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May 2024 Newsletter

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Thank you to our donors!

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UPCOMING SEA EVENTS



Phillips Brothers Mill Tour

Saturday, May 4, 8:30 am

\$25 per person, pre-registration required

Inside the Rotary Screw Trap 101

(hosted by Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve)

Saturday, May 4th at 9 am

Gold Rush History Walk

(hosted by Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve)

Sunday, May 5th at 10 am

Lillian Nelson Nature Preserve

Field Trip

Friday, May 10th at 8:30 am

Hornbeck Trail Walk w/ BLM Ecologist

Saturday, May 11th at 9 am

Trail Mixer at Swasey Rec Area

(hosted by Redding Trail Alliance)

Saturday, May 11th from 10 am - 2 pm

Historic Horsetown Photo

(hosted by Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve)

Saturday, May 18th at 10:00 am

For more information about SEA-hosted events, email david@ecoshasta.org

2024 Redding Earth Day a Success!



Photo: Winnemem Wintu Tribe table at the Earth Day Festival by David Ledger

After months of careful planning and organization by several dedicated volunteers from the SEA Earth Day Committee, and with help from over a dozen volunteers day-of, the 2024 Earth Day Festival was a resounding success. Held on April 20th, the festival drew a larger crowd than last year and featured a diverse lineup of organizations, groups, and agencies tabling at the event. This created a vibrant atmosphere and provided

attendees with ample opportunities to learn about local initiatives, connect with their community, and celebrate the beauty of nature.

One of the highlights of the festival was its commitment to sustainability. In keeping with the national theme of "plastic-free," nearly all tables adhered to a plastic-free policy, making the event a conscious and eco-friendly affair. This was a significant step towards reducing the festival's environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices in the community.

For those who chose to cycle to the festival, the Shasta Wheelmen provided a safe and secure bike parking area, ensuring that their bikes were well-protected. The festival also featured a lineup of talented artists who performed live music throughout the day, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. Additionally, a range of stellar food vendors offered delicious and unique treats, including raw cheesecake bites that were a hit with attendees.

Children were kept entertained with a variety of interactive booths, while adults had the opportunity to engage with information booths and learn about important environmental issues. The festival provided a fantastic opportunity for attendees to come together, share knowledge, and celebrate the planet we call home.

The SEA Earth Day Committee would love to hear feedback from attendees about the event. Attendees are encouraged to fill out a short survey to provide their thoughts and suggestions, which will be used to improve future Earth Day Festivals.

SEA extends its heartfelt gratitude to all of the volunteers, organizations, sponsors, and attendees who made the 2024 Earth Day Festival such a remarkable success. It was a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved, and the committee looks forward to building on this success in the years to come.

Did You Attend the 2024 Redding Earth Day Festival?



We want to hear from you! If you're willing, we would love to get your feedback on the event to help us inform future Earth Day Festivals. Just [CLICK HERE!](#)

Developer Cuts Down 65 Oak Trees without Permit or Planning Approval



Photo (left): View of some of the cut oaks on the lot; Photo (below): Oaks before the cut on the same land

By David Ledger

Zinco LLC is proposing to subdivide a 4.6-acre parcel in northwest Redding to create 16 residential lots. The property is on Jordan Lane, just off Lake Boulevard near Keswick Dam Road. The project is

under review by the Planning Department and, because a zone change is proposed, the proposal must be reviewed and approved by both the Planning Commission and City Council.

I previously visited the project site a year ago, when it was first proposed for subdivision, and found it to support a beautiful blue oak woodland with many scattered healthy trees of varying sizes. As the project was infill development, I hoped that SEA could convince the Planning Commission to require saving as many oak trees as possible when it came up for approval.

A few weeks before the project was to be reviewed by the Planning Commission, I took a drive up to the site and saw that many of the oak trees had recently been cut and lying on the ground. Someone was burning the slash. I talked to a man who appeared to be the foreman or owner and asked if he had a permit to cut the trees. He said he didn't need a permit as he knew the six trees he needed to save. I took a few pictures and called City Planner Danny Castro and told him what was happening. He visited the site and confirmed the trees were cut without authorization. The Planning Department was not pleased and immediately contacted the owner and told him to stop all work at the site.



It turns out that the owner had applied for a permit but was told he could not cut the trees until the project was approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. Because the owner willfully ignored City requirements, the Planning Department is recommending that the developer pay the maximum penalty allowed under the Tree Management Ordinance (\$2000 per tree) and that the proposed development be placed on hold for two years.

Someone went on the property and reported to SEA that 65 oak trees had been cut; however, we do not know if they were all over 6 inches in diameter, which is the minimum threshold for protection under the current tree ordinance. At the April 9 Planning Commission meeting, City Attorney Christian Curtis stated he needed to study the project further before the Planning Commission could make a decision on the penalties for violations of the Tree Management Ordinance.

