



Environmental Sentinel

Your source for Butte County's environmental news and events

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Council**
Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1975

Butte Environmental Council Newsletter

August 2014

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Dear Robyn,

August means it's time for the annual Annie B's Community Drive -- and **it's a great time to cast your support for BEC's work to protect the environment.**

Annie Bidwell was a civic leader, suffragist, and philanthropist. In her honor, **the Annie B's fund drive** gives you the opportunity to give your support to the nonprofit cause of your choice and **every donation is matched by about 8-10%.**

This is an important fundraiser for BEC this fall and we're counting on you to give what you can to support our work. Even small donations make a big difference in helping BEC act as a voice for the environment.

Thank you for your support!

Robyn DiFalco



Why BECome a member? BECause the environment matters.



Why Join BEC? BECause the environment matters!

Why Join BEC? Because we need you. [Check out our new video!](#)

Become a BEC Member today and join the North Valley's leading environmental organization. Join hundreds of your neighbors in Butte County and the surrounding region and add your voice of support to BEC's important work of protecting our local natural resources for future generations.

Upcoming BEC Events

Friday - Sunday, Aug 29-31

(Labor Day weekend)

"A Crack in the Climate" Butcher Shop Show

Saturday, Sept 13

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Sunday, Sept 14

Humboldt Community Garden Harvest Festival

Saturday, Sept 20

Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup

Saturday, Oct 18

BEC's 39th Anniversary Gala, Arc Pavilion



Who are your local heroes?

Now's your chance to nominate a long-admired friend, colleague or mentor for an award. BEC Members are encouraged to nominate local environmental heroes for BEC's annual awards.

A cartoon illustration of a superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a green cape and green boots. He is shown from the waist up, leaning forward with a strained expression, his mouth open as if shouting or exerting effort. He is holding a large, realistic-looking Earth globe behind his back with both hands. The globe shows green continents and blue oceans. The background is a plain light blue.

- The BEC Board of Directors will vote on the award recipients in August and the awards will be presented at BEC's Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 18th.

Fracking Ban Hits a Snag: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

But there's more than a silver lining...

The Good: The good news from the July 29th Board of Supervisors meeting is that they finally **voted to move forward the county's own ordinance to ban fracking**. Back in April 2014, Supervisors voted 4-1 in support of a ban on fracking and directed County staff to draft such an ordinance. Since that time,

we've been asking that the county's own ordinance move forward for full public review. **Now the supervisors have finally granted the green light.** The path toward final adoption will likely take many months but if the county is wise, they will be eager to adopt their own ordinance well before the June 2016 election.

The Ugly: Over \$100,000 was spent in only two months by the Oil industry-backed political action committee known as "Californians for Energy Independence" to intervene with our grassroots efforts to ban fracking in Butte County. **While the entirely volunteer-led efforts of Frack-Free Butte County worked hard to gather over 10,000 signatures,** well-paid lawyers and political consultants got big bucks to derail our efforts through the courts and in our local government chambers. The fact that anti-fracking activists in communities everywhere have faced the same David vs Goliath odds makes this no less painful. [Read all about it in last week's Chico News & Review article "fractured finances"](#) which was originally published by [ChicoSol.org](#).

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens trying to protect water will be undermined by the powerful interests of those with money.

Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup: September 20, 2014

On **Saturday, September 20th**, BEC and the City of Chico will host this annual community event as part of the broader [Coastal Cleanup Day](#) events. Each year this event brings hundreds of individual participants from within many areas of our community: schools, churches, youth groups, university organizations and families.



We all appreciate the beauty of Bidwell Park and recognize the great asset it is to the Chico community. This year, BEC would like to invite individuals, social groups, and local businesses to give back to the park by participating in the annual [Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup](#) event.

In recent years, we've had **participation from several local businesses, including Klean Kanteen, FishBio,** and others. What a great opportunity to do some community service with your colleagues and show your businesses' support for Chico's parks and creeks!

Groups are encouraged to **wear your company or organization logo** on the day of the event. We'll have a photo contest on social media and you'll be encouraged to get shots of your group in action, helping to clean our beloved park. **As a business partner to The Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup, your company will be recognized for your generous efforts and your willingness to set an example of excellent community service.** This can also be a great team-building opportunity.

This year we've made it [easy to pre-register your team](#), whether you're a business, a social club, a school group, family or an individual. **Everyone who pre-registers by September 1st will receive a free t-shirt.** So mark your calendar for September 20!

