

## SEA Environmental Champion Awards a Success

Shasta Environmental Alliance First Annual Environmental Champion Awards presentation held on November 22 drew about 100 people to honor Peggy Rebol, Doug Craig, Larry Jordan, Julie Kierstead and Rize Oliveira for their work in protecting our environment. As this was our first event, we were happy with the turnout in which several people thought there were 120 or more people. We kept it simple, just buying finger foods, coffee, lemonade and tea. Essentially no waste except for unbleached brown napkins and the catered food that came in plastic, which was recycled.

Each awardee was given a framed award from SEA and then Mayor Julie Winter, who was unable to attend, arranged for and signed certificates of accomplishments from the City of Redding for all of those honored. Kim Niemer, Director of Redding Community Services, introduced Peggy Rebol and presented her with the Mayor's award as Kim has worked with Peggy on the Whole Earth and Watershed Festival over many years.

This was a fun event and we received many words of appreciation for organizing it and how much people enjoyed the event. We collected \$600 in donations with about \$450 in expenses.

Watch for next years Environmental Champions Awards and next years Redding City Council Candidates Forum organized by SEA! Thanks to all who volunteered to help make this event possible.

## The Plastic Problem on PBS

PBS ran an excellent special one-hour program on the problems of plastic pollution recently. This worthwhile program can now be seen on You Tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RDc2opwg0I>

## E-Bikes on BLM and National Park Trails

**The California Wilderness Coalition is concerned about recent efforts by Secretary David Bernhardt and the Department of the Interior to non-motorized trails on BLM and National Parks trails.** Bernhardt who was formerly a lobbyist for the Westlands Water District and attorney for various fossil fuel companies has apparently decided to bypass the regular planning process and NEPA analysis. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Bernhardt issued Secretarial Order (SO) No 3376. In this letter he outlined his desire for all Interior Department agencies

including BLM, U.S.Fish and Wildlife, and National Park Service to allow “Class 1”, the least motor assisted, e-bike use on any trail or road where non-motorized mountain bikes are currently allowed. For more information, click the link to CalWild.org. <https://www.calwild.org/top5threats/ebikes/>.

# Keeping Cats Indoors Saves Songbirds!



Cats are natural-born hunters.



The lives of feral cats can be quite hard, especially if they were once domesticated cats. If you're considering getting a cat, adopt one from an animal shelter.

## Hunters at Heart

Songbirds are in steep decline all over the globe. Their habitat has been shrinking because of agriculture, spreading cities, climate change, and the predation of feral and outdoor cats.

In North America, cats kill 2.4 billion birds every year - a whopping 15% of the songbird population. Each outdoor cat - even if well fed - kills over 150 reptiles, mammals, and birds per year, on average. Cats kill more songbirds than pesticides, vehicles, windows, and wind-turbine collisions combined.

Still think cats need to be outside? We live in a wild and rural area. Your domesticated cats are potential prey for larger cats, like bobcats and cougars, as well as coyote.

## Be a Responsible Cat Lover!

Do your part to keep cats from killing birds while also keeping them safe. **Spay/neuter your cats, keep cats indoors or in enclosed areas, and never release or dump cats into the environment.**

Our shared goal is to have zero feral cats. A community volunteer has neutered and vaccinated the feral cats you may see here. New cats that appear are trapped and removed.



Shown in background: Western Tulebird

## Feral Cat Sign Now Up at Turtle Bay

Turtle Bay Exploration Park has put up an educational sign about the threats that both feral and house cats are to our native birds and reptiles. This sign was in response to a meeting David Ledger of SEA, John Livingston of Sierra Club and Dan Geaney of Wintu Audubon had with Turtle Bay executive director Mike Warren following our letters of complaint about a feral cat feeding station near Turtle Bay. Thank you Mike Warren, staff and Turtle Bay Exploration Park for this excellent educational display about a threat to many native bird species. The sign is next to the walkway as cross the street from the parking lot and walk toward the Sundial Bridge.

## Shasta County Approves Going Solar on County Facilities

On December 10 the Shasta County Board of Supervisors voted to install solar power with battery backup on almost all of their County buildings. David Ledger from Shasta Environmental Alliance; John Livingston of the Shasta Group of Sierra Club; Steve Marsh and Ron Dykstra of North State Climate Action among others spoke in support of this proposal by the County which besides cutting down on greenhouse gases will lower their energy costs. Forward thinking by the Board of Supervisors.

## **WATER Starts Single Use Plastics Campaign in Siskiyou County**

W.A.T.E.R.: Our Siskiyou County SEA supporting group WATER has started a campaign and online petition in the Mt. Shasta area against single use plastics containers. They estimate if the Crystal Geyser plant is approved, it will produce over one million plastic bottles per day. WATER is the group that has been fighting the proposed new Crystal Geyser water bottling plant in Mt. Shasta. This is a group thinking globally and acting locally and you can read about and sign the petition here: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/mt-shasta-area-stores-please-carry-plastic-free>

## **Coffee - Organic, Fair Trade, and Shade Grown Available at Wintu Audubon**

Most coffee is grown in monocultures that replace rich tropical habitat with biological wastelands. Shade-grown coffee produces less beans/acre, but our migrant birds and the local fauna can thrive in the diverse habitat. Birdsandbeans.com is working with Audubon to provide a bird-friendly brew, available in light or dark roast, regular or decaf, whole bean or ground. Cost: \$11.70 per 12 oz. bag. (Depending on the size of our order each month, that price may include up to 64 cents as a donation to Wintu Audubon.) To order: Orders may be placed at each Audubon monthly meeting and picked up at the next meeting, or contact Stephanie Hughes at shughess123@gmail.com or 530-771-7938. -- Also watch for the order form, coming soon to wintuaudubon.org

