

# Environmental News

## Polluted water and sediment acknowledged

The Remedial Investigation results (see sidebar) for the Humboldt Road Burn Dump (HRBD) demonstrates that the south fork of Dead Horse Slough has been severely impacted by the waste from the HRBD. The Slough is moving polluted sediment and water into Little Chico Creek which then connects with the Sacramento River. It has been well known for the past five years that the soil was heavily contaminated over the 157 acre site, but inadequate analysis and disclosure by the agencies involved kept the Slough pollution out of sight.

The HRBD is the largest burn dump in the State of California. It operated under multiple owners for over 70 years and left a highly toxic legacy that is attributed to human consumption and human waste

disposal problems. The contaminated soil holds frightening materials such as lead, dioxin, arsenic, and much more. The most alarming aspect of the desire to clean the hazardous waste is that a developer wants to build homes on part of it and that the cleanup itself could pose a health threat to local residents and school children. In light of the serious impacts of the toxics to our waterways and a cleanup to present and future residents, Butte Environmental Council (BEC) has suggested that the following be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report in comments to the City of Chico in March 2002:

**Pollution Acknowledged:** page 4



← *California Park*

← *Burn Dump*

← *Humboldt Road*

*The Humboldt Road Burn Dump is located between Humboldt Road, Bruce Road and Highway 32.*

## Meet you at the Faire!

Listen...you can hear drumbeats in the park...deep and regular like the heartbeat of Mother Earth herself. The beat is from the heart of the Talk'n'Tree Drum, carved from a fallen 500-year-old Valley Oak. Michael Murphy and his drum will open Butte Environmental Council's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Endangered Species Faire at Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park at 10 AM on Saturday, May 4, 2002. Those of you who hear and follow the deep, healing sounds of this drum will find yourself surrounded by the magic of the oldest and largest environmental fair in the North State. All around you will be celebrations and explanations of this year's theme, *Nature's Cycles: What Goes Around Comes Around*.

You will find young children teaching you about ecology in nature's cycles. As usual, state parks representatives, government agencies, local non-profit organizations, businesses, California State University, Chico organizations, food vendors, artists, craftspeople, farmers, musicians, puppeteers, and animal rescuers, will join them. You'll be playing educational games at booths, meeting endangered species up close and personal, eating the best food that Chico offers and listening to Alphabet Posse, Sekund Naycher and Make It So play on a solar stage. You'll watch the Four Winds Indian Education program's White Eagle Singers and Dancers. Your kids will join the future environmental education teachers from Jon Hooper's CSU, Chico class in meaningful interactive games from Project Wild. Maybe you'll win a prize, like the bicycle from Pullin's Cyclery at our raffle! At the end of the day, your kids can become puppeteers and we'll all join in a parade celebrating nature's cycles before we say goodbye to the day. All from following the call of the beat of an old, old drum.

See you there—don't miss this one!



*2001 Faire-goers get in touch with the wild side of nature.*

## Choosing Environmentally Preferable Paper

By Chris Lotspeich

According to the EPA, paper in its various forms accounts for 40 percent of all U.S. solid waste generated."

And so it is written: paper has been a universal symbol of civilization since ancient cultures pounded and wove reeds into sheets of papyrus. For millennia it has served as a conveyor of knowledge, carrier of ideas and dreams, herald of our triumphs and tragedies, and repository of history.

Today most of the world's paper products are made from trees that are harvested, pulped, and processed in facilities that can cost upwards of a billion dollars each. Paper consumption continues to rise despite increased recycling and the Electronic Age promise of the "paperless office." Concerns have also grown about the environmental impacts associated with paper production: air and water pollution, lost biodiversity, fire risks, and declining forest and stream health. Yet trees are a renewable resource, and many kinds of paper are recyclable. Efforts to reconcile the economic benefits and environmental effects of papermaking continue worldwide.

Americans—especially on the job—use paper as if it grew on trees, so to speak. A typical office worker goes through roughly 100–200 pounds of paper annually. The United States leads the world in paper use, but not in recycling

(although we're improving). According to the EPA, paper in its various forms accounts for 40 percent of all U.S. solid waste. Office paper constitutes one quarter of that; we still throw away more than 80 percent of the paper used in the workplace. In 2000, Americans recovered 48 percent of the paper we use for recycling, totaling roughly 50 million tons, an all-time record. We still trail such countries as Japan and Germany, each of which boasts paper recycling rates in the low-to mid-50-percent range.

