



P.O. Box 993777 • Redding, CA 96099 • [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org)

## **April 2024 Newsletter**

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Thank you to our donors!

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# UPCOMING SEA EVENTS



*Photo: SEA Shade Tree Planting Crew*

## **Lightning Canyon Ranch Outing**

(by Shasta Birding Society)

*Saturday, April 6th*

*Contact [webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org](mailto:webmaster@shastabirdingsociety.org) to register*

## **Roadside Driving Native Plant Field Trip**

*Sunday, April 14th at 1:30 pm*

*[Sign up on our Meetup site here](#)*

## **Redding Earth Day Festival**

*Saturday, April 20th, 11 am - 4 pm*

*Visit [seashasta.org](http://seashasta.org) for more information!*

## **Hog Lake Plateau Field Trip**

(SEA + CNPS)

*Sunday, April 21st*

*RSVP: [shastacnps@gmail.com](mailto:shastacnps@gmail.com) for location/time*

## **Native Plant Walk in the McConnell Arboretum**

*Tuesday, April 23rd at 9 am*

*[Sign up on our Meetup site](#)*

## **Mt Shasta Earth Day Festival**

(by Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center)

*Saturday, April 27th*

*City Park in Mt. Shasta*

## **Phillips Brothers Mill Tour**

*Saturday, May 4, 8:30 am*

*\$25 per person, pre-registration required*

## **The Wild & Scenic Film Festival**

(sponsored locally by Western Shasta RCD and Shasta Conservation Fund)

*Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 5pm - 8pm*

*FREE but seats are limited - sign up here*

*For more information about SEA-hosted events, email [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)*

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# 2024 Free Shade Tree Giveaway!



Would you love to have a nice, shaded front yard?! Do you already have one but know someone else who might want one for free? SEA is excited to announce that we've received another grant from The Bower Charitable Foundation to plant 50 more free shade trees in the front yards of 50 additional residents in the City of Redding in Fall 2024!

The planting of these trees will help not only shade homes and provide lowered air conditioning costs but will

also sequester carbon and provide a lush habitat for wildlife.

Residents wanting a free, front yard shade tree will need to [fill out an interest form](#) and commit and agree to water the tree for the first three years to ensure the planted tree will be able to adequately root into the ground and stabilize for future growth. We will have a pre-selected grouping of trees, including some native ones.

We will be asking that homeowners help SEA volunteers prepare the yard and help plant the trees unless there is a specific disability that won't allow that. There will be several specific tree-planting weekends in the fall of 2024. Some, but not all, of the trees will be native and SEA will need to ensure specific trees will be the right fit for different yards and areas where they will be planted.

Trees will be supplied for free and planted by SEA volunteers and the homeowners receiving them. To express interest in having a tree planted in your front yard, please visit [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org) and fill out an application. If you would like to volunteer to help plant the shade trees, please contact [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

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## 2024 Earth Day Festival This Month!

We hope to see you Saturday, April 20th from 11 am - 4 pm at Caldwell Park for our FREE Earth Day celebration! Enjoy educational booths, children's activities, a secure bike corral, live music, and options for food vendors!

If you're a nonprofit, community organization, or government agency, there's still time to apply to have a booth (sorry we aren't taking commercial vendors): [click here!](#)

Visit [seashasta.org](https://seashasta.org) for more information!



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## Jenny Creek Group Opposes Paved Trail



*Photo: many of these trees could be cut down if a paved trail is approved*

*By Friends of Jenny Creek*

Founding member, Marcía McGetrick-West, President and Coordinator, represented the group Friends of Jenny Creek on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Redding City Council meeting. Since canvassing in October/November 2023, the group now consists of more than

100 community members and homeowners who seek to protect the existing woodland and riparian habitat, and the wildlife species it provides homes to, in the narrow Jenny Creek greenbelt north of Eureka Way, between Lower and Upper Sunset residences.

The group opposes the City's "proposed 10-12 ft wide paved, lighted, multi-use corridor trail" through the Jenny Creek greenbelt that is being considered for construction. The proposed trail would be built on the *northern* side of Eureka Way between Lower and Upper Sunset Terraces, going over multiple water crossings, across Jenny Creek with an 80-ft bridge connecting onto Overhill Drive, and finally going down to connect with the southern side of the Sacramento River Trail.