BEC's 39th Anniversary Gala: October 18

Celebrate [BEC's 39th Anniversary](#) at our annual **Gala & Awards Dinner, Saturday, October 18th at the Arc Pavilion, 2020 Park St in Chico.**

Enjoy live music, a no-host bar featuring our local award-winning beers and wines, and many beautiful and unique items in our Silent Auction.



Tickets are on sale now for \$45. You can purchase tickets in person at **Chico Natural Foods Coop** or at the **BEC office**. Tickets can also be purchased [online at BEC's website](#) or over the phone with a credit card. **We're offering a special early bird ticket for members only: \$39 for our 39th Anniversary** if you get your ticket by October 1! **Call 891-6424** to reserve your seat today!



Not yet a BEC member? [Join today!](#) Lapsed membership? [Renew today!](#)
Don't miss this fantastic BEC celebration.

A Crack in the Climate: The Butcher Shop Show

Got plans over Labor Day weekend? BEC will be involved with this year's Butcher Shop 2014 presentation of [A Crack in the Climate](#) - a festival and collaboration between local theatre artists who will present their newest stage work in Chico over Labor Day weekend.

Slow Theatre presents this year's annual Butcher Shop on Labor Day Weekend, August 29-31: three nights starting at 7:30pm at **2500 Estes Road** (take Normal to its southern end in an almond orchard at the creek). Original plays are interspersed with songs from Dave the Butcher, shadow plays, dances, and tableaux. Admission is free. Food will be on sale provided by Chico Natural Foods (CNF). **Butte Environmental Council (BEC) will have sell bike-blended smoothies and margaritas.**

This year's theme is A Crack in the Climate, which focuses on some local environmental topics including climate change, fracking, GMOs, drought, and valley fever. The Butcher Shop shows have been taking place over Labor Day weekend for several years in the almond orchard at the end of Estes Road.



Admission is free to the show and will take place on the nights of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, **August 29-31**. Shows begin at **7:30 p.m.** each night. Food trucks will be available for hungry patrons prior to show time. Bicycles are encouraged; parking for cars for a small fee is okay, too.

If you're in town over Labor Day, come out for some local political theatre under the stars and support BEC, Frack-Free Butte County, and local arts!

[Read the full Press Release here.](#)

8th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival

BEC is proud to partner with Friends of Butte Creek as a sponsor for this year's **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** on **Saturday, September 13**. The 8th Annual event will be expanded this year for a full day of great environmental, educational and exciting adventure films.

The program will start Saturday morning with the first ever Wild and Scenic **Children's Program** featuring two showings at the Pageant Theater, 9:30 and 11:00. This is a first for having a Children's Film Program. FBC will also feature an afternoon matinee at 1:00 PM at the Pageant featuring an Aquatic theme. We have some great fishing and river restoration films with "**DamNation**" as the feature film. "DamNation" was just released this spring and features the great film making of Ben Knight and Travis Rummel ("Eastern Rises"; "Red Gold") directed by Matt Stoeker and Yvon Chouinard. See and learn how removing dams that are obsolete and useless has freed rivers across the country.

SYRCL's **WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**

Hosted by: **Friends of Butte Creek** www.butte-creek.org

Information at: www.butte-creek.org

Children's Program & Matinee at Pageant Theater

Evening Program: Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room

Local Sponsors:

- Sierra Nevada Brewery Co.
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- Water Environmental Group
- CNPS
- Klean Kanteen

empowerment **pure skin** **Natural Foods**

Tickets: buttecreek.brownpapertickets.com, Pure Skin, Chico Natural Foods Co-Op

September 13th - Saturday 3 Events - 2 Theaters
Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room & Pageant Theater

We will migrate to the **Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room at 5:30 PM** for our exciting evening event featuring over 2.5 hours of wonderfully inspiring films about our planet, people, animals and the good, bad and ugly of how we coexist. The

usual Big Room Buffet will be offered and fantastic items in our Silent Auction will be available.

Come Join the Friends of Butte Creek, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Butte Environmental Council, California Native Plant Society and others celebrating the Empowerment of People to create positive change for the future.

