



Butte Environmental Council

Educating and advocating for the land, air and water

Butte Environmental Council e-News *Your Environmental Sentinel*

October 2013

October's Goodies:

[Gala This Weekend! OMG!](#)

[Clean-up Reflections](#)

[Code Blue: Fracking in the North State](#)

[Whiskerman Concert](#)

[Code Blue Solutions Workshops](#)

[RARE Bits for Halloween](#)

[Enviro Jam for Action](#)

[Greening Oroville](#)

[Save the Dates](#)

Quick Links

[BEC Website](#)

[BEC Event Calendar](#)

[Renew BEC Membership](#)

BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Stemen, *Chair*
Michael McGinnis, *Treasurer*
Amanda Freeman, *Secretary*
Steve Handy
Mark Herrera
John Howlett

Dear Robyn,

First, a huge thank you for all the support coming in from the community these days. We just learned today that over 100 people donated through Annie B's! Whether you volunteered at the Clean-up, came to a Code Blue workshop, recently renewed your membership, we are feeling the love here at BEC. Your support bolsters our spirits and makes all our work possible.

BEC's 38th Anniversary Gala: Countdown 'Til Party Time!

Are you as excited as we are? Have you picked out what you're going to wear? Do you KNOW how many supercool Silent Auction items we've lined up for your perusal and pleasure?

Most importantly, do you have your tickets yet? ***This event is nearly sold out*** so please call the BEC office today at 891-6424 to reserve one of the last remaining seats!

Our 38th **Anniversary Gala** is this **Saturday, October 19th**.

We'll also present our annual awards, recognizing local environmental heroes in our community and also looking back over the decades to recognize those who've given years of service on behalf of the environment.

BEC is proud to honor the following individuals with awards:

Wes Dempsy - Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award
Dave Garcia - Colleen Jarvis Environmentalist of the Year
Susan and Stephen Tchudi - Barris Farms Service Award

For the full story on the impressive achievements of these individuals, you'll have to attend the Gala or [visit our website for details](#).



Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Clean-up:

JOHN HOWELL
Kevin Killion
Melody Leppard
Skye Li
Luann Manss
Grace Marvin
John Scott

STAFF

Robyn DiFalco
Executive Director
Maggi Barry
Office Coordinator
Julia Murphy
Project & Admin. Assistant
Tanya Parish
RARE Coordinator

CONSULTANTS

Carol Perkins
Water
Nani Teves
Land Use/Planning

116 W. 2nd St.
Chico CA 95928
Phone (530) 891-6424
Fax: (530) 891-6426

www.becnet.org

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

Some Thanks and Thoughts

We Rocked!

At this year's cleanup--which will be remembered, not without fondness, as The Wet One--we managed to harvest more trash and recyclables with fewer people. Our 270 magical volunteers scrambled, heaved, picked, gleaned and hoisted almost 17,000 lbs of stuff out of the creeks--almost 2,000 pounds of recycling 1,480 pounds of scrap metal, and 13,475 pounds of...just...let's call it material.



Headless Elf wants to help!

We worked together to make a huge difference in the nick of time--the annual clean-up date is selected so that we remove the debris from the creekbed before the water comes and this year, well the water came down in buckets as volunteers rescued items from the rushing water.

This year we had a record number of Sponsors:

City of Chico, TriCounties Bank, Klean Kanteen, Madison Bear Garden, Butte County Fish & Game Commission, Butte County Public Works, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co, Chico News & Review Lundberg Family Farms, CARD, The Printed Image, Mt. Shasta Spring Water, California Conservation Corps, California Coastal Commission, Butte County SWAP, Brooklyn Bagel Works, Butte Natural Distributing, Great Harvest Bread Co., Costco, Cycle Sport, Torres Community Shelter, Bella's Pub, Jesus Center, Pleasant Valley High Key Club, and David Halimi.

This huge event wouldn't be possible without some key individuals. **Special thanks also to Susan Mason, Mark & Cynthia Gailey, Michael Stauffer, Steve Miller, Raul Gonzalez, Janet Ellner, Peter Hollingsworth, Liz Stewart, Gene Anna & OJ McMillan, FishBio, Klean Kanteen (crew AND donation! Outstanding!) and to Supervisor Maureen Kirk**, who helped us get an additional dumpster for post-cleanup efforts and for supporting our efforts to address the escalating problem of trash at the city/county level.

A Worsening Problem

Nobody who'd been at previous cleanups could ignore the fact



that there were more camps, and more evidence of habitation, than in the past. The social problem aside, there are environmental impacts stemming from concentrated dumping (of garbage, and more personal dumping) on waterways. If people don't have access to laundry facilities, it makes sense to discard rather than wash clothing. If people don't have trashcans, it is much less likely that they will dispose of trash properly. The root cause of "homelessness," as an umbrella term for a whole host of social issues, is a huge challenge. We are trying to respond to just one aspect of it--the environmental impact--and today there is an ongoing need for clean-up effort in our community.

