



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

May 2016



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Greetings!

May is a busy month here at BEC! This weekend on May 7th we celebrate the 37th Annual Endangered Species Faire, I hope you will join us! If you can't, there are plenty of other ways for you to get involved this month!

Have you considered signing up for a plot in the Humboldt Community Garden? Maybe you would rather get paid to restore and preserve our Oak woodlands?

Maybe you want to take your BEC Membership to the next level and Run for the Board of Directors?

However you want to get involved, it is the support of BEC Members like YOU that makes our mission protecting the land, air and water here in Butte County possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Natalie Carter
530-891-6424

Upcoming BEC Events

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Quick Links

[BEC Website](#)

[BEC Event Calendar](#)

[Renew BEC Membership](#)

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

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

[Endangered Species Faire](#)

One Mile Recreation Area, Lower Bidwell Park

Saturday, May 21 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

[Citizen Science Outing](#)

Lower Feather River Salmon Float

Sunday, June 4 9 a.m. - noon

[Block Party with a Purpose](#)

Location TBA

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

37th Annual Endangered Species Faire

This **Saturday, May 7th**, BEC will host the **37th annual Endangered Species Faire** at the One Mile Group Picnic Area in Lower Bidwell Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a FREE event that includes live music, local food, interactive educational booth and a rescued animal show by Wild Things. This event will also feature a festive puppet parade with hundreds of local kids and an eco-savenger hunt to promote hands-on learning within the community.



This is a green event! RIDE YOUR BIKE to the faire where Chico Velo will be providing FREE bike valet service. Klean Kanteen will host a hydration station, where you can fill your REUSABLE water bottle with water filtered on-site!

For more information about the event, and opportunities to VOLUNTEER, visit becnet.org/endangered-species-faire or call 530-891-6424.

Chico Scrap Metal at Chico City Council

Tomorrow, Tuesday May 3, the Chico City Council will be considering a change to the Chapman/Mulberry Neighborhood Plan in order to allow Chico Scrap Metal (CSM) to remain on 20th Street. The junkyard is currently zoned for outdoor operations which are not allowed adjacent to residential neighborhoods in the City General Plan because of the dust on windy days. CSMI was ordered to move more than 10 years ago by city council but now the city is reconsidering this.



Scrap metal recycling produces heavy metals, PCBs and other chemicals which are then shed into the environment. If CSM is allowed to stay, rainwater runoff and airborne dust will continue to pose a chronic public health and environmental hazard to the Chapman/Mulberry community and Little Chico Creek. CSM has known for years that their 20th Street location would be out of

compliance with both the Chapman-Mulberry Neighborhood Plan and the General Plan.

The industrial activities of CSM are not suitable for residential neighborhoods and the health hazards continue to threaten the largely low-income residents of Chapmantown. Those being exposed to toxins at the CSM site reside mostly in an un-annexed neighborhood and therefore lack representation at the city level.

Come to the City Council meeting, **Tomorrow, Tuesday May 3rd, at 5:00pm in the City Council Chambers, located at 421 Main Street**, and speak out against this change for the disenfranchised people of the Chapman/Mulberry Neighborhood and for our shared environment!

Board Application Announcement

Every June at BEC we have our annual **Board of Directors election**. Members have the opportunity to vote for the individuals that will help lead BEC in the future. Members also have the opportunity to serve on the BEC Board!



We will have 5 current board members standing for election and at least one vacancy this year. If you are interested in being part of the BEC leadership team **please submit an application and your bio for the ballot by Tuesday, May 17.**

Any current BEC members interested in serving BEC are encouraged to apply. For more info about board expectations and to download the application form visit becnet.org/board-directors. For any questions about serving on the board call Natalie at 891-6424.

Voting will take place over two weeks, from Wednesday June, 1 to Wednesday June, 14. Most BEC members will receive a digital ballot via email, while our "analog" members will receive a paper ballot in the mail. If you prefer a paper ballot, please email Natalie Carter or call 891-6424 to request a paper ballot that will be sent to you.

Butte County Initiative to Develop Large Scale Solar

Butte County is seeking input about the PowerButte Solar Overlay Zone program. PowerButte is a **county initiative to further large scale solar energy development** in suitable locations around the county. Three workshops are planned for Chico, Oroville and Butte Valley to discuss the future of large scale solar energy development in unincorporated areas of Butte County.



Workshops:

Chico

May 5, 2016 5:30 p.m.

Lakeside Pavilion 2565 California Park Drive

Oroville

May 9, 2016 5:30 p.m.

Southside Community Center 2959 Lower Wyandotte Road

Butte Valley

May 10, 2016 5:30 p.m.

Butte College Main Campus Cafeteria

The County is seeking a diversity of viewpoints on this important new program. Butte County staff and consultants will be on hand to answer questions and will help facilitate this community discussion. If you can't make the workshop in your area feel free to attend a meeting more convenient for you, the information will be the same at all three workshops.

Oak Coordinator Position Announcement

The Oak Restoration Project Coordinator is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating **BEC's Oak Restoration Project**. BEC's oak planting project seeks to engage the community in tree planting activities that protect and enhance the ecological integrity of Butte County's Oak Woodlands, specifically in Bidwell Park.



Work takes place partially in an office setting and primarily in Upper Bidwell Park with the majority of work occurring during weekend days and summer. Duties include coordinating educational and volunteer events, production of outreach materials, develop media strategy, develop and maintain budgets and collaborate with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses.

This contract position is budgeted for 5 - 10 hrs/week with seasonal increases and decreases based on program needs. The candidate would work from summer 2016 through June 30th 2017. Find out more on our website: becnet.org/oaks-restoration-project-coordinator.

