



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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Shasta Group May Newsletter

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Earth Day Recap!

We had three tabling events this April for Earth Day, and all were very fun to attend! Marti Weidert and Brigitte Robertson tabled at the Earth Day Redding event on April 18th, and David Ledger tabled at the Redding Rancheria Earth Day and the Mount Shasta Earth Day Festival. Thank you to all who stopped by at our tables!



Earth Day in Redding with Marti Weidert and Brigitte Robertson tabling.



David Ledger tabling at the Earth Day festival in Mount Shasta.

Upcoming Events!

Sierra Club Jenny Creek Open Space Field Trip With Friends of Jenny Creek

Saturday, May 2, 9 am

TR WOODS PARK ON ROYAL OAKS DRIVE

The Shasta Group of Sierra Club will be leading a field trip in the Jenny Creek Open Space with Friends of Jenny Creek who are fighting to protect this area from a paved trail up to 16 feet wide, with lights at night near a stream that have salmon and steelhead trout. This is a short under 2 mile easy walk in a largely unexplored area of Redding. It is very uneven ground for the second part of the walk so that part would require balance. Your chance to learn about the issues involved regarding this huge proposed but not approved trail. Dogs on leash with poop bag okay

As an added bonus the Friends of Jenny Creek will be providing refreshments and socializing afterwards back at the TR Woods Park in the Sunset neighborhood on Royal Oaks Drive. RSVP at FriendsofJennyCreek@gmail.com 530.246.0550 so they can plan on refreshments. The field trip requires signing a Sierra Club waiver.

Shingletown to Manton Field Trip to Learn and Post on Calflora

Sunday, May 3, 8 am

The California Native Plant Society will be leading a species identifying field trip between Black Butte Road. 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. UNSEASONABLY HOT DRY WEATHER WILL CHANGE THIS LOCATION TO A HIGHER ELEVATION.

Sierra Club/CNPS Castle Crags Park Field Trip

Flume Trail and Nature Trail

Saturday, May 9, 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 start of hike.

Earth Action Hour!

Viva Downtown Redding

Thursday, May 14th, 5:30-7:30pm

Come join us for an evening of socializing and mobilizing! Meet fellow Sierra Club members, enjoy some pizza and refreshments, and learn about local environmental issues happening in the area. All are welcome, please rsvp by emailing David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com for a food count. We hope to see you there!

California Native Plant Society Clikapudi Trail Field Trip

Saturday, May 16, 8 am

This trail at Shasta Lake has a very high diversity of plants to observe, from rare to common. The trail is 6 miles long and moderate to difficult primarily because of the distance. We will provide a plant list and identify plants on the walk led by David Ledger. Bring plenty of water, lunch, hat and wear closed-toe shoes. This is a CNPS field trip and Sierra Club is participating. Limited to 15 participants. For more information and to reserve a space, email dsledger49@gmail.com. You must sign the CNPS 2026 online waiver to participate here: [WaiverSign](#)

Sierra Club/CNPS Field Trip

Heart Lake

Saturday, May 30, 10 am

This Sierra Club hike will be at Heart Lake near Mt. Shasta and will be 3 miles for an out and back moderate difficulty hike above 6000 feet. We will be learning about plants along the trail, the Roadless Rule and Wilderness Area designations. Join us for a morning of hiking and learning while taking in spectacular views! Limited to 15 participants, to reserve a space and for more information contact sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com. For those coming from Redding, we will meet at the Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot at 8:30 am to carpool/caravan to the trailhead. Wear closed toe shoes, bring water and lunch, hiking poles are helpful. Sorry, not dogs allowed on this field trip. Requires signing a Sierra Club waiver.

Conservation Brief Update

Shasta County Sued by Manton Resident over Solar Project

By David Ledger

In the March Firecracker, I discussed a 25-acre solar project proposed to be placed in a wooded area of which 14+ acres was blue oak woodland with the rest being scattered oaks and conifers. At the final Planning Commission meeting, two commissioners, one a retired forester and the other a biologist, were adamantly opposed to the project because it would be removing an important blue oak woodland without proper mitigation. Two retired university biology professors who own land in the area also wrote letters opposing the project as well as Sierra Club and area residents.