We Need All Hands On Deck

Your help is needed for ongoing clean-up efforts in the parks and creeks of Chico. Next weekend on **Oct 26 & 27** you can help on "[Make a Difference Day](#)". Other ongoing clean-up days are listed on a few local calendars including:

[BEC's online Event Calendar](#)

[Friends of Bidwell Park](#)

[City of Chico's Volunteer Program](#)

[Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway](#)

You can also advocate for responsiveness from City and County officials at two upcoming public meetings:

On **October 22**, there is a **City Council study session** from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** at **City Hall** to address the growing homeless population and their impacts on Chico businesses and landscapes.

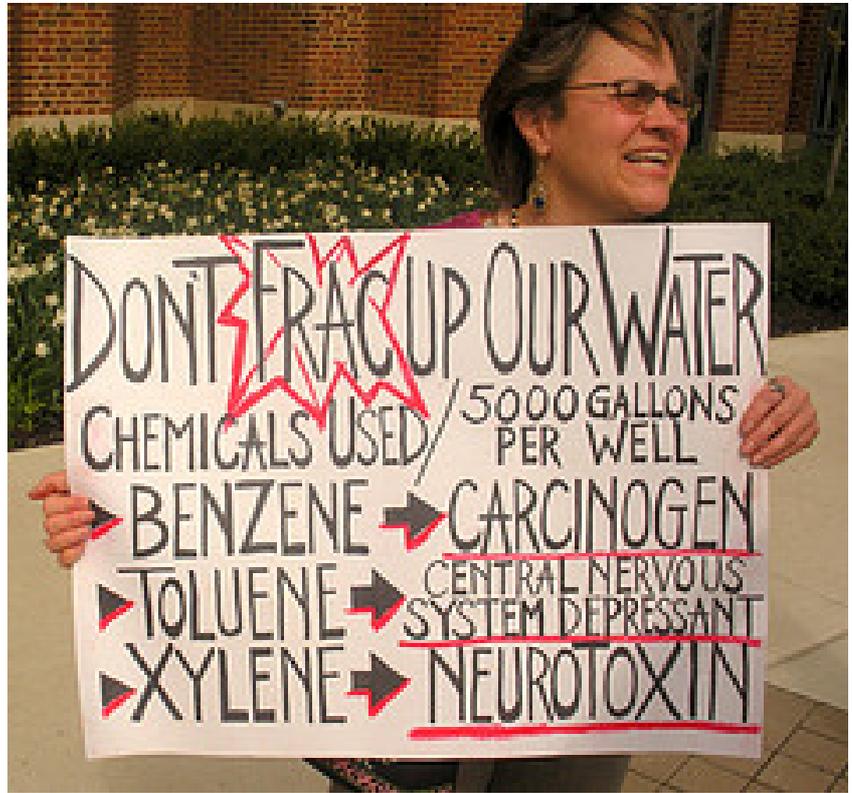
On **November 6** at 3:30pm, the City and County will hold their quarterly meeting at the Chico Council Chambers. This issue will also be on the agenda for discussion.

We urge citizens to speak out in support of solutions that involve partnerships between local government and volunteers in addressing the environmental impacts caused by the litter in our parks and greenways.

Code Blue Citizen Action Workshop: Fracking This Thursday

This Thursday, October 17th, join us from **6-7 pm** at the **Blue Oak School community room, 450 W. East Ave in Chico**, for our next [Citizen Action workshop](#).

Dave Garcia, Butte County's leading activist on hydraulic fracturing (Fracking) and **Robyn DiFalco**, BEC's Executive Director, will be co-leading the workshop.



The workshop will feature a **short film, "The Sky Is Pink,"** by the director of "Gasland," Josh Fox, to cover some of the recurring questions and concerns related to fracking. Then we'll focus on specific North State concerns regarding fracking, including the **potential impact to North State water quality and use.** The last portion of the workshop will cover citizen efforts to create a Butte County ordinance and citizen ballot initiative for a **ban on fracking** in California.

There is no region on Earth that has enough good, drinkable water to sacrifice to this hugely water-intensive industry. In Northern California, we literally supply the water for almost all of the municipal and agricultural water in the state. To risk ruining this water forever with toxic chemicals would essentially ruin California. Join us to **take action** on this critical issue.

Land-Air-Water Concert Series: AIR Concert Thursday, Oct. 26

The LAND Concert, our first in the series, was a great success. A lovely night of sweet music at the GRUB Farmhouse, the LAND Concert featured John Craigie, Pat Hull (one of Pat's last shows as a Chicoan!) and Scott Itamura, pictured below. So much loves for all the music people!!



