



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

## August 2023 Newsletter

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Donate!

Thank you to our donors!

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## UPCOMING SEA EVENTS

For more info about any of our upcoming events, contact [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

### **Paradise Meadow Hike (Lassen National Park)**

Saturday, August 5, 8am

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



# Speak Up for Redding's Environmental Future



The City of Redding General Plan has recently been released and, if you are concerned about the future of Redding's environment, we highly encourage you to take action by commenting on the plan via email or through their online survey, and/or attending and giving comment at one (or both!) of the two meetings that the City is holding to inform the public about the general plan. This is a huge opportunity to have an impact on the way the City of Redding will address many environmental issues for years to come! **The last day to comment is August 28, 2023!**

As one of a handful of environmental groups in Redding, SEA has found several issues with the current General Plan that we find very concerning and could highly impact the shaping of our natural resources. The language which the city has chosen to use in many of the Plan's environmental components puts no responsibility on the City to require the protection and conservation of our natural surroundings. The Draft 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:..."

It's so important for the City to hear why environmental preservation is important to you. Some suggested talking points for either the survey or your comments could include:

- Discuss protecting Redding's trees and why they're important to you
- Increasing the City's tree canopy and the benefits of it
- The importance of developing a climate action plan
- The need to protect the riparian areas of the Sacramento River and our creeks

To help formulate comments, you can learn more about specific environmental issues that affect our area by visiting the following SEA links and articles:

- [This article has more in-depth, specific details and talking points for the survey](#)
- [North State Climate Action has a helpful page with info about the General Plan](#)

- [The recent fight to save trees in Redding with the Redding Tree Ordinance](#)

To see the General Meeting video explaining how to comment on the General Plan, the 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.

You can hear a presentation on the Draft General Plan and comment at the following:

- August 8, Redding Planning Commission, 4 pm City Council Chambers
- August 9, 5:15 pm at Redding School of the Arts Community, Room 955 Inspiration Place.
- August 23, 5:15 pm at Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 1815 Sheridan Street

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## Volunteer Hike Guides Needed



Do you enjoy hiking and getting to know new people in our community? Then becoming a volunteer hiking guide with SEA may be for you!

We are seeking volunteer guides that are experienced hikers, know the area's hiking trails fairly well, and are willing to lead hikes at least once per month.

For more information or to sign up, email David Ledger at [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

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## Nominate an Environmental Champion!



Whether it be through education, advocacy, or legislation, SEA wants to honor 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
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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](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

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## Vote for the Sacramento River Trail in Rails to Trails Competition

The Sacramento Rail Trail was recently nominated for the "Rails to Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame!"

Citizens are able to vote (multiple times) to help the River Trail win this year's award! We encourage you to vote for our trail to help us win this award! **Voting ends August 7th!**

[You can vote by clicking here!](#)

[View the Sacramento River Trail's video for the competition here!](#)

[Click here for more information about the Rails to Trails Conservancy](#)

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## Trip Report: Oak Seedling Watering



*Photo by David Ledger - Volunteers Lisa and Ray watering an oak tree seedling*

Seven hardy souls went out on the Westside Trail on July 10 to water our blue oak seedlings, replace the burlap around the cages, and prune back some brush. This was all accomplished in 2 ½ hours starting at 7 am.

Because of the heavy rains this year, this is the first time we have watered them and some are doing quite well with a few reaching over 3 feet and others not even a foot. It seems to be the whims of the soil and the genetics of the acorns that were planted.

Doug Mandel, Yo Sadorhara focused on climbing the steep hillsides to water the seedlings. Lisa Ross and Ray Pfister replaced the burlap bags on the tree cages, repaired the cages, and did some watering. Terry Swanson and Derle Gilliam also watered trees and then cleared toyon shrubs around several black oak trees that had re-sprouted from the root crown following the Carr Fire. They also thinned the multi-sprouting oaks to three or four main leaders to focus the growth into an eventual large tree. David Ledger also watered the seedlings and supervised the crew, the easiest job. We also bought an electric weed whacker to take down some of the tall star thistles and other weeds.

