

SEA Newsletter June 2021

Mt. Shasta Area Activists Defeat Crystal Geyser

Crystal Geyser has cancelled plans for a water bottling plant in Mt. Shasta, following several years of political and legal battles by opponents led by the grassroots environmental group We Advocate for Thorough Environmental Review (WATER) and the Wintu Winnemem Tribe.

There are approximately 100 homes in the area on private wells, and the plant would have drawn water from the same aquifer at a much greater amount, threatening their water supply. After fighting Crystal Geyser at the Mt. Shasta City Council, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, and losing in Superior Court, WATER filed an appeal of the court ruling and Crystal Geyser pulled out and abandoned its plans.

This shows that tenacity of small-town activists can sometimes defeat multi-national companies. The statement from WATER and Winnemem Wintu can be viewed on this link:
<https://mailchi.mp/9275f945e96e/dare-to-dream?e=34913e86>

New Redding Planning Commission

Things are looking up with the installation of new Planning Commission members, thanks to the appointments of Aaron Hatch, who is on the board of the Shasta Land Trust and Gale Montgomery, both of whom were appointed by Mayor Erin Resner. The Commission Chair is Michelle Goedert, who is a commercial property manager with an open mind about development and preserving our trees in Redding.

Two others do represent real estate development interest, but only one has a “clear cut the trees and build” mentality. Unfortunately, a new Director of Development Services has been hired and Kim Niemer is no longer running the department. Hopefully the new director will be sensitive to the environment.

Costco Approved by City Council

Redding just lost more of its scenic beauty along I-5 with the approval by the Redding City Council in a 5-0 vote on May 24 of the Costco Shopping Center and gas station next to the freeway on Bechelli Lane at South Bonnyview. SEA made a statement at that meeting and has been working to mitigate for the aesthetic and wildlife habitat destruction for several years.

Because Costco successfully qualified an initiative for the ballot, California law does allow for the City Council to approve the project without having a vote by City residents to approve the initiative. Unfortunately, Costco also included a 10-acre parcel at the north end of the project on the initiative. This means this section can avoid CEQA and some much older trees can be removed. There is currently a lawsuit in court to stop the project by the Bechelli/Bonnyview Coalition so this may not be the end of the issue.

Following unsuccessful SEA and CNPS objections early in the process to require leaving a 60-foot aesthetic barrier of native oaks next to the freeway, the City did increase the setback from 20 feet to 30 feet on a small section of the property. (In Woodland there is a 40-foot setback.) Costco did agree to leave 48 native oak trees on the property, later reduced to 45 and then to an uncertain number.

Across the highway the Planning Commission approved the Churn Creek Market Place with no requirement to mitigate for the removal of the forest of oak trees on the property. Just north of the ugly shopping center the Planning Commission approved a Les Schwab Tire Center and a self-service carwash on a two-acre site.

It had over 100 oak trees, and all were allowed to be cut without mitigation. At the Les Schwab site SEA asked the Planning Department for a copy of the tree removal permit where the developer put up an eight-foot wall to separate the site from nearby homes. SEA was sent a copy of a permit that on closer inspection was revealed to be an *expired* permit for various parcels for the adjacent shopping center and not for the Les Schwab site, apparently hoping we wouldn't notice the deception.

Redding General Plan

The City of Redding is going through the long process of updating its general plan and following review by different citizen's groups and the Planning Commission it will be presented to the Redding City Council. This may take several years. An overview of the process was presented to the Planning Commission in May.

Marilyn Woodhouse Awarded Anthony Grassroots Prize

Marilyn Woodhouse was awarded the 2021 Anthony Grassroots Award by the Rose Foundation for her efforts to protect the forests of the Battle Creek Watershed from destructive activities of clearcut logging. She has been doing this for over a decade and has had many setbacks but is holding logging companies to the fire by submitting many objections to Timber Harvest Plans that are clearly lacking in mitigating for environmental damage. Much of her work focuses on sediment pollution into Battle Creek, an important tributary for migrating salmon and steelhead trout. Her website is <http://www.thebattlecreekalliance.org/> She works on a shoestring budget, so any financial contributions would be appreciated. For an excellent article and photos of Marilyn click this link: <https://rosefdn.org/anthony-grassroots-prize/2021winner/>

Now Illegal to Feed Feral Cats in Redding

The City of Redding recently adopted an ordinance that included making it illegal to feed feral cats within the city limits. If you walk the Sacramento River Trail between the Sundial Bridge and the Elks Club, very often you will see many cat feeding stations where cat food is left out overnight

Feral cats and house cats are a threat to native birds, reptiles and small mammals even if they are well fed. Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) programs can help reduce feral cats, however independent peer-reviewed research has shown that it has never has a long-lasting effect on populations of feral cats although the people feeding the cats and advocating TNR are well meaning. Some veterinary magazines will promote TNR, but this is bit of a conflict of interest. Haven Humane Society has a spay and neuter program for feral cats with a fee of \$45 each. They must be returned to the area where they were caught.