Paper does not lend itself well to generalization. There are many varied types of paper for a range of uses. Office paper is made with different fibers, fillers, and processes than newspaper; newsprint differs from cardboard; and cardboard is made with techniques and ingredients that differ from those of paperboard (the stuff in cereal boxes). Tissue papers, such as paper towels and toilet rolls, are in their own category. And for understandable reasons there isn't much interest in recycling them after use. Characteristics including basis weight, opacity, and brightness differentiate paper, even for stationary and printing uses alone. "Waste" or scrap paper is also segregated into differing grades and categories, and mixing them can reduce their value and recyclability. Non-wood fibers are used to make an increasing amount of paper.

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Environmental News

Spring 2002  
Volume 8, Number 1

The *Environmental News* a quarterly published paper covers all environmental news and events of Butte County. To submit articles or events for the Environmental Calendar, email Rachel Styer at [rmstyer@shocking.com](mailto:rmstyer@shocking.com). All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via email to [rmstyer@shocking.com](mailto:rmstyer@shocking.com). Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication. All submissions must include the author's name, address, and telephone number. BEC reserves the right to edit all work for reasons of space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by article contributors are not necessarily those of BEC. Photos and artwork will be returned if requested, please include a SASE. The *Environmental News* Copyright 2002 is a publication of the



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The Environmental News Team

Rachel Styer, Janie Teague-Urbach, and Barbara Vlamis.

BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a non-profit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC is devoted to environmental education and information, referral services, and advocacy. BEC is located at 116 W. Second Street, #3, Chico, CA 95928, (530) 891-6424. BEC is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am to 1 pm (business only), 1:30 pm to 5 pm (open to public).

How to Join BEC

To join BEC, just fill out the membership form on the back page of this paper. Yearly memberships are:

<b>\$20</b>	Low income	<b>\$100</b>	Wetlands Watch
<b>\$35</b>	Individual	<b>\$150</b>	Energy Elite
<b>\$50</b>	Household	<b>\$500</b>	Cougar Cadre

BEC Board of Directors

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News from the Board

The Board of Directors (BOD) is alive and thriving! In many ways, a changing BOD reflects one of the greatest attributes of BEC—its ability to withstand change and grow as a result. Our BOD is never stagnant but always open to new ideas and new people. Our newest member is Brent Kimberley. Brent brings the enthusiasm of youth and we are very excited to have him on the BOD. The BOD has always been an interesting combination of individuals who share a common philosophy of honoring the world beyond mega-complex movie theatres and shopping malls.

In February 2002, the BOD and BEC staff attended an all-day Leadership Development Workshop in Berkeley. The workshop was lead by international business consultant, Rick Foster. Foster's specialty is in the field of leadership development

and team productivity for large international corporations. Rick has also co-authored a successful book titled, *How We Choose to be Happy*. We explored the formula for true collaboration—recognizing our common goal of accomplishing great things for our organization and its mission. We gained some valuable information and tools for communication skills at their best.

BEC has never been stronger than it is now, due in large part to the contributions of generous people in the community who share our philosophy and donate to support the organization. These generous contributions allow BEC to be a strong advocate for sensible land use decisions and work toward improving air and water quality for all citizens. If you are presently not a BEC member or not on the BEC Angel list, we strongly encourage you

to consider this option. *Being able to sustain an environmental advocacy office with staff to run it is a considerable accomplishment in the North State.* We need to honor the efforts and work done and continue a steady funding source for future successes.

The Board of Directors is proud to serve the organization. With changing faces, we contribute new ideas and enthusiasm to implement them. We work well as a team and enjoy our time together as friends and advocates for the greater good. What could be more fun and personally rewarding?

The BEC Board meetings are always open to our members. Give the office a call to find out when our next meeting is and its location. Join us for dinner and a meeting—bring your ideas as well. We welcome you.

