



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

October 2015

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Dear Robyn,

I want to formally thank you for your generous support of our organization over the years. At our upcoming **40th Anniversary Gala on October 24**, We look forward to you joining us in celebrating BEC's history and commitment to our local environment with a fantastic meal, live music by Ha'Penny Bridge, and great company.

If you haven't yet, make sure to [purchase your tickets](#) soon. Tickets are \$50 **until October 10** and will go up to \$60 after that. *And 1 lucky person will get the last available premium ticket which includes the Sustainability Tour & Tasting!*

Sincerely, *Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director*

Yes, 40 years is a pretty big deal! And with ticket sales going strong, it looks like we're going to pack the Sierra Nevada Big Room on Saturday, October 24! Featuring a delicious dinner, award winning beers and wines, Silent Auction, [live music by Ha'Penny Bridge](#), and 40 years of amazing stories, this is an event not to be missed.

Ticket prices go up after Saturday, October 10 so get yours today! Tickets are [available online](#), at **Chico Natural Foods Co-Op**, and at **The Bookstore** downtown. Or call the BEC office at 891-6424 to get yours over the phone.

So far about 200 people have tickets for this milestone anniversary of BEC's legacy. Many of those ticket holders are people who go way back to BEC's early years and some are even traveling long distances to return to Chico for this historic event.

We'll also have a contingent of younger people in attendance -- those so called "millennials" who championed (and achieved!) a



Butte
Environmental
Council
is Turning...
Celebrate!

40

October 24, 2015

- Live Music
- Delicious Dinner
- Silent Auction
- Beer & Wine

Tickets:
\$50 - Standard Ticket Until Oct. 10
\$60 - Standard Ticket After Oct. 10
www.becnet.org • 530.891.6424

**You Don't Want to Miss this Event
at the Sierra Nevada Big Room**

commitment from Chico State to divest from fossil fuels. This next generation of climate activists is rich in passion and ability but generally can't afford a full-priced gala ticket. **And so we're asking generous donors to step up and donate to a pool that would cover the cost of admission for these young environmental leaders.** Help us reach our goal of \$330 to get these young people in the room! Call 891-6424 to donate over the phone or donate online at www.becnet.org/events/40th-anniversary-gala

BEC members may also **request a group table reservation** for parties of 4 - 6 guests, or request two tables for larger parties. Please call BEC at 891-6424 or email becevents@becnet.org to request a table reservation.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Recognizing Our Environmental Heroes

BEC is proud to honor the following individuals with this year's awards:

- **Kaitlin Haley** and **Kevin Killion**, 2015 Environmentalist of the Year
- **Lesley Kuykendall**, Barris Farms Service Award
- **Karl Ory**, The Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award



The **2015 Environmentalist of the Year Award** goes to **Kaitlin Haley and Kevin Killion** who successfully led a student campaign last year that got the CSU, Chico Research Foundation to commit to divesting from fossil fuels, making it the first public university in the nation to do so. These two recent CSUC graduates are leading their generation in the fight against climate change. This award is presented to individuals

who have made a significant contribution to the protection or enhancement of the environment.

The **2015 Barris Farms Service Award** is being presented to **Lesley Kuykendall**, a long-time BEC member from Oroville who has led the Oroville Dioxin Education Committee and efforts to document and seek remediation for the legacy of industrial pollution that disproportionately affects the community of Oroville. Lesley has also given her service to other local efforts such as the Save Oroville Trees campaign that fought against PG&E Tree removals this year. This award is presented to those individuals who have given exceptional volunteer service on behalf of BEC or local environmental efforts.



Karl & Cheryl saving the farmer's market!

This year BEC will recognize **Karl Ory** with the **Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award**. The award, named after founding member Michael McGinnis, is intended to recognize an individual who has led lifelong efforts in environmental advocacy and education. Karl Ory will be acknowledged for his decades of work to establish and protect the Chico Area Greenline, advance public transit, help close the Rancho Seco nuclear plant in Sacramento, defeat downtown parking structures, and "save" the farmer's market. Ory also served as the Director of CAVE and of the local chapter of the American Red Cross upon moving to Chico in 1974, as well as on Chico City Council from 1977-85, including two years as mayor.

Thank You for Supporting the 2015 Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup!

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of the participants and sponsors of the 2015 Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup! Butte Environmental Council has been organizing this event for about 30 years and this year we had another record-breaking year with over 500 volunteers! And the need was as great as ever this year. It is eye-opening for many in our community to see the condition of our creeks running through Chico. This year volunteers helped us remove over 2.6 TONS of garbage and recyclables!

Even with all of our efforts, litter is continuously piling up. You can help us virtually map litter by taking photos of trash you find and tagging them **#literatti** on facebook, instagram and twitter. If you are interested in participating as a field-site leader or other leadership volunteer position in next year's cleanup, please email becevents@becnet.org

And we'll soon announce opportunities for monthly neighborhood cleanups with our new Block Parties with a Purpose program. Stay tuned or call our office for more info about this opportunity.

Thanks again to our generous sponsors:

Platinum Level Sponsors



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Butte Bicycle Coalition • ChicoBag • Tin Roof •
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Beatniks • Native Daughters of the Golden West

Acorn Collecting Underway, Oak Tree Planting Coming Soon

We are halfway through collecting all of the acorns we need for this winter's Oak Tree Planting in Upper Bidwell Park! With funding from the California Wildlife Foundation, **BEC has been conducting a multi-year project to help oaks regenerate in our area** and this will be our 2nd winter of planting acorns.

We have collected all of the blue oak acorns we need (250), thanks to our awesome volunteers; now our focus is to collect 250 valley oak acorns. **Follow this [LINK](#) for information on remaining collecting days.**

These acorns will be stored and ready to go for planting this winter.



