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September 2021 Newsletter

**Matson-Mowder-Howe Celebration Garden
Tour & Native Plant Garden Advice
Saturday, September 4, 9 am**



Doug Mandel will be leading an end-of-summer tour for SEA of the Matson-Mowder-Howe Celebration Garden in Caldwell Park on Saturday, September 4, at 9 am.

Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society has been involved in the maintenance of this garden for many years. It has a mix of native and non-native plants. Doug will explain the issues in keeping up the garden and talk about the various plants there. He will also answer questions people may have about their own native plant garden or how to start one. Doug is a Master Garden and has his own native plant garden on over an acre of land. This will be an end of summer view of the garden. Due to the high prevalence of the Delta variant of Covid, we are asking all participants to wear a mask even though it is outdoors. The garden is located at the Carter House, current home of North Valley Art League, in Caldwell Park on Quartz Hill Road, Redding. For more information, contact ecoshasta@gmail.com.



Springtime at the garden

Does Shasta County need a Tree Ordinance?

The Shasta Environmental Alliance will be discussing whether to work toward an actual Tree Ordinance for Shasta County at our next board meeting.

Currently Shasta County has a "tree ordinance" that is entirely voluntary and urges preservation of trees during development and in general throughout the county but there are no requirements to preserve trees it is strictly voluntary.

The Planning Department can work with new developments whether a single lot or 1000 acres to preserve trees, however their enforcement capabilities are limited.

An example of this came to light recently when SEA discovered that a contractor graded and removed most of the 60 trees, many valley oaks, from a three-acre lot on Airport Road without a permit. The county discovered the violation and required the contractor to take out a grading permit. The total penalty that the County could charge the contractor: \$234.

SEA protested the lenient treatment by letter and in person at a Planning Commission meeting and requested the project not be approved as it

Shasta County Tree Ordinance (Cont.)

appeared to be a flagrant violation and evaded a valid CEQA biological survey. The contractor claimed he didn't know about the county grading ordinance and said he was removing damaged trees from snowstorms. Regardless, it was a shrewd savings, otherwise, a plant and wildlife survey would have been required.

The project was approved with the measly \$234 penalty intact.

Any ordinance if adopted would most likely not include areas zoned for timber harvest as that is largely covered by the CalFire Board of Forestry and there would be limited restrictions on agricultural lands due to political realities and concerns particular to ranchers. It would most likely take several years to get an ordinance passed if successful.

Valley, black and live oak acorns needed

Volunteers have brought SEA plenty of blue oak acorns, but now we *need valley, black and interior live oak* acorns which should be maturing over the next two weeks. If you have collected blue oak acorns, we can still use them as other volunteers may want to plant them on their own. If we don't have a severe drought again next year, they should survive largely on their own. If you have collected any, contact dsledger49@gmail.com.

Silver Bush Lupine Seeds, More Available



We still have some drought tolerant silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) seeds available at no cost. These are a perennial lupine that grow to a small shrub and are native to our area. We will mail you the seeds and include planting instructions in the envelope. They were donated by Lang Dayton, who has many in his yard. Email

ecoshasta@gmail.com if you would like some and we will mail you a packet. This way can provide nectar and pollen for our local pollinators.

Green Party Trash Cleanup

The Green Party held its regular quarterly cleanup (sometimes more often) of the south Sacramento River Trail in Redding on August 15. As SEA President I volunteered to help on this hot day. Eight people showed up and we collected considerable trash around the parking lot and less, the further up the trail we walked the less trash we found. By the half mile mark there was almost no trash but lots of cigarette butts in the parking lot and at park benches on the trail. It took us not much over an hour for the cleanup, aided by one person on a bike. The Green Party, led by Don Yost has been organizing this cleanup for many years. SEA will be leading another creek cleanup this fall.

Oak Seedling Watering

SEA will be watering our oak seedlings again on Saturday September 11 at 8 am. We could really use everyone's help and make this a short and easy workday. While we have had up to eight people volunteering, lately that has dropped to two or three. We really need your help! We also need a few people with loppers to thin multi-sprouting interior live oak and black oak trees. We will meet at the end of Kilkee Drive. For more information contact David Ledger at dledger49@gmail.com.

Remember to Vote

California Gubernatorial Recall Election Day September 14

The California Gubernatorial Recall Election decision on whether to recall Governor Newsom is September 14. Everyone in California should have received a Vote by Mail ballot. If you didn't receive one or can't find yours, you can go to Shasta County Election Headquarters at Market and Placer Streets in Redding and vote early or you can also go to your polling precinct on September 14 and vote in person if it is open.

This election is a yes or no vote on recalling Governor Newsom. Which ever way you vote you can also vote for one of 45 individuals running to replace Newsom should he be recalled. For more information go [Shasta County, CA Elections | Shasta County, CA Elections](#)

Sunrise Redding Demonstrates for a Redding Tree Ordinance

Sunrise Redding, the local youth organization fighting climate change organized a walk from the Sundial Bridge to Redding City Hall in the heat of summer on August 10 to urge the city to pass a new tree ordinance and to enact a ban on new gas stations in Redding.

Organized by Sunrise Redding leader Dash Waterbury, about 60 people attended with many young people and SEA supporters. A number of people including several candidates gave speeches and six young people and a few older citizens spoke at the Planning Commission meeting to express their concerns about climate change and the need to alleviate the effects of it in Redding by increasing our tree canopy.



Sunrise Redding member Olivia Fox speaks at Planning Commission meeting.

It was inspiring to hear each speaker give their heartfelt feelings without berating the Planning Commission.

SEA President David Ledger had met with the new Development Services Director Tocarra Nicole Thomas in late July in a productive meeting about Redding's Tree Ordinance. Because the department is working on updating the General Plan, work on a new ordinance will not start until about January. On the positive side, the Redding City Council did direct Planning to come up with alternatives to Redding's current Tree Management Ordinance.

USFS Shasta County Regional Advisory Committee Accepting Grant Applications

The USFS Shasta County Regional Advisory Committee is accepting applications for up to \$351,000 it has available this year in grants for projects that will help US Forests even if it is on adjacent private land.

Title II funding is used by Federal agencies, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource objectives on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit these resources on Federal land. Project types include:

- Watershed restoration
- Road & trail maintenance
- Noxious weed control
- Fuels reduction
- Plant community habitat restoration
- Environmental education
- Wildlife & fish habitat improvement

Other grants have included trail improvements and wild horse maintenance.

Some members of the committee, but not all include: Dan Bean, REU Director; Verna Johnston, Vestra Resources; Brenda Haynes, Congressman Doug LaMalfa representative; Alex Carter, McConnell Foundation; David Ledger, Shasta Environmental Alliance, Heather Farquhar, Shasta Historical Society, Dennis Heiman, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District.

If any of you know of any organizations you belong to that have projects connected with USFS lands in some capacity, consider this source of grant funding as no applications have been submitted as yet. Your project may be on private land if it benefits USFS land. The deadline is October 29, 2021.

For more information contact Lejon Hamann at lejon.hamann@usda.gov. or by phone at 530-410-1935.