



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

April 2015

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Dear Robyn,

In honor of Earth Day, please share this newsletter with a friend and tell them why you choose to support BEC. As always, **we couldn't do it without you**, and we are grateful for your continued support!

Please think about your friends and co-workers, other people who care about the state of our local and global environment. Encouraging them to join you in support of BEC not only increases our impact, but takes your generosity to its fullest potential.

Thank you for your continued support!

Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director



Upcoming BEC Events

Saturday, Apr 4 10 am - 12:30 pm

[Drip Irrigation Workshop, Humboldt Community Garden](#)

Sunday, April 12 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

[Citizen Science: Hike to the Mouth of Big Chico Creek](#)

Sunday, April 12 4 - 8 p.m.

[Garden Party Fundraiser](#) at Arc Pavilion

Tuesday, April 14 6 p.m.

[Solar Mix & Mingle](#) at Dolce Home, downtown Chico

Wednesday, April 22 6-9 p.m.

[Earth Day Film](#) at the Sierra Nevada Big Room

Saturday, May 2 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

[Endangered Species Faire](#) at One Mile, Bidwell Park

(See articles below for all event details or visit our website at www.becnet.org/events)

Butte Environmental Council Hosts 4th Annual Garden Party Fundraiser

BEC continues to celebrate and support local community gardens by hosting its 4th Annual Garden Party Fundraiser on **Sunday, April 12** at the Arc Pavilion. Previously known as "Breaking Bread, Breaking Ground," **this fundraising event sustains and supports our beautiful Humboldt and Oak Way community gardens.** These gardens provide access to gardening space and enable locals to learn how to grow their own food and flowers, and how to reap the benefits of their hard work.



Attendees will enjoy a **traditional gourmet Mexican meal** prepared by Donna Garrison with local products, featuring a Mole Verde Chicken entree as well as a mouthwatering vegetarian Black Bean Chili. The evening's entrees will be accompanied by a refreshing caesar salad with homemade dressing and traditional Mexican rice. As a sweet treat, flan will be served for dessert.

The event will also feature a silent auction and live Latin music performance by [Los Caballitos de la Cancion](#). Doors open at 4 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and children ages 15 and under are priced on a "sliding scale" and are available at the door -- suggested pricing is 10 cents per inch (child's height). This is a family-friendly event with activities for the kids.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.becnet.org/events/garden-party-fundraiser, or call the BEC office at (530) 891-6424.

Earth Day Movie Night at Sierra Nevada Big Room - April 22

What will you do for Earth Day this year? Klean Kanteen, ChicoBag, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company and BEC invite you to a special Earth Day event at the Big Room -- the local premier of a new film, **"The Little Things"** on **Wednesday, April 22nd at 5 p.m.**

For this event, **your donation is your admission and all proceeds benefit member groups of the Environmental Coalition of Butte County.** What better way to celebrate Earth Day than to learn, donate to local environmental nonprofits, and sip some sustainable beer!?

Door prizes and raffle prizes will be available, as well as popcorn, pretzels and of course beer!

The feature film tells the story of environmentally conscious snowboarders who are inspirational in their riding as well as their sustainable ways of thinking and living. In addition to "The Little Things," a few short films will be shown, including one from the [Respectful Revolution](#) series.



In order to encourage all attendees to travel to this event on their bicycle, there will be a **free and secure bike valet** located directly outside of the entrance to the Big Room, courtesy of Chico VELO. It's Earth Day: Ride your bike!

Special thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible! Please help us spread the word by telling all your friends and

For details about this event, film trailer videos, and more visit <http://www.becnet.org/events/earth-day-film-sierra-nevada-big-room>

Show Your Love for the Earth!

April 22 is Earth Day, and we love seeing the **heightened awareness** of environmental issues and activism highlighted on this day!

This Earth Day, we invite you to [post to BEC's Facebook page](#) and tell us what you're doing to honor Earth Day on April 22nd.

And what better time to [renew](#) your BEC membership, or [give a gift membership](#) for someone you love?

By supporting BEC, you ensure that every day is Earth Day. Your support of BEC will ensure that your voice will be heard at public hearings where environmental and sustainability issues are up for debate.

Thank you!



Volunteer with BEC this April

Garden Party Volunteers needed

We need volunteer help with event set-up, clean-up, and all hours in between.

When: Sunday, April 12, 9am - 10pm

Where: Arc Pavilion, 2020 Park Ave, Chico.

Upcycling for the Endangered Species Faire

We'll be making grass-head monsters for kid prizes!

When: Monday April 13th 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Where: 116 W. 2nd St. Ste. 3 (above the Naked Lounge)

BEC Office Cleaning Party (with beer!)

