



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

## December 2021 Newsletter

### Shasta Environmental Alliance Environmental Champion Awards December 10, 6:30 pm

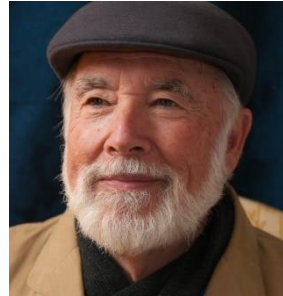
SEA has selected Bill Oliver of Wintu Audubon and Marily Woodhouse of Battle Creek Alliance as our 2021 Environmental Champions. They will be honored via a Zoom meeting on December 10 at 6:30 pm. Besides awarding these deserving individuals, SEA will present a short update on what SEA has been doing this year.

**Marily Woodhouse** is the director of Battle Creek Alliance and Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue in Manton. She will give us a PowerPoint presentation on the threats to our local forests, in particular the Battle Creek watershed, due to cumulative impacts from the over-



logging of industrial timberlands. She has been the most vocal opponent of clearcutting in the Shasta County area and will also give us an overview of her work including rescuing and rehabilitating raptors. Her work to protect forests, watersheds, and wildlife not only supports local ecosystems, but also aims to address fire prevention and build climate resilience. Previously she was the director of the Sierra Club anti-clearcutting campaign for the Motherlode Chapter of California. She also and wrote and directed the film "Clearcut Nation."

**Bill Oliver** was one of the founders of the local Wintu Audubon Society chapter in 1976. He has been President four different times, led countless bird walks and he has kept the statistics from the annual Redding Christmas Bird Count for 45 years. This bird count is important citizen science as it shows the population trends of different bird populations in an area over a long period of time.



Bill worked at the Pacific Southwest Research Station starting in 1963. His early research centered on the health and vigor of young stands of ponderosa pine and true fir in field studies

throughout northern California.

*"To attend the Zoom event recognizing these remarkable people, send us an email to [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com) and we will send you the link and password."*

## Turtle Bay development update

The Redding City Council voted 3 to 2 to proceed with exploring the sale of public land at the Redding Civic Auditorium and the Redding Rodeo grounds to private developers Populous, K2 Development and the McConnell Foundation. Mayor Erin Resner and Council Members Julie Winter and Kristen Schreder voted in favor of the proposal while, Mark Mezzanno and Michael Dacquisto voted against the proposal.

Here is what Jon Lewis of Anewscafe.com wrote of a motion by Councilmember Dacquisto:  
*Councilman Michael Dacquisto, calling it "the hardest decision since I've been on the council," said he's opposed to the redevelopment idea. "The entire process seems rushed," he said, calling the group's offer "smoke and mirrors." "What is the plan?" he asked. "They want site control on a wish and a promise. Show us something."*

Record Searchlight reporter Michelle reported that at the December 21 meeting the council will decide on one of the following options:

- *Begin the process of declaring the land as surplus*
- *Research alternatives which would allow development and/or improvement on the land without first declaring the property as surplus*
- *Continue developing information regarding the Rodeo grounds and Civic Auditorium properties*

## **Turtle Bay Development (Cont.)**

There were more than 40 speakers at the final meeting, most opposed due to concerns the development would spill over into the natural areas east of the Turtle Bay Museum through incremental encroachment. Hopefully the deep concern in the community for protecting the natural areas the city will honor its verbal commitments.

Many of you who wrote letters of concern or spoke at the City Council meetings regarding this land are to be commended. This is why the city has had to put large X's on the map indicating the area that are not as yet proposed for development.

Many indigenous people were in the audience, concerned about damage to ancestral lands and the riparian areas. They contributed important statements about the importance of the Sacramento River and the riparian areas.

SEA President David Ledger agrees with Michael Dacquisto, this process is supposed to take 10 years to develop, but the City Council is rushing headlong into reversing 60 years of previous City Council policy of acquiring riverfront properties for the public, not selling it for private profit. All in a period of three months. The City Council should hold off on any decision regarding the Turtle Bay parcels until a more concrete plan is developed so all can be assured there won't be detrimental effects to the river.

The City Council will be voting on this at their regular December 17 meeting. It is important you continue to send letters of opposition until the final outline of what the project will entail. Right now, it is vague promises. Once the property is sold it will largely be too late if you care about preserving the natural habitat of the area. *For more reporting on this project go to [shastascout.com](http://shastascout.com) for a series of articles on the subject; [anewscafe.com](http://anewscafe.com) for reporting by longtime Redding reporter Jon Lewis or the [Record Searchlight at Redding.com](http://Record Searchlight at Redding.com)*

## **Fountain Wind Project defeated**

The Fountain Wind Project was defeated at the Shasta County Board of Supervisors meeting on October 26. The vote was four to one with only Supervisor Leonard Moty voting yes based on various concerns of the individual Supervisors. Firefighting issues due to the height of the wind turbines was a concern as they would limit the effectiveness of large air tankers in water drops because they must fly at low altitudes when fighting forest fires. A big concern was the opposition of the Pit River Tribe,

## **Fountain Wind (Cont.)**

because this is their traditional land, even though it was stolen from them. Many tribal members live in the area and have a close spiritual connection to the land.