SEA is Seeking a New Board Member

SEA is looking for a new board member interested in working to protect our environment and fighting climate change. Looking for individuals with a passion for nature willing to volunteer up to 10 hours per month. For more information, email ecoshasta@gmail.com.

SEA 2nd Annual Sulphur Creek Cleanup

SEA had seven volunteers for our second Sulphur Creek Cleanup on May 1. (Only a little late for Earth Day.) We collected seven 55-gallon bags of trash and had to carry them up a hillside, limiting the amount of weight we could put in them. We worked a new section of the creek and cleaned it all up, except for one pond that had a foot of water in it. The section we cleaned last year was still clean. Special thanks to Yo Sadohara, Doug Mandel, Janet Wall, Bob Madison, Chris Harvey, Derle Gilliam and David Ledger.

Unfortunately, some people mine the stream for gold, and we crushed and took out one long wooden sluice box, strainer, and related mining debris. There was an old, abandoned campsite upstream from where we worked, and we plan to call RPD if we see anyone else is camping there again. With COVID rates lowering, next year we can better advertise this to get more volunteers, as we purposely kept the group small for safety.



Hauling trash up the hill



Cleanup crew Front: Bob Madison, Yo Sadohara, Janet Wall, Back: Cathy Reisfelt. Derle Gilliam, Doug Mandel Photos: D. Ledger

Oak Seedling Watering

SEA has planted many acorns on a section of BLM land near the Westside Trail for three winters. This year we planted just 23 spots and put fencing around each spot and burlap bags to shade many of the seedlings. All seem to be doing well, but due to the drought, we have had to water the seedlings four times this year. This involves taking several wheelbarrows full of water jugs to the planting area and then carrying the many jugs to individual trees.

We are starting to lop buck brush and toyon that are near the seedlings due to water competition and we are cutting back a few sprouts on burned black and interior live oak so they will have one leader to put all of their growth into making a solitary tree. A special thanks to all who have volunteered including John Livingston, Derle Gilliam, Tom Morehouse, Lisa Ross, Ray Pfister, Chris Harvey, Bob Madison, Melissa Harbert, MaryAnn McCray, Gibson Collard and Doug Mandel.



Seedling shade Doug Mandel and Lisa Ross

Spanish Broom Bash



From left: Ray Pfister, Doug Mandel, Janet Wall, John Livingston, Derle Gilliam.

Fountain Wind Project

The final EIR on the Fountain Wind Project is out and the hearing is scheduled at the Shasta County Planning Commission on June 22. While SEA does not accept all of the opponent's arguments, you can find their view on their website at <https://www.stopfw.com/>

The wind turbines will be up to 679 feet tall, the height of a sixty-story building and will be seen from 30 miles away. This will definitely have a significant negative impact on the aesthetics of the area. The FEIR admits that it can't be mitigated. Lassen Volcanic National Park submitted comments raising concerns about the lights from the towers affecting their Dark Sky events.

The Pit River Tribe is opposed to the project, as is the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. The red lights on the Hatchet Mountain wind turbines disrupt Pit River traditional ceremonies there, as will the Fountain Wind turbines.

We do need more renewable energy; however, this is not a high wind area according to California wind maps. The amount of electricity that the proponents claim could be generated only presents a best-case scenario if all turbines are operating at peak capacity 24/7.

The turbines also represent a threat to birds and bats, especially raptors, and will require clearing at least 2500 acres of vegetation.

The previous company that planned a wind farm here pulled out after several years of planning and research. Then a newly formed company took over the project and has made grandiose claims of advantages to the County. This raises the question: If an established wind farm company pulled out of the project, which can be assumed they could not turn a profit, how will a company only a few years old be able to make a profit and back up its claims of 20 years of tax benefits to the County?