Other problems with the proposed development that have been identified by SEA are that the project does not qualify for an "infill" Categorical Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act because a rezone is proposed. Although the City prepared a short Categorical Exemption for the project, a more thorough environmental review is required. Further, the site appears to support wetlands and/or other "waters of the State of California," and any loss of such waters requires mitigation. Another problem is that the biological study prepared by the applicant's consultant identifies two rare plant species on the site, which triggers the need for protection and/or mitigation. Although these two plants do not grow anywhere near Shasta County, because the environmental record states that they are present, some action must be taken before the City can rely on the biological report for its environmental review; hopefully, a new biological report will be prepared by a qualified company. The company that prepared the current biological report is Wildland Resource Managers, the same firm that prepared the highly contested biological review for Patrick Jones's gun range in Millville Plains, the High Plains Shooting Range.

Final Public Lands Rule Announced



The Cosumnes River Preserve, California; Photo by John Ciccarelli, BLM

The Department of the Interior unveiled the final Public Lands Rule, aiming to ensure balanced management of America's public lands amidst climate change challenges. Emphasizing the importance of conservation, responsible development, and recognition of cultural and natural resources, the rule builds on President Biden's investments in public lands and aligns with the America the Beautiful initiative. Leveraging science, including Indigenous Knowledge, the rule focuses on land health, restoration, mitigation leases, and the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). With an eye on future generations, the rule seeks to address climate impacts, facilitate clean energy development, and sustain public lands' economic benefits. The rule clarifies concepts and mechanisms for landscape health management, restoration leases, mitigation leases, and ACEC designation. It complements the Renewable Energy Rule, providing consistency and tools for efficient renewable energy development while adhering to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

To read the news release and learn more, [click here](#).

Trip Report: McConnell Arboretum Walk

Photo by Doug Mandel

This weekday field trip to the Redding Arboretum brought out 12 people to learn some of the many plants on the trail. We started out under a huge oak tree at the Turtle Bay parking lot and identified many native plants on the short jaunt to the Sundial Bridge. From the bridge and the walkway to it. Walk leader David Ledger identified white alder, California bay, interior live oak, cottonwood, snowberry, and a blooming black locust.



Across the bridge, we saw pipe vine in fruit, Oregon ash, arroyo willow, blue elderberry, false indigo, soap plant, coffeeberry, blue oak, white leaf, and common manzanita. We also saw skunk brush, a close relative of poison oak, and a terrible invasive: eggleaf spurge, a poisonous plant that can cause temporary blindness if the latex sap were to get in your eye. This invasive plant is fairly new to Shasta County but is spreading rapidly. We saw two large patches of well over 100 plants. More pleasant plants included sky lupine, fiddleneck, rose clover, yerba santa, gum plant, and many beautiful purple roundtooth ookow.

For a few, this was an introduction to native plants, while others knew many of the plants we saw on this easy 2-mile walk. Each participant was given a list of over 100 plants that occur along the trail.

Trip Report: Millville Plains Driving Field Trip



Photo by Brigitte Robertson

We saw many blooming wildflowers on the Millville Plains/Parkville area SEA/CNPS driving field trip on Sunday, April 13th. We drove out to Millville Plains where we made three stops to identify wildflowers that were near peak bloom. Walk leader David Ledger pointed out the mima mounds on the plains and various theories for their development in hardpan areas as well as the difference in flower composition between the mima mounds and the flatlands. Further on to the Parkville Cemetery, we saw many different plants including the blue-eyed grass of the Iris family. On the plains, we found bird's eye

gilia, frying pan poppy, and wooly meadowfoam but none were open due to the cloudy skies. At our final stop, we saw yellow star tulips growing among black oaks, gray and ponderosa pines, deer brush, buck brush, and Lemmon's ceanothus.

Mt Shasta Earth Day Festival Recap

SEA joined up with the Sierra Club and had a booth at the Mt. Shasta Earth Day on April 27th in Mt. Shasta City Park next to the headwaters of the Sacramento River. The event was organized by the Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center and for a town of only 3,500 people, it was a good event, with an art gallery in one of the park buildings. It was great meeting environmental activists from this area including W.A.T.E.R., one of SEA's supporting organizations. There were events throughout the day including a drum group, a nature walk, and music in the evening.

Thank You to Our Donors!

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Muffy Berryhill, Kris Bertleson-Williams, Dawn Bieser, Laura and Mike Bradley, Sandra Cameron, Miki'ala Catalano, John Deaton, Barbara Dorris, Tammi Douse, Ailene Genoff, Lyra Gray, Kathy Grissom, Penelope Harris, Diane Hawthorne, 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, Viktoria Peterson, Cathy Reifelt, Brigitte Robertson, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Laura Shaw, Casandra Simmons, Alexa Singer-Telles, Jamie Spielmann, John Springer, Max Walter, Marti Weidert, Jaclyn White, John Winchell

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Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Cathy Lefler, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

\$500 to \$999

Mary Belkin, Ray Pfister

\$1000 & Up

Don and Laurie Burk, Lang Dayton, Chris Harvey

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You can go to ecoshasta.org to donate!

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

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