Next up is the AIR Concert on **Thursday, October 24** at the Chico Women's Center, **592 E. 3rd St. in Chico**; the show features **WHISKERMAN** and **LOW FLYING BIRDS** -- who you won't want to miss! We're putting a call out to all you music lovers: boogie down and help BEC protect the land, air and water of Butte County!

Enjoy the awesome sounds of **WHISKERMAN** from Oakland -- "When they're revved up, Whiskerman sounds like a gospel and soul band that can make you feel like raising your hands in the air in praise of its talent. In their quieter songs, there's a storytelling vibe with intricate melodies," and local legends **Low Flying Birds**: "(T)heir crafted sound is a blend of Outlaw Bluegrass, California Soul & Americana."

What a great two-for-one opportunity: Enjoy great music and support BEC at the same time! Doors at **6:30**, show starts at **7:30**. Bring your **beautiful smile** and your **dancin' shoes!**

Tickets are available online, or in realface times at **Chico Natural Foods, Empire Coffee, and the BEC office**. Call 891 6424 to pay by credit card over the phone.

Two Code Blue Solutions Workshops "Catch Rain in January, Use It in June"

On **Sunday November 10th** from **10am-11am**, BEC is hosting a **Rainwater Catchment workshop**. Catching rain in barrels for use later in your garden is a great way to conserve water and reconnect yourself with the natural water cycle. It is also a way to slow storm water runoff for creek protection, and infiltrate water for groundwater recharge.



During the workshop, we will be learning about catching and storing rain, calculating how much water your roof is capable of producing, and installing a rainwater catchment system. Catching rain is a life savor in states such as Arizona, but illegal in others like Colorado. Here in northern California, it can be a valuable tool to reduce your water usage and refocus attention to regional self-sufficiency efforts.



When:

Sunday November 10th 10am-11am

Where: Workshop will be held at a private residence and the address will be provided upon registration.

Hosted by: Butte Environmental Council

This is a **Free** event.

To Register, e-mail nanibay@hotmail.com or call (530) 891-6424.

[Follow this link for more information](#)

Water: Too Valuable to Use Just Once

On **Sunday October 20th from 10am - 1pm**, BEC is hosting a **washing machine greywater installation workshop**. This is a hands-on event where **Tim Elliot** of the **GRUB cooperative** will be teaching participants about greywater use, supplies needed, and the steps to take to install your own system.

Greywater is water from your sinks, showers, bathtubs and washing machines that can be used as irrigation in your garden. In 2009 it became legal to use greywater without a permit, legalizing what many Do-It-Yourselfers had been doing for years. Greywater saves water and money, filters pollutants, and recharges the groundwater. It's the perfect water conservation solution for our area where it sometimes doesn't rain for 8 long months, driving use up 60% during these months.

Because of climate change, a projected decrease in snow-pack, and an increased demand on water resources, there is a renewed effort to better manage water resources through conservation and regional self-sufficiency. This means



SAVE NORTH STATE WATER
STOP THE TUNNELS
 WWW.BECNET.ORG



implementing different action for different areas. In Los Angeles, where they been conserving for decades and the average water use per person per day is 150 gallons solutions may include rate increases or reusing stormwater runoff. **Here in the North State**, where the pressure on groundwater is

increasing **we use an average of 250 gallons of water per person per day.** Our low-hanging solutions definitely include greywater use and landscaping choices.

When:

Sunday October 20th from 10:00am to 1:00pm
Workshop will be held at a private residence in Butte Valley (near Butte College) and the address will be provided upon registration.

[Follow this link for more information](#)

To Register, e-mail nanibay@hotmail.com or call **(530) 891-6424.**

This is a

Free event; however, space is **limited to 10 participants.** A lunch of vegan soup, Tin Roof bread, and organic salad will be provided.

RARE Shares: Halloween Recycling

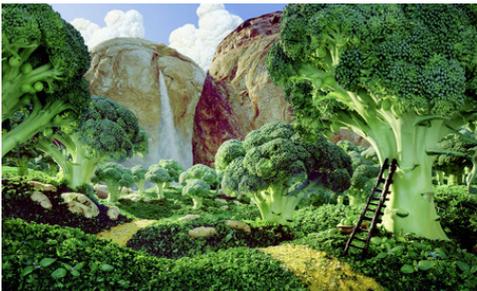
6,250 --The amount of landfill waste (in tons) that could be avoided if half the kids in America traded Halloween costumes instead of buying new ones. Now that's a scary statistic!

So here are a few tips to trick out your little goblin, superhero, or your little princess R2- Tu-tu. Making our Halloween costumes has become a family tradition. This year I will be trying my hardest to replicate the Jango Fett costume above - down to every last detail on the jet pack!