After the first heavy rains of this year (anywhere between October and November) **there will be 4 community planting days where volunteers will help us plant 200 oak trees**, (100 blue oak / 100 valley oak). Last year's oak seedlings have had a pretty high success rate, thanks to all the volunteers who helped with weekly watering through this drought year.

This project is an incredible contribution to the oak woodlands of our beautiful Upper Bidwell Park and we hope you and a group of friends will get involved. **Sign up to get on our [TREE PEOPLE](#) list** to receive updates directly to your e-mail or stay tuned [HERE](#) for updates about the planting.

Contact: Danielle Baxter (530) 570-6528 | daniellebaxterr@gmail.com

Energy Conservation Tips

Home Automation!

We are in an age of technology; everything is "smart". Check out the new line of home automation and smart home products that make managing your home's energy use as easy as a tap on your phone screen. A smart home puts control of your home's energy usage in your hand - literally. You can remotely control temperature, lighting, or appliances, even when you're not home.



NEST - a Google and Tesla designed home thermostat, with links to your smart phone. It learns your heating and cooling behavior at home, and allows you to control it remotely.

Wink - a wi-fi linked LED lightbulb system - essentially the modern-day Clapper! To allow you to turn out or dim lights from your phone even when you're not home.

Also check out new **smart sprinkler and water timer products** to manage your watering routine down to the drop.

To learn more about ways to better manage your energy use, visit EnergyUpgradeCa.org.

Recycling Education Tips

Food Scraps Recycling: Coming soon!

Last October, Gov. Brown signed AB 1826 - the composting ordinance -- requiring businesses to recycle their organic waste instead of landfilling it. Organic waste is food waste, landscape waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste - California disposes approximately 30 million tons of waste in landfills each year, of which more than 30 percent could be used for compost or mulch.



By Jan 1, 2016, local jurisdictions must have an organic waste recycling program in place. By April 2, businesses that generate 8 cubic yds/week must arrange for composting, and by Jan 1, 2017, businesses generating 4 cubic yds/week must comply. Stay tuned to see how Butte County will implement organics recycling.

Don't forget the 4 R's - Reduce your waste, by Reusing, Recycling, **and Rotting**. Use this [link](#) for a way to improve your at-home compost pile!

And remember: there is no such thing as "away." When we throw something "away," we are sending it to the landfill to be wasted forever.

Environmental Events in the Community

These events and more are all posted on BEC's Online calendar at www.becnet.org/events



Oct 10 The Stream Team 13th Annual Volunteer Thank-You Picnic, 12-2PM

Five Mile Picnic Area (off Centennial Way)

For more information: CA Urban Streams Alliance-The Stream Team
www.thestream.org timmariehamill@gmail.com 530 342-6620

Oct 13 The Sustainability Resource Center (SRC) presents - Wildlife Refuge Hikes

Participants will spend time in field guides to build upon their field notes of flora and fauna. Field Journal drawings will be created and posted in the center. Bring your field guides to share! Geoff Hall. Meet at the SRC at 12:30. Location: (SSG-101, near the Arts bldg) on main campus: 3536 Butte Campus Drive, Oroville. More details.

Oct 16-17 Bioneers conference in San Rafael

<http://conference.bioneers.org/?gclid=CLSaiccuppMcCFc1ffgodPrQE3Q>

Oct 18 California Native Plant Society Ditch your lawn workshop

at the Arc Pavilion from 1-5 PM

Save water during the drought: replace your thirsty lawn with native plants!

Deadline to register is Oct 15th

For more info, click here:

http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/2015/lawn_norcal.php

Oct 18 Chico Permaculture Guild Monthly Gathering, Techniques & Strategies #3:

Soil Food Web. 10am - 1pm at the Chico Library meeting room (1108 Sherman Ave.) Free and open to the

public. 1-2 hour interactive discussion, potluck and 'Share the Surplus Swap'. More information:

<https://chicopermaculture.wordpress.com/what-we-do/monthly-gatherings/>

Oct 21-23 Water Education Foundation's Northern CA water tour field trip

This 3-day, 2-night tour travels the length of the Sacramento Valley.

<http://www.watereducation.org/general-tours>

Oct 24 Make a Difference Day (9 am to noon)

Come make a difference in Bidwell Park and other city-owned open spaces! Trash pickup, weed removal, painting and more, with various work sites. Please wear closed-toe shoes. Tools and water provided, but if possible bring your own water container. PRE-REGISTRATION AND PROJECT ASSIGNMENT FOR YOUR TEAM OR FAMILY IS REQUIRED. Registration form will be available online shortly. If you're under 18, please bring release form signed by parent or guardian. For more information, contact the park volunteer coordinator at (530) 526-5000. Sponsored by the Chico Park Division.

Oct 24 BEC's 40th Anniversary Gala at Sierra Nevada Big Room, 5-8pm

www.becnet.org/events

Oct 24-25 Chico Home & Garden Show

Location: Silver Dollar Fair Grounds

Over 350 exhibits and services focusing on home and yard improvements.

For more information, click here: <http://www.chicohomeshow.com>

Oct 27 The Sustainability Resource Center (SRC) presents - Wildlife Refuge

Hikes. This 50 minute hike will focus on bird calls and bird habitats. All hikes guided by naturalist, Geoff Hall. Meet at the SRC at 12:30. Location: (SSG-101, near the Arts bldg) on main campus: 3536 Butte Campus Drive, Oroville. More details.

Oct 29 Chico Creek Nature Center's Hunter's Moon Dinner at The Chico Women's Club, 6-9pm <http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=732312d1415c3022edc3a6559&id=23a7adb41e>

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