Chico Creek Keepers Remove Nearly 12 Tons of Waste so Far

Our April Block Party with a Purpose efforts took place along Little Chico Creek. Dedicated volunteers were able to remove 1.5 TONS of trash! In total, we have removed nearly 12 tons of waste since December. Community volunteers have made a great impact in these events and Kevin, a intern here at BEC, says "these block parties have made strides toward a better community and a cleaner environment for our city."



Our last and final Block Party of the season will occur on June 4th, 2016 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm on Lindo Channel. Bring your friends and family to help keep Chico waterways clean and clear of invasive species. We are hoping for the biggest turnout yet, for our last Block Party event on the season, [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Six Seats Left on our Citizen Science Salmon Float!

Our first two Citizen Science events on the Feather River have proven to be both fun and informative! On our first outing, **Life in Balance: the Indigenous Story**, we took an anthropological perspective and teamed up with Kenneth Holbrook from the Maidu Summit Consortium to learn about the impacts of settlement on local Native American tribes.



On our second outing, **The Taming of a River: Stairway of Power**, we were joined by representatives from PG&E, American White Water, and Sierra Club to explore the hydroelectric dams throughout the watershed. Participants enjoyed learning about hydroelectricity and the impacts of dams on fish populations.

Our third and final outing of the season will take place on May 21. For our **Lower Feather River Salmon Float**, Biologist Andrew Hampton from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission will join us as we lead a two-hour kayak float from the Feather River Hatchery to River Reflections. Participants will get to witness the spring-run Salmon on their return home first-hand! This fun outing will be a great opportunity to educate community members about a Keystone species.

SIGN UP: becnet.org/watershed-program/citizen-science

For more information, contact us at watershed@becnet.org or (530) 891-6424

Community Garden Plots Available

Are you interested in growing your own food but don't have a suitable garden space? We still have garden **plots available** this season in our Humboldt Community Garden, located on Humboldt Rd and El Monte Ave.

A one-year plot lease for the 2016-17 garden year is \$75 for a 15x15 plot (225 square feet). There is also a refundable \$50 cleaning deposit. The lease includes water, limited liability insurance (a city requirement) and access to community tools and finished compost or bark chips, depending on available supplies.

We have one agency plot available for a nonprofit organization that measures 25x60 feet (1,500 square feet) and is \$375 for the year.

Come join us and grow your garden along with your community in this beautiful and serene location!

CALL TODAY (530) 891-6424





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



Protect our land with Frack-Free Butte County

We love Butte County, our home. That's why we're protecting it by voting **yes on E**, a ban on fracking - [and we need your help!](#)



Here in Butte County, we pride ourselves on pristine landscapes, clean water and thriving family farms - we're part of a vibrant, welcoming community. **But fracking in Butte County would threaten everything we love, from our water to our health to our farms to our livelihood.**

On June 7 we're voting Yes On E to ban fracking, and we're looking for [people like you to volunteer](#) and help get the word out about this important measure! [Join us.](#)



(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!

Energy Conservation Tip: Ready to Improve your House? Go Green Financing is Here to Help

BEC members can get an efficiency tune up with a small price tag! The [Energy Upgrade California program](#) gives us access to amazing resources. Find the best financing available for your home or business's energy efficiency project using [Go Green Financing](#). First fill out the "My Energy Upgrade Action Plan" questionnaire about your home or business's energy use. After answering these few questions Go Green Financing allows consumers to explore all of the financing options available. Financing options differ from person to person but there is a database that lists out the information for you.



Green up your house, and lower your utility bill, your carbon footprint, and indoor temperature!

Available to all california residents: myenergy.energyupgradeca.org/page/gogreenfinancing

Recycling Education Tip: Paper vs. Foam

I recently wanted to know how much more eco-friendly a paper cup was compared to a styrofoam (polystyrene) cup for getting a drink "to-go." The emissions to manufacture 10,000 styrofoam cups causes nearly 680 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. It's the same or more for 10,000 paper cups with sleeves. It can take more than a million years for polystyrene (styrofoam) to decompose in a landfill and 50 years to degrade in a marine environment. A paper cup takes more than 20 years to decompose in a sealed landfill and a few days in a water environment. Most surprising to me, the standard paper coffee cup at your favorite coffee shop is more than just paper. There is a plastic film lining the cups to make it waterproof, and thereby NOT recyclable.



In Chico styrofoam disposable cups and paper disposable cups do not recycle and both take many resources to manufacture and dispose of them. Paper or Foam? Once again, the best option is to "BYO" reusable mug.

Environmental Events in the Community

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



May 10 [Chico Seed Lending Library 'Lettuce get Together'](#)

4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Chico Library meeting room. Seed library orientation, timely garden/seed saving discussions and more.

May 15 [Chico Permaculture Guild Monthly Gathering](#)

Greywater Systems in California 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chico Library meeting room. This is a free event open to the public with interactive discussions, potluck and 'Share the Surplus Swap.' For more info email: modcpg@gmail.com

June 9 [Sustainability Task Force Meeting](#)

5:30 p.m. at City of Chico, Municipal Chambers Conference Room 1.

June 12 [Earthshed Solutions HOW \(Hands-on Workshop\)](#)

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at The HUB, 240 Main St., Suite 260, Chico. This workshop will focus on using fundraising as a sustainable revenue stream. Instructor: Laura Cootsona, Executive Director at The Jesus Center, will discuss strategic planning, executive coaching, fundraising and marketing.