The Shasta County link to the FEIR is:

<https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir/fountain-wind-project>

Spanish Broom Bash – Photo on left

Yet another Spanish broom bash on the Sacramento River Trail brought six volunteers for about 90 minutes of broom removal. We have been soon enough to catch the broom before the seed set as many were starting to bloom. Thanks to all who were able to participate with the last three removal sessions.

SEA Waters Gulch Field Trip

On Saturday, May 5 eleven people went on a beautiful hike on the Waters Gulch Trail where we saw the rare Shasta snow wreath and Shasta maidenhair fern. This trail has a vast diversity of plants with the USFS plant list consisting of four pages, but we saw many more on this largely shaded 3.2-mile trail. The trail is largely shaded by ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and black oak, with nine different ferns and many flowering plants underneath. The trail heads downhill near a creek and follows the edge of Shasta Lake for several miles, then heads downhill to the Packers Bay boat ramp. Each area of the trail had a different variety of flowers due to the different aspects and overstory trees. Sixteen people signed up, but five were unable to make the trip. A special thanks to Chris Harvey and MaryAnn McCrary for helping to ID many of the plants.



Shasta Maidenhair Fern



Shasta Snow Wreath

Clikapudi Trail Field Trip



Front: Pat Lind, Chris Harvey, Derle Gilliam. Back Bob Madison, MaryAnn McCrary, Lisa Ross, Ray Pfister.

We had seven hikers take this 6 ½ mile wildflower and native plant hike on the Clikapudi Trail with beautiful weather for the event. The trail snakes around the Pit River arm of Shasta Lake, but as the lake was low there were few boats and only a few people on the trail, we had most of the trail to ourselves. Among the plants we

Clikapudi (Cont.)

saw were oso berry, Sierra plum, oceanspray, snowdrop bush, raspberry, foothill poppies, mock orange, sky and broadleaf lupine, fern leaf lomatium among many others. If you catch this hike in spring, you will be rewarded with a wide variety of wildflowers.

Cloverdale Wildflower Hike near Igo



We limited this mid-April hike to 10 people but had 14 show up and as we spread out on the trail it wasn't a problem. We required masks at the start of the field trip with the option of removing them as we hiked. We saw many foothill poppies, sky lupine, ookow, popcorn flowers, as well as a few manroot, purple milkweed, and rock phacelia. This out and back trail on BLM land ends at an overlook of the Clear Creek Gorge, a drop of about 200 feet. Everyone seemed to enjoy this field trip learning at least a few new plants.

Trees for Concrete Sidewalks

SEA received a complaint that the City of Redding was going to cut down seven shade trees at 10th and West Streets to make way for new sidewalks. We contacted Public Works and they looked at the corner again with an engineer and decided they could work around some of the large sycamore trees they had planned to cut to place the new sidewalk. Unfortunately, other trees will be removed due to the new sidewalks.

Public Works did say they will be planting 12 new trees in a section of West St. between 8th and 10th that has no trees. They were going to put in crepe myrtles, which on Redding streets never seem to grow taller than shrubs and provide little if any shade. Parks and Recreation did say they will plant a different small tree which can provide some shade. Because the sidewalk is under REU power lines, only small trees are allowed to be planted. The entire project is part of a grant for Redding's master

Sidewalks (Cont.)

plan of new sidewalks and bike lanes in downtown Redding. With underground utilities and powerlines required to be considered when planting trees, it is unfortunate that Redding's tree canopy often takes second place

SEA does appreciate and thank Public Works Director Chuck Auckland and Amber Kelly, and Joey Forseth of Parks and Recreation for working with us and considering our concerns on Redding's tree canopy.



Creative work saving tree.



Some of the trees at West and 10th that could be removed.



Lack of trees on West St., 12 new trees to be planted

Shasta County "Trash Talk"

Shasta County Resource Management publishes a two-page newsletter called Trash Talk that is really well-written and informative. It discusses various environmental issues, especially recycling, and is placed in Waste Management garbage bills for Shasta County customers. Here is the link.

<https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/recycling>

Upcoming Events:

Spring Hill Trail Hike, Mt. Shasta Sunday, June 6

SEA will be leading a hike up the Spring Creek Trail in Mt. Shasta on Sunday, June 6 starting at 9:15 am. While it will be hot that day, it will be 10 to 12 degrees cooler than Redding. This is an easy three mile hike up a partially forested hill with good views of the area. The Mt. Shasta Trail Association just spent considerable time working on the trail, so this will be a good time to see it. For those interested, we will go on a short wooded one-mile trail in Mt. Shasta. If you are fully vaccinated and want to carpool up, you can meet at the Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot at 8 am otherwise, meet at the trailhead in north Mt. Shasta at 9:15 at Mt. Shasta Bl. And Sky. Bring masks! To reserve a space contact David Ledger at dledger@sbcglobal.net.