The Jenny Creek trail that FJC opposes was not in the 2004 General Plan nor the 2018 Parks, Trails, and Open Space master plan. The maps in both these plans included a proposed "Jenny Creek Trail," but *south* of Eureka Way to Mary Lake. A "northern" proposed Jenny Creek Trail was *not* included in the maps until the Draft 2045 General Plan trail map. The Friends of Jenny Creek asked that this mis-mapping be corrected, and the "northern" proposed Jenny Creek Trail be removed from the 2045 General Plan. This was tabled by the City Council and staff due to their lack of knowledge of this key information that FJC pointed out with a letter from their specialized attorney.

Friends of Jenny Creek now advocates for a *low-impact* trail alternative to the Community Services Department's proposed "northern" Jenny Creek Trail, one that would mitigate significant impacts to biological and water resources in the Jenny Creek Greenbelt. Friends of Jenny Creek are now working with qualified experts to develop alternative trail alignments to the City's proposed trail.

Friends of Jenny Creek encourages anyone in the Lower and Upper Sunset neighborhoods, or living in Redding, to become an FJC member, sign our petition, and become involved as a volunteer for getting the word out protesting/opposing the City's proposed project.

**To learn more FJC information, sign our petition, and get involved,  
we invite you to contact us through our new website:  
[FriendsofJennyCreek.org](http://FriendsofJennyCreek.org) ~ 530.246.0550**

**HELP SAVE AND PROTECT JENNY CREEK GREENBELT,  
THE HABITAT, WILDLIFE, AND ALL CONCERNED!**

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## **FREE Wild & Scenic Film Festival**

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival will be playing on May 11th, 2024 from 5 pm - 8 pm at 6270 Parallel Road, Anderson CA! This Film Festival is hosted in the area by the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (WSRCD) and Shasta Conservation Fund.

The films selected for the festival hope to raise awareness about the environment and promote environmental activism and a love of nature. If you're interested, this event is free but there will be limited seating!

This event is FREE to attend with \*limited seating\* - if you're interested in attending please [sign up HERE](#) To learn more about the films and the festival, [click here](#).

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# 60th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act



We celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in the United States in 2024! This groundbreaking piece of legislation represented the first instance where a nation used legal mandates to designate specific areas for preservation, allowing nature's processes to unfold without human interference. Signed by President Lydon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964, the Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System, which initially encompassed 54 wilderness areas in 13 states. These areas were previously under the administrative protection of the Forest Service but now formed the foundation of a broader conservation effort. Over six decades, the System has expanded significantly, comprising 806 areas across 44 states and Puerto Rico.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary, there will be a display about it at the Redding Library in June. You might also consider discovering some of these wilderness spaces preserved by this act that are in northern California: Chanchellulla Wilderness (8,022 acres), Marbles Wilderness (335,114 acres), Lassen Volcanic Wilderness, (79,061 (NPS), and Trinity Alps Wilderness (537,0000 acres). Or perhaps those nearby: Russian Wilderness (12,521 acres), Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness (182,000 acres), and Caribou Wilderness (20,839 acres).

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# Mt Shasta Earth Day Festival - April 27th

Join the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center for their annual Mount Shasta Earth Day Festival, happening on April 27th. Activities at City Park in Mt. Shasta kick off the event. Visitors can explore the Eco-Art Gallery, participate in children's art activities, join in the water blessing ceremony, take a refreshing nature walk, and attend informative eco-presentations. As the day transitions into the evening, the festivities continue with a benefit concert at Spring Hill Nursery & Gardens.

[Click here for more details!](#)

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## Trip Report: Clear Creek Trail Cleanup



For our Saturday Clear Creek Trail cleanup, we did not have a lot of litter to pick up in large part because we last cleaned the trail in late October. Eight people helped with this cleanup and we finished up in about 2 hours, only gathering about a 50-gallon bag of garbage, most likely because the rain kept a lot of people off the trail.

We do have some brush removal to do on one section of the trail where buck brush is closing in on the trail. The hardest part of the cleanup was walking on a section

of the trail covered with cobbles that cross tailings left over from when dredges worked the area mining for gold about 100 years ago.

Thanks to all who participated: Derle Gilliam, Yojiro Sadohara, Ray Pfister, Lisa Ross, David Coates, Hannah Gregg, Joan Richards, and David Ledger!

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# Final General Plan Update



*Redding Costco site before (left) and after (right)*

As expected, on a 3-to-2 vote, the Redding City Council passed a weak general plan that failed to get a majority vote on the Planning Commission. While several speakers spoke against the General Plan and the Shasta Birding Society had an attorney criticizing many aspects of the Plan, it passed anyway, following a 3-hour meeting. The major problem with it is that considerable language of the plan was weakened by putting language words such as “strive to” in front of the same language of the 2020 general plan that was directed towards protecting our natural areas. Council Members Dacquisto and Mezzano voted no.

