

# Carmichael Times

## ECOS Presents Environmental Awards

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*Chris Lewis of the California Native Plant Society and Marty Maskall of Fair Oaks EcoHousing.*

The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) presented the 43rd Annual Environmentalist of the Year awards on November 16th at a festive event at the Sierra 2 Center.

Carmichael resident Chris Lewis and Fair Oaks resident Marty Maskall were both named Environmentalists of the Year.

The Mather Alliance was named Coalition of the Year for their outstanding work to protect the Mather Vernal Pools, and Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli was named Public Servant of the Year for advocating for the conservation of the Mather Vernal Pools. Sacramento's Mayor-Elect Darrell Steinberg presented the award to Don Nottoli and shared his environmental vision for Sacramento.

Chris Lewis was named for 30 years of work with the California Native Plant Society, Sacramento Valley Chapter and Elderberry Farms, a native plant nursery. A retired civil servant, Chris has been a tree-hugger and reluctant gardener most of her life. In the 1980s, she started volunteering with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Chris is still active with CNPS, and is now also the Director of the Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery, located at Soil Born Farms at the American River Ranch. Chris says: *“It’s the hundreds of volunteers who make the nursery such a success. I’m pleased to see the interest in adding native plants to back yards and front yards, with the result of attracting native insects and song birds.”* For more information, visit [www.sacvalleycnps.org](http://www.sacvalleycnps.org).

Marty Maskall was named for her efforts to establish Fair Oaks EcoHousing, soon to be built on New York Avenue near Fair Oaks Boulevard. The cohousing community will have 30 privately-owned townhomes clustered around shared open space and common facilities. A large central clubhouse is the heart of the neighborhood for a variety of activities, including shared meals several times a week. Cars are kept to the edge of the site, thus making the neighborhood pedestrian-friendly and safe for children. Marty says: *“I’m looking forward to living in a friendly and sustainable neighborhood close to Fair Oaks Village. We plan to break ground in early 2017, with move-in scheduled for Spring 2018.”* Fair Oaks EcoHousing is welcoming prospective residents at free site tours. For more information, visit [www.FairOaksEcoHousing.org](http://www.FairOaksEcoHousing.org).

The ECOS mission is to achieve regional and community sustainability and a healthy environment for existing and future residents. By working with member organizations, local government, and community groups, ECOS energizes and brings positive change to the Sacramento region as we strive to develop thriving communities. For more information, visit [www.ecosacramento.net](http://www.ecosacramento.net).

