



THE WATER COOLER

...an environmental conversation

Volume 1 • Number 4 • April 2009

Calendar of Events Happenings-Celebrate & Learn

April

Earth Day:

April 22

www.earthday.net/

National Environmental
Education Week:

April 12 - 18

www.eeweek.org/

National Parks Week:

April 18 - 26

www.nps.gov/npweek/

Shasta College Spring Plant Sale:

April 16 - 18

www.shastacnps.org/calendar.html

Turtle Bay Spring Plant Sale:

April 25

www.turtlebay.org/CalendarofEventsApril2009.php

May

American Wetlands Month

www.epa.gov/wetlands/awm/

National Public Gardens Day:

May 8

www.publicgardens.org/



This is a publication of the
Storm Drain, Wastewater &
Water Divisions of



...conserving resources today
for Redding's tomorrow.

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www.ci.redding.ca.us/rmu/index.html

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Spring Gardening

Early spring is the time for getting our yards and gardens ready for planting. Here are some tips to help you create a dazzling yard and garden while protecting our creeks, streams, lakes, and the Sacramento River.

Quick tips to help you design your lawn and garden:

- Select the right plants for the right place - consider sun or shade exposure, irrigation requirements and pruning practices.
- Choose healthy plants - they will be most resistant to pest infestation.
- Plant insectary plants – those that attract beneficial insects to prey on harmful insects. This practice is utilizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a decision-making process that encourages using environmentally compatible techniques and products.
- Minimize planting annual flowers which require more water and must be replaced 3-4 times each year - consider perennials.
- Choose California natives - drought tolerant and hardy.
- Consider lawn alternatives - Caraway-scented Thyme, Woolly Yarrow, Mother of Thyme, O'Connor's Legume or Garden Chamomile.
- Plant preferred grasses that require less water, fertilizer, mowing, pesticide, and maintenance time - Tall Fescue, Dwarf Tall Fescue, Red Fescue and Perennial Ryegrass.
- Design and install the irrigation system to efficiently water plants or lawns.

Maintain that Beautiful Yard and Garden:

- Use a mulching mower that leaves grass clippings on the lawn - this practice provides free fertilizer and helps lawn grow greener and denser.
- Set mower height up to 2 - 2.5" on perennial tall fescues (1.5" on annual lawns) to increase drought tolerance and discourage invasive weedy grasses.
- Aerate the soil by inserting a 6" garden fork every 4" and levering to loosen the soil.
- Eliminate thatch accumulation by avoiding over-watering or over-fertilizing.
- Utilize a water-conserving irrigation schedule - mornings or late evening when evaporation is minimized. Don't water when it's windy!
- Avoid pesticides or weed killers on the lawn. Studies have shown that commonly used chemicals such as quick-release fertilizers, pesticides and weed-&-feed products, can kill beneficial soil organisms and contribute to soil compaction, thatch build up and lawn disease. These same chemicals harm human health, pets, wildlife and the creeks, streams, lakes and the Sacramento River. Granules and overspray that land on the sidewalk, driveway or street can wash down into the Storm Drains along the curb in your neighborhood. These chemicals entering the Storm Drains flow directly to streams, creeks, lakes and the Sacramento River – it is not treated or filtered on the way. These chemicals can cause algae populations to explode in lakes, and kill off fish and other aquatic wildlife in the lakes and along river edges.

Calendar of Events (Continued)

June

National Rivers Month
[www.americanrivers.org/site/
PageServer](http://www.americanrivers.org/site/PageServer)

Great Outdoors Month
www.greatoutdoorsmonth.com/

World Oceans Day:
June 8
www.theoceanproject.org/wod/

World Environment Day:
June 5
[www.unep.org/wed/2009/
english/](http://www.unep.org/wed/2009/english/)

Please Remember!

Adjust your irrigation controllers! Chances are you don't need to be watering every day or even every other day. Give your irrigation system a tune-up by checking for leaks, fixing broken sprinkler heads and adjusting spray nozzles. Water in the early morning or late evening to minimize water loss due to evaporation. Make your irrigation system work for you.

