

SEA Newsletter October 2022

Redding City Council Elections Forum Monday, October 3, 6 pm

SEA will be conducting a Redding City Council Candidates Forum with cosponsors **Wintu Audubon Society, Sierra Club, North State Climate Action and California Native Plant Society** at the First United Methodist Church, 1825 East Street, Redding at 6 pm. This hall has two double doors that we will keep open as much as possible to keep the fresh air circulating.

Come and hear what the future leaders of Redding have to say about environmental issues and a new Redding Tree Ordinance. This is an important time for those who care about our local environment to show up and let our future leaders that there we care. We will have prepared questions and take written questions from the audience. Nine of ten candidates will be participating.

We can also use a few volunteers. Please email David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org if you can help.

Redding Tree Committee

Unfortunately, the Development Services Department is putting off the first meeting of the Tree Committee until an undetermined date in December, meaning at least two members of the current council will not be able to vote on the recommendations. Unfortunately, when it comes to saving tree, it seems City government can work quite slow. Now it is all the more important for people to attend the Candidates' Forum! A new tree ordinance will be one of the questions asked of the candidates.

Bumble Bees Win Protection

The California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) won an appeals court decision against the Almond Growers of California which allows the listing of four species of

Bumble Bees Cont.

bumble bees to be listed as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

In October 2018 the Xerces Society petitioned the California Fish and Game Commission to list the species providing them protection under CESA. At a regional meeting in Redding, many environmental groups including SEA spoke in support of the listing of the rare species and the Commission voted in favor of starting the listing process. Then in 2019 the almond growers sued FGC on the grounds that insects are not protected by CESA and won in Superior Court.

The 3rd Appeals Court ruled for the FGC overturning the lower court and ordered the Almond Alliance to pay court fees. Many environmental organizations signed on to the lawsuit and SEA also wrote a comment letter of support when the original petition for listing was heard.

The reason the almond growers were opposed to the listing is because it limits their application of pesticides to almond fields. Many of these have been found to be detrimental to bees and bumble bees. One positive of the lawsuit is that since the original 2018 decision, some larger almond growers have set aside fallowed land free of pesticides. The problem is that bees and bumble bees can feed off the nectar and pollen of both pesticide sprayed and unsprayed lands.

Redding "Wintu Country" Signs

Thanks to the efforts of Redding Council Member Julie Winter, there are now signs stating "Wintu Country" on all Redding City Limit signs on roads



entering Redding. This recognizes the Redding area as the ancestral land of the Wintu people before it was stolen from them 170 years ago.

Michelle RadcliffGarcia of the Wintu Tribe of Northern California designed the sign.

New State Law to Eliminate Offensive Racist Name in California

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a state bill on September 30, California Native American Day, that will remove the word “squaw,” now widely considered a racist and sexist slur, from California places by 2025.

This word is an offensive slur used to describe Native Americans women and is slowly being eliminated in the United States. There are many people who don't see the harm in using this word. However, there is a quick, but not advisable, way to test if the word is offensive, is to use it on your mother, wife or female friend and see if they take offense.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has already signed an order to eliminate the offensive name on all lands under her jurisdiction last November. The [U.S. Board on Geographic Names](#) is considering changing the name of other places having racist name. Now if we can get rid of the name Digger Creek!

Submitted by David Ledger



U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland

SEA UP COMING EVENTS

Redding City Council Candidates Forum Monday, October 3, 6 pm First United Methodist Church

Shasta Environmental Alliance, with cosponsors Wintu Audubon, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, North State Climate Action and the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society will be holding a Redding City Council candidates' forum on Monday, October 3 at 6 pm. This event will be filmed and placed on You Tube with links to our supporting groups websites.

There are currently 10 city council candidates running for office and nine will be attending so it will be a crowded forum. This event will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 1825 East Street in the Social Hall on the ground floor at the South Street entrance. Many of the questions, but not all will be from an environmental aspect. We hope that you will plan to attend to let the candidates know that the citizens of Redding are very concerned about the environmental issues facing our community. Parking is available behind the church. For more information, contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org.

Oregon Gulch Field Trip Saturday, October 8, 9 am

This field trip of Shasta Environmental Alliance and the Shasta Chapter of CNPS will once again explore a natural area of 380 acres within Redding City limits. This field trip on Saturday, October 8 will be a hike of about three one-half miles that is fairly easy except for one steep section that does require good balance. We will walk the length area from an ephemeral creek to a ridge with panoramic views of the mountains surrounding the area. Walk leader David Ledger will identify native and non-native plants along the trail and provide people with a plant list. This is an excellent area to learn the plants or chaparral and oak woodlands. For meeting place and to signup, contact walk leader David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org or if you have other questions.

SEA Sulphur Creek Fall Cleanup Quartz Hill Road

Saturday October 15, 9 am

SEA will be leading its 3rd Annual Sulphur Creek Saturday, October 15 from 9 to 11 am. (Our Spring cleanup was canceled.) We will be working on the main channel of the creek and a feeder stream to the creek. This is not a difficult creek cleanup, but it does involve hiking down a short trail to the creek. This cleanup is of various trash that has been washed down stream and left by various visitors. This is the creek where Redding's rare Sulphur Creek Brodiaea grows, the only place in the world. It has a California Rare Plant rank of 1.B, very rare. Bring gloves, water and hat. For meeting place and more information contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org.

Nur Pon (Henderson) Botany Walk

Saturday, October 22, 9 am



Nur Pon bridge, photo by Bob Madison

How do plants tell time, change colors, drop their leaves? These will be some of the discussion on this botany walk through the Nur Pon Open Space, sponsored by SEA and the Shasta Chapter of CNPS. David Ledger will lead this field trip and as an added bonus we will also have a botanist who does plant surveys and is starting to specialize in invasive plant species in our area. We will also identify the various plants along the trail and give participants a plant list. This will be a walk of under two miles and will last about two hours. Nur Pon is near Hartnell Avenue at the intersection of Parkview Avenue and Henderson Road on the east side of the river. Park behind the Cobblestone Shopping Center inside the wrought iron fence. For more information contact david@ecoshasta.org.

Paradise Meadows September Field Trip

This joint SEA and CNPS field trip to Paradise Meadows in Lassen Volcanic National Park on September 17 was definitely not summer weather. It was about 45 degrees when we started and low 60's when we finished. We walked the first part of the trail fairly fast just to warm up. While few wildflowers were left in bloom, we did see some alpine aster, marsh marigolds, arrowleaf senecio, Bloomer's rabbitbush, Angelica, yampah, pearly everlasting, scarlet gilia and yarrow in bloom. Due to the bright red fruit, we noticed a western mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*) just off the trail. Along the way we identified, and helped others learn the six conifers on the trail: red fir, white fir, mountain hemlock, lodgepole, Jeffrey and western white pine. We did hear one Red Tail Hawk on the hike up and he later sat on the top of a pine tree while we ate lunch in the meadows.

We had eight people attend this field trip carpooling in three cars to keep down our CO2 emissions with one person needing to drive separate for a family visit to Chico. A summer hike that seemed like mid fall due to the overcast skies and cold temperatures. This trail is over 7000 feet in elevation, and we were the first people on the trail, so we had it to ourselves although we did run into a few people on the way back.



Paradise Meadows. Photo by Derle Gilliam