Roots and shoots: BEC's volunteers

Once again we are sending a big shout out to all of our wonderful volunteers who contribute their free time to make everything at BEC happen. From mailings to event coordinating, these generous people make a herculean effort to ensure that whatever they are lending a hand to will be a great success. We've had several huge mailings that would not have made it out in a timely manner, which is crucial, if these wonderful gals and guys hadn't helped out. BEC also hosted the Environmental Banquet in March, which was a success with the help of our volunteers.

Thank you,  
**Mick Hegarty**  
**Amanda DeSousa**  
**Scott Vargen**  
**Will Craig**  
**Jason Van Warmerdam**  
**Lindsey Billman**  
**Mary Muchowski**  
**Matt Muirhead**

BEC also had a wonderful intern this semester, **Emily Cartter**. A CSUC, Chico student, Emily brings a wonderful enthusiasm to the BEC office. She is an environmental

maven, helping with coordinating the Endangered Species Faire. Aside from helping to make BEC's largest event a success, Emily has also pitched in around the office and was a great help at the Environmental Banquet.





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## BEC Projects

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With April showers not only comes May flowers but many wonderful BEC events and projects! This spring and summer BEC folks have been working hard to make project and events a success. Of course the office has been filled with busy activity in preparation for the **23rd Annual Endangered Species Faire**. This year's Faire promises to be an exciting, educational, and inspiring event. Don't miss the Four Winds Dancers, beautiful music, delicious food, or informative presentations. The Barry Kirshner Wildlife Foundation's presentation of endangered and exotic animals. For more information on the Faire give the BEC office a call.

On May 18 along with the Associated Students Recycling Program, Environmental Advocates and the City of Chico, BEC will hold the **Park Cleanup**. Break out your sunscreen, work tee shirts, and gloves and get ready to make Bidwell Park sparkle! For time and meeting location call the BEC office.

Speaking of cleanups, this summer BEC will be holding its annual fundraising event to collect donations for the Parks and Creeks of Chico Cleanup. During this cleanup, held in September of each year, volunteers sweep Chico creeks and Bidwell Park, hauling away all kinds of trash, from tires to cans. The **Summer Drawing** has plenty of items generously donated from area business that will please everyone! Watch your mailbox for announcements.

This spring BEC is holding a **quilt raffle**! The first such event in BEC's history. Our Chair of the BEC Board of Directors created a beautiful flannel quilt in gorgeous cranberry and lush green. Tickets to win the quilt are available at the BEC office. The quilt is also travelling to different events around Butte County. Watch for it! If you'd like to purchase tickets, visit the BEC office at 116 West 2nd Street.

BEC is also part of the **Chico tree ordinance** effort. After losing so many old Oak trees, Chicoans have perceived a need for a comprehensive, updated tree ordinance. If you would like to sign the petition calling for a comprehensive, updated tree ordinance, visit the BEC office or stop by the BEC table at the Saturday Farmers' Market held at 2nd Street and Wall Street.



Education and Outreach Coordinator Janie Teague-Urbach and volunteer Scott Vargen put their heads together to plan for the Endangered Species Faire.

## BEC leads eastside tour of chico

By Nora Burnham

As a Board Member of the Butte Environmental Council, I recently had the opportunity to view from the periphery some of our beautiful wetlands and tour oak woodlands and grazing lands on the eastern side of Chico. BEC's Executive Director, Barbara Vlamis, coordinated this tour. The purpose of this tour was to show lands that are being considered for conservation easements and acquisitions by willing landowners to the people from federal and state agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Army Corp or Engineers. A representative of the Northern California Regional Land Trust also joined us for part of the tour.

We met in a parking lot in the southern part of town, put our mud boots on, jumped into a few cars and followed the lead car to the various sites at the south end of town. A baby rattlesnake was heard at the very first site in a rock wall. We were able to see from afar some of the damage caused by Mahgdadi from one of the sites we were viewing. We toured three sites and after touring those oak woodlands and grasslands, some people headed back to Sacramento and the Bay Area and some of us had lunch together before parting company for the day.

It is vitally important for the agency people to see the land as they work on these prospects, especially when the vernal pools are most spectacular. Butte County Meadowfoam and other spring wildflowers were also in full bloom. It was my first up-close-and-personal encounter with the endangered plant. After being shown just a couple of the plants, I was able to find many more on my own as we strolled across the lands. I was quite proud of myself. After taking photos and notes, many of us set out on our way home knowing that these beautiful lands may be preserved for future generations of Chicoans.

