



# 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

September 2014

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**Dear Robyn,**

I know not all of our passionate community members can volunteer next Saturday at our Cleanup Event -- and that is why we are also grateful for the membership support that makes events like this possible. If you have already made a donation through the Annie B's Community Drive, **thank you very much for your generosity and support! If you haven't made a contribution yet, it's not too late - but the deadline is Sept 30 so [please do it today!](#)** Every dollar counts when your donation is magnified 8-10%, so please show your support today! *Thank you for your generosity and commitment to protecting the beautiful region we call home.*

Sincerely,

**Robyn DiFalco**

530-891-6424

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## Quick Links

[BEC Website](#)

[BEC Event Calendar](#)

[Renew BEC Membership](#)

[Last Month's E-Sentinel](#)

## Upcoming BEC Events

Sept 13 [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#)

Sept 14 [Community Garden Harvest Festival](#)

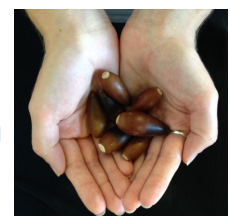
Sept 20 [Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Clean-up](#)

Oct 18 [BEC Anniversary Gala, Arc Pavilion](#)



## Oak Tree Planting in Bidwell Park

This Fall, BEC, in collaboration with the City of Chico and the California Wildlife Foundation, **will begin a four year oak planting project in upper Bidwell Park.** In our area, both Valley and Blue oaks are not regenerating adequately to ensure ecological survival, and only 4% of California's remaining woodlands are protected, making this project critically important. Oak trees provide food and shelter for



wildlife, infiltrate stormwaters, and provide beauty, shade, and inspiration for us humans. **We are gathering a team of Tree People looking for a tangible way to give back to Bidwell Park and help restore the earth. Together we will be collecting acorns, planting trees, and protecting and watering seedlings. [Sign-up here to learn more or get involved.](#)**

First acorn collection will be on Thursday September 18th at 9am in Bidwell Park.



## Your donations magnified!

In our busy lives, it's not always easy to make time for the things we care about, like staying current on local water issues or taking the family to the landfill to rediscover the value of recycling. **That is why BEC is supported by over 700 individuals** from the community: because they know **we are working to advocate for our region's water issues, speaking on behalf of the environment at local policy meetings and educating the community with water conservation workshops.** BEC members value our recycling education program, where we are going into the classrooms and providing field trips to the Neal Road Waste Facility.



Now is the best time to show your support for the work we accomplish: **when you donate during the Annie B's Community Drive, your contribution is magnified 8-10%! Every dollar counts, so please [donate today.](#)** Your generosity makes our voice for the environment even stronger. Thank you for your support!

## 8th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Fest

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.



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](http://www.buttecreek.org)

Tickets available online: [www.buttecreek.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.buttecreek.brownpapertickets.com)

Tickets available in Chico: Pure Skin at 136 W. 3rd

Street; Chico Natural Foods Co-Op at 818 Main Street

## Show Your Support for Fracking Ban: October 23

The County's draft Ordinance to ban hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking") will be released to the public on **October 1st**. It will be reviewed by **the Butte County Planning Commission on October 23** at a public hearing -- **and we're hoping to pack the room with BEC members and citizens who support this ban.**

We anticipate the opposition to this ordinance will not only be organized, but well funded by out-of-area energy industry monies. BEC is working closely with local citizens to support an ordinance to ban fracking in Butte County.



**We are learning that the greatest threat to Butte County is likely that the 200+ capped gas wells are a good target reinjection of waste fluids from nearby fracking operations in neighboring counties.** We're working to ensure that the ordinance includes the appropriate terminology that would protect our water from this threat.

## Removing TONS of trash- "litter"ally!

***We need your help next weekend >>>***

The creeks are choked with litter -- thank goodness the Cleanup is next **Saturday, September 20th** - just a week away! Scrounge up your work clothes, grab your boots, water bottle, and your friends, to join us for the Cleanup!

Hundreds of volunteers will help pull tons of trash and recyclables from our waterways and beloved parks. The parks and creeks are the worst they have ever been, with encampments everywhere. The creek needs our help! Each year, we clear out TONS of trash, scrap metal, furniture, and recyclables, and we expect this to be a record-breaking year!



