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October 2021 Newsletter

Second Annual Environmental Champions Awards 2021

Shasta Environmental Alliance is accepting nominations for our second Environmental Champions Award recognition ceremony. Do you know a deserving person who should be recognized? We hope you will nominate them.

This event is to recognize outstanding individuals for work they have done protecting and preserving our local environment. This event is about more than just honoring individuals, it is also about recognizing the work that all of you do in whichever way, large or small. It shows that not just the business, civic, police, fire fighters, teachers and many other groups and individuals are important. This event is to show that protecting, restoring and preserving our environment is important.

Due to Covid-19 concerns we did not hold an event last year, this year we want to continue recognizing individuals through a outdoor meeting or by Zoom. We will be honoring people who have been doing work in areas such as climate change, forest or woodland protection native plants, animals, water, land and air. Environmental stewardship award categories are:

1. Two or three environmentalists in the greater Shasta County area
2. An agency person whose work goes above and beyond their job description.

In 2019 the honorees were Peggy Robol, Doug Craig, Larry Jordan, Julie Kierstead and Rize Oliviera.

Please send a written nomination by November 1 to ecoshasta@gmail.com in a Word or Google file. This should be under 250 words in length with a brief history of the environmental work the person has done and why they should be nominated. If you want any help writing this or have any questions, please feel free to contact David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com.

Restoration Project at Riverview Golf and Country Club

In a beautiful setting next to the Sacramento River in Redding at the Riverview Golf and Country Club, local environmental advocate Randy Smith and volunteers from the Redding Rotary are slowly restoring a large sand and gravel bar between the golf course and the river with native vegetation and removing invasive plants.



Randy Smith near burn piles of invasive trees

For those who have never been to the golf course, it sits on an old flood plain not much more than 10 feet in elevation above the flow of the river. The golf course, of which the first nine holes were built in 1947, is studded with huge valley oaks and more than a few large gray pine trees between the green fairways and greens. This is evidence of an appreciation of the beauty of our native trees in years gone by and serves as an excellent contrast to the ugly development east of I-5 where the City of Redding allowed the clearcutting of an oak woodland for the Save-Mart shopping center, and shortly thereafter, on two acres to the north, a tire shop and self-service car wash. This is the entrance to Redding, which seems to be becoming the standard for construction in Redding.



Left: Beaver damage to bark of Cottonwood tree.

Right: Giant native blazing star in restoration area

Next to the golf course is the sand bar where the restoration work is taking place every Monday (weather

Riverview Restoration (Cont.)

accommodating) with five or six members of the Redding Rotary Club under the direction of Smith. The restoration volunteers have started with taking out the worst invasives: blackberry brambles, tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus*), locust trees, and *Arundo*, among others. To keep cover for the local beavers, deer, ducks, and other animals, they will leave some non-native trees until the native trees grow to fill the open space. Since the restoration work started, beautiful blazing star, which can bloom as late as September, has spread on the sand bar.



Oregon golden-aster, Heterotheca oregona, growing in the restoration site at Riverview Golf & Country Club

There is a channel between the golf course and the sand bar which could make a great area for salmon habitat. SEA has learned that \$40 million in federal money is available for each of three years to improve salmon habitat. We have contacted various agency people at the Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Wildlife Service, and the Department of Water Resources, to try to get some funding to restore the channel. These agencies feel this is a worthwhile project and are trying to get a local group to handle the grant application and construction.

Fighting Climate Change

Local company developing new process to reduce CO2 in Cement Manufacturing

By Ron Dykstra

Lehigh Cement Company, located in Shasta County, is investigating a new cement making method that would reduce Carbon Dioxide (CO2) discharge from their operations by 60%. CO2 is the most prevalent atmospheric gas causing global warming, which here in the north state results in more, and worsening, droughts, wildfires and heat waves. Cement making generates 8% of CO2 discharge worldwide and the new method could be used at cement plants everywhere. Lehigh has partnered with Fortera, a technology firm which has discovered a process that recycles waste CO2

Concrete Manufacturing (Cont.)

generated in traditional cement making. The CO2 becomes an integral part of the final cement product, eliminating its discharge to the atmosphere. Fortera's process also helps reduce cement manufacturing costs, and is the world's first economical carbon utilization technology.

A small-scale commercial plant will be built at Lehigh to troubleshoot the new method, and it will be up and running next year. Kudos to Lehigh and Fortera for their forward thinking to address global warming.

(Lehigh Cement Company is located in Fawndale just west of I-5. The cement is made from the limestone cliffs directly to the east of I-5 Ron Dykstra is a member of North State Climate Action.)

REU Building New EV Charging Stations in Redding.

Redding is lacking in charging stations for electric vehicles, especially when compared to Chico and Arcata, and Redding has no fast charging stations. Based on a Google search Redding has three slow charging public stations, one on Dana Drive, and two stations on Hilltop Drive all totaling capacity to charge only five cars at once and the ones on Hilltop Drive are only for Teslas. There are three private EV stations: at Redding School of the Arts, Crown Motors and Shasta College which has 10 charging slots. This makes Redding a desert for EV vehicles traveling through town.

However, REU will soon be helping solve the problem by installing fast charging stations at the Turtle Bay parking lot. Nick Zettle of REU said, "The Sundial Bridge EVCS Project will include four (4) Level 3 DC Fast Chargers owned and operated by the City. Additionally, we are installing infrastructure for six future charging stations at that same location. We hope this charging project is well-received and utilization is strong, potentially justifying the need for additional charging stations at other sites."