*"This curious world which we inhabit is more wonderful than it is convenient; more beautiful than it is useful; it is more to be admired and enjoyed than used."*

—Henry David Thoreau



# THE WAKE

by Karen Laslo

I didn’t want to go alone, so I asked Susan to go with me. When we got there, we found the hillside strewn with fallen oaks. There, in a field of fresh spring grass, stood 117 raw stumps, still leaking pitch from the saw cuts. Susan and I walked among the silent ruins of this shattered landscape, and all the anger I’d brought there yielded to grief.

We had come to see for ourselves the place where a local developer in our town had cut down 117 native oaks to make way for a housing development. The City had given permission to remove 33 trees but instead he willingly and knowingly defied the rules and probably would have clear-cut the whole property if neighbors hadn’t called the City to complain.

After awhile, Susan wandered off, perhaps to be with her own thoughts. I was left alone. Lupine and Tidy Tips were just starting to poke up through the grass. Snow covered mountains lined the edges of the Valley. It was then that I saw the big oak. Its massive trunk and canopy, which had just begun to leaf out, lay on the grass beside a stump a yard wide. Its fallen branches towered above me, Savannah Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers hopping around in its limbs as if it were still a living tree. The rough bark of this ancient oak was thick and dark with deep ridges. It was covered with patches of colorful orange and green lichen.

I examined the cut end of the tree. The heartwood was still moist and pungent, hundreds of ants crawling over the surface of the wound. Centuries old growth rings told a story of a time when the tree, while still young, preserved its own life by walling off a disease. But the oak had no such defense against the whine and scream of a chainsaw, where, in a few moments, a three-hundred-year-old-lesson of endurance, steadfastness and acceptance was forever lost to we humans, the ancient gift of shade and oxygen discarded as of no worth. I wanted somehow for none of this to have happened. But it had. The fact of it lay before me. The towers had fallen and no wish of mine could restore things to their former state. I sat with the tree for a long time. I could



Karen Laslo and Susan Mason witness the aftermath of the Oak Massacre.  
Photo courtesy Chico Examiner.

not walk away. I felt as if I were attending a wake.

After awhile Susan came back, along with Tim from the *Chico Examiner* who had come with his camera to document what had taken place here. He wanted Susan and me in a picture with the great oak to capture the scale of what was lost. “Smile,” said Tim. It was too much to ask. “I don’t feel like smiling,” I told him.

## Burn dump cleanup method in question

### Pollution Acknowledged

From Page 1

1. A menu of *comprehensive* alternatives, not just what the City is already putting forward as their preferred alternative.
  - a. Discuss within each alternative, including the no project alternative, the ensuing impacts to land use projected by the zoning, the costs to private land owners, the costs to the public, and the level of risk to human and fauna health, safety, and environment both during a cleanup option and post-cleanup.
  - b. Consider as one possible alternative the public ownership of the entire 157 acres with adequate fencing.
    - i. This alternative could provide for greater levels of assurance for health, safety, and liability.
  - c. Consider as another option, different end land uses other than housing outside the proposed 20 acre consolidated acreage.
    - i. This alternative could also provide for greater levels of assurance for health, safety, and liability.
  - d. An analysis of bioremediation as a possible alternative.
2. Details of the motivation to initiate the possible cleanup if the site is not currently viewed by local, state, or federal agencies as a threat to health, safety, or

- liability as it exists today. The public must be provided with the honest truth: the current zoning and the future human receptors attached to that zoning are driving this cleanup. A change in zoning would completely change the cleanup possibilities. Different zoning could even determine a cleanup wasn’t necessary outside the impacts to the South Fork of Dead Horse Slough if adequate fencing and monitoring was in place. The cost impacts would also radically change.
3. A discussion regarding the possibility of requiring that the post remediated land contain restrictive covenants for future landowners that document the previous land use, the degree of certainty for human health with the end land use, and the potential for exposure to contaminants that could have been missed or overlooked.
- This toxic cleanup has been in the making for decades. If you want to stay aware of the ongoing process and plans, just call the BEC office at 891-6424 and we will be glad to keep you in the loop.