For more information: www.buttecreek.org

Tickets available online: www.buttecreek.brownpapertickets.com

Tickets available in Chico: Pure Skin at 136 W. 3rd Street; Chico Natural Foods Co-Op at 818 Main Street

SUCCEED

Horticulture Symposium

WITH

NATIVE PLANTS



- . *Design a pleasing landscape*
- . *Choose & maintain native plants*
- . *Create bird & pollinator habitat*
- . *Use less water & fertilizer*

SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

8:30 am - 4 pm

CHICO WOMEN'S CLUB

3rd St and Pine, Chico

Hosted by

Mount Lassen Chapter

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**\$35, \$30 CNPS member
includes lunch**

registration, details and updates at mountlassen.cnps.org

BEC is proud to sponsor the upcoming Horticulture Symposium on Native Plant Landscaping, hosted by The Mount Shasta chapter of the California Native Plant Society. This day-long event takes place on **Sunday, September 14, 2014 8:30 am - 4 pm**, at the Chico Women's Club in Chico.

Registration is \$35.00 or \$30.00 for CNPS members, (lunch included) Please register online [here](http://mountlassen.cnps.org/) or visit their website <http://mountlassen.cnps.org/> for more information.

Other Community Events

**Return to the River for the Sac River Trust's 30th Birthday Splash
Sunday, Aug. 17th from 12-4pm**

at Scotty's Landing on the Sac River

Free! Fun! Prizes! Live Music,

Water Activities & Games

12-1:30: Irish Tunes : Mark Gailey & Friends

1:45-2:30: Jazz : Bob Kirkland Trio

2:45-4pm: Eclectic Jams : John Seid, Larry Peterson & Stevie Cook

www.sacriverttrust.org

Return to the River!
for the Sac River Trust's 30th Birthday Splash
Sunday, Aug. 17th
12-4pm
at Scotty's Landing
on the Sac River



530-345-1865

Fracking Film: Triple Divide
When: Sun, September 7,
from 7pm - 8pm
Where: The Pageant Theatre,
Chico

The 90-minute documentary is said to be the only documentary of its kind on the controversial subject of fracking capable of speaking to all sides, with

exclusive interviews from the industry, experts, and Americans suffering in the wake of shale gas development. Triple Divide is built on evidence from cradle-to-grave investigations that attempt to answer the question, "How are state regulations and industry handling impacts from fracking?" Throughout the film's 10 chapters, which cover waste, class II injection wells, drinking water contamination, split-estates, the "pre-drill test scandal", and the "pressure bulb" are on the ground accounts of hair-raising journalism.



8th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival
When: Sat, September 13, 5pm - 9pm

Friends of Butte Creek is expanding the Wild and Scenic Film Festival to a full day event this year. FBC is partnering with several local non-profit groups to offer a full day of great environmental, educational, and exciting adventure films. The program will start Saturday morning with the first ever Wild and Scenic Children's Program featuring two showings at the Pageant Theater, 9:30 and 11:00 AM. FBC will also feature an afternoon matinee at 1:00 PM also at the Pageant featuring a river theme. We have some great fishing and river restoration films with the feature film, DamNation. As usual we will migrate to the Sierra Nevada Big Room at 5:00 PM for our exciting evening event featuring over 2.5 hours of wonderfully films about our planet,

people, animals and the good, bad and ugly of how we coexist. The usual Big Room Buffet will be offered and fantastic silent auction items will be available. Come join the Friends of Butte Creek, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Butte Environmental Council and others celebrating the Empowerment of People to create change for the future.

Succeed with Native Plants

Sun, September 14, 8:30am - 4:00pm

Chico Women's Club, East 3rd St, Chico

Come to our Horticulture Symposium and learn how to: . Design a pleasing landscape. Choose & maintain native plants . Create bird & pollinator habitat . Use less water & fertilizer . Q & A time with the experts.

Space is limited Deadline August 31, 2014 Hosted by Mount Lassen Chapter California Native Plant Society. www.mountlassen.cnps.org

Succeed with Native Plants



A symposium on native plant gardening: the value of natives in your garden; designing your native plant garden; good native plant choices; building pollinator/bird habitat; and water-wise gardening.

Sunday - Sept. 14, 2014

8:30 to 4

Chico Women's Club

3rd St. & Pine - Chico, CA

\$35 (\$30 CNPS Members) - includes lunch



Presenters:

Bernadette Balics, native-plant landscape designer
Glenn Keator, noted author and botanist
Susan Kryzwicki, Horticulture Director of CNPS
John Whittlesey, habitat designer

mountlassen.cnps.org

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