## **WE NEED MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS!**

**Please consider making a yearend donation to Shasta Environmental Alliance, we can use your support for future actions. Go to our website at [www.ecoshasta.org](http://www.ecoshasta.org) You can donate to SEA by mail at PO Box 990027, Redding, CA 96099 or going to our website at [www.ecoshasta.org](http://www.ecoshasta.org).**

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

### **\$25 to \$99**

Jeff Morrow, John Deaton, Bob Madison, Daryl and Penny Harris, MaryAnn McCray, John Springer, Belinda Higuera, Collette Streight, Tricia Hamelberg, Karen Hazeltine, John Livingston, Allen and Terry Craig, Kathy Grissom, Jane Elmore, Buck and Sue Lang, Marti Weidert, Kris Bertelson-Williams,

### **\$100 to \$249**

Ron Dykstra, David Zoll, Bill Oliver, Doug Craig, Peter Waller, David Ledger, George and Darlene Horn, Linda Materson, Bea Currie, Mark and Molly Wood, Judy Salter, Bob and Diane Madgic, Shasta County Green Party, Doug Mandel, California Oak Coalition, Muffy Berryhill, Aileen Genoff, Anonymous, Ryan Henson, Lang Dayton, Randy Haynes.

### **\$250 to \$499**

Ray Pfister and Lisa Ross, Dave and Barb Klasson

### **\$500 to \$1000**

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

## **SEA/CNPS Blue Oak Acorn Planting in Carr Fire Burn Area**

Secondary Succession Following the Carr Fire in Chaparral and Oak Woodlands (with Acorn Planting). This will be a joint CNPS and Shasta Environmental Alliance fieldtrip on a three mile walk through a burned area of the Carr Fire that will include the planting of 200 or more blue oak acorns and a few gray pine seeds. Walk leader David Ledger will identify different plants on the trail and note their responses to fire and the probable progression of vegetation recovery of the area over the next 10 years. Bring a hand trowel to help plant acorns and seeds. It will take about 30 to 45 minutes to plant the seeds; the rest of the time will be spent walking a trail and seeing how different chaparral and oak woodland plants are recovering. For light rain or sprinkles, bring raincoat or umbrella; heavier rain cancels. Sorry, no dogs on this fieldtrip. Meet in the Placer Street Holiday Market parking lot near CVS at 9:30 am. For more information, call David at 530/355-8542 or e-mail [dledger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net)

## **Solar Power Redding City Council Vote Tuesday, December 18, 6 pm**

*Submitted by Climate Activist Pete Marsh:*

On December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, the Redding City Council will decide the future of citizens' opportunities to invest in solar energy here, in the second sunniest city in the United States. The staff proposal from Redding Electric Utility is to cut the net energy metering credit by 60%, to just about six cents per kilowatt hour. We encourage citizens to email or phone city council members before the meeting, and attend the meeting and speak in favor of the 12 cent compromise rate suggested by local Redding solar contractors.

If you already have solar, your rates will not be affected by REU's proposal; but we encourage you to speak out and ask City Council to protect the right of other citizens to invest in their own solar system in Redding. City Council can do that by approving a net metering rate of at least twelve cents per kilowatt hour. It is a reasonable compromise. And it will ensure that solar users' extra energy is fairly valued. Seeking people to speak out in support of solar power at the hearing.

## **Wintu Audubon Christmas Bird Count**

**December 21, 27 & 28**

**Various Locations**

Wintu Audubon will be conducting their annual citizen science Christmas Bird Count on December 21, 27 and 28 in Anderson, Redding and Red Bluff respectively. For more information go to [wintuaurubon.org](http://wintuaurubon.org).

## **Sierra Club Iron Canyon Walk**

**Sacramento River Bend National Recreation Area**

**Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019**

1700 acres of riverfront public land; 3.6 mile round trip loop walk over rocky uneven trail, no shade, to glorious river overlook down on to the Sacramento River where it bends; 8 miles from Red Bluff, California Artists /photographers, well behaved dogs, horses ok. Special emphasis on one hour stop at the overlook for painting, picture taking and relaxing. Bring cameras, paints,

water/lunch. Limit 10, leader [martiweidert@gmail.com](mailto:martiweidert@gmail.com), or phone 530.474.4300 (no text) for place on outing. Inclement weather date: Sat. Jan. 25, 2020.

## **CNPS New Years Day Westside Trail Field Trip and Acorn Planting.**

### **Westside Trail Redding**

**January 1, 9:30 am**

Join California Native Plant Society on its annual hike up the Westside Trail combined with planting blue oak acorns along the way. This will be a four-mile hike with an elevation gain of 600 feet, taking in the growth of chaparral and oak woodland shrubs and trees following the Carr Fire. Because few blue oaks are resprouting, we will be planting acorns at several stops along the way, providing carbon sinks through these slow growing but long living oak tree. Dogs on leash at all times okay. For more information, contact David Ledger at 530/355/8542. Meet at the Holiday Market Parking on Placer Street near CVS at 9:30 am.

## **Women's March**

**Saturday, January 18, 10 am**

Under the Theme of "It's a Marathon, not a Sprint" the 2020 Redding Women's March is January 18, 2020 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at City Hall, 777 Cypress Ave under the canopy next to Council Chamber, rain or shine. It starts at 10 am,, 10:30 the march; 11:30 Food, Information, Activism Comraderie. SEA, North State Climate Action and others will be tabling. For more information, tabling etc. contact [californiagirl2000\\_5 \(AT\) yahoo.com](mailto:californiagirl2000_5(AT)yahoo.com).