**Volunteer Check-in at 9AM in two locations:**

- **1057 Park Ave.** at E 11th Street



- **Hooker Oak Recreation Area** (off Manzanita Ave.)

You can [pre-register on the BEC website](#), or just show up on Saturday ready to work! **We need more trucks!** If you can bring a truck, please indicate that on your registration form, or call 891-6424 and speak with Ashlie. "Early Birds" will get a free T-shirt, and all volunteers will get free BBQ, and a sense of pride and accomplishment!

We will be having some fun social media photo contests going on, and are looking forward to seeing what unusual items people find!

### **Huge Thanks to our great sponsors this year for the Cleanup!**

[The City of Chico](#) and [The Butte County Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) are once again covering the costs of essential supplies and promotional materials. Our newest sponsor [Orchard Supply Hardware](#) has contributed both a monetary donation and 250 buckets that will be used by volunteers to collect recyclables, keeping them separate from the trash! [Kleen Kanteen](#) has not only supported the event financially, but is providing a "hydration station", and sending a team of over 25 employees to help clean the parks! Other generous support has come from [Tri Counties Bank](#), [Sierra Nevada](#) and Kelly Meagher. Both [Chico Bag](#) and [FISHBIO](#) are also providing financial support, as well as bringing enthusiastic teams of volunteers. Our volunteers will keep energized thanks to the coffee, pastries, bagels, and cream cheese provided by [Upper Crust Bakery](#) and [Brooklyn Bridge Bagel Works](#). And after working hard all morning, hungry volunteers will enjoy a BBQ lunch provided by [Madison Bear Garden](#) and organic rice chips from [Lundberg Family Farms](#). [Butte County Public Works](#) accepts all of the waste collected at the event (last year it was 6 tons!) and waives the charges! [The Printed Image](#) has again provided T-shirts for volunteers at a discounted rate. Special thanks, also to partners [Chico Area Recreation and Park District](#) is allowing us the use of Hooker Oak Recreation area as a dispatch site and as the site of our volunteer picnic. And to our media sponsors [Growing Up Chico](#) and [The Chico News & Review](#) for providing us with ad space in the paper (look for them now!).

## Platinum Sponsors

Kelly Meagher



BUTTE COUNTY  
FISH & GAME  
COMMISSION

## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



## Green Sponsors



### Planting Street Trees along Little Chico Creek

In November of last year, BEC appealed the removal of a four-foot diameter old growth valley oak tree on the corner of 8th and Salem. BEC withdrew its appeal and allowed the worthy Salvation Army Transitional Family Housing project to move forward only after extracting a promise from both the City and the developer for greater mitigation and the implementation of the draft Urban Forest Management Plan. **Months of behind the scenes efforts have been successful and on**

**November 8th, BEC and Chico State University will partner on a "Blitz Plant" of 32 native trees in empty street tree locations along Little Chico Creek.**

More details will follow in the October newsletter. Just know for now that BEC is out there doing the work that would not get done, if not for your loyal support.









**Environmental Impact Statement (EIR) to the public in late September or early October followed by a 45-day public comment period.** A public hearing will take place at a Planning Commission meeting probably in October. The 118-acre project would be located at the south side of Durham-Dayton Highway across the street from Van Ness Way (2243 Durham Dayton Highway) and would create 139 new single-family residential houses, along with a neighborhood park, commercial space, and open space. **BEC has been following this project and will continue to oppose it on the grounds that if built, Durham Villas would overburden groundwater resources** in an area already facing significant decline, and would also threaten critical salmon habitat on Butte Creek. Aside from the concerns over water, the project proposes to put senior citizen housing in a community with limited medical services or public transportation, which will result in significantly increased vehicle traffic in this rural area.

**BEC is helping to organize Durham residents who want to learn more and get strategic about voicing concerns about this project.** [Learn more about this project online](#) and stay tuned for an update about a public meeting in Durham about this proposed project.

