



**SIERRA
CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

Shasta Group

Mother Lode Chapter

April Newsletter

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We need volunteers for Earth Day Redding April 18

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Sierra Club/CNPS/Horsetown Cleanups Recap



Volunteers helping to pick up trash for Adopt the Highway. Image by Lisa Ross



Picking up trash at Horsetown Preserve! Image by Lisa Ross

Sierra Club/CNPS/Horsetown Cleanups

Sierra Club led a cleanup of the Clear Creek Trail from the Clear Creek Gorge parking lot almost to Horsetown Preserve where the trail ends. With only six people we cleaned the entire trail of trash within two hours.

We also led an annual cleanup of upper Sulphur Creek that CNPS has been leading for years, and with the help of four amazing volunteers we were able to accomplish a lot in 2 hours. We also saw one large rock with many shell fossils embedded in it as this used to be an ancient sea that extended above Oasis Road.

Nine volunteers joined the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve Adopt a Highway cleanup which brought out people from Sierra Club and CNPS members as well as Mark Ewing from Beautify Shasta. Horsetown Preserve treated volunteers to lunch afterwards at Karl's Jr.

Thanks to all who helped on these cleanups. We were able to clean up a lot of trash!

Dye Creek Preserve Hike Recap



Hike participants. Image by Haley Pratt



A cave hideaway! Image by Haley Pratt

Beautiful view of the preserve. Image by Haley Pratt

For this Sierra Club/California Native Plant Society popular field trip we had 22 people attending and had delightful weather except into the afternoon when it reached 85 degrees, but everyone survived without injury. We had three young people under 18, which was encouraging that their parents brought them along and hopefully they become future environmentalists. My favorite plant on the field trip was Twining brodiaea (*Dichelostemma*

volubile). We also saw closely related blue dicks, elegant brodiaea, roundtooth ookow, lily-like spears and many canyon live forever (*Dudleya cymosa*). This was a difficult hike and takes considerable time when you are also identifying plants. This was the first field trip here for many of the group and they expressed interest in returning sometime.

Upcoming Events!

Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve Wildflower Outing

Saturday, April 4, 10 am

Horsetown Preserve, 7 miles west of Highway 272

Sierra Club members and others, meet the Shasta Group Chair David Ledger for a walk and talk about wildflowers and native plants. David is also Conservation Chair of the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society. Enjoy the beauty of blooming wildflowers, the stimulation of a walk in the country, and learn about plants and nature. Saturday mornings don't get any better than this. David is a long-time member of the CNPS and very knowledgeable about plants in our area.

Sierra Club/CNPS Castle Crags Park Field Trip

Flume Trail and Nature Trail

Saturday, April 11, 8 am

This field trip will start at the Nature Trail near the Park entrance to "warmup" our plant knowledge of plants in the conifer zone, then we will drive to the start of the Flume trail for a 3.5 mile moderate difficulty out and back hike with an elevation climb of 700 feet. We will see a variety of native plants on the trail. Meet at the Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot near Chase Bank at 8 am. Limited to 15 people. To reserve a space, contact walk leader David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com. Bring water, lunch, hiking boots and gas money/park entrance fees to share costs. No dogs allowed on Park trails. Waiver sign in at the start of the hike. Free Park passes at Redding Library with a card.

Introductory Bird Walk

Saturday, April 11th at 9am

Shasta Birding Society presents a Second Saturday Introductory bird walk at Turtle Bay on April 11th. Walk will be led by teen birder, Nova Yates, for our Youth Leadership Day. Meet us at 9am at the benches near Sundial Bridge and catch some birding enthusiasm from our teen leader. Walk lasts about one hour. Spare binoculars available. Contact Stephanie with any questions: shughess123@gmail.com

Shingletown to Manton Field Trip

Driving and walking field trip

Saturday, May 2, 8 am

Sierra Club and California Native Plant Society will be leading a species identifying field trip between Black Butte Road and Manton. We will be identifying plants in several areas and posting them to Calflora.org to increase awareness of plants in these areas. This will include an out and back field trip on flat ground of about 2 miles to a grove of McNab Cypress, then a walk on several parcels in the Manton area to identify plants. On the drive back we will stop at Lake Nora and Lake Grace for those who haven't been there. At each area we will assign those willing to post plants on Calflora.org to increase knowledge of what grows in these areas. Bring water, lunch, hat, cell phone and a notebook. Limited to 15 people. To reserve a space contact walk leader David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com. Beginners to experts welcome. For those going we will provide training on learning how to post on Calflora ahead of the field trip. UNSEASONALLY HOT DRY WEATHER WILL CHANGE THIS LOCATION TO A HIGHER ELEVATION.

Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve Events

Gold Rush History Walk

April 12th, 10am-12pm

Learn about local gold rush history on a walk led by a Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve board member! More information can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Salmon Monitoring on Clear Creek

April 26th, 9am-11am

Join Horsetown–Clear Creek Preserve alongside Fish Biologists from the US. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to learn more about their juvenile salmon conservation and monitoring projects in our area. This is a family friendly event where you can view USFWS rotary screw trap operations on Clear Creek, a project that helps track and monitor populations of our local Chinook Salmon. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Native Plant Identification and Uses

May 3rd, 1-3pm

Join native Wintu Ted Dawson on a spring walk while he locates, identifies, and explains medicinal and general uses of native plants. Ted consulted at Turtle Bay for Native American exhibits. The presentation will include hands on making of a natural poison oak remedy. Bring a jar to take some home.

Earth Day Events!

Earth Day Redding: Saturday, April 18th, 11 am to 4 pm

Earth Day Redding Rancheria: Friday, April 24th, 10 am to 3 pm at Win River Casino outdoors.

Earth Day Mt. Shasta: Go visit the Earth Day Festival happening in Mt. Shasta City Park from 11am to 5pm! There will be booths, food, music, presentations, puppies, a children's parade and a concert to follow after the festival! We will be tabling at all three of these Earth Day events, so feel free to stop by and say hi!

Conservation Brief

By David Ledger

Solar Project vs. Blue Oak Woodlands



A huge canyon live oak tree close to the solar project. Image by Marily Woodhouse.

Recently a 200 MW solar project on a 2704 acre ranch called Coyote Creek was approved in Sacramento County. Shortly thereafter, the California Native Plant Society with the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECL) filed a lawsuit against the project because it was situated on 2,704 acres with approximately 1,412 acres of blue oak that would be

removed. The reason for filing the lawsuit was because it was important irreplaceable wildlife habitat and had over 3,000 old growth blue oaks according to the ECS. Blue oaks and associated woodland sequester considerable carbon which would be lost with the removal of the oaks, burning of the slash and all the subsequent firewood and the bulldozing of considerable land would cause a rapid release of CO₂ in addition to loss of valuable habitat.

In the Manton area, on a much smaller scale, solar companies will soon be removing considerable wildlife habitat, including blue oak woodland over the next few years as many landowners within about one thousand feet of high voltage powerlines have been approached to lease their lands for solar projects due to the proximity to powerlines.

Local Manton residents did fight the first small 25-acre project that came through the Planning Department that was situated on one of the most dense oak woodlands on the 377 acre parcel. The Planning Commission approved it on a 3 to 2 vote on January 22. The two conservative Commissioners, James Chapin and Steve Kerns are retired certified foresters and know the importance of oak woodlands and were adamant in their opposition.

Unfortunately, the majority of the commissioners are more business oriented: developer's representative, Tim MacLean: Cottonwood contractor Gabe Ross: large commercial and industrial Realtor Scott Pewitt of whom all voted in favor as is common on Planning Commissions. Most tend to be primarily focused on profits and can't see why a project should be denied or even changed because of trees. Like those cutting down the Amazon forests, there are millions of acres of trees elsewhere, so why be concerned?

At a cost of over \$900 the Manton residents appealed the decision to the Board of Supervisors even though the minutes of the Planning Commission were not approved at their March meeting with a dispute over the failure of the Planning Department to mention several important issues of the solar project that were left out of the minutes. The vote was 4 to 1 to uphold the decision with Kelstrom stating he supported the project but was voting no because he knew the residents were opposed. Marily Woodhouse of Battle Creek Alliance was most active in fighting this precedent setting decision.

Previously I had written a personal opposition to the project to the Planning Commission, but as a Sierra Club meeting was a week before the BOS meeting, I asked permission to

write a letter and received a unanimous vote of all eight Steering Committee members present. The Shasta Chapter of CNPS most likely have supported a letter as I received help from some members in composing a letter, but I failed to ask at their board meeting.

With the BOS approval, I expect many more projects in the Manton area to come through Planning as it sets a precedent. This is unfortunate as Battle Creek is an important habitat for salmon and steelhead trout and \$163 million has been spent improving the watershed, with more money proposed. The effect of this 25-acre project is not great, but the cumulative effects of all the others in the pipeline will be.

Sierra Club Volunteers Needed

As the reorganization of the Sierra Club gets moving, we need volunteers. Do you have a few hours you can volunteer each month? Fill out this [google form](#) or contact sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com if interested or have any questions.

Steering Committee: This committee meets monthly and recommends and approves projects for the Shasta Group.

Conservation Committee: This committee would meet as needed and largely virtually or through emails to discuss conservation issues the Shasta Group should address.

Programs: This position would involve recruiting public speakers for meetings.

Publicity: This position would involve notifying local media, local groups and individuals about Sierra Club Activities.

Executive Committee: This is the governing body of the Shasta Group. It involves attending a monthly meeting and making decisions on the direction and activities of the group. We want those dedicated to protecting our local environment.

Follow us on Social Media!

**We will be posting updates on Instagram and Facebook
along with our website!**



[@sierraclub.shastagroup](#)



www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585275718153

<https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/shasta>

**Thank you for reading! Check out our website for a
calendar list of events, and if you want to become a regular
volunteer or have ideas for types of outings you want to
see happen, we would love to have your help! Email us at
sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com and we will get back to you!**