Thanks to this hardworking group of SEA volunteers for their hard work, on this their second or third year!

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## Trip Report: Heart Lake Hike



*Photo by David Ledger*

How many people would turn out for a hike up a mountain trail on a day when it was predicted to be 110 in Redding and 102 in Mt. Shasta? Believe it or not, 16 people showed up for this hike to beautiful Heart Lake where there was still snow on a section of the trail! This was a joint field trip of SEA and the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

We got to the trailhead parking lot at about 9:30 am and it was 70 degrees, so we had a cool walk up the start of the trail under a canopy of white fir, red fir, and western white pine. The huckleberry oak shrubs started in the parking lot and were up to 6 feet tall, but above the tree line, they were only about a foot high. Other shrubs included creek alder, mountain maple, bitter cherry, western and pallid serviceberry mixed in with a few blue elderberry, mountain ash, and mountain whitethorn.

Among the wildflowers were pussy toes, western bistort, plainleaf fawn lily, pussy paws, jewel flower (*Streptanthus tortuosus*), Davis knotweed, yarrow and the small mariposa lily blue star tulip (*Calochortus coeruleus*) which looks like a miniature version of the Tolemei's mariposa lily that is common on the hillsides of the greater Redding area.

After resting at Heart Lake and letting the dogs cool off in the water, we headed back with increasing temperatures of about 80 degrees. This is a great short hike, but it is better to walk it on a weekday as there were many people out enjoying the trail. All the dogs had a good but hot time on the trail, all kept on leash, and the owners picked up and bagged any droppings, which is always so important when bringing your pup with you on a trail!

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## Trip Report: Caldwell Lakes Hike



*Photo by David Ledger*

Despite being 113 degrees in Redding on July 22, the SEA/CNPS hike in the Scott Mountains to Caldwell Lakes was perfect hiking weather. It was about 70 degrees when we started our four-mile hike with a 1300-foot climb and around 85 when we returned to our cars. We were shaded under a scattered canopy of Jeffrey pine, red and white fir, and western white pine for most of the hike. Seven people joined us for this hike in such a beautiful area!

Most of the hike was a gentle climb that followed Parks Creek and many sloping meadows with wildflowers and blooming shrubs. At the start, there was a thicket of blooming ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*) near

the creek, and on the climb up, we were met with other pleasant floral surprises. One of these was a small creek crossing that was thick with California pitcher plants (*Darlingtonia californica*) with plants flowering and in seed. Various shrubs included woods' rose (*Rosa woodsia*), western serviceberry, red osier, common juniper, huckleberry oak, and Oregon grape. Flowers included naked mariposa lily (*calochortus nudum*), Shasta lily (*Lilium pardalinum* ssp. *Shastense*), beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*), clasping arnica (*Arnica lanceolata*), and many others.

The last part of the hike was up a rocky trail in the open sun to Upper Caldwell Lake with great views of Mt. Eddy and Mt. Shasta, where we sat and enjoyed our lunch, entertained and delighted by many dragonflies, which would often land on us and help keep the mosquito population around us down!

We highly recommend this hike to enjoy the natural beauty and escape the crowds!

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## SEA Seeking New Board Members

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](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

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## A Couple of FREE Shade Trees 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:

<https://www.ecoshasta.org/2022/12/sea-free-shade-trees-giveaway-for-redding-homes/>

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## **We Couldn't Do This Work Without YOU!**

### **Please consider donating to SEA!**

You can go to [ecoshasta.org](https://www.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*

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## **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, Barbara Dorris, 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, Connie Word, Linda Wright



**\$250 to \$499**

Don & Laurie Burk, Mary Belkin, Bea Currie, Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Lisa Ross & Ray Pfister, John Springer, 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



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