## Water Quality Testing Results for the Humboldt Road Burn Dump

The following is excerpted from the results of an investigation conducted for the City of Chico.

METALS
Six metals were reported in both on-site and off-site samples, including antimony, barium, copper, nickel, vanadium, and zinc. None of these metals, however, was consistently detected in all of the surface-water samples. The most consistently detected metals include barium (reported in 23 out of the 25 samples), copper (15 out of 25 samples) zinc (16 out of 25 samples). All other metals were reported in 10 or less samples. Barium results range in value from 0.0124 milligrams per liter (mg/L) to 0.0267 mg/L. Copper results range from 0.00745 mg/L to 0.0209 and zinc results range from 0.0135 to 0.102 mg/L. In the fluid samples taken from the area benzene, was reported in the sample at a concentration of .055 mg/L.
SEDIMENT TESTING RESULTS

At Dead Horse Slough fourteen metals were detected at concentrations exceeding background concentrations. These metals include antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc. Reported pH values are between 6.38 and 6.81. Antimony, arsenic, and lead are the only analytes that exceed the screening-level values. For Dead Horse Slough sediment, one sample exceeds the screening-level value for antimony, two samples exceed the screening-level value for arsenic, and seven samples exceed the screening-level value for lead. The screening-level values used in the remedial investigation may not be applicable to sediment. Site-specific, risk-based sediment standards will be developed as part of the risk assessment.





# SENATE REJECTS ARCTIC DRILLING !

By the League of Conservation Voters

WASHINGTON - On April 18, eight Republicans joined with 45 Democrats and one Independent to turn back the latest attempt to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. The win represents the environmental community's biggest political win in years as a majority of Senators opposed Arctic drilling under any condition or scenario, a major defeat for President Bush's oil and gas-focused energy plan. The Senate voted 54-46 to uphold a filibuster by Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.), well short of the 60 votes necessary to conclude debate on the amendment to give the president authority to allow drilling in the Arctic Refuge, an American natural treasure, for a mere six months of oil that wouldn't be available for a decade.

"The Senate's overwhelming rejection of oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge sends a strong message to President Bush that Americans want clean energy and a clean environment," said Deb Callahan, president, League of Conservation Voters. "When faced with a choice between protecting our natural resources for the public good and giving in to the White House's call to exploit them for private

gain, the Senate chose the public good. Once again, John Kerry, Joe Lieberman, and Tom Daschle have proven that they are consistent, principled leaders in the fight to protect America's air, water, and open spaces."

President Dwight Eisenhower established the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1960, to protect "its unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values."

Last year, President Bush made opening the Refuge to oil and gas drilling the centerpiece of his energy plan, despite clear evidence that drilling would destroy the Refuge's wildlife and not meaningfully increase our domestic energy supply. The House approved Arctic drilling as part of their version of a national energy policy last August but the measure met with stiff bipartisan opposition in the Senate, fostered by the most significant environmental grassroots lobbying campaign in a decade. Pro-drilling Senators desperately tried one new tactic after another, from arguing that drilling would strengthen our economy to drilling would bring peace to the Middle East, but they failed to sway a majority of Senators or the American public.

The Senate also turned back, by a vote of 64-36, an attempt by Alaska



Photo © Matt Muirhead

*Moose, like the one pictured, can now relax knowing their home will remain drill free.*

Senator Ted Stevens (R) to link Arctic drilling revenues to benefits for steel workers.

*The nonprofit League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is the political voice of the national environmental and conservation community. LCV, which is not a partisan organization, is the only national organization working full-time to hold Congress and the president accountable for their environmental actions. For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org).*

## A new kind of paper chase

### Preferable Paper *From Page 1*

Which is best, and what are the tradeoffs?

RMI is regularly asked about the environmental aspects of paper use and recycling. I faced many of these same questions when I researched environmentally-friendly paper for printing the book *Natural Capitalism* by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and Hunter Lovins. With the help of our publisher Little, Brown and Co. and New Leaf Paper company ([www.newleafpaper.com](http://www.newleafpaper.com)), we selected New Leaf EcoBook 100, an uncoated book paper made with 100 percent post-consumer waste, and processed chlorine-free. This product offers environmental benefits, high quality, and cost-competitiveness.