## Environmental Events in the Community

# 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](http://mountlassen.cnps.org)

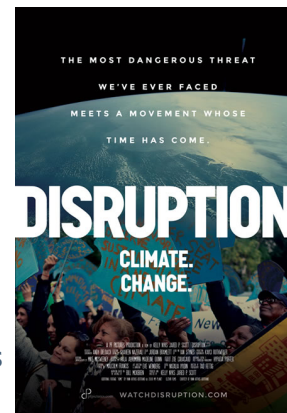
### MOVIE: Disruption

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 from 3:00-5:00 pm

Student Services Center, room 150 at CSU, Chico

Free and open to the public; seating may be limited.

When it comes to climate change, why do we do so little when we know so much? Through a relentless investigation to find the answer, Disruption takes a look at the consequences of our inaction. The exploration lays bare the science, the shattered political process, the unrelenting industry special interests and the civic stasis that have brought us to this social, moral and ecological crossroads. The film also takes us behind-the-scenes of the efforts to organize the largest climate rally in the history of the planet during the UN world climate summit. This is the story of our unique moment in history. We are living through an age of tipping points and rapid social and planetary change. We're the first generation to feel the impacts of climate disruption, and the last generation that can do something about it. The film enlarges the issue beyond climate impacts and makes a compelling call for bold action that is strong enough to tip the balance to build a clean energy future. Hosted by the Institute for Sustainable Development at CSU, Chico



**Chico Earthdance - Sunday, Sept 21**  
**Cedar Grove, Bidwell Park 11 am - 7:30 pm**

Join the International Earthdance Celebration of peace, music, community, and solutions Sept. 21 at Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park, featuring the Global Prayer for Peace. Chico Earthdance is a fun, family friendly celebration featuring music,

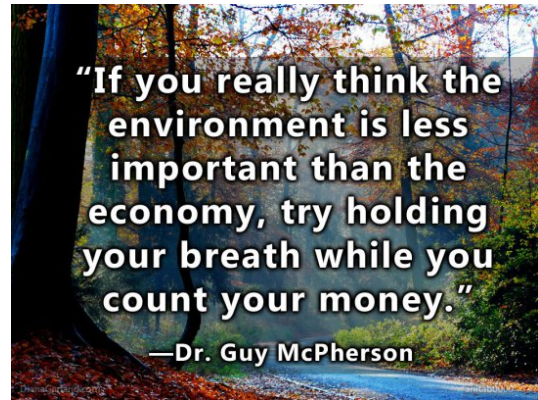
dance, art, drawings, local vendors, solutionaries, healers, bikes, hoops, nature, crafts, food and drink. Hundreds of people join hands with people around the world in an international prayer for peace. And it's free! For more information, to



volunteer, or to donate: [chicoearthdance@gmail.com](mailto:chicoearthdance@gmail.com) or call Eartha Shanti 530-892-0807.

**Guest Speaker: Guy McPherson**  
**Tuesday, September 30, 2014, Seating starts at 6:00 p.m.**

**Colusa Hall, Room 100B at CSU, Chico**  
Guy McPherson, Award Winning Conservation Biologist, Author and Professor Emeritus at the University of Arizona, author of "Going Dark"



We are the last individuals of our species on Earth. How shall we respond? How shall we act? If industrial civilization is maintained, climate change will cause human extinction in the near term. If industrial civilization falls, sufficient ionizing radiation will be released from the world's nuclear power plants to cause human extinction in the near term. In the wake of this horrific conclusion, conservation biologist Guy McPherson proposes we act with compassion, courage, and creativity. He suggests we act with the kind of empathy for which humans are renowned. In other words, he suggests we act with decency toward the humans and other organisms with which we share this beautiful planet.

**4th annual Harvest Dinner under the Stars**  
**Saturday, October 4**

**The Northern California Regional Land Trust** invites you to Kittyhawk Orchard on Saturday, October 4th for a beautiful fall feast. Enjoy: Wine & Beer Tasting \* Live Music with the Rock Ridge Bluegrass Band \* Tour of Kittyhawk Orchard \* Raffle & Silent auction \* Locally-sourced dinner; Tickets \$60 (\$80 non-members) Come and celebrate with us! You are a critical partner in our mission to protect the places we choose to work, live and play. Together, we are keeping this very special place we call home, beautiful, rich and viable for generations to come. For more information and tickets please go to our website [www.landconservation.org](http://www.landconservation.org) or call Angie at (530) 894-7738

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