



**Shasta
Environmental
Alliance**

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

October 2023 Newsletter

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Donate if you can!

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UPCOMING SEA & COMMUNITY EVENTS



Photo by Chris Harvey

Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding

(Wintu Audubon event)

Oct. 6th, 6 p.m.

Contact Erika at eiacona14@gmail.com to go

Lake McCumber Birding

(Wintu Audubon event)

Oct. 7th, 9 a.m.

Meet at Lake McCumber Dam parking lot

SEA's Kum Bay Xerel Trail Field Trip

Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Meet at Placer CVS to carpool at 8:30 a.m. or at 9 a.m. at trailhead

Trees: How to Select, Place, and Care for Trees for our Region (Turtle Bay Nursery)

Saturday, Oct. 14th, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

\$6 for members, \$8 for non-members

Gold Rush History Walk (HCCP event)

Saturday, Oct. 14th, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Contact Horsetownhccp@gmail.com for info

Newville Ponds (Wintu Audubon event)

Saturday, Oct. 14th, 7:30 a.m.

Meet at Newville Ponds

Return of the Salmon Festival

Saturday, Oct. 21st, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Coleman Fish Hatchery

Search for Spawning Salmon (HCCP)

Saturday, Oct. 28th, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Meet @ Gold Dredge Trlhd - Clear Creek Rd.

Manzanita Birding (Wintu Audubon event)

Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m.

Meet at Lassen's Loomis Museum Parking Lot

For more info about any of SEA's upcoming events, contact david@ecoshasta.org

Volunteers Needed for Tree Planting

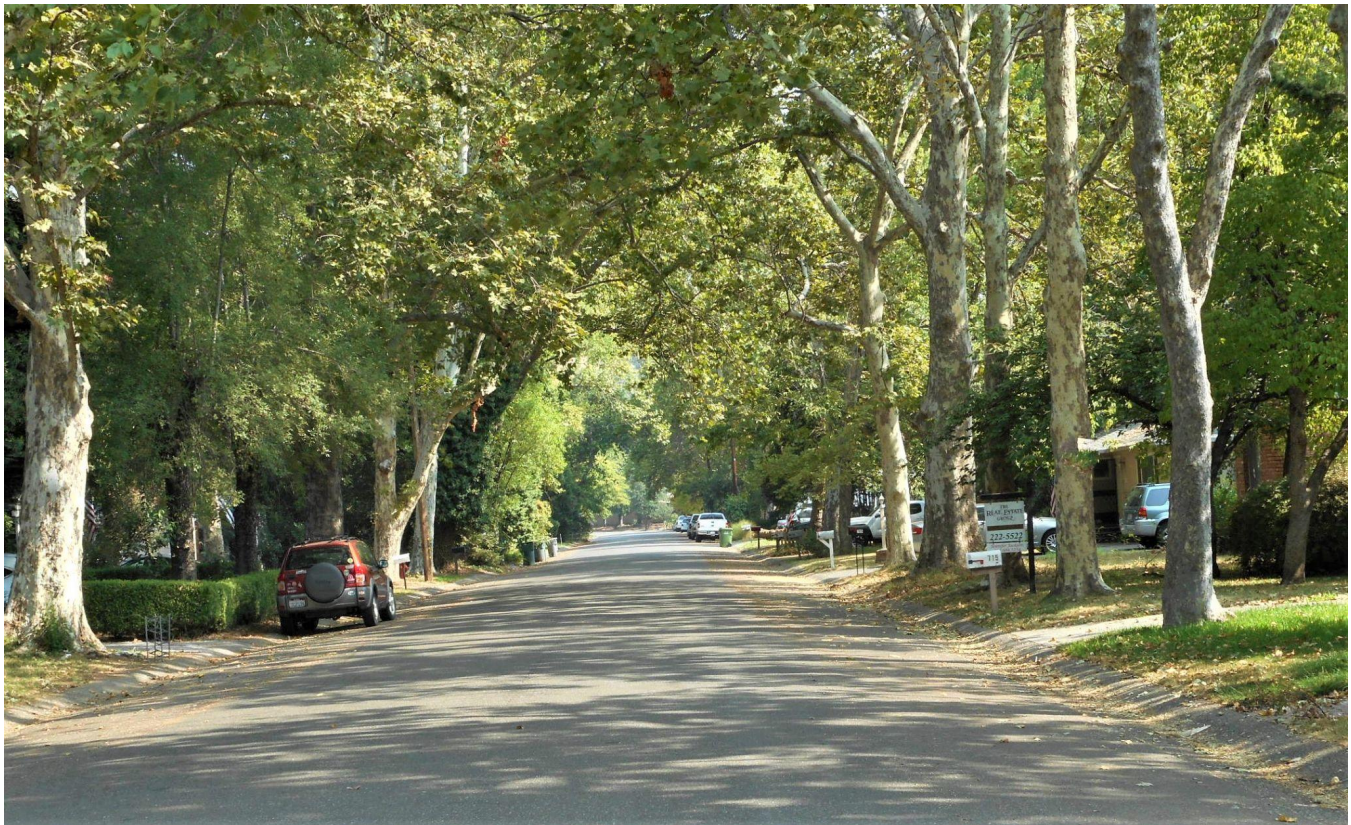


Photo: Tree-lined Loma Street in Redding

Help us build Redding's tree canopy! Redding's tree canopy is only 21%, Chico is 36%! We have many homes in Redding City limits where we will be planting front yard shade trees.

