal presentations where they will explain the plan and provide an opportunity for written comments, but people can also comment by email if they wish.

There are some serious problems with the plan update, primarily because they have weakened the language in it. The current General Plan has phrases such as "Strive to protect and preserve" or just "consider" protecting. For example, Section NR6A "Strive to preserve and protect existing native oaks..." in the Natural Resource Element. Another example, in Section HR6E "Consider undertaking measures to maintain and expand the urban forest by:..."

To the City's credit, they are holding open meetings to explain the General Plan and opportunities to give written comments at that time. They have a video on their website explaining the process and encouraging people to comment. On the same page are the various elements of the General Plan. One section that would be of concern to environmentalists would be the Natural Resources Element and the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Element.

To see the General Meeting video, a survey link, and all elements of the General Plan update, use this link: [General Plan](#). You will also find the public meeting dates and locations. SEA will be providing updates later

Nominate an Environmental Champion!



Photo by Don Owen - SEA Environmental Awards event: from left John Livingston, Awardee Peggy Rebol, Kim Niemer and David Ledger

Who do you know that is a champion for our environment? Nominate them for SEA's Environmental Champion Award!

Shasta Environmental Alliance is looking for individuals in the greater Shasta County area to recognize for their work in protecting our local environment! Whether it be through education, advocacy, or legislation, we are

looking for individuals who have made a positive impact on our local environment.

There are three categories you can nominate an environmental champion for:

- **Citizen champion** - anyone in our community over the age of 21 who has advocated for the environment through both words and actions
- **Youth/Student champion** - anyone under the age of 21 who stands out as excelling in advocating for the environment
- **Agency champion** - someone who works or has worked in a government agency and has gone above and beyond their job to effect positive change for our environment

If you'd like to recognize someone for the positive work they're doing for our local environment, please send us a letter explaining the work that person has done, why they should be recognized, and a note on how you interpret the impact they're making on our environment. Please send your letters/emails to david@ecoshasta.org

Previously we have honored individuals such as Doug Craig for education and advocacy about the threat of climate change; Peggy Rebol for her organizing the Whole Earth and Watershed Festival, Larry Jordan for his work in providing nesting sites for birds and education, Julie Kierstaeed for her work advocating for protecting native plants and their habitat; Marily Woodhouse for fighting clear cutting and Bill Oliver for his important collecting of data of local bird populations over 40 years.

We look forward to honoring the 2023 environmental champions at a special event in November 2023!

SEA Seeking New Board Members

Want to affect long-term environmental change in Shasta County? Join SEA as a Board Member!

Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) is actively recruiting volunteer Board Members to serve on our board and create impactful change in Shasta County.

Board members are required to stay engaged and active in the decisions and goings-on of SEA, be able to commit SIX hours per month (two of which are dedicated to the monthly meeting), and can help with SEA events when needed.

We are looking for Board Members that have had previous involvement in advocating for the environment or have volunteered at environmental organizations or helped with environmental issues. If you're interested in becoming a SEA Board Member, please reach out to David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org

Trip Report: Sulphur Creek Clean Up



Photo by Doug Mandel - Derle Gilliam and David Ledger pulled sleeping bags from the creek to dry on the rocks, just a small part of our cleanup

The Sulphur Creek Cleanup was a great success! While we only had a few people, we had very hard workers and we cleaned an entire section of a branch of the creek that we had planned on.

This was not easy work as we had to haul all the trash up a steep trail, requiring several trips for each person. Waste ranged from the usual bottles, plastic bags, and cans to two bicycle frames, metal poles, several blankets, and a back brace.

Besides a job well done, this area has a lot of wildflowers to enjoy while picking up the trash. We have intentionally kept these cleanups small due to a rare plant in the area but SEA may adopt a trail in the future for broader participation. Thank you to our hard-working volunteers for this cleanup!