Salt Creek Trail, Redding Wednesday June 9

SEA will be leading a three-mile up and back hike on the Salt Creek Trail in Redding on Wednesday, June 9 at 8 am. The City and BLM have revamped the trail, extending it to Rock Creek Road and added a bridge. This trail has a high diversity of plants, but with the tree cover cut by the Salt Creek Subdivision and burned from the Carr Fire, not a lot of plants will be in bloom. To escape the heat, we will start at 8 am. If you have not been vaccinated, please bring a mask although not required when walking at a distance. Meet at the start of the Ten Bridges Trail at Buena Ventura and Sunflower Drive. For more information, contact David Ledger at dledger@sbcglobal.net.

Prospect Peak Field Trip Lassen Park Saturday, June 19

This strenuous hike is on a heavily forested trail on Prospect Peak near Butte Lake and Cinder Cone in northeast Lassen Park. This is a seven-mile roundtrip hike with a 2300-foot elevation climb. As you climb in the 8338' tall mountain you will notice the change in tree species, going from ponderosa and Jeffrey pine to red fir and lodgepole. The top is mostly shrubs with views as far as Oregon on clear days. Those who are fully vaccinated and wish to carpool can meet at the Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot near Chase Bank at 8 am or camp at Butte Lake Friday night. For more information, contact David Ledger at dledger@sbcglobal.net.

Oregon Gulch Update

Board member Jim Milestone has been in charge of keeping out OHV's from the area and we have fenced off a number of slopes to keep dirt bikes from thrashing the slopes. Primarily the fencing are cables tied between posts with green fencing for visible safety. A Bethel Church work crew provided most of the manpower to put up the fencing. Replacing one section that has been torn down twice has been Milestone with help from Bill Kuntz and Brian Crane. Next steps will be placing concrete barriers and chains around the most common entry points.



Jim Milestone driving steel stakes



Bill Kuntz at fencing segment

Yes, we still need your donations! With COVID cases lifting we plan to start having more public events!

Thank you to the following individuals who are helping us with our work!

\$25 to \$99

Julie Winter, Derle Gilliam, Catherine McKnight, Sabrina Hofkin, Allan Craig, Miki Catalano, Ellen Sugg, Dan Scollon, Bob Madison, Tom O'Mara, Peter Alexander Linda Samuels, Belinda Higuera, Penny & Daryl Harris, Jonathan Foster, Shirley Flynn, John Deaton, Dawn Bieser, Ellen Sugg, Donald Yost, Margaret Beck, Kathy Grissom, John Livingston, Muffy Berryhill, Buck and Sue Lang, Richard Ramos, Cathy Reisfelt, Kathryn McDonald, Alex Singer-Telles, Jim & Gayle Citta, John Springer, Steve and Cathy Callan, Gary Lauben, Ellen Suggs, Sharon Kennedy, Andrea Hughes, Janice Hunter, Jeff Morrow, MaryAnn McCray and Collette Streight.

\$100 to \$249

Mary Beldon, John Springer, Donald Owen, Mark Martinek, Cathy and Jon Lefler, Lisa Kelsey, Dan Greaney, Barbara Featherstone, Doug Mandel, Susan Weale, Aileen Chris Gray, Pamela Sanchez, Connie Word, Aleta Carpenter, Anonymous, Karen Foss and Shelly Swanson, Dave Korman, Ron Dykstra, David Zoll, Bill Oliver, David Ledger, George and Darlene Horn.

\$250 to \$499

Doug Craig, Bea Currie, Lang Dayton, Ray Pfister and Lisa Ross, Dave and Barb Klasson, Peter Waller

\$500 to \$999

Karen Little, Chris and Billie Harvey, Shasta Chapter, California Native Plant Society, Don and Laurie Burk, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, Wintu Audubon.

\$1000 & Up

Chris and Billie Harvey, Bob and Diane Madgic, Karen Little

If we missed your name, please let us know!!!

You can donate to SEA by mail at PO Box 993777.

Redding, CA 96099 or online at our website at

www.ecoshasta.org.

More Flowers of Waters Gulch



Hartweg's wild ginger

Bell's Catchfly