Join us in at the BEC headquarters as we crank up the music, eat snacks, drink leftover beer (or other beverages if you are so inclined or under 21) and get the BEC office back in shape!

When: Wednesday, April 15th 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: 116 W. 2nd St Ste. 3 (above the Naked Lounge)

Poster-making for the Endangered Species Faire

When: Wednesday April 15th 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Where: 116 W. 2nd St Ste. 3 (above the Naked Lounge)



BEC needs volunteers almost every week. Just call our office (891-6424) or [email Ashley](#) to find out about getting involved with BEC or getting added to our volunteer email list.

36th Annual Endangered Species Faire, May 2, at One Mile

BEC hosts the 36th annual Endangered Species Faire on **Saturday, May 2nd** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at One Mile Picnic Area in Lower Bidwell Park.

This is a free event for the entire family featuring local entertainment from the [Mondegreens](#), [The Alice Peake Endangered Experience](#), and [Sofa King](#) with local food including Maria's Gone Tamales, Grub Station, and Chico Natural Foods Co-operative. **Also being featured is a larger than life puppet parade featuring hundreds of local kids, interactive educational booths, and a live rescued animal show by Wild Things.**

Chico VELO will provide a bike valet and don't forget to bring your reusable water bottle.

Also new this year is the [5k Salmon Run](#), hosted by partner FISHBIO that same morning.

For more information or volunteering opportunities, visit



<http://www.becnet.org/endangered-species-faire> or call (530) 891-6424.

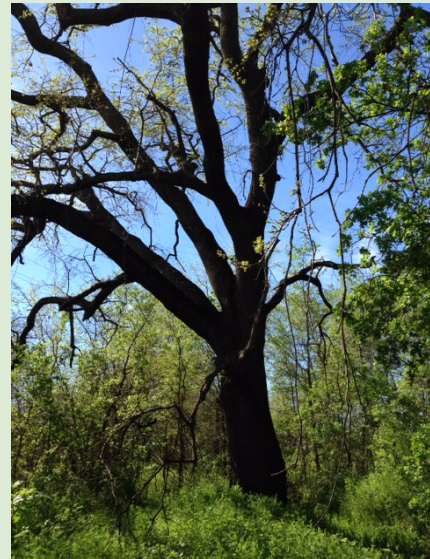
"Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty."
~Albert Einstein

Some of BEC's Recent Advocacy Efforts

PG&E Tree Removals - We've been very busy learning more and discussing strategies with our local allies for "better outcomes" -- fewer trees chopped, more replacement trees planted. On Mar 13 we met with PG&E and the City at the Comanche Creek greenway to tour the area. There are 85 trees greater than 4" at diameter breast height (DBH) planned for removal; 55 of them are oaks.

Many trees smaller than 4" are also to be removed.

The "Pathways Project" involves cutting down trees that supposedly threaten gas lines. We expect hundreds more trees are to be removed throughout Butte County. We are communicating with other allies in the county to identify strategies to reduce removals or achieve better mitigation plans. (See [Chico ER article from March 22 about Tree Removals in the Comanche Creek](#) are, as well as [a great editorial from March 10.](#))



Drought Response - As we are now experiencing the worst drought in CA recorded history, we at BEC are increasingly frustrated with the lack of public messaging from CalWater and the local Cities to promote conservation or implement restrictions. Despite their authority to do more we've seen very little public outreach to promote conservation or enforce restrictions. (With the exception of Paradise which we're happy to see does has an active campaign.) **AND SO... BEC will step up and launch a drought response outreach campaign.**

Stay tuned as we launch this grassroots campaign with our tiny budget. ([See "Water Wasters" news article in the 3/26/15 CN&R.](#))

BEC's Citizen Science Workshops -- April, May, June

We invite you to join in for a scientific exploration of Big Chico Creek.

During three field outings in April, May, and June we'll be headed on an upstream migration along Big Chico Creek; beginning at the confluence with the Sacramento River, through the valley and urban section, and ending with a hike to the forested spring headwaters.

Each event will focus on the scientific wonders from two fields of study to



deepen our understanding and appreciation of the creek that runs through our lives. These field trips are for everyone awed by the wonders of nature and who have a spirit for learning. **This is a free event, however space is limited and participants need to [register here](#) or by calling 891-6424.**

Mouth of Big Chico Creek Sunday, April 12th 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Topic: Hydrology and Ornithology (water and birds)

Activities: Birding, exploring, picnicking, and dipping our feet in the river.

