



**Shasta  
Environmental  
Alliance**

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

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## **October 2024 Newsletter**

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# SEA & Community Events

## **Gong Meditation with Joan Richards**

**(Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve)**

*Sunday, Oct 6th, 6 pm - 7:15 pm*

*Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve*

## **Revitalizing Salmon Habitat Planting**

**(hosted by BLM)**

*October 11th & 12th from 8:30 am - 2 pm*

*3778 Gover Rd., Anderson, Calif.*

## **Resilient Roots: Tree Selection & Care in the Sun-Drenched Central Valley**

*Saturday, October 12th, 10 am - 12 pm*

*McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Garden*

*Classroom building adjacent to the nursery*

*Presented by Rico Montenegro ~ \$12 fee*

## **Gold Rush History Walk (Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve)**

*Sunday, October 12th, 10 am*

*Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve*

## **California Rangeland: Measuring Their Environmental Importance**

*Wednesday, October 16th, 6 pm*

*Redding Library Community Room*

## **Pilgrim Country Market**

*Pilgrim Congregational Church*

*Saturday, October 19th, 10 am to 2 pm*

*Admission is free*

*Proceeds to go SEA and SEACM*

## Report: SEA Redding City Council Candidates Forum



**[Now Available on our YouTube Channel](#)**

SEA had a great turnout at our Redding City Council Candidate Forum with about 120 people eager to learn the candidates' positions on issues of importance to us. We had a range of people in attendance, from many SEA board members to former Redding City Council Members Gary

Cadd and Francie Sullivan, Redding Planning Commission Chair Aaron Hatch, McConnell Foundation CFO Shannon Phillips, and former Redding Community Services director Kim Niemer. KRRCR filmed almost the entire meeting and interviewed the candidates afterward. Doni Chamberlain of Anewscafe.com wrote an excellent in-depth article about the forum [here](#). KRRCR will be airing segments over the week and Shasta Scout had a story on their Instagram account.

Current City Council Members Mark Mezzano and Joshua Johnson, new candidates David Backues, Ian Hill, Dr. Paul Dhanuka, a cancer specialist, and Mike Littau participated. Candidates Erin Resner and Anthony Spengler were unable to make it, and their personal statements were placed on the candidates' information table.

We did not provide the candidates with the questions in advance but did give them the subjects we would be covering so they could provide informed answers. A new effective Redding tree ordinance that protects native trees and/or requires mitigation for their removal should that be needed. All the candidates to varying degrees did support a new tree ordinance requiring mitigation with candidate Backues having previously lived in Chico stating the success of Chico in developing their tree canopy. Mezzano has long supported a new tree ordinance and said it will be coming to the City Council for a vote this fall. The other candidates stated they were also in favor of increasing Redding's tree canopy and a more effective tree ordinance. The actual result will depend on what happens when strong pushback comes from developers who do not want to pay a penny more in development fees for Redding. Many if not most California cities and towns have ordinances protecting their oak trees including the City of Shasta Lake.

We did have a question on climate change and no candidate openly denied it, however, we do recognize that the candidates were cognizant of the audience they were addressing. A related question was:

*This year, Redding experienced nearly 70 days over 100 degrees, including a record-high of 119 degrees. The City of Redding's local hazard mitigation plan recognizes that we can expect more frequent and intense heat waves in the future. What actions should the City of Redding take to prepare for and adapt to our increasingly hot summers?*

The candidates did not really state the most effective way locally to counteract increasing temperatures which is to increase tree canopy to 30% or more which can result in a summer temperature reduction of up to 12 degrees. This is what Sacramento did to reduce their peak electric demand in summers following a citizen vote to eliminate their expensive and often malfunctioning Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. They have still not reached a 30% tree canopy in all of the city.

To get a better picture of the forum by a professional journalist, we recommend you read the Anewsafe article [here](#) or go to our YouTube channel [here](#) and see the video of the entire program. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, SEA cannot endorse or oppose any candidate.

SEA appreciates all of the candidates who took the time to attend the event and give us their views on issues of importance to us. The moderator for the event was SEA board member Sarah Risher and it was recorded by Alan Ernesto Phillips.

For more information on Redding City Council Candidates go to the Record Searchlight [here](#).

**Candidates websites:**

Dave Backues: [backdave.com](http://backdave.com)

Paul Dhanuka: <https://drpauldhanuka.com/>

Ian Hill: [citycounciluponahill@gmail.com](mailto:citycounciluponahill@gmail.com)

Joshua Johnson: [www.joshforredding.com](http://www.joshforredding.com)

Mike Littau: [www.votemikelittau.com](http://www.votemikelittau.com)

Mark Mezzano: [www.markmezzano.com](http://www.markmezzano.com)

Erin Resner: [www.erin@erinresner.com](http://www.erin@erinresner.com)

Anthony Spengler: [spenglerforcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:spenglerforcouncil@gmail.com)

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## Sáttítla (Medicine Lake Highlands) Campaign

*Photo taken June 24, 2009, by Michael McCullough, and used in compliance with license CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 Deed.*

SEA is working directly with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) staff and other local, state, and national groups as a local liaison to round up support for Medicine Lake's national monument status.