We will have a 24" wide auger to dig the holes and help from some California Conservation Corp (CCC) members to do much of the strenuous work, we are seeking a few volunteers to help us with some of the lighter work such as refilling the holes, putting in stakes, watering and tying down the tree. This will be the last two Saturdays of October, about four hours each day.

In addition to the day of volunteering, we could also use a few hours of work during the week if you're interested!

If you would like to volunteer, contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org or 530-355-8542

Submit Comments for BLM Integrated Plan



Photo by valeria_aksakova

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is asking the public to comment on the draft version of the Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This plan is meant to provide guidance for the management of nearly 382,000 acres of public lands and resources managed by the Redding and Arcata field offices in northwest California. This will affect lands in Butte, Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Tehama counties for the next 15 - 20 years.

You can comment on this Management Plan online for the next 90 days by going to [this website](#) and clicking “participate now.” The comment period will end December 28, 2023. You can also comment by emailing BLM_CA_Redding_Arcata_NCIP@blm.gov or by submitting comments via U.S. mail to the following address: BLM, Arcata Field Office Attention: NCIP Draft RMP/EIS 1695 Heindon Road Arcata, CA 95521-4573

The draft plan and EIS will be available for review and comment on the BLM’s National NEPA Register at [EplanningUi \(blm.gov\)](#) starting September 29th, 2023 for 90-days. Anyone interested can comment by using the “participate now” button on the website. The BLM will also accept written comments during a 90-day comment period ending December 28, 2023. Comments may be hand delivered or mailed to the BLM Arcata Field Office or emailed to BLM_CA_Redding_Arcata_NCIP@blm.gov.

For more information, [visit the Management Plan website here](#)

Trip Report: Biodiversity Day!



Photo by David Ledger

On September 10th we celebrated the end of California's Biodiversity Week by participating in an [iNaturalist](#) BioBlitz challenge. A bioblitz is essentially a nature mapping activity that aids scientific research by documenting species in a particular area. Our observations went into the "Find 30 Species for CA 30x30" project in tribute to California's initiative to conserve thirty percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030.

Joined by recently certified California Naturalists Juliet Malik and Linda Carter, 16 of us in total headed down the Sacramento River Trail from the South Diestelhorst Bridge Trailhead to find and identify as many species as we could find using the iNaturalist app on our phones. It was a fun and informative collaborative trip with knowledgeable SEA members, iNaturalist users, and new people who were curious about using technology to learn about the flora and fauna around them. Of the dozens of species recorded there were the expected ones like Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), Maidenhair Fern

(*Adiantum jordanii*), and American Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) –yes, non-native, invasive species are important to document as well!

We also found some species not previously included on our plant list like Western Hoptree (*Ptelea crenulata*). Additionally, some members of the group recorded the songs of a Bewick's Wren and a White-Breasted Nuthatch and uploaded them to the iNaturalist project as well. Other fun fauna finds included a Great Egret, Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, a Southern Alligator Lizard, an Arizona Mantis, California Gall Wasps, and a Western Spotted Orbweaver. We look forward to doing more outings like this in the future and hope you can join us!

Trip Report: Plant Identification and Leaf Morphology



Photo by Doug Mandel

Article by David Ledger

For this field trip, I decided to lead an easy walk and brush up on my fast-fading knowledge of botanical terminology by focusing on leaf morphology. I did this by breaking out a plant taxonomy textbook and a few pages of the Jepson Manual (the bible of California botanists), copying a few pages and photocopying them for walk participants, and relearning the myriad of names about the various aspects of leaves.

The Nur Pon Open Space is now fenced off and regularly patrolled and is now a safe area to enjoy. It supports a wide variety of plants from those requiring “feet” in water next to a stream or plants that thrive in much drier open hot areas.

Combined with identifying various leaf shapes, features, and textures, a brief explanation of photosynthesis was discussed as well as water transport from the roots to the pores (stomata) in the leaves. Several oak trees, three different willows, various shrubs, and herbaceous wildflowers both native and non-native were identified. The soil in this area is so rich and with a more than ample supply of water, that some herbaceous plants grow two to four times taller than in drier less fertile areas. I had some help from Andrea Claaseen and Doug Mandel for some of the non-natives I wasn't familiar with.

All 12 of us had a good time and a planned 90-minute field trip turned into 2 ½ hours, although we only walked about an hour.

This is also a great time of year to enjoy the changing leaf colors and this beautiful Redding open space.

Trip Report: Clear Creek Cleanup



Photo by Shannon Hunter

SEA had its first cleanup of the Clear Creek Trail starting at the Clear Creek Gorge Overlook parking lot on October 23, National Public Lands Day. We cleaned up all the trash along about a one-mile section of the trail as well as pruned back the brush encroaching on the trail. There was a large contingent of BLM volunteers at the Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve (HCCP) some of whom cleaned up trash on the final mile of the trail and other areas.

Special thanks to Mari Ennis Applegate, Terry Applegate, Dave Scott, Miriam Johnson, Paul Krafel, Bill Kuntz, David Ledger, and Terry Swanson as well as the many volunteers who started at the Horsetown Preserve. BLM had a special barbecue afterward and free National Public Lands Day T-shirts for the many volunteers.

This trail proved to be not too difficult to maintain and we plan on having quarterly cleanups of this section of the trail throughout the year. We will also continue our annual spring Sulphur Creek Cleanup. Thanks to all who participated.

We Couldn't Do This Work Without YOU!

Please consider donating to SEA!

You can 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

Thank you to our donors!

\$25 to \$99

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Don & Laurie Burk, Mary Belkin, Bea Currie, Barbara Featherstone, Green Party of Shasta County, 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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