This article attempts to address a few of the issues involved and to provide a rough guide for purchasing and managing paper for office and printing applications, considering both environmental and economic factors. These opinions are mine, but I hope you find them useful.

#### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

This familiar refrain provides a good guide to using resources, including paper. Reducing paper use is always the best first step. There are many ways to do this without sacrificing the services that we want from paper: information display and

storage, portability, and convenience. A few suggestions include: print and copy on both sides of office paper. Share subscriptions and **use services that help keep you off mailing lists to help reduce junk mail and cut costs**. You can contact the Direct Marketing Association and ask to be removed from mailing lists. (Mail Preference Service, c/o DMA, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale NY 11735. The Center for a New American Dream offers a similar service—see [www.newdream.org/junkmail](http://www.newdream.org/junkmail).) Use email and electronic document storage rather than printing out. Perhaps you are reading this RMI newsletter online, rather than having a paper copy printed out and mailed to you.

Reuse the blank sides of paper for draft print jobs or memo pads. Some cardboard boxes (especially those with a burst strength of 200 pounds or more) are worth more reused than recycled.

Recycle paper to the fullest extent practicable. Keep different types of paper separate, as defined by your local recycling program or vendor. Purchase paper with recyclability in mind; for example, reduce the variety of paper types you buy, and avoid colored or glossy paper. Buy recycled paper to "close the loop" of recycling. If you can't find a local recycling center, consider shredding paper for animal bedding, insulation, or compost.

#### Purchasing Preferences

This is a subjective guide to purchasing paper, in descending order from most to least environmentally preferable. Cost varies, and depends on how much paper you buy.

**1. Agricultural residues (e.g., straw, sugarcane bagasse, banana fiber, etc.).** Agricultural residues are byproducts of crops grown for other purposes rather than specifically as pulp and paper feedstocks, but they can be used to produce high-quality paper. In this sense, such residues are considered a "waste" product. U.S. agricultural residues alone could produce enough paper to meet the world's needs if fully utilized. Such paper's cost may vary significantly, and is often higher than more common wood-based paper because these are newer "specialty" products, and are made in smaller lots. Unfortunately, some small-scale non-wood papermaking in poorer countries uses processes that pollute local groundwater.

**2. Postconsumer (wood fiber) recycled paper.** This refers to recycled paper that has been used by a consumer (person or organization), then collected and returned to a mill to make more paper. In this sense, postconsumer residues are a waste product. The "postconsumer" designation is important because many paper companies return presale paper cuttings and scraps (often called "mill broke") into the process and call it recycling. This is a positive and desirable practice, but limited

in its potential scope for reducing use of primary or virgin fiber (and thereby reducing tree harvesting), and is not as ecologically preferable as postconsumer paper. Paper cannot be recycled over and over ad infinitum. A certain percentage of the wood fibers in postconsumer paper break in the recycling process, so new fiber is often added over time to maintain strength (the quantity and type depending on the paper product). Use the highest percentage of postconsumer fiber content possible. Cost varies with quantity purchased and paper type; typically, the higher the postconsumer content, the higher the cost. Often the cost is competitive with primary-fiber paper when it is purchased in larger quantities.

(Some analysts prefer post-consumer paper to agricultural byproducts, arguing that making paper from waste paper is more resource-efficient. Both approaches are important, and I leave it up to you to choose. Indeed, mixing recycled fiber with nonwood fiber for strengthening can yield a good blend.)

**3. Certified sustainably-harvested wood fiber.** This is wood fiber harvested in an environmentally sensitive manner. In some cases the industry concentrates on making paper from tree species that are relatively plentiful, and avoids species that are rare or have high ecological value. The definition of "environmentally sensitive" varies depending upon conditions, as there is no official or global

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# Environmental Banquet

By BEC Staff

On Thursday March 21, ARC Tower Pavilion on Park Avenue provided the right ambience for a relaxed and enjoyable get together of like-minded friends, bound together by their love of their community and the beautiful environment it provides. Guzzetti's Catering created delicious food with choices that pleased carnivores, vegetarians, and vegans alike. Volunteers Justine Clark and Lindsey Billman, along with intern, Emily Carter, went above and beyond the call of duty and helped make the event special for everybody. Country Garden Flowers donated lovely flower arrangements. Jill Lacefield donated a getaway to Lake Almanor for the annual Environmental Banquet raffle and the lucky winner was Chuck Lundgren.

