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Shasta Group October Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

The Science of Global Warming and Local Impacts

Presented by Sierra Club and North State Climate Action
Wednesday, October 22, 5:30, IOOF Hall 1504 Market St. (Use Butte St. Entrance.)

The Sierra Club and North State Climate Action will be presenting two scientists, Daniel Axelrod (Ph.D., Physics, UC Berkeley and Geneva M. Omann (Ph.D. Biochemistry, U. Minnesota) speaking in Redding on Wednesday, October 22 at the IOOF Hall, 1504 Market Street about the science of climate change and what our climate in the north state could be like in the future. The free meeting will start with a social, free pizza and refreshments at 530 pm. Their talk starts at 6 pm.

They will present at a level that the average person can understand and will fill in gaps for those with knowledge of the subject.

After covering the basic physics of global warming: e.g. greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide from fossil fuels, feedback loops and how they affect

atmospheric circulation, they will discuss the consequences to planet, humans and other species, such as from global temperature increases, increased ocean temperatures, intense storms, ocean acidification, sea level rise and impacts on ocean currents. Current and future local impacts on area climate will be highlighted.

They will conclude their talk with the effects on lower income communities and other most vulnerable populations, who is responsible, and how to respond effectively to stop the worst outcomes. For more information, email sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com

Both have lived in Siskiyou County since 2003 and are co-founders (with others) of the non-profit, We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review (W.A.T.E.R.), dedicated to protecting the environment and the communities of the North State.

Shasta Birding Society Field Trips
Saturday, October 10 & 17
Turtle Bay Trail

The October 10 event starts at 9 am at the Sundial Bridge and is aimed at beginners and families, but all are invited. These are usually one hour walks with an option to continue on. Binoculars are provided and a birding expert with lead the field trip.

The October 17 event starts at 8 am and meets in the parking lot near the Monolith. This is for all skill levers, beginners to expert and takes up to 4 hours, tracking the many fall migrating birds. Both events are free and the public is welcome. For more information, email shastabirding@gmail.com

Upper Salt Creek Field Trip

Saturday, October 12, 9 am
Lower Springs Road at Valparaiso Way

Sierra Club will be leading a field trip on the Upper Salt Creek Trail for an out and back easy 3 mile hike. Walk leader David Ledger will talk about the reproductive strategies of various plant types including conifers, ferns, bryophytes, and flowering plants. Few plants will be in bloom, but this is a good time to learn to identify plants in the fall. This creek had extensive small scale gold mining operations all along the trail, both placer and hard rock mining. Rain cancels, but if drizzles or intermittent light rain, bring umbrella. This field trip is sponsored by the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society, led by Sierra Club. Limited to 15 people and requires registering and signing a waiver Here. Please also email: sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com to reserve a space. Meet in the trailhead parking lot on Valparaiso Way at Lower Springs Road.



Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve
Wildlife Tracking with Emily Culhane
Saturday, October 17 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Join local wildlife biologist and certified tracker Emily Culhane, with the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society, for wildlife tracking and an introduction to Tracker Certification North America (TCNA). Learn about local wildlife tracks and signs—with a 100% chance of being distracted by birds and botany! Bring binoculars, waterproof shoes, layers, water, snacks, and your sense of adventure. Expect moderate to strenuous

hiking, bending, and kneeling. Horsetown is located on Clear Creek Road, 7 miles west of Highway 273 at the Clear Creek Bridge.

Sierra Club Adopt a Trail Cleanup on Clear Creek
Saturday, October 31, 9 am to 11 am
Clear Creek Gorge Parking Lot

Sierra Club will be cleaning trash and pruning back brush on the Clear Creek Trail between the Clear Creek Gorge Parking Lot and the Horsetown Preserve on Saturday October 31 at 9 am starting at the Clear Creek Gorge Parking lot. Bring closed-toe shoes, gloves, water and loppers if you have them. We will have grabbers and trash bags for everyone. Please sign the online Sierra Club Waiver Here For more information, email us at sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com

Recap of September Events

Kapusta Open Space Field Trip Report

The Sierra Club had a fun and informative field trip in the Kapusta Open Space with the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society on a mild September Saturday with 15 friendly participants. David Ledger was the field trip leader but had the help of Don Burk, an experienced botanist and rare plant specialist. At the first pond we went to we saw a swan, blue heron and two great egrets.