## **SEA Featured in the California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks Newsletter**

The California Wildlife Foundation featured SEA and several other organizations in its November 2021 newsletter update which can be found on this link: <https://conta.cc/3FljtOk> SEA is a member of the California Oaks Coalition which provides backup support when we need help commenting on various CEQA issues.

## **North State Giving Tuesday**

North State Giving Tuesday is coming on November 30 and we hope you will participate and support SEA with your donations. The event is organized by the Community Foundation of the North State and will be held from 6 am to 8 pm and you may donate any amount of \$10 or more. There are also various special bonus donations awarded by the Foundation throughout the day which your donation will help us qualify for. To participate go to <https://www.northstategives.org/sea>. We appreciate your support on this targeted day of giving. As always, you can support our work anytime during the year through our website [www.ecoshasta.org](http://www.ecoshasta.org) or by mail at Shasta Environmental Alliance PO Box 993777, Redding, CA 96099.

## **Deforestation of Battle Creek Watershed**

Deforestation of Shasta County and adjacent areas started shortly after the gold rush and has continued to the present with more intense clearcutting practices.

To get an idea of the deforestation of the Battle Creek watershed click on the link below. It shows a time lapse series of aerial photos from 1985 to 2020. <https://vimeo.com/639749415> and you can also go to Battle Creek Alliance website at: <http://www.thebattlecreekalliance.org/aerial-views.html> The light patches you see on the map are the clearcut areas. The large bare area you see near Shingletown is after 2012 in the area of Sierra Pacific clearcut land that was burned in the Ponderosa Fire.

In the early days, 1850 to 1900 logging was largely done with hand labor, long bow saws and horse drawn carts, railroads and many flumes to bring timber to the various

## Deforestation (Cont.)

mills in the area. By the 1960's almost all of the huge old growth logs were gone and the old fashioned saw mills were not built to handle the smaller logs, plus, modernization put many of the old mills out of business. The closing of many mills in Shasta County was primarily because the old mills were not built to handle smaller logs and they could not compete with the increasingly automated new mills being built by large timber companies such as Sierra Pacific Industries.

## SEA Facebook Page Updated

Jose Hernandez is our new Facebook manager, and he has been keeping it up to date on SEA events and related issues. Jose has been working with SEA webmaster in improving and updating our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/ShastaEnvironmentalAlliance>

## Sierra Club and SEA Cooperation: New Acorn Planting Season December 5, 11, 18, 9 am

Working in cooperation with the Shasta Group of Sierra Club, SEA we will be planting acorns on December 5, 11, and 18 starting at 9 am and possibly into January. This will involve digging the soil to loosen it and putting a cage around the future tree. We will be planting blue oaks near the Westside Trail and at Oregon Gulch and some valley oaks along Churn Creek. If you would like to participate on any of these days for one to three hours, email [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org) and we will put you on our email reminder list with upcoming dates. On one of these dates or in January, we will also be planting 44 incense cedars on a 2100 acre property near Shasta Lake. We need your help to reforest these areas while also sequestering CO2.

## Incense Cedar Planting at the Lightning Canyon Ranch

We have 44 incense cedar trees 12-18 inches tall that we will be planting on the 2100-acre Lightning Canyon Ranch near Shasta Lake. This property is owned by Bob Hixon and is managed by the Pacific Forest Trust which has a conservation easement on the property. It was burned in the Salt Fire this year, but it was not severe on most of the property. The property is mixed conifer and oak woodland, primarily conifers in the higher elevations.



This area is the ancestral territory of the Wintu people. The book *A Bag of Bones* features the writings of Grant Towendolly, "a Wintu Indian, philosopher, mystic and shaman" born in 1873. The bag of bones rock, of Wintu lore is on this property which can be viewed from the roadside. A photo of the rock is on the cover of the book.

This will be a one-half day event and will involve digging shallow holes 14 inches deep for each tree and staking and flagging the tree. This event will be held in December or January depending on the weather and our acorn planting program. If you would like to participate in this event, contact walk leader David Ledger at [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org).

## New Year's Day Field Trip Westside Trail January 1, 2022, 9am

Start the New Year off right with a hike up the Westside Trail, a four-mile roundtrip easy to moderate hike to "Top of the World" with views of Mt. Shasta, Trinity Alps, Mt. Lassen and the northern Sierras. Field trip leader David Ledger has led this hike for the Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for over 10 years and is continuing on as a SEA field trip. This is a fun hike, and we will identify some of the native plants as we hike up the hill and observe the regrowth of plants on the trail. Meet at the end of Kilkee Drive near Mary Lake at 9 am. Contact David Ledger at [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org) for more information.

## Lupine seeds still available!!!



We still have more drought tolerant silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) seeds available thanks to Lang Dayton providing us with a new batch. If you would still like some, email [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com) with your address and we will mail you a packet. This way can provide nectar and pollen for our local pollinators. If you asked for some previously and did not receive any, we may have misplaced your request, please ask again.