Below is just one example of a weakness in the 2045 General Plan. It took the same language from the 2020 General Plan and added "work to" the sentence as noted in bold:

*“ **Work to** preserve natural corridors and linkages between habitat types through project design, including, but not limited to key open-space acquisitions, floodplain and slope dedications, conservation easements, and similar mechanisms.” (CCD3C)*

The Plan also included this sentence in the introduction which appears to allow the city to ignore the general plan at will:

*As such, terms used in this document such as “require”, “shall”, “prohibit”, “protect” and similar words are not intended, for purposes of policy implementation or general plan consistency determinations, to provide absolute certainty, direction, urgency, or otherwise dictate precise and immediate actions.*

One good aspect of the plan was that it reduced the area for future growth with an emphasis on infill development which will reduce urban sprawl.

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# Trip Report: Water's Gulch



With rain predicted all day, turnout was expected to be low for the Waters Gulch Field Trip, but Ashton Smith, Spencer Henderson, and walk leader David Ledger were willing to forge ahead with the help of umbrellas on this trail with an amazing diversity of plant life.

The first section of the trail is a damp cool microclimate following a creek downstream on a north-facing slope. There was a vast diversity of plants a few of which on this half-mile or less section included milkmaids, Oregon grape, Brewer's oak, black oak, and a mixed conifer overstory. Some of the ferns in just this short

section were: fragile fern, Shasta maidenhair, narrow leaf sword fern, lace lip fern, goldback fern, and banks thick with rock polypody and licorice fern. The rare and protected Shasta snow wreath is also on this section of the trail as well. As the trail reached the stream edge, umbrella plants were flowering nicely before the huge leaves covered them later in spring. At this point, there were California bay trees, white alder, bigleaf maple, Douglas fir, Oregon ash, and black oak trees which keep this trail cool in the summer.

Leaving the creek there is one section with some wet slippery rocks with a steep small cliff to fall off if you lose your footing. Passing alumroot, checker lily, grand hounds tongue, and several lomatium and various delphinium, this west-facing section of the trail is fairly level, and under the sparse canopy were foothill ash, buckbrush, buckeyes, mountain mahogany, and more. We only walked a little over 1 ½ miles before we began to get too wet despite the umbrellas. On the way back we noticed many plants we hadn't seen on the downhill trip. This is a highly recommended trail to hike, except for in the hottest summer months.

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## Report: Shade Tree Planting

*Photo by Doug Mandel*

SEA took out a group of volunteers and an energetic crew of CCC workers on March 30 on both a shade tree planting project and work in the area of the Westside Trail where we have planted some blue oak trees. Kathy Grissom led three CCC youth volunteers to our blue oak project, while Yo Sadohara, Doug Mandel, and Terry



Swanson worked with a CCC crew to plant a few front yard shade trees in Redding front yards.

The Shade Tree Project is thanks to a grant from the Bower Charitable Foundation and help from McEntire Landscaping.

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## Thank You to Our Donors!

**\$25 to \$99:** Muffy Berryhill, Kris Bertleson-Williams, Dawn Bieser, Laura and Mike Bradley, Sandra Cameron, Miki'ala Catalfano, John Deaton, Barbara Dorris, Tammi Douse, Ailene Genoff, Lyra Gray, Kathy Grissom, Penelope Harris, Robert Hixon, Janice Hunter, Kay Johnson, Kay Kosko, Michael Koturba, Suzzie Lang, John Livingston, Lee Macey, Diane Madgic, Robert Madison, Victoria McArthur, Jim Milestone, James Nelson, Geneva M Omann, Cathy Reisfelt, Brigitte Robertson, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Laura Shaw, Casandra Simmons, Jamie Spielmann, John Springer, Max Walter, Marti Weidert, Jaclyn White, John Winchell

**\$100 to \$249:** Laura Bradley, Aleta Carpenter, Linda Castagnoli, Lang M. Dayton, Allan Craig, Paula Dulak, Mari Ennis-Applegate, Karen Foss, Derle Gilliam, Kathleen Gilman, Green Party of Shasta County, Karen Hazeltine, George Horn, John Lefler, Doug Mandel, Donald Owen, Sierra Club, Siskiyou Land Trust, John Springer, Connie Word

**\$250 to \$499:** Don and Laurie Burk, Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Cathy Lefler, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

**\$500 to \$999:** Mary Belkin

**\$1000 & Up:** Lang Dayton, Chris Harvey

## Please consider a donation to SEA!

You can go to [ecoshasta.org](https://ecoshasta.org) to donate!

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

***Shasta Environmental Alliance***

***P.O. Box 993777***

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