Below is an article by CNPS staff member Isobel Nairn. Please urge your church, club, or organization to write a letter in support. This is very important and is part of the process for the president to proclaim this area a national monument. Contact SEA for more information or a sample letter. Every letter is important.



Isobel Nairn's letter (also viewable here):



*For decades, the Pit River Nation has fought threats of geothermal development on their sacred ancestral lands in the Medicine Lake Highlands, also known as Sáttítla. The Tribe is calling for Sáttítla to be permanently protected, and elected officials are taking notice. In early September, Senator Padilla introduced legislation to establish Sáttítla National Monument and urged President Biden to designate the monument via the Antiquities Act proclamation. The California legislature passed a resolution supporting designation, raising the pressure on the federal government to act.*

*CNPS is a proud partner in the coalition working to designate the monument because of its significance to the Pit River Nation and its natural wonders. Sáttítla is home to mature and old-growth forests, pristine wetlands, and at least 19 rare plant species, including the federally threatened whitebark pine and the dainty talus collomia. More than 450 native plant taxa have been identified in the proposal area, and further botanical studies of the remote landscape would likely encounter many not-yet-documented species. The monument would also protect the Medicine Lake Volcano, the largest volcano in the Cascade Range by volume. The volcano's caldera forms the Medicine Lake Aquifer, which releases more than 1 million acre-feet of clean, fresh water every year into Fall River Springs. Millions of Californians benefit from this immense catchment system, whose water stores are also a buffer against drought and climate change.*

*National monument designation would provide relief from the continual threat of development and support conservation-minded land management, including the healthy management of Sáttítla's forests and restoration of watersheds. It would ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the quiet and solitude omnipresent throughout the proposed monument.*

*The campaign to protect Sáttítla is gaining momentum, and every new supporter brings us closer to designation. You can tell President Biden that you support Sáttítla by signing the petition at [protectsattitla.org](https://protectsattitla.org). You can learn more about CNPS's monument work and find our scientist support letters at [cnps.org/nationalmonuments](https://cnps.org/nationalmonuments). However, the best way to help protect Sáttítla is to voice your support in person. As we enter the final push towards designation, speaking directly to key stakeholders is crucial— so stay tuned for opportunities to show up for Sáttítla!*

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## Trip Report: BioBlitz at Nur Pon



*Photo by Doug Mandel*

This joint SEA/CNPS field trip had ten people join walk leaders Juliet Malik and Sarah Risher for the Bioblitz Nature Walk at Nur Pon Open Space on September 8th. There were both new and familiar

faces, all contributing to the identification and discussion of the various plants, birds, and insects present. We saw tall evening primroses in bloom, a native digger bee foraging on naked buckwheat flowers, gum plant, a lone ponderosa pine, California pipevine, Canada geese, a great egret, and many caterpillars of the genista broom moth --an important native control of invasive broom plants!

We also discussed the importance of our native oaks as keystone species supporting more life forms than any other tree genus in North America - a true rockstar worthy of our attention and protection. It was a fun couple of hours using the iNaturalist App to aid identification, posting observations as part of Biodiversity Week, and sharing stories. Some participants reached the goal of 30 identifications for the 30x30 Biodiversity Challenge! To get your free app to help you identify local plants, fungi, and insects, go to [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org) and download it on your phone.

Nur Pon Open Space, formerly Henderson Open Space is now largely free of homeless camping, however, it still requires daily patrols by RPD and weekly cleanups due to people still sneaking in at night and camping. It is still a pleasant cool shaded place to take a walk with considerable use of hikers. Due to abuse over the decades, it is a good place to learn non-native plants but there are still many natives.

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## Trip Report: Clear Creek Cleanup

*Photo of Steve Clinton and Melissa Harbert - by David Ledger*

Saturday, September 28th was National Lands Day and, working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), SEA led a cleanup crew of 14 or more volunteers on the Clear Creek Trail from the Gorge Parking lot upstream to Horsetown with a few volunteers heading downstream. At the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve, they had many volunteers working on the Horsetown trails clearing brush, weeds, and trash.

After the cleanup, about 40 or more volunteers enjoyed a barbeque hosted by BLM personnel with dessert provided by the Preserve board. They had a good number of young volunteers from the College Corps. Besides the free lunch, BLM gave out free National Public Lands t-shirts.



The award for the most trash picked up goes to Melissa Harbert and Steve Clinton who went up and down steep slopes off the trail to pick up trash. The hardest workers were Terry Swanson and Yo Sudahara for working for three hours on this hot Saturday clearing brush off



the trail and cutting back smaller shrubs with chainsaws. The biggest piece of trash was a huge wide-screen TV dumped near the water's edge. Everyone did a great job in cleaning up the trail and weed-whacking the weeds. This is a trail SEA has unofficially adopted and does a trail cleanup here every 3 months. Cleaning up creeks in Redding means less trash reaches the ocean. Thank you to all our volunteers!