On the trail we found vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum)* in bloom everywhere), Fiitch's spikeweed (*Centromadia fitchii),* Telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*) up to 10 feet tall (See photo) and cut-leaf bugleweed, (*Lycopus americanus*) among many others. At a pond and elsewhere, Don identified many plants including gibbous bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba*), common lippia, (*Phyla nodiflora*), water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum)* and Brazilian *w*aterweed, (*Elodea densa).*

This area was the site of an old gravel operation but many native and non native plants are filling in the area with a canopy of valley oaks, Fremont

cottonwood, gray pine and smaller Oregon ash, black locust and black willows.

This open space can be reached by taking Latona Road off of Highway 273 to the end. It is close to the Sacramento River so there are also many riparian plants to enjoy.



Participants looking at a pond plant. Image by Laurie Burk

Native Roots Network Meeting Recap

Jonathon Freeman of the Native Roots Network gave a fascinating talk about the 1200 acres of beautiful oak woodland his group has acquired in the greater Jones Valley - Dry Creek area to 20+ people at the September 22 meeting of the Sierra Club. Among the topics he discussed was the difference between the dominant outlook in American society of looking at land as resource extraction value versus resource protection, nurturing and restoration by indigenous peoples. His group is working on restoring some of the land and teaching young people traditional practices, land restoration and skills that they can use in other working settings. The programs they are developing on this large and important land are only in the beginning stages with more important growth to follow. This is a really unique and exciting long-term adventure for Native Roots Network. They have a fascinating website that you can learn more about this organization at https://www.nativerootsnetwork.org/



Jonathon Freeman of Native Roots speaking to Sierra Club. Image by David Ledger

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 45

Commentary by David Ledger

This proposition, proposed by the California Chamber of Commerce is presented as removing red tape from environmental laws and reducing housing costs. It has substantial support from California's home-building and business development industries, as well as Silicon Valley/venture-capital component and several billionaires.

If this law passes it will severely gut the landmark California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA as it is known. It will not lower the cost of housing in California, that is determined by that basic of economics “the law of supply and demand.”

Proposition 45 will not lower housing costs in California, but it will increase undesirable projects in neighborhoods, cities and towns. Nor will it increase housing, but it will increase developer profits which is its goal. Even the pro-housing group California YIMBY (“Yes In My Back Yard”) is refusing to back the measure, saying “there are good

reasons to oppose it" in a recently published analysis. Recent legislation has allowed for many exemptions to CEQA for housing projects that are infill development.

What this proposition will do in California is shorten the notice time that the public has to comment on projects and eliminate many environmental protections. If it passes, many people will never know about the projects that could adversely affect their neighborhoods and communities. Think of data centers which will be much easier to develop with less environmental protections and less advance notice for people to object. If they don't object at the planning commission, city council and board of supervisor level, they will have lost many grounds to sue to stop a project or correct environmental deficiencies, including for data centers, pipelines, jaisl, clearcut logging plans and urban sprawl developments as they didn't object soon enough because of a greatly reduced comment deadline times.

Another issue of lack of transparency with this Chamber of Commerce proposition as I read it is that only federally recognized tribes have to be notified of upcoming projects. Most tribes in California are not federally recognized.

For more information go to https://www.noprop45ca.com/ as there are many more problems with the Proposition for the wealthy.

Among 450 Groups opposed to Proposition 45 include:

- Many Labor Unions, , American Nurses Association\California, League of Women Voters California, California Native Plant Society, California Council of Churches IMPACT, National Wildlife Federation, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club California, American Whitewater, California Chaparral Institute, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Battle Creek Alliance, American Lung Association, California Nurses Association and about 450 more groups.

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: sieraclub.shasta@gmail.com

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