



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

March 2016

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Greetings!

We're gearing up for the busy spring season and we'd love to see you and our many exciting events. We're also happy to hear from you on the issues and want to remind you that you can reply to this e-newsletter with your questions and feedback. BEC members are core to BEC's success on the front lines of those advocacy issues. Our grants bring in welcome funding for educational outreach programs, but without your membership support, our advocacy work would not be possible. Thank you again!

Upcoming BEC Events

Saturday, March 5 9 a.m. - noon

[Block Parties with a Purpose](#) -

- *has been cancelled due to heavy rain.*

Friday, March 25 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

[Environmental Coalition Community Gathering](#)

Chico Women's Club, 592 E. Third St.

Saturday, April 2 9 a.m. - noon

[Block Parties with a Purpose](#)

planned for Little Chico Creek

Sunday, April 9 5 - 11 p.m.

[Garden Party Dinner + Spark N' Cinder Show](#)

Arc Pavilion, 2040 Park Ave, Chico, CA

Tuesday, April 19

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

1085 E. 20th St., Chico, CA

Renew BEC Membership

Last Month's E-Sentinel

Saturday, May 7 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

[Endangered Species Faire](#)

One-Mile Group Picnic area, Lower Bidwell Park

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

Celebrating Community Gardens with some Spark N' Cinder

Join us for our fifth Annual Garden Party on **Saturday, April 9, 2016** at [The Arc Pavilion](#), 2040 Park Ave, in Chico, CA.

This festive fundraiser brings the community together in order to sustain and support our beautiful **Humboldt and Oak Way community gardens**.



This year's event will include musical guest **Spark N' Cinder**, featuring Jimmy Fay, Steve Cook, Kim Gimbal, Jeff Daub and Dan McLaughlin who play an instrumental role in bringing the community together. **Admission for both dinner and the dance party is \$30** (starting at 5pm) and admission for the **dance party only is \$15** (admission at 8pm).

Tickets can be purchased at the BEC office or online through our [Garden Party Fundraiser webpage](#). Children's ticket prices will be on a sliding scale and must be purchased at the door. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. and dinner will be served from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dance party admission begins at 8:00 p.m. following dinner.

This show will sell out so get your tickets soon!

Welcome Natalie Carter, BEC's New Executive Director

In case you missed the recent local news coverage or BEC's exclusive member announcement last week...

The BEC Board of Directors is pleased to announce, following an extensive search, that **Natalie Carter has been selected as the next executive director of the Butte Environmental Council**. Carter began with BEC on March 1, 2016.



Carter brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the job. She comes to us from the [Chico Certified Farmers Market](#) (CCFM) where she has had many different titles, from market assistant to general manager. She dedicated over four years there, bringing locally grown food to the communities in our region, building community connections and partnerships for CCFM as well as improving customer service and expanding the market. Carter earned a bachelor's in general biology from Chico State in 2009. Prior to returning to Chico she worked as a biologist and

surveyor at the Great Basin Bird Observatory in Reno, NV and volunteered at the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento, CA.

An active voice in her community, Carter served as treasurer for the [Honey Run Covered Bridge Association](#) in 2013 and 2014, and is currently serving on the [Chico Natural Food Cooperative](#) Board of Directors. She is eager to take on BEC's legacy as a champion for the needs of our community, to defend its resources and to make a meaningful difference as a representative for our land, air and water.

Growing up in Chico, Carter developed a deep-rooted connection for the environment and community. She believes that passing on this passion to others is the best way to ensure the future protection of our natural resources. Carter lives in Chico with her husband, Eric, and their young daughter.

Carter joins a dynamic and devoted staff at BEC, who are confident that **by working together they can carry on BEC's legacy within the community**. Please join us in welcoming Carter to the BEC family. We know Natalie is looking forward to meeting many of you and building relationships in the coming months.

A Chance to Say Goodbye

The BEC Board of Directors invites you to join us in celebrating executive director **Robyn DiFalco's** tremendous work here at BEC! We, the BEC family, want to thank Robyn for her wonderful service and send her off on her next adventure "there and back again." Her last day at BEC will be March 11.



For all you Tolkien fans familiar with "second breakfast", we're fondly referring to Robyn's departure as her "first retirement".

When: Thursday, March 10 from 5-7pm

Where: Grana, 198 E 2nd St, Chico

All BEC members and other community friends and allies who've worked with Robyn over the years are invited to attend this casual gathering to wish Robyn well and raise a glass in honor of all that we've achieved together.

BEC's latest Advocacy Successes

We've been out there on the front lines putting your membership dollars to good use! There's been plenty of media coverage on some, but absolutely no recent coverage on the well moratorium ordinance extension so this is exclusive news!

