



Butte Environmental Council

Educating and advocating for the land, air and water

Butte Environmental Council e-News *Your Environmental Sentinel*

June 2013

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Dear Robyn,

Membership support is the heartwood of the BEC tree, our vital living core. That's why we share opportunities for you to participate through our website, calendar, and our newsletters. Thank you for your ongoing support.

BEC Joins Coalition With a *Frack-Stoppin'* Mission

BEC has signed on with [Californians Against Fracking](#), a statewide coalition that has "come together to call for a ban in California on this dirty and dangerous practice." Other signatories include 350.org, California Nurses Association, Center for Biological Diversity, CREDO, Democracy for America, Environment California, Food and Water Watch, Organic Consumers Association, and others.

At the local level, we know that fracking for natural gas or oil is taking place in northern California, specifically in neighboring Glenn and Sutter Counties. While we don't have information about fracking operations in Butte County, our region's water supply is potentially at risk of aquifer contamination from these nearby fracking sites. North State water is also under threat when it is transferred to other regions where fracking is prevalent.



The time to say No is before the operations are in place. Join us in standing up for the water, environment, farmers and people of California -- stand with BEC as we say **NO** to fracking in California.

Visit [Californians Against Fracking's Facebook page](#) to find out more

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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about the growing movement to ban fracking in California.

Pro-Fracking Event: Keep Your Non-Friends Closer

Well, the words "coalition" and "fracking" are certainly in heavy rotation in this month's Sentinel. Here's an opportunity to do like the headline says and find out what the folks on the other side of the fence are up to: the **Coalition of Energy Users** is hosting an Educational Summit **in Marysville on Tuesday, July 23**. If you reserve a seat and don't show up, it's an empty seat. If you choose to attend, bring some bullet points with facts and citations or just listen with your best critical thinking hat on. This is a golden opportunity to participate in some "meaningful dialogue," by Glory! Here are the details:

Date: **Tuesday, July 23rd**

Time: Meet and greet with **refreshments** from **5:30 - 6:30 pm**.

Program begins promptly at **6:30 pm**.

Location: **723 D Street, Marysville CA**. "Attendance is free, but seating is limited, so please **RSVP** to **Power@CEUFoundation.org** to reserve your seat and seats for any friends or associates you plan to bring."

BEC will help arrange carpools departing Chico. Contact us at **staff@becnet.org** or call the office at 891-6424 to request or offer rides.

Who are these intrepid defenders of dirty energy?

Well, let's see: CEU describes themselves on their website as "...a nonprofit grassroots movement dedicated to expanding access to affordable energy and quality jobs." Nonprofit? Grassroots? Why, they must be just plain folks, like us!



Reading further down the "about us" page, we find that **CEU's**

...primary policy objective is to educate our fellow Californians about the importance of reliable and affordable energy...Specific policies that we aim to advance include (among other things):

- Stopping the costly and unnecessary cap and trade auction to save California jobs and protect consumers from gas price increases.
- Opposing renewable portfolio standard energy cost increases which would raise gas prices and increase hunger in the Third World by diverting food to fuel.
- Repeal of the diesel regulations on heavy machinery that are devastating the trucking and construction industries.
- Raising awareness of the positive contributions made to our communities by the oil and gas industry.

"Raising awareness of the positive contributions made to our communities by the oil and gas industry?" What does this have to do with anything other than boot-licking for that industry? And, oh yeah, apparently "positive contribution" doesn't involve **PAYING TAXES**, as it does in the rest of the country.

So that is CEU--a gang of starry-eyed idealists who just want to make sure that the oil and gas industries get a fair shake and the *malining*, the *finger-pointing* and *public shaming* comes to an end. Just...STOPS. Oh, and that we all get over our silly irrational fears and embrace the safe and beneficial technology that is hydraulic fracturing.



We believe that this is regressive and delusional stuff that has no place in the fragile, imperiled, real world. Register for the event, and bring these dirty energy crusaders some science and a clue.



A BEC Tasting--Wine Not?



Do we like our wine here at BEC? You bet Shiraz! Without wine, it's doubtful that we'd have the resilience, stamina, and sheer ornery cussedness it takes to be a Champion of the Environment. It's a marathon, not a sprint, says Tony St. Amant; and we drink wine on this marathon. Don't try this outside of Metaphor-Land; but it works for us.

So here's the skinny: If you shop at the Grocery Outlet, you know that their voluminous wine selection can be pretty daunting. Here's your chance to unlock Grocery Outlet's Wine Mysteries and help support BEC at the same time!

This wine tasting will take place **Thursday, July 25th at The Crystal Room, 968 East Ave.**, and we'll taste six wines from around the world for \$5 per person. The event will go **5-7 p.m.** with all proceeds going to BEC.

Invite a friend! Your company and a good Merlot make it all worthwhile.



Dust Off the Feather!