Trip Report: Canyon Creek Hike

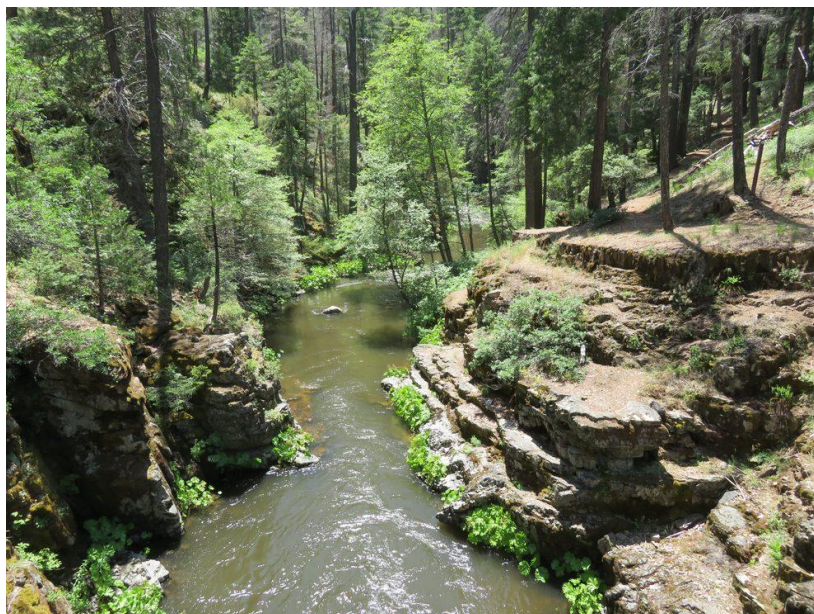


Photo by David Ledger

Due to unforeseen circumstances (aka snow still on the ground!) we ventured to the Cabin Creek Trail instead of Heart Lake on our June 17th field trip! While along Squaw Creek south of McCloud, we saw some beautiful blooms of wildflowers, including twin flowers, trail plants, morning glory, short-leaf Montia, and many Pacific sedums on the rocks and the ground. With the water high in the creek, a canopy of trees for shade, and a high

temperature of only 78 degrees, this was a perfect day for a fun and pleasant field trip for the 11 people who participated.

This was a joint SEA and California Native Plant Society Field Trip, so we identified many plants on the trail for both beginners and experienced native plant enthusiasts. Due to the time spent identifying plants, we only walked about two miles in total and took a lunch break near the creek.

In addition to the many wildflowers, we got to see and identify trees along the trail, including Pacific yew trees as well as white fir, Oregon oak, and big-leaf maple, among others, and shrubs such as Sierra gooseberry, Oregon boxwood, and cascara.

Accompanying us on the field trip were Amy and Brad Henderson. Amy is President of the Shasta Chapter of CNPS and her husband Brad is a botanist who was a great help in helping us to identify many of the uncommon plants.

As an added after-hike treat, part of our group drove east of town six miles to a Forest Service road to look at an amazing variety of shrubs and wildflowers on a roadside walk!

We hope you can join us for our next field trip!

Iron Mt. Mine Superfund Cleanup

Presentation a Success!



Photo by David Ledger Tom Wallis giving PowerPoint presentation.

On June 21st, over 65 people took advantage of a rare opportunity to hear from Tom Wallis, a private consultant for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who has been working on the Iron Mt. Mine Superfund cleanup site for over 10 years.

At one time, the mine was the worst point source of water pollution in the United States. Wallis started his talk with the earliest history of the mine and the various methods the copper was mined and treated and how it polluted the Sacramento River, local vegetation, and farmlands into the Sacramento Valley. During the days of copper mining and smelters, both the water AND air were being polluted.

The Iron Mountain Mine is northwest of Redding and above Keswick Reservoir and regularly polluted the Sacramento River with toxic chemicals killing thousands of fish in most years until it was established as a Superfund Site by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1983. Actual work to clean up the mine didn't start until 10 years later.

Some areas of the mine have the world's most acidic water, as low as -3.8ph on the scientific scale of acidity, which is well below the established scale of 0. This is in part because naturally occurring archaea, an ancient life form similar to bacteria, uses iron sulfide for energy and makes the water in the mine more acidic. This requires truckloads of a particular limestone to be used daily to treat and neutralize the water before it can be released.

The cleanup is a success story as the water released from the Spring Creek Reservoir into Keswick Lake meets state and federal water quality standards. The only problem is that the cleanup is an ongoing process that must continue for another 100 years.

An interesting part of the evening was the comments of a few locals who had connections to the mine and copper smelters of the area. One 90-year-old man said many of his relatives worked in the copper mines and smelters of the era and died an early death due to the toxic substances from the mines and smelters.