- Get creative and make your costume out of objects around the home - spray painted knee pads make great shiny armor for your little knight. Do a search of the charter you want to replicate at [pinterest](#) and you are sure to be filled with inspiration!
- Many second hand stores are overflowing with great costumes for a bargain. The **new Goodwill store on East Ave.** has rows and rows of great costumes. My favorites are:
 - **Goodwill in Chico**
 - **Arc Thrift Store**
- **You can rent** your duds for the evening! If you are looking for vintage wear or fairy wings these shops can get you on your way to finding the costume of your dreams without buying new .
 - **Alter Ego Costume Design**
 - **Time Traveler**
 - Swap with your friends - **National Costume Swap Day is October 8th.** Ask your friends to participate with you or [follow this link](#) to find an in-person or online swap event.



You wouldn't throw away your Christmas decorations after Christmas was over would you? Well, there's no need to throw away Halloween costumes, either; especially if you've made them yourself. Keep those cool costumes in the mix,



by donating them to thrift stores, theater groups, or putting them on Craigslist or Freecycle. Be safe, brush your teeth, and have a Fright-tastic Halloween Ghouoliday!



Uniting Generations for Action: Nov 2

Uniting Generations For Action! Your Water, Your Food, Your Health
by Kevin Kilion

This **November 2nd** at **Trinity United Methodist Church**, community leaders, activists, and concerned citizens are coming together to network, skillshare, and ultimately develop solidarity among passionate local individuals and organizations. Our goal is to strengthen Butte's community network, meet inspired individuals at all levels of involvement, from newly awakened youth to seasoned community leaders.

We, as the citizens of this land, must take charge to build the community coalitions with which we can achieve local social, environmental, and economic justice.

The Community Coalition Summit will focus on **Community Building, Multi-Generational Wisdom Exchange, and Leadership Empowerment.**
[Program of events is available online](#)

BEC is partnering with various local organizations including X and X to host this event. A focus will be on heightening our awareness on how those topics are connected. There will be a mix of whole group successions with keynote speakers, panel discussions, and multi-track workshops where specific topics can be focused on in detail.

This will be an unforgettable event and a prime opportunity to pair new activists with long standing organizations and individuals. To do this we will need you to help co-create this event. We are calling on Chico's movers and shakers to join us at our next planning meeting.

A delicious vegan or chicken meal will be provided.

A 5-15\$ Sliding Donation is requested to support the host organizations.

[Find us on Facebook](#)

Oroville Urban Greening Plan

On **Saturday, October 26th**, Oroville residents and others are invited to an **upcoming community workshop** to identify neighborhood improvement opportunities in Southside for the **Oroville Area Urban Greening Plan**. The workshop will be held at the **African American Family and Cultural Center, 3300 Spencer St.** in **Oroville** from **2-5 pm**, with an open house beginning at



Beautiful *Endangered Species Faire* images (interspersed throughout) courtesy of Alan Schecter. Thank you Alan-- your eye is top-notch!

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

1:30. Tours of key opportunity areas will be featured in the workshop.

"Greening " projects include shade trees, connections between neighborhoods and parks, community gardens, alleys and vacant lot clean-up, natural flood control, sidewalks, bike lanes, parks, trails, and more.

From the workshop flyer: ***"The Greening Plan will highlight opportunities to clean, landscape, connect, and enhance our neighborhoods, including the Southside area, without creating new regulations or requirements."*** Cleaning Oroville sounds good to us, in light of what we've found out thus far. BEC staff will attend to talk about addressing contamination in Oroville and possible funding sources for that project.

For more information on the workshop or the Plan, contact [Claudia Stuart, AICP](#) or [follow this link](#). Oroville residents are encouraged to attend and participate; it's a great opportunity to figure out how to let Oroville's amazing natural landscape (*the river! The buttes! The foothills!*) become Oroville's dominant feature.



Save the Date(s) and follow the links for more info:

10/17 Code Blue Water Workshop: Fracking in the North State

10/19 BEC Anniversary Gala

10/24 BEC Land, Air, Water Concert

11/02 Uniting Generations for Action

11/14 BEC Land, Air, Water Concert

11/21 Code Blue Workshop

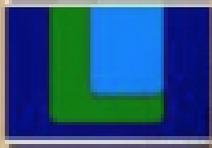
12/13 BEC Holiday Party & Annual Member Meeting

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



CHICO U-LOCK-IT
SELF STORAGE

(530) 895-9999 // 1909 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PKWY.

LOCATED BEHIND MEEKS LUMBER AT THE CORNER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING & E. 20TH

Now Accepting E-Waste for Recycling!

Visit them at <http://www.chicoulockit.com/>

[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe™**

This email was sent to robynd@becnet.org by robynd@becprotects.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Try it FREE today.

Butte Environmental Council | 116 W 2nd Street, Suite 3 | Chico | CA | 95928