The 2nd annual **Feather River Cleanup** in Oroville will be held on **Saturday, July 27 from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM**. BEC is partnering with event host Feather River Recreation and Park District (FRRPD) and other community partners including the Feather River Nature Center, and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to organize cleanup efforts of the lower Feather River in Oroville.

Volunteers will remove trash and debris located along the riverbanks **between the Diversion Dam and the Highway 162 Bridge**.



Nothing says "I'm part of the solution" like going out there and picking garbage out of a beautiful river. This part of the Feather is such a great community resource and brings so much pleasure to the people that love it.

For more information please contact, the **Feather River Recreation and Park District at 530-533-2011 and ask for Jenny** or call the BEC office for more information, **891-6424**. More details on specific check-in locations and the volunteer lunch will soon be available.

Exciting News for YOU, Local Grassroots Activist...

By Kevin Killion, Activist and BEC Board Member

If you haven't heard, **EMPOWER (Exposing Monsanto; Preserving Our Watersheds & Essential Resources)** a group of high-powered all-stars in the environmental community, are coming together for regular meetings to push forward an agenda consisting of **Health Care for All**, **Water Justice**, **Labeling and Banning Genetically Modified Foods**, and **Opposing Fracking**.



This truly unique coalition sprang forth organically in response to the multiple and interconnected issues of Water, GMOs, and Fracking, under the umbrella of Healthcare. Though the name may change, EMPOWER's mission is solid. They aim to create a coalition of active individuals who are informed and ready to **mobilize** and take **action at every effective opportunity**.

To get involved with this passionate and lively group of movers and shakers you can come to our next meeting **June 20th 10:30am- 12:30pm** at the **Chico Library, 1108 Sherman Ave.** For more information, email Kevin Killion at **Greenchico91@gmail.com**

Look Who's 108!

By Lise Smith-Peters, Park Svces/Vol. Coord., City of Chico

The City of Chico Park Division will host activities at One Mile Recreation Area on **Saturday, July 20th to celebrate Bidwell Park's 108th birthday**.

The Bidwell Park Birthday Bash will have something for everyone throughout the day:



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- a 5K Bash Dash, Avenue 9 Gallery En Plein Air,
- Fun & Games with our Sycamore Pool lifeguards, Passport to Park Partners' showcase of services and programs,
- a Chico Velo drawing for many prizes,
- and CARD's Movie Night under the Stars.



The Bidwell Park Birthday Bash is an opportunity to celebrate our city's crown jewel, educate the community about Park issues, and raise much needed funds. For more information, call Lise Smith-Peters at 530-896-7831 or email

lspecters@ci.chico.ca.us

Look for more information on the [City of Chico Park Division Webpage](#) and

follow us on Facebook!

Treasures in Northern California

By Cindy Weiner, Mount Lassen CNPS

The **Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH)** is a citizen-science program started by California Native Plant Society in 2010 with the goal of getting up-to-date information on many of California's rare plants, while engaging volunteers across the state in rare plant conservation. Many of our state's rare plants haven't been seen in decades, and some parts of the state have seen little botanical explorations. This program helps conserve rare flora by providing data to the CNPS Rare Plant Program and to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The next RPTH is scheduled for **Saturday, August 3** in the Jonesville/Willow Creek Area of **Lassen National Forest** in search of *Silene occidentalis* ssp. *longistipitata* (long-stiped campion). This area hasn't been surveyed since 1988. Time permitting, volunteers will also search for *Botrychium* species (grape fern) in boggy areas.

We'll leave from **Chico Park & Ride West lot at 8 am sharp** and will **return around 5**. Bring a lunch, water, sun/insect protection and money for ride sharing. Contact Mount Lassen Chapter member Ron Coley at **530-533-1238** to reserve a spot on the trip, or for more information.

Ron stepped forward in 2011 to organize and lead treasure hunts in Butte, Tehama, Glenn and Shasta Counties. In 2012, under Ron's leadership, the chapter was recognized by CNPS for our significant chapter contributions in locating several historical rare plant occurrences, including the tiny water plant **Wolffia brasiliensis** (Brazilian watermeal) and **Hibiscus lasiocarpus** (woolly rose-mallow).



Here is Ron's photo of the woolly rose-mallow that won third prize in a rare plant photo contest sponsored by CNPS.



Thank you again for your continued support of BEC's efforts. Your input or participation is always welcome. Simply reply to this email to tell me what's on your mind.

Hope to see you at our upcoming events. Together we can accomplish what is impossible alone.

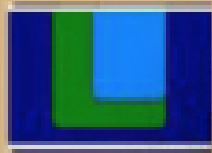
Robyn DiFalco

Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council



Beautiful *Endangered Species Faire* images courtesy of Alan Schechter. Thank you Alan-- your eye is top-notch!

For more great pics from this event, [visit BEC's Facebook page](#).



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