Trip Report: SEA/BLM Restoration

Site Field Trip



Photo by Doug Mandel Front row: Pat Lind, Bob Madison, Doug Mandel, Laurie Burk, Brooke Thompson, Brigitte Roberbson. Back row: Breyden Coma, David Ledger, Don Burk.

Despite the hot 109-degree predicted temperature for the day, we had nine people show up for a tour of the new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Restoration site on the Sacramento River near Battle Creek on July 1st.

The restoration area involves 150 acres of former farmland - primarily walnut orchards and hay fields. It extends from Jelly's Ferry

Road on the east to Battle Creek on the south and just before the Sacramento River on the west and is part of a larger parcel of BLM land that extends to the Sacramento River.

Currently, the area has old walnut orchards and hay fields now thick with many invasive weeds. The walnut orchards will be removed and replaced with native trees, shrubs, and forbs afterward. Because the fields and orchards are choked with star thistle, Johnson grass, bull thistle, medusa head, and other invasive weeds, it will involve a one-time application of herbicides, but in consultation with scientists, BLM believes a one-time broad spraying program is the only way to get rid of the invasive plants.

Another part of the program will be planting more trees along Battle Creek, an important creek for salmon and steelhead trout, to help keep its water cold.

Despite the fields of weeds, there are many healthy trees in this abandoned farmland including tall Fremont cottonwoods, black sandbar, arroyo willow, box elder, and several healthy blue elderberry shrubs. BLM has found that the endangered Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle has been found on the property.

BLM ecologist Brooke Thompson led the field trip and explained how this is just part of a long-term BLM goal of restoring natural habitat along the Sacramento River. She said they also want to expand the restoration to the entire 306-acre area.

Another future improvement would be a fish channel from the Sacramento River to a bend in Battle Creek, providing cooler water from the Sacramento River for salmon as Battle Creek meanders another two miles further downstream before entering the river.

Breyden Coma, a representative of Senator Brian Dahle, accompanied us on the field trip. He said Dahle is interested in restoration projects in his district.

A few FREE Shade Trees Left!

We still have a few spots left! If you live in the City of Redding and would like a free shade tree planted for FREE in your front yard this fall, don't hesitate to fill out the interest form on our website by clicking the button below!

We would also love it if you would help spread the word about this project!

Thank you to our donors!

\$25 to \$99

James Aven, Margaret Beck, Muffy Berryhill, Becky Bestwick, Dawn Bieser, Brady Family, Melinda Brown, Steve and Cathleen Callan, Richard Christoph, Jim & Gayle Citta, Allan Craig, Lang Dayton, John Deaton, Tammy Douse, Shirley Flynn, Carol Forester, Jonathan Foster, Kathy Grissom, Vickie Hall, Penny Harris, Sandy Harrison, Diane Hawthorne, Jose Hernandez, Belinda Higuera, Bruce Hillman, Robert Hixon, Sabrina Hofkin, George Horn, Janice Hunter, Larry Jordan, Sharon Kennedy, Buzz & Jennifer Knight, Buck & Sue Lang, Alan Lefler, John Livingston, Bob Madison, Lee Macey, Catherine McKnight, Linda Miller, Tom Morehouse, Mary Mitchell, Geneva Omann & Dan Axelrod,

Cathy Reisfelt, Sandra Rich, Brigitte Robertson, Rick Ramos, Cathy Resfelt, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Cathy Scott, Linda Samuels, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Jamie Spielmann, Hugh & Denise Williams, Kris Bertelson Williams, John Winchell, Julie Winter, Robert Winter

\$100 to \$249

Laura Bradley, Aleta Carpenter, Gary Christopher, Richard Christoph, Bea Currie, Mari Enis-Applegate, Karen Foss, Cherie Gans, Derle Gilliam, David Haskell, David Klasson, David Korman, Cathy & Jon Lefler, Diane Madgic, Doug Mandel, Mary Mitchell, MaryAnn McCrary, Linda Salter, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, Siskiyou Land Trust, John Springer, Connie Word, Linda Wright

\$250 to \$499

Don & Laurie Burk, Mary Belkin, Bea Currie, Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Lisa Ross & Ray Pfister, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of CNPS, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, Wintu Audubon

\$500 to \$999

Becky Bestwick, Karen Little, Mark Martinek

\$1000 & Up

Chris Harvey, Bob and Diane Madgic