Unfortunately, it was approved on a 3 to 2 vote and the Manton residents appealed it to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) where it passed by a 4 to 1 vote. The minutes of the Planning Commission meeting were never approved by the Commission because of disputes over the failure to include the objections to the solar project by the commissioners and the possible resulting legal action. Yet the BOS voted to approve the project despite the lack of approved minutes of the Planning Commission.

With the support of many Manton area residents, it was decided to file a lawsuit against Shasta County on a number of grounds. Marily Woodhouse decided to write an appeal of the decision and after many hours of research, writing and typing, she finished and filed the lawsuit, a Writ of Mandate, on Friday, April 24. I and area residents helped with some of the legwork and delivery of letters to the County, but nothing compared to the many hours Woodhouse spent on her filing.

This lawsuit has an importance even greater than this specific project as there are many other solar projects in preliminary stages in the greater Manton area, and even a 950 acre one in Millville Plains. Shasta County and the City of Redding Planning Departments will often accept grossly substandard Biological Assessment Surveys that do not follow CEQA regulations and CDFW protocols. We hope the Shasta County Planning Department will no longer accept the many substandard Biological Assessments and surveys that I have seen on projects. If so, this will result in better protection of rare and sensitive plants and birds and proper mitigation for sensitive species and for the removal of our oak woodlands.

The Battle Creek Watershed currently has an ongoing restoration project overseen by the Bureau of Reclamation to bring the return of the salmon and steelhead trout to the watershed.

The project will remove five small hydroelectric dams built in the 1920's and diversion dams in the watershed that are blocking migrating fish. One dam and several diversion dams have already been removed, and two non-functioning hydroelectric dams are already approved for removal; one this year and one in 2027. Thus far, this project has cost over \$160 million dollars and if woodlands in the watershed are removed, it could affect area temperatures and sedimentation runoff depending on their placement and mitigation measures.

The Sierra Club supports solar energy projects, but not when they are in a blue oak woodland because of important habitat loss and the loss of significant carbon sequestration that was stored in the oak trees and soil.



150 year old blue oak woodland to be razed for project which will last only 30 years. Image by Marily Woodhouse



Western screech owl in blue oak cavity next to solar farm land. Image by Marily Woodhouse

May is Bike Month!

Sign up for the Shasta Bike Challenge and see the schedule of events at [ShastaBikeChallenge.org](https://www.shastabikechallenge.org)!


May is National Bike Month and we invite you to celebrate it with the [Shasta Bike Month & Challenge](https://www.shastabikechallenge.org)! There are community events and group rides planned during May to connect you with others who like to ride bikes! Join us Friday, May 1st 5 – 7:30 pm for the kick-off party downtown at The Park (food truck park). Check out the many other events and rides here: [Community Events & Rides - healthyshasta.org](https://www.healthyshasta.org).


The [Shasta Bike Challenge](https://www.shastabikechallenge.org) is for everyone- beginners, experienced cyclists, and everyone in between. The more days you ride, the greater your chances of winning. There are many ways to participate and win! **Here is how it works:**


🚲 **Register** for the challenge at <https://www.lovetoride.net/shasta>

📱 **Log your rides** through the Love to Ride App, Strava, Garmin.Connect, or manually on the Love to Ride website.

♥ **Gain entries to prize drawings** by logging rides and encouraging others to ride. Each bike trip you log gives you entries into weekly and final prize drawings for gift cards to bike shops, local grocery stores, and restaurants.

 **Workplaces compete** for points to get the most people riding! Workplaces who top the leaderboard go into a drawing for pastries and coffee delivered to their workplace!

 **Get your family and friends involved** by creating a group and competing with other groups of similar sizes for the most bike trips during May.

 **Download the FREE Love to Ride app** – set goals, rate routes, check street ratings, and auto-log rides to never miss a ride! You can also connect your Love to Ride profile to another logging app like Strava, Garmin.Connect, or log rides manually on the Love to Ride website.

It doesn't matter how far you go, every ride counts. Whether it's a quick spin around the block or a longer commute, every time you ride and log it, you're entered into drawings to win great prizes.

Ready to join us? Sign up at lovetoride.net or [download the app](#) and let's make the most of spring—one ride at a time!  

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 our social media pages!

Instagram: @sierraclub.shastagroup

Facebook: Sierra Club Shasta Group

Email: sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com

Website: www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/shasta