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## SEA at the Bonnie Raitt Concert



SEA was invited to table at the Bonnie Raitt Concert in Redding on Sunday, September 29th with four free tickets and we took advantage of the opportunity and set up a table and banner, a few flyers, and the Tree Ordinance Petition. We gathered about 20 new names on the petition and our newsletter signup sheet as well as met new and old friends.

Battle Creek Alliance, one of SEA's supporting organizations, was present and set up a table next to ours. Marily Woodhouse, director of Battle Creek Alliance also does raptor rescue of eagles,

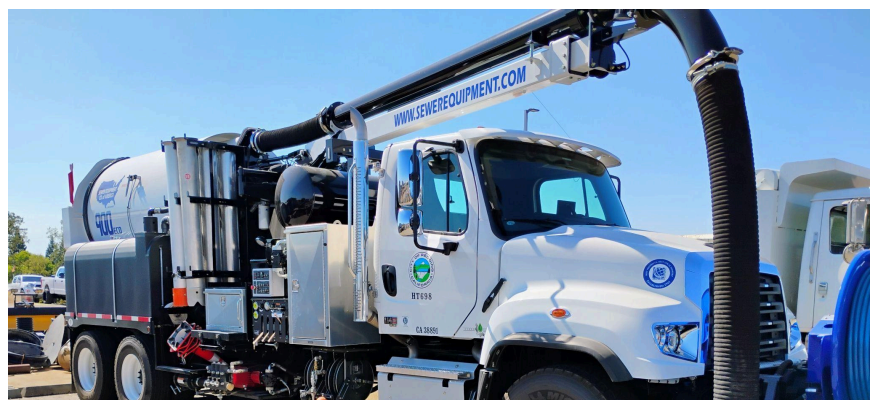
hawks, and owls and focused her booth on clear-cutting in the Battle Creek watershed and her raptor rescue and rehabilitation program.

There are a number of performers who are environmentalists that invite groups such as SEA to table at their concerts. Bonnie Raitt also has a foundation that donates to nonprofits and we hope to get a grant from them. We appreciated the opportunity to reach out to more people in the community and Bonnie Raitt did mention our name and Battle Creek Alliance during her performance and the work we are doing.

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## Redding Storm Drain Utility: Protecting our streams and the Sacramento River

The Redding Storm Drain Utility, part of the Public Works Department, gave an informative talk to SEA and the public at a meeting on October 1. Mieke Sheffield,



Storm Water Management Program Coordinator, reviewed new California standards for cities with populations over 10,000. By 2030, all storm drains must capture waste larger than 5 mm, roughly the size of a cigarette butt.

The program is evolving as the necessary equipment is still being developed. Mieke Sheffield presented a PowerPoint, while Storm Drains Supervisor Dave Jackson shared field insights. The city first identified high-trash areas like industrial zones, retail spots, fast food areas, and apartment complexes through visual inspections. These areas are targeted for education, with businesses urged to keep dumpsters closed and provide extra trash cans. If necessary, repeated visits and fines may follow.

Special cages must be installed in storm drains to capture debris larger than 5 mm, while allowing overflow during peak storms. The city is gradually implementing these cages to find the best solutions, aiming to meet state standards by 2030.

City crews have found unusual items like gas filters and other car parts and in one instance at one curbside storm drain catch basin crews found over 30 bags of dog poop. Apparently someone thought they were helping by putting their dog poop in a bag, not knowing it could end up in the river. Pollutants from storm drains ultimately flow into local streams and the Sacramento River, underscoring the importance of keeping them clean.

SEA has visited various Redding facilities, learning how the city operates. Participants have found that city employees are dedicated and proud of their work, reflecting positively on city management and Human Resources.

Washing cars in driveways sends harmful soap into the river which fish can absorb through their gills as they filter oxygen out of the water. People should wash their cars on lawns to avoid polluting waterways. Similarly, draining swimming pools into storm drains is illegal due to the harmful chemicals that can end up in rivers.

Debris from homeless camps is not regulated unless it enters storm drains, where it can easily pollute waterways. The new state regulations also present funding challenges, as municipalities must cover costs like the cages and a new \$500,000 drain-cleaning truck. Total implementation of this plan over many years will run into the millions.

One problem for municipalities is that the new state regulations do not come with funding. They have to buy the new cages and for Redding one new special drain cleaning truck at a cost of over one-half million dollars.

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# Thank You to Our Donors!

## **Acorn (\$25 to \$99)**

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, 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, Doug O'Brien, Geneva M Omann, Viktoria Peterson, Cathy Reisfelt, 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

## **Seedling (\$100 to \$249)**

Muffy Berryhill, Laura Bradley, Steven and Kathleen Callan, 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, Jim and Sharon Jerge, John Lefler, Doug Mandel, Donald Owen, Kristen Schreder, Sierra Club, Siskiyou Land Trust, John Springer, Connie Word

## **Young Oak (\$250 to \$499)**

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

## **Oak Tree (\$500 to \$999)**

Mary Belkin, Ray Pfister & Lisa Ross

## **Oak Woodland (\$1000 & Up)**

Don and Laurie Burk, Lang Dayton, Chris Harvey



**We Couldn't Do This Work Without You.**

**Please consider donating to SEA!**

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