Where in the World?

We in the Northstate are fortunate to have Lassen National Park right in our own backyard. And within a half a day's drive, we can take advantage of Redwood National Park or Golden Gate National Park as well. Currently, there are 58 National Parks in the United States and 272 million people visit them each year. The largest - Wrangall-St. Elias National Park - is located in Alaska. Have you ever wondered where the largest National Park in the world is located? Northeast Greenland National Park is 375,000 square miles and is the most Northerly Park in the world. The interior of the park is part of the Greenland Ice Sheet and in 1977 was named an International Biosphere Reserve. The park is a major breeding area for the Polar Bear and access to the park is strictly controlled by permit in order to preserve the pristine environment and provide protection of resources. Mean average temperature is between 2 and 14 degrees. Brrr...

Did You Know?

The most commonly used herbicide in the USA is Glyphosate. You may know it as the active ingredient in Roundup® or Aquamaster® and it is used to kill weeds and unwanted grasses. What does Rudy Redding the Ruddy Duck have to say about herbicides?

Glyphosate inhibits an enzyme involved in the production of the amino acids tyrosine, tryptophan and phenylalanine. Plants need that enzyme to grow. Glyphosate is absorbed through the plants' foliage and moves throughout the plants interrupting the growth process. It is ONLY effective on actively growing plants, and, when properly applied with minimum exposure, has a low toxic effect on humans. However, the waterways are a different situation. Fish, aquatic animals, and ducks, like me, are more sensitive to glyphosate than land animals.

PLEASE - never apply herbicides or pesticides just before it rains or on a windy day as the chemicals can be washed from your yard onto the driveway, sidewalk, or into the street. From there, they go directly through the storm drain and into the Sacramento River - my drinking water and yours too!

Be Kind to the Earth Each Day and Every Day by Taking Action:

Take part in a local creek, river, lake, or coastal cleanup campaign.
Alternative or recyclable materials should be used when possible.
Keep trash with you when on a boat or beach, then dispose of it properly.
Educate yourself and others about water conservation issues.

Always throw unwanted fishing line in a trash can, not in the water.
Cut loops from six-pack soda rings before disposing of them.
Toilets should not be used to dispose of trash of any kind.
If your family and friends pollute, teach them how to properly dispose of trash.
Offer your help to environmental and conservation groups and participate in community projects.
Notify the Coast Guard or proper authorities if you see boats dumping trash into the water.

Calling All Natives.....

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a state-wide, non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about California's native plants and to preserving native plants and their natural habitats for future generations. This is especially important given the state's ever-growing population and the greater demand placed on our natural resources.

There are 32 local chapters and headquarters are located in Sacramento. Each chapter is independent and unique and activities are diverse and based on the interests of its membership.

The local Shasta Chapter of CNPS meets the third Thursday of every month, except July, August, and December at 6pm in the Community Room of the Redding Public Library. Monthly field trips take place within Shasta, Tehama, Trinity, Siskiyou, or Modoc counties and both the meetings and fieldtrips are usually advertised in the Record Searchlight. Joining the Native Plant Society will get you a newsletter with all the details.

The Shasta Chapter raises funds through annual plant sales in the spring and fall and tours of native gardens. These funds are used to finance scholarships for students from local counties attending four-year universities, and for annual "acorn grants" to local schools for native plant related projects or field trips.

Shasta CNPS will partner with Shasta College to sell California native plants at the annual Spring Plant Sale Thursday - Saturday April 16 - 18. The sale is located in the horticulture greenhouse area at Shasta College and the hours are 8:00 - 5:00 Thursday and Friday and 9:00 - 3:00 on Saturday. For more information, including a list available plants, please visit www.ci.redding.ca.us/water/waterdocs.html. You can also visit www.shastacnps.org.

Go native....help preserve California.