Scientists: Lucas RossMerz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust and Jennifer Patten, Altacal Audubon Society

The Meandering Middle Sunday, May 24th 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Topic: Ichthyology and Botany (fish and plants)

Activities: Strolling, seeing the creek through the eyes of a salmon, investigating plant adaptations, and looking under rocks and in microscopes.

Scientists: Gabriel Kopp, FishBio and Kristina Schierenbeck, CSU, Chico

Pilgrimage to the Headwaters Sunday, June 7th 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Topic: Ecology and Meteorology (wild interactions and weather)

Activities: An 8-mile hike by a lake, through a forest, and to a spring.

Scientist: Randy Senock, CSU, Chico

Learn More About Going Solar + Support BEC!

Last month BEC announced its partnership with America's #1 full-service solar provider, SolarCity. This month BEC and SolarCity are hosting a **free mixer and Q&A session** for those who are interested in learning more about the benefits of going solar and what Solar City has to offer.

To learn more and get solar on your home, attend our free workshop on **Tues., April 14 at 6 p.m. at Dolce Home** in downtown Chico at 127 Main St.

Light snacks will be provided and Craig Almaguer will give a short presentation followed by a Q&A session.

Interested in finding out more? Email [Becky](#) for more information. RSVP your name, the address of the potential solar home, and phone number as well as number of attendees.

And remember, for every household that installs solar through SolarCity and references BEC, BEC will receive \$250! We just heard that our first BEC supporters signed up to go solar and we hope to announce it next month!



Recycling: There's an App for That!

Don't know where or how to properly dispose of all of your recyclable materials? There's an app for that!

iRecycle is the premiere application created by [Earth911, Inc.](#) for finding local,

convenient recycling opportunities when you are on the go or at home. iRecycle provides access to **more than 1,600,000 ways to recycle over 350 materials**. iRecycle can tell you how, where and when to recycle just about anything. Using your current location, ZIP code, address or city, get access to vital details for collection points, such as website, phone number, directions, hours of operation and other materials collected.

This app is quick and easy to use. Simply select the category of materials (i.e., batteries) you need to recycle, then select the specific material (i.e., lithium batteries). The app will then provide you with a list of all local facilities that accept those specific materials.

The iRecycle app is available for [IOS](#) and [Android](#) devices.



Environmental Events in the Community

Mon, April 6 Garden Share Potluck & series of short films, Chico Grange 2775 Nord Ave, 6:30 - 8:30pm; more info: conact Laurie Niles, Cultivating Community NV Project Manager

Respectful Revolution 8-week Film Series: Putting Ideals Into Action

7-9 p.m. at CSUC, Siskyou Hall, Room 120

April 8: "Personal Growth For The Common Good"

April 15: "Chico Night!" (features videos on local folks)



Fri, April 10 [Banff Mountain Film Festival](#), Laxson Auditorium, CSUC

Sat, April 11 [7th Annual Walk4Water](#) with Bridging the Gap Foundation
8:30 a.m. at Bidwell Park

Sat, April 11 Verbena Fields Volunteer Work Session, 9 a.m.-Noon
Meet by the kiosk at the corner of E. 1st Ave. at Verbena

Sat, April 11 [Citizen Science-Water Quality Monitoring Training Event](#)
9-11 a.m. at Five Mile Picnic Area (off Centennial Way)

Sun, April 12 [Citizen Science Outing: Hike to the Mouth of Big Chico Creek](#)
10 a.m.-1 p.m., must pre-register.

Sun, April 12 [BEC's Garden Party Fundraiser](#), Arc Pavilion, 4-8 p.m.

Sun, April 12 [Wildflower Show and Native Plant Sale](#)

Noon-4 p.m. at CARD Center, 545 Vallombrosa Ave., Chico

Sat, April 18 [Earth Day Volunteer Day in Bidwell Park & Greenways](#)**Sat, April 18** Celebrate the Jewel, Chico Creek Nature Center, 11am - 4pm**April 20-14** Water Awareness Week at CSU, Chico

Hosted by CLIC, Environmental Advocates. Contact Taylor at (530) 898-4350.

April 22 is EARTH DAY!**Wed, April 22** Butte College Earth Day Festival

9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Main Campus Fountain Lawn

Contact: sustainability@butte.edu or 879-6143**Wed, April 22** [Earth Day Film](#) at the Sierra Nevada Big Room

Doors open at 5 p.m., film starts at 6 p.m.

Sat, April 25 [BEC Block Party with a Purpose](#)**Sun, April 26** [Chico Wildflower Century Ride](#), Chico VELO**Sat, May 2** [Endangered Species Faire](#)

One Mile Group Picnic Area in Lower Bidwell Park

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