The Board of Directors of Butte Environmental Council honored Jill Lacefield with a handsome certificate attesting to the high esteem and gratitude felt towards her by those who understand how much her generosity and activism have meant to BEC. They also gifted her with a hand-blown black and white panda from Orient & Flume. Gary Self earned the Michael McGinnis staff award, given each year to an outstanding volunteer, by keeping the wheezing and often sickly office computers functional and productive. A grateful staff gave him a lovely stained glass hummingbird from Needham Stained Glass Studio. Jim Dwyer rose to salute Suzanne Gibbs, who will be sorely missed in this community, for her committed and effective activism on behalf of Big Chico Creek and other important aspects of our community's environment.

Huey Johnson, winner of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Sasakawa Environment Prize spoke on Water, Our Last Ignored Heritage. He told how he became an activist, speaking of the rivers in his youth that used to be full of fish swimming in clean, clear water—rivers now dead and dry. He told of the Green Queen in the Netherlands, who, armed with well-researched data, convinced her nation to recognize the urgency of the dire ecological crisis facing them and led her country to a full commitment to clean up their nation's environment in 25 years. His speech recalled the national goal President Kennedy once set for the U.S. in space exploration, and is just as doable when all members of the community work together toward the goal. Mr. Johnson inspired us to greater commitment to arm ourselves with facts and determination in our efforts to move the community and the body politic to act responsibly toward the future of our planet and all its children.

*The silent auction held at the Banquet was a great success and the Butte Environmental Council would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their wonderful generosity and support:* **Redwood Forest, Eraz Designs, Bee Sting Lips Art Studio, Azad's Martial Arts, Artists, Shanti Di Genova and A. Weldon Kent, The Esplanade Bed & Breakfast, Floral Native Nursery, Penny Ranch, La Rocca Vineyards, Orient & Flume, Cottonparty, Upper Crust Bakery, The Goldsmith, Ellis Art & Drafting, Smokin' Moe's BBQ, Heart in Hand, Body & Bath, Coldstone Creamery, Collier Hardware, A Leprechaun's Enterprise, Mr. Kopy, African Connection, Califia Trading Co, Ital Imports, Christian & Johnson's, Sunset Net, Magical Blend, Mt. Shasta Photographs, Country Gardens and Nora Burnham.**



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# The Great Cohasset Cleanup

By Joan McDowell

We always try to have our cleanup about the time of Earth Day. Cohasset residents start the cleanup with coffee and bagels at 7:00 AM at the community center in Cohasset. Then at 8:00 AM those assembled break up into teams and start to clean up a 15 mile stretch of Cohasset Road and a six to 10 mile stretch of Vilas Road. Last year the participants picked up an estimated 2,000 pounds of debris, including discarded juniper bushes, which do not grow in Cohasset, alongside the road.

The many volunteers equipped with their bright orange vests and trash collecting apparatuses and accompanied by safety signs cleaned up, separating the refuse into plastic, glass, aluminum, all to be recycled. Bonnie Lowe and the Butte


County Department of Public Works provided the protective gear and signs as well as a grant for dump fees at the Neal Road landfill.

For the third year in a row, Bill Crowder of Crowder Rubbish has graciously donated his time and equipment to cart our findings to the dump. Bill has been a generous supporter of the efforts of Cohasset residents to keep their community clean both at our annual cleanup and our annual bazaar, held in August each year.

This year's cleanup will be held Saturday April 27. Meet at the Cohasset Community Center on Cohasset Road just below the school. If you are interested in participating contact Joan McDowell at 343-5701.



Adults and children gathered together to cleanup Cohasset at the 2001 event. Photo courtesy Cohasset Community Association.



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# CARDS FOR CASH

By the Cherokee Preservation Society

Hundreds of acres of the former Cherokee Gold Mine site, including three flanks of Sugarloaf Peak, will be turned into huge pits if Advanced Mineral Technology (AMT) receives a permit to mine sand. Let's write Phil Cash, AMT's president, a note to say "No mining in Sugarloaf!"

