



**Shasta
Environmental
Alliance**

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May 2023 Newsletter

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Thank you to our donors

Redding Earth Day Festival a Success!



SEA board member, Stacey Alexander, at the SEA booth on Earth Day

Photo by David Ledger

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers, attendees, and participating groups for signing up, showing up, and educating and strengthening our community at the 2023 Redding Earth Day Festival! Many people of all ages came to the Festival and got to enjoy learning about our local environment from all of the participating organizations, groups, and agencies.

It took a lot of time to plan and put this event together and, without the participation of everyone, we would not have had as successful of an event. We hope you were able to build connections and community at this event and will look forward to the 2024 Redding Earth Day Festival next year!

To view more pictures from the 2023 Earth Day Festival go [HERE](#)

Tree Committee Recommendations Will Not Preserve Trees



Photo by David Ledger: Costco site that was once a thick oak woodland

Commentary by David Ledger, Tree Committee Member

The Redding Tree Committee has now concluded its recommendations for changes to the Redding Tree Management Ordinance. As currently proposed, the revisions will result in saving few of our native oak trees in Redding and in the end facilitate the removal of more trees in Redding than the current ordinance.

The committee was composed of a broad spectrum of the citizens of Redding, from developers to environmentalists, each honestly representing their views. Each city council member appointed two members, two were from the Planning Commission and two from Redding Community Services Advisory Committee. One major problem with the Tree Committee was that while the majority of the

committee would be considered tree advocates, few understood the intricacies of planning and the tree ordinance. The opposition to substantive changes to the tree ordinance were two members representing development interests and three members who generally sided with development interests. A former Planning Department Manager on the committee was solidly in the developers' camp and had the most knowledge of the tree ordinance and had considerable influence over the committee.

Development Services Director Jeremy Pagan oversaw the committee and Aaron Hatch was the committee chair. Pagan was unbiased in overseeing the committee, generally letting the Committee make the final decisions, at times offering context as to what his department sees in enforcing tree-related issues.

A few minor improvements were made to the ordinance as the two months of meetings progressed, most votes being 7:-5 in favor of tree advocates. However, at our second to last meeting which was to decide mitigation for the removal of oak trees, a motion was made by one of the "tree advocates." to establish in-lieu fees as mitigation for the removal of native trees.

However, the former Planning Department Manager then "clarified" the motion to consider an in-lieu fee as a discretionary option to the approving body for preserving a candidate tree or trees as defined by the ordinance. The person making the original motion approved this clarification and the motion was passed 9-3.

Before the above motion was voted on, I quickly made a counter-motion that removal of all 6" D.B.H. (Diameter Breast Height) or larger native oak trees requires an in-lieu fee. This motion failed 4-5, with three tree advocates abstaining:

The definition of "candidate trees" is very subjective, and is generally a decision made by an arborist hired by the land developer. For most projects, less than 5% of trees are considered candidate trees, and often under 1 % of the trees. Thus, with this motion, 95% or more of the oak trees in Redding could be removed with no mitigation required. This is a complete defeat for increasing Redding's tree canopy and preserving more of our oak trees. This means Redding continues to remain largely an outlier in California as far as respecting the importance of our native oaks and mitigating their removal.

Want a FREE Tree Planted in Your Yard?



We still have several 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!

Trip Report: Millville Plains Field Trip



Photo by David Ledger

The Shasta Environment Alliance driving wildflower field trip on April 4 had a group of 13 participants who got to view the magnificent wildflower show at Millville Plains! Most of us chose to carpool so as to ensure we lessen our greenhouse gas footprint.

We stopped at three places, finding different flowers predominating each area. At the first stop, we found mostly tidy tips and yellow carpet flowers with a scattering of padres shooting star, miniature lupine, and popcorn flowers.

The second stop yielded a plethora of goldfields with a dotting of red maids, spoke pod, and lomatium. The third stop had an array of wooly meadowfoam, many frying pan poppies, and fringe pod.

Finally, we stopped off at the Parkville Cemetery for some extra viewings of white meadowfoam, pygmy weed, more goldfields, yellow carpet, and fiddleneck wildflowers. Grateful to have gotten to witness the beauty of these wildflowers without rain, just as we were leaving, it started to sprinkle. We are so grateful to have shared this time with new and old friends!

Trip Report: McClure Trail Hike



The weather cooled just enough for us to fully enjoy our April 29th McClure Trail hike near the Ishi Wilderness Area. This hike started at 2,800 feet elevation and had a gradual downhill grade to the old McClure homestead of which there are still a few relics including a stone wall. Here, we sat under valley oaks in a cool meadow enjoying the beautiful scenery.

This trail mostly traverses a blue oak woodland with many wildflowers along the trail. One that is rarely seen in most of western Shasta County is the yellow star mariposa lily which was scattered in many shaded areas on the trail. The first part of the trail has many shrubs, some of which were Sierra plum, mountain mahogany, scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), buck brush, redberry, and deerbush. Still blooming were grand hound's tongue, scarlet fritillary, miniature lupine, sky lupine, fiddleneck, and others. Western buttercups were found along the entire trail.

This is a beautiful area and we were the only people on the trail, so it is a good place to get away from crowds. Two miles of the road is in rough shape, so a high-clearance vehicle is recommended if you choose to check this trail out!

Buckeye Water Treatment Plant Tour



Photo by Doug Mandel

Did you know that almost all of Redding's water comes from Whiskeytown Lake in the winter and early spring? That is one of the many things we learned on a tour of the City of Redding's water treatment plant north of old Shasta and in the hills near Keswick.

The water to be treated comes from Whiskeytown via an underground aqueduct; a 17-foot wide pipe that continues on to the Keswick Power Plant. This water is so nearly pure that it easily meets all the state and federal water quality standards without extensive treatment and only requires chlorine to ensure there are no bacteria, viruses, or parasites in the water. Because the water has such little sediment, they treat it with aluminum sulfate so the few particles in the water will clump together and be removed. While the water meets sediment requirements, regulations do require a certain percentage of sediment to be removed, thus the extra treatment. Additionally, the plant is about 700 feet in elevation it can be gravity fed to Redding without requiring any pumping.

We were led around this fully-automated plant by water department staff who explained the various processes and testing the water goes through to ensure it meets all water quality requirements. They have on-site testing and water quality is regularly tested throughout Redding at various locations throughout the day. A big thanks to the men and women of the Redding Water Utility for keeping our drinking water clean and safe and below all state and federal requirements. Thinking of all the people living in Flint, Michigan; Jackson, Mississippi, and many municipalities in the San Joaquin Valley of California that have unsafe drinking water, we are so grateful to have sure pure, clean water here in our community.

Thank you to our donors!

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