Valley, black and live oak acorns

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 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

Redding Considering Sale of Land at Turtle Bay

The City of Redding has received vague proposals to buy City owned land at Turtle Bay. The preliminary proposals came from McConnell Foundation, Turtle Bay Exploration Park, K-2 Development and Populous, a major builder of stadiums, event centers and similar projects.

As first presented at an open session of the Redding City Council on September 21, the proponents are interested in buying land and surrounding parcels occupied by the Redding Rodeo grounds, the Redding Civic Auditorium and the large parcel to the east of Turtle Bay Museum that has the trail loop along the river and over to Highway 44, an undeveloped parcel. Turtle Bay already owns the land it sits on as well as the Sheraton Hotel and parking lot.

At the September meeting, the proponents all gave a presentation. The Populous representatives talked about how he wanted to see trails and dining areas over the water. This is something that could seriously have negative effects on the riparian environment. Prior to the meeting Populous had a 70-page booklet printed up that had drawings and photos of large developments they had done across the nation, lots of concrete walkways, stadiums, convention centers and buildings for cities much larger than Redding. They had almost nothing definite about their plans for the land, but you got the impression that it would be huge, involve lots of concrete and would not fit in with the riverfront.

At the meeting, the council voted to consider at their next meeting a decision to hold a four session public meeting to let the proponents present their plans to the council and Redding residents. City Manager Barry Tippin would also present the legal and regulatory hoops that would have to be resolved before any sale could take place. If approved by the City Council at their October 5 meeting, the public sessions on Turtle Bay would take place on Wednesday evenings: October 13 & 27 and November 10 & 17.

This is something very important for the environmental to resist to make sure any development does not encroach into the riparian areas and the large parcel to the east of Turtle Bay not be sold, but kept as a natural open space. Please email your concerns to the Redding City Council. Here is a link to a story by Jon Lewis on the City Council meeting from Anewscafe.com



Shaded area is City owned land under consideration.

Another Oak Seedling Watering with Volunteers from Grizzly Corps Wednesday, October 13

We had eight great volunteers last month to water our oak seedlings and prune back resprouting oak trees that burned in the Carr Fire, to direct most growth to one leader. We will be doing one more outing now that we have several members of the Grizzly Corps to volunteer. We will start at the end of Kilkee Drive late morning. Contact David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com for starting time.



John Livingston, left, David Ledger on truck end of watering in September. Photo by Doug Mandel.

SEA Native Plant Identification Outing Mill Creek Area, Whiskeytown NRA Saturday, October 16, 9 am

(This event was cancelled in July due to dangerous levels of smoke pollutions.) SEA will be leading a field trip centering on the identification of common trees and shrubs of riparian and mixed conifer areas on Saturday, October 7 9 am at Mill Creek/Camden House area in Whiskeytown NRA. This will be an easy 1 1/2 mile walk on fairly level ground lasting about 90 minutes. This is a

SEA Native Plant Field Trip (Cont.)

great way to learn our local native plants. Walk leader David Ledger will teach participants identifying features of about 30 trees and shrubs and give them a handout with key identification features of 35 trees and shrubs. This is an easy walk for all levels. *Due to the highly contagious Delta variant, you must be fully vaccinated to attend.* Limited Space: For more information and to reserve a space, email dsledger@gmail.com.

Shasta CNPS Native Plant Sale

Shasta College Farm

Oct. 22-23

The Shasta Chapter CNPS will participate in Shasta College's Fall Plant Sale on Oct 22, 23, offering some 1500 native plants of 90 species and varieties available for sale.

This will be held at the Shasta College Farm. Bring a mask and select your plants. For more information contact ShastaCNPSpropagation@gmail.com go the CNPS website at Wshasta-cnps.org.

Oregon Gulch Cleanup

Saturday, October 23, 8 am



SEA is organizing a cleanup of Oregon Gulch in Southwest Redding on Saturday October 23 led by SEA board member Jim Milestone. We will meet at 8 am in the Holiday Market Shopping Center at Placer and Buena Ventura near Starbucks and drive the three miles to Oregon Gulch at the end of Kenyon Drive.

We will be removing everything from cans and bottles to many tires. Bring water, closed toes shoes, gloves and a hat. This cleanup will last two to three hours. This is a part of many cleanups throughout California, keeping our watersheds and therefore our oceans free of pollution.

Oregon Gulch Cleanup (Cont.)

Due to the high prevalence of the Delta form of Covid-19, bring a mask to wear if we are working close together, however we will be outside and working apart most of the time. For more information email ecoshasta@gmail.com or call 530-355-8542.

Horsetown Highway Cleanup

October 30 (Sat.) 9:00 a.m. –

Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve will cleanup a stretch of Clear Creek Road around the Preserve for 2 – 3 hours. They will provide volunteers with safety vests, tools to pick up small items and garbage bags. Please bring gloves and water. Lunch and snacks provided by the Preserve afterwards . . . location to be determined. Directions: Meet at the HCCP parking area on Clear Creek Road, about seven miles west of highway 273, just west of the Clear Creek Bridge at 9 am.

Costco before and after photos

These photos were taken by Doug Mandel from the onramp to northbound I-5 heading north. A few more trees have been removed since photo was taken.

