

WHISKEYTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Dedicated to Keeping Environmental Education Alive in Shasta County

November 2021



CELEBRATING A NEW SEASON AT WES!

Fall Season 2021

A new season at Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES) began this September with the return of three-hour Field Labs at the Whiskeytown campus. Recognizing the need to get students outdoors after a year of virtual learning, the resumption of K-6 programs became a priority. The response has been enthusiastic, with 18 schools enrolled in the fall program, totaling 620 students. Demand has been especially strong among 5th and 6th grade classes.

Spring Field Labs begin March 29, 2022 and are anticipated to fill quickly. Enroll online and navigate to the calendar to register: <https://www.shastacoe.org/programs-services/whiskeytown-environmental-school>

It's been a team effort to return students to WES with stu-

dent safety of primary concern. The Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) and the National Park Service at Whiskeytown have worked to restore limited utilities and address potential hazards caused by weather. WES Community has supported the program with a grant to SCOE to purchase equipment and instructional materials for WES.

The school site looks different since the Carr Fire of 2018, but new opportunities for learning are abundant! Nature may not always be a gentle host, but she is always an inspirational teacher.



NORTH STATE GIVING TUESDAY

November 30, 2021

Join WES Community on **November 30th** for 14 hours of online giving. This is WES Community's 5th year participating in this event created by the Community Foundation of the North State. WES Community is joining with 185 other nonprofits to celebrate the season of giving.

Click on <https://www.northstategives.org/wescommunity> to see us and begin giving as early as **November 16th**. All donations are tax deductible. You will receive a receipt via email within minutes of your donation. You are also invited to donate in honor of a loved one. In fact, if you would like to create your own Giving Tuesday fundraiser button for WES Community contact us and become part of the excitement.

**NORTH STATE
GIVING TUESDAY**
Powered by the Community Foundation of the North State

SHASTA COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

GIS Program

WES Community is providing a worksite learning opportunity in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to Shasta College students. Second semester GIS student Rosie Blackburn developed a Story Map highlighting the natural history of Whiskeytown NRA and WES. First semester student Carson Herold documented heritage tree species on the WES site and surrounding area. The work of both these students, made possible through a strong partnership with Shasta College, will continue to inform and guide WES and Whiskeytown NRA as the school rebuild moves forward.

REBUILDING AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

September

An anonymous donation allowed WES Community to proceed with a feasibility study to gauge community support for the rebuilding of WES. This 3-month effort has now been completed. Both in person and online interviews were conducted, affirming that the Redding community supports the rebuilding and is ready to provide financial backing. Additionally, study respondents uniformly valued WES as a positive, life changing experience and community asset for youth in the North State.

The National Park Service at Whiskeytown has been able to use this study in its pursuit of public funding to create an initial budget for construction. Building plans and funding sources are under active scrutiny and moving forward. Construction will proceed, but a firm date has not yet been established.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

East Redding Rotary held their May meeting outdoors at WES. While enjoying picnic lunches, members listened to a presentation from the WES Forever Team about the 2018 Carr Fire damages and tentative rebuilding plans. The club made a generous donation of \$5,000 to WES Community's "Rebuild WES" fund.

WES Community Board Member Kathy Hill was a guest speaker at the **Redding Rotary** on July 15th, 2021. On hand to answer questions were Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's, Superintendent Josh Hoines, and Shasta County Office of Education's Associate Superintendent,

Mike Freeman. The presentation updated club members on the creation of the WES Forever team, the feasibility study for rebuilding, and also entertained them with photos of our historic outdoor education school.



L-R: Josh Hoines, Kathy Hill, Mike Freeman



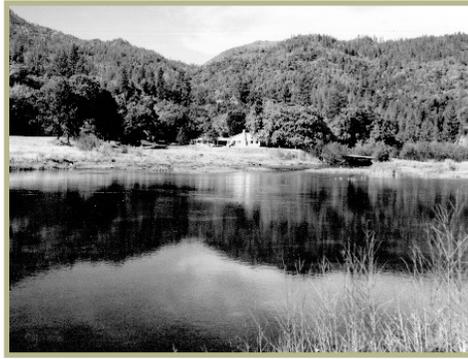
L-R: Christine Bohn, Francesca Huntsman, Melinda Kashuba, Kathy Hill

Redding Host Lions deserves special recognition as they were the first organization to hold a fundraiser for WES after the Carr Fire. The draft blueprints from Domokur Architects are a direct result of their efforts. WES Community representatives Melinda Kashuba, Kathy Hill and Francesca Huntsman gave a presentation highlighting the draft blueprints, the feasibility study, and the pursuit of government funds on October 28, 2021.

WES COMMUNITY'S NEW WEB PAGE

WESCOMMUNITY.ORG

Take a tour of our new web page! Learn more about our mission, achievements, and our board of directors. You might find the historical photos of Whiskeytown Environmental School an interesting tour down memory lane.



WES Circa 1975

New website:

<https://wescommunity.org/>

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

DONATE TO WES COMMUNITY

Your donations, large and small are appreciated. Donations can be specified for general use or our separate rebuild account.

There are two easy methods to donate!

Online: : <https://wescommunity.org/>

By check: WES Community, PO Box 3, Whiskeytown, CA 96095

OTHER DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Benevity provides businesses and their employees an opportunity to support their favorite charities through corporate giving and matching. Check with your employer to see if they will match your donation through Benevity.

<https://causes.benevity.org/causes/840-453540719>

Shop **Amazon Smile** and a percentage of your purchase is donated to WES Community. Sign in using your same account credentials and select Whiskeytown Environmental School Community as your charity.

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

One of **Facebook's** features is the **birthday fundraiser**. Users can set one up on or near their birthday to raise money for a nonprofit like WES Community. Capitalize on the moment when everyone on your Facebook list celebrates you and use it to generate some social good. Donations come to WES Community.

<https://www.facebook.com/help/1910205189301966>

SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Bring your special skills!

Consider joining our board, or join us for-time limited special projects and activities. Bring your special skills: photography, technology, writing copy & letters, organizing, public speaking, or even trail clearing at WES. We welcome your contributions! Call Melinda Kashuba, WES Community President (530.440.5584), or email her (wescommunitypres@gmail.com)

Our mailing address is:

Whiskeytown Environmental School
Community
PO Box 3
Whiskeytown, CA 96095
WES Community

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

2021

Anonymous

Andree Blanchier/One Hope Wine

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Corporate Matching Program

Redding East Rotary

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