



Shasta Environmental Alliance

May Newsletter



Growing Forward Together

The Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) is going through an exciting period of change and growth. As we restructure, our goal remains the same: to protect the natural beauty of our region while encouraging community involvement and environmental awareness.

We know how important it is to stay engaged and connected, especially as our community faces both challenges and opportunities related to our

promoting local action, and supporting the individuals and groups working to protect our air, water, forests, and wildlife.

As we reshape our organization, we're taking time to build a stronger foundation for the future — one that allows for deeper collaboration, more inclusive engagement, and a renewed focus on environmental education and outreach. We believe a healthy environment goes hand in hand with a healthy, informed community.

We're grateful for your continued support and passion. We look forward to keeping you informed, inspired, and involved as we move ahead. Together, we can keep building a community that values and protects the natural world we all share.

Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to get involved — the work continues, and we're glad to have you with us.



Earth Day Success

After many months of planning and organizing by several dedicated volunteers from the Earth Day Committee and with help from over a dozen day-of volunteers the 2025 Earth Day Festival was a resounding success. The SEA hosted event was on April 19th where over 40 booths consisted of

opportunities to learn about local initiatives, connect with their community, and celebrate the earth.

Festival highlights included a lineup of talented artists who performed live music throughout the day, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. Environmentally focused activities kept kids entertained and engaged throughout the day, while adults had the opportunity to engage in the information booths and learn about local environmental issues. These booths ranged from learning how to properly compost at the City of Redding booth to making smores via solar power in the kids activity booth. For those who cycled to the festival, the Shasta Wheelmen provided a safe and secure bike parking area, ensuring that their bikes were well protected. Additionally, a range of excellent food vendors offered delicious and unique treats to attendees.

SEA extends our gratitude to all of the volunteers, organizations, sponsors, and attendees who made the 2025 Earth Day Festival such a remarkable success. It was a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved, and the committee looks forward to building on this success in the years to come.

City of Redding Riverfront Plan

The City Council is scheduled to review, discuss and provide direction regarding development of the Riverfront Specific Plan during their regularly scheduled **May 20, 2025** meeting.

You can read about the Riverfront Plan here: <https://www.reddingriverfront.org/>



City of Redding Tree Ordinance



The City of Redding is considering updates to its tree ordinance, which applies to private development. The proposed draft includes new incentives, stronger enforcement measures, and a mitigation fee system—where developers must either replant removed trees or pay into a fund that supports tree planting elsewhere in the city. After months of delay due to staffing shortages in the city attorney’s office, the ordinance is tentatively expected to go before the City Council at their **May 20th** meeting. This is a key moment for shaping how Redding balances development with urban tree cover.

Endangered Species Act Under Threat

Congressman Doug La Malfa’s proposed House Joint Resolution 78 **would reverse the 2024 Endangered Species Act listing of the Longfin Smelt**, weaken critical flow protections, and accelerate the collapse of the Bay-Delta ecosystem and its fisheries. It would also promote toxic algae blooms and set a dangerous precedent for dismantling regulatory safeguards for California’s rivers and estuary.

Read the Friends of the River Action Alert here: <https://t.e2ma.net/message/sqlv2q/wpbm52j>

Rescinding the Definition of “Harm” under the

The Endangered Species Act prohibits the “take” of endangered species by any person, including individuals, government entities and corporations. “Take” has been defined to include actions that “harm” endangered species through “significant habitat modification or degradation.”

The April 2025 proposal would fully rescind this definition and allow habitat modification and degradation.

Read the Center for Biological Diversity release here: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/trump-administration-moves-to-gut-habitat-protections-for-endangered-wildlife-2025-04-16/>

Field Trip Reports

Sloppy Joe Spring Edition!



We had a small group of 7 hikers on April 13th who joined Juliet Malik for a 3.5 mile hike along the Sloppy Joe and T-Party trails in west Redding. It was a beautiful spring morning with plenty of green growth and emerging

Juliet shared her love for these small and very vocal creatures who have adapted to these short-lived water sources. As the water dries up they move upland to find other water sources or shaded habitat to spend the day, and they keep their bodies moist

highlights included the spotting of an orange crowned warbler singing its heart out, a poison oak vine that wrapped so densely around a blue oak it resembled English ivy, patches of white meadowfoam (*Limnanthes alba*), blooming mule's ears (*Wyethia sp.*), tomcat clover (*Trifolium willdenovii*), woollyfruit desert parsley (*Lomatium dasycarpum*), and some canoodling ladybugs in a mugwort plant (*Artemisia douglasiana*)!

We discussed stream types –perennial streams flow year-round, intermittent streams are seasonal but get flow from both groundwater and precipitation, and ephemeral streams are seasonally charged solely by precipitation. The small creeks in this trail system are possibly ephemeral as they dry up pretty quickly after the rains have stopped. Regardless, they host a bounty of riparian vegetation and provide great habitat for Pacific chorus frogs during their breeding season.

frogs because they have sticky toe pads to help them climb to great heights to find food. By the end of the hike the group got to hear a little call and response between some male frogs. Their springtime singing is often a mating call but could also be a territorial display. The females lay clutches of hundreds of eggs to increase the chances of survival against their many predators and other threats. These creatures help control slug and insect populations and we can do our part to support them by eliminating toxic yard and home maintenance products that eventually make it into the local waterways as well as by encouraging our community and local leaders to protect these sensitive habitats.

City Nature Challenge Bioblitz Walks





On April 26th and 27th SEA's hike leader Juliet Malik was joined by local naturalist and birder extraordinaire Ross Schaefer to guide a small but enthusiastic group of citizen scientists along trails in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and the Sacramento River trail. The objective was to photograph and/or take audio recordings of as many living organisms for the [Shasta County City Nature Challenge](#). This is the first year for our region to officially participate in this iNaturalist project organized globally by the California Academy of Sciences and the Museum of Natural Sciences of Los Angeles County and locally organized by Point Blue Conservation. SEA's weekend bioblitz events yielded hundreds of observations and contributed to a vast database of species documentation, many of which will be research grade and available for use by scientists around the world.

For the Whiskeytown portion, the weather was cool and cloudy and perfect for spending hours taking pics

We also logged some gorgeous California snowdrop bushes, turkey-tails, California tortoiseshell caterpillars, several biscuitroot (*Lomatium*) species, pretty face, sulphur peas, a banana slug, mountain phacelia, and several Western black-legged ticks that liked Ross's exposed legs! (Always a good reminder to check yourself for ticks after spending time in the wilderness!)

The Sacramento River trail never disappoints in plant and bird diversity and the group logged many native species including blue elder, taw man-root, Oregon ash, California maidenhair fern, red-seeded dandelion, and chokecherry. Ross identified several birds by ear, including western tanager, warbling vireo, and a black-headed grosbeak. The whole group delighted in getting eyes on a yellow warbler, a pair of mallards, spotted towhees, and a nesting pair of red-shouldered hawks.

The official bioblitz may be over, but

shared his wealth of native plant and bird knowledge with the group. A special highlight of the trip for plant enthusiasts was the rose firecracker flower (*Dichelostemma x venustum*). This is an uncommonly seen plant that is considered a natural hybrid between *D. ida-maia* and either *D. congestum* or *D. multiflora*.

incredible biodiversity by uploading photos to [iNaturalist](#) of what you see when you're out on the trail, in your neighborhood, or in a park. Springtime is a great time to get outdoors and share what you see and hear!

Future Field Trips & Hikes

Future outings, hikes, and field trips will be announced on our social media pages and posted on our online calendar. Be sure to follow us and check back often so you don't miss a chance to explore with us!



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