BEC and our allies in the [Move the Junkyard](#) coalition **pushed the Planning Commission to**

"make the right decision" on the Chico Scrap Metal issue and [the commissioners voted with us](#) -- to uphold the goals of the neighborhood plan and relocate an incompatible toxic industrial facility away from schools and residences. [Read all about it in the CN&R's cover story from last week.](#)



Meanwhile the [Glenn County Planning Commission did not vote to protect Stony Creek](#) and instead approved the use permit for the proposed waste facility near Orland. BEC has been vocal on this issue, alongside an organized group of Concerned Citizens of Glenn County and [the citizens are now filing an appeal of the decision.](#) BEC was publicly accused of being misinformed on this topic and [we hope you saw the rebuttal letter recently](#), in which executive director Robyn DiFalco underscored that **when BEC takes a position on these issues, it's because we are informed, engaged and have researched the issue.**

We're also happy to report **another vote that did go our way:** [The well moratorium ordinance in Glenn County](#) that puts a hold on new well-drilling was granted an extension (through May 17) by the Glenn County Board of Supervisors. **This moratorium is currently the only thing preventing the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) from installing new deep-water production wells to extract and export massive quantities of groundwater** from our shared water resource, the Tuscan Aquifer. The amount of water extracted by our neighboring county has a huge impact on water in Butte County and we've got to work with our neighbors to protect this shared resource. BEC has been working with citizens and policymakers across the river to make the case for extending this moratorium until the implementation of groundwater protection is completed.

Please remember that **the only way BEC can achieve these important victories is because of your membership support.** Our grants primarily fund our educational outreach and programs, but without community support from member donations, our advocacy efforts would not be possible. Please show us you care about these issues and put your donation to work through BEC's advocacy efforts.

Successful Block Party Removes 7.2 Tons of Debris from Little Chico Creek

In February the Butte Environmental Council pulled 7.2 tons of waste from Little Chico Creek with the help of 67 volunteers. BEC's [Block Parties with a Purpose Program](#) has collected a total of 9 tons of rubbish from Chico's waterways on the first Saturday of every month since December 2015. This accomplishment couldn't have been met without the tremendous help of local volunteers dedicated to making our community better.



Unfortunately, due to the huge storm blowing in this weekend, our **March event on Lindo Channel** has been cancelled.



Go Green and Support BEC in One Step!

Send funds back to BEC by going solar with SolarCity, America's #1 full-service solar provider.

For more information, visit www.becnet.org/solar



A Coalition Gathering on March 25

Come join us for the [Environmental Coalition Community Gathering](#) on Friday, **March 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

The Environmental Coalition of Butte County, a group of local environmental organizations, will come together and host this event at the [Chico Women's Club](#) following the last keynote presentation at the This Way to Sustainability Conference.

The coalition hopes to build relations within the community and improve correspondence between the different organizations to develop more viable strategies and alliances for a safer, healthier and more vibrant community.



Anyone from the public is welcome to attend and this is a family-friendly event with adult beverages and activities for the kids. Participating organizations will provide free appetizers and beverages will be available for purchase at the event (including beer and wine). If you have any questions regarding this event.

Please [see BEC's website](#) for event details.

Feather River Citizen Science Outings: *Registration now open!*

The Butte Environmental Council invites the community to join us this spring for a [scientific exploration of the Feather River](#).

These three events, in March, April and May, will explore **the history of the Feather River through time**. The outings will focus on the traditions of indigenous peoples prior to settlement, the development of infrastructure throughout the watershed and the subsequent impacts on the Salmon population.



The first event is: Saturday March 12, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Indigenous Story: Life in Balance" featuring speaker Kenneth Holbrook, Maidu Summit Consortium

Pre-registration is required and events are offered on a "pay-what-you-can" sliding scale from \$15 - \$35. Last year's events filled up fast and had a waitlist, so [sign up](#) soon!

These field trips are for anyone awed by the wonders of nature and who have a spirit for learning.

Arbor Day Tree Plantings with Chico Tree Advocates

To celebrate during California Arbor Days, we'll be planting trees in Chico to restore the urban canopy that has been so significantly degraded. **Sunday March 13 at 10 am** we gather behind the "FREE TREES" banner that's on the fence just west of 518 W. 6th Avenue. Bring gloves and water.

To celebrate on our National Arbor Day, **Friday April 29**, meet at the same place at the same time. Call Charles at 530-518-1417 to confirm your participation on those days or to suggest other days that you are available. We want to plant a lot of trees. It's about the future of our urban forest.



Earth Day Film Event at the Big Room

We're excited to celebrate Earth Day again this year with our friends from Klean Kanteen, ChicoBag, and Sierra Nevada Brewing Company.

This year the event will take place on **Tuesday, April 19** at the [Sierra Nevada Big Room](#). Doors open at 5pm, and films start at 6. The event will feature a series of shorts with a **theme of water, food and sustainable agriculture**.



Stay tuned for more details but mark your calendar for this great night of inspirational, informative and humorous short films.

As always, your donation is the price of admission, starting at \$5 or more. All proceeds benefit local environmental non-profits in the Chico area (soon to be announced).

More details about this event will be posted to [BEC's website](#) soon.



(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!

Recycling Education Tip:
Reduce over Recycle

The Recycling and Rubbish Education program at BEC teaches the four R's - *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot*. We can't stress enough how important the order is!

Reduce is the biggest and most essential of all the lessons. Reduce how much waste is made, be it from the manufacturing process, the packaging process or the consumption process. Then **Reuse** what materials and items do come into our lives and finally choose to **recycle** those items that can be. Lastly **rot** is nature's way of recycling -- compost those food scraps and keep them from creating methane in the landfill, while returning nutrients to the soil.

RARE teaches the four R's to K-12 students in Butte County. For info about classroom workshops and field trips, visit our [RARE webpage](#). For more recycling information, check out the resources at recyclebutte.net

Remember, Mr. T is watching!



Energy Conservation Tip: Which LED is right for me?

Can you find the LED lightbulb in the photo? The answer is they are all LED light bulbs! LED, or Light Emitting Diodes light bulbs are made to fit any fixture and come in different sizes, brightnesses and colors. LED bulbs are *75% more efficient* than incandescents and last four times as long as the spiral shaped CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs). By replacing old bulbs with Energy Star LED bulbs you can save \$30 to \$80 on energy bills.



Don't know what to do with your old CFLs? Take them to a certified drop off center like Home Depot or Lowe's and take a look at the new lower priced LED bulbs today.

Be aware of the new lingo: **Lumens, Kelvin, and Watts**. The **Lumen** is a unit of measurement for the brightness of Light. The brighter the light, the higher the lumen. **Kelvin** refers to the color appearance of the light. For the kitchen you may want a white light, so look for 4,100K, for the bedroom, a softer light is more fitting so opt for a 2,500K. **Watts** still refers to how much energy the bulb uses but it no longer equates to light-output.

Environmental Events in the Community

For more information about upcoming local events please visit BEC's Environmental Events Calendar:
<http://www.becnet.org/events>



Mar 3 [Daring to Discuss - Climate and Collapse, Gratitude and Grief, Feelings and Fear and so much MORE!](#) at the Chico Peace & Justice Center, 6:30 PM

Mar 5 [Varietal Tastings from the OVP](#)

4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Chico Branch Library, 1108 Sherman Ave. Have you ever wondered why which seeds are grown & packaged for resale? How do they grow? What do they taste like? We will taste spinach and turnips grown at the OVP and rate it, just like the seed growing companies do. Contact Laurie at: 342-1995 or laurie@grubchico.org

Mar 10 [Sustainability Task Force Meeting](#)

The meeting will take place at the City of Chico, Municipal Chambers in conference room 1. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

Th, Mar 10 [Fracking Talk by Dave Garcia at Sierra Club meeting](#), 6:30PM, at the Chico Library

Mar 11 Registration deadline for ["This Way to Sustainability Conference"](#)

Mar 14-18 [Camp Chico WILD](#)

Chico Creek Nature Center's spring break nature camp.

Mar 19 [Film: Synthetic Forests, The Dangers of Genetically Engineered Trees](#), 4pm at the Chico Library



Mar 20 [Chico Permaculture Guild Monthly Gathering](#)

Permaculture Design Process Overview. 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'. For more information, email modcpg@gmail.com or visit the [website](#).

Mar 22 [Fresh Start Youth Farm](#)

Cleaning up last seasons vegetation, prepping the soil for another summer of learning new skills. Please contact Colleen 239-272-9661 to fill out a waiver before volunteering. Carpooling is available.

Mar 24-25 [This Way to Sustainability Conference XI, Many Voices ~ Common Ground.](#)

Mar 26 Fracking Fundraiser at the Women's Club

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Apr 2 Wildflower & Nature Festival @ Riverbend Park, Oroville

Apr 8 Banff Mountain Film Fest, Laxson Auditorium, Chico State, 7 p.m.

The Banff films showcase the best in adventure films, from rock climbing to big mountain skiing and everything in between. Get your thrill on at this year's Banff Film Festival!

Apr 9 GRUB Ed/CCNV host "School Garden Planning", 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Chico Branch Library, 1108 Sherman Ave.

Come and plan what to seed and transplant in school gardens now to have ready for the start of school in August. We will also collaborate on ways to support the summer school garden maintenance/watering. If interested please contact Laurie at 342-1995 or laurie@grubchico.org

Apr 16 Celebrate the Jewel at Chico Creek Nature Center

A family fun carnival from 3 to 6 p.m. Free admission, four game tickets for \$1 or get a play pass for \$15.