A pit mine in preparation lies two miles south of Table Mountain. It is owned by Mineral Resources (MR) who plans to operate their facility for 50 years. AMT will dig three pits like the one in progress south of Table Mountain and run an onsite processing plant 24 hours a day for 23 years! Hundreds of people live within one and a half miles of AMT's proposed pits and plant.

If Mr. Cash gets hundreds of **postcards**, which are easier to read than letters, asking him not to mine in Cherokee, he may reconsider. He must realize that AMT will have a difficult time if they choose to open a plant in Cherokee. We can convince him of that by sending hundreds of notes expressing our feelings on the issue.

Mr. Cash also knows AMT still needs an environmental impact report (EIR) to continue with the Sugarloaf mining project in Cherokee. However despite the EIR, the county supervisors may still vote for AMT. We could overturn the supervisors' vote in court or by referendum, but each legal challenge costs about \$25,000. So, let's try persuasion by card first.

That's why now is the time to write Phil Cash, who has been stalling on signing the contract needed to produce an EIR since December of 2001. The EIR is an important component to this project as it maps out how the proposed project will impact the area where the project will be built. The County chooses a consulting firm to conduct studies and write the EIR. Then the County, the consulting firm and the group that has requested the project, AMT, get together and create a contract for the EIR work. The company must sign the contract.

Butte County supervisors chose SHN Engineering in Redding to write the EIR. Since the middle of December, SHN has been waiting for Mr. Cash to sign their contract to write the EIR. If Mr. Cash does not sign the contract, the required EIR cannot begin. So, let's help Phil Cash make the decision not to sign and to forget about Cherokee.

The following are some possible messages to include in your note to Phil Cash:

*Families living near your mine site can't sell their homes! No one wants to live next to a mine or purchase a home in that vicinity. Please go elsewhere. Thanks.*

*Cherokee is a community for residents and tourists—not a pit mine, an industrial processing plant, and over 90 sand truck trips per day.*

*We pray every day that AMT will go away. Please do your best to help our prayers be answered. Thank you so very much.*

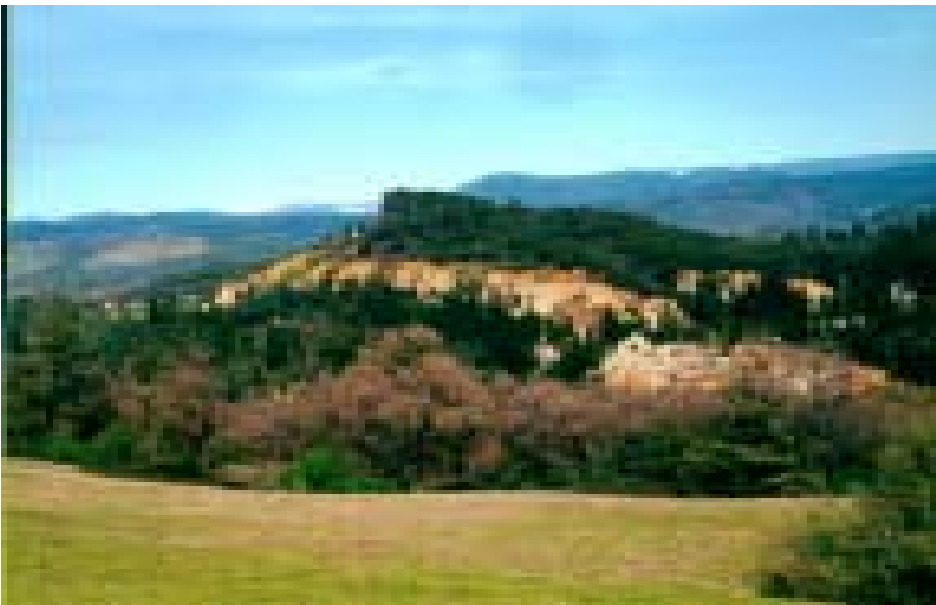
*Your operation will cause severe erosion and flooding, producing sediment runoff into the farming communities south of your site. Your mine may be closed by the state just as the former Cherokee mine site was closed in 1887 for eroding soil and creating sediment runoff. Mineral Resources, which operates a mine in Cherokee, recently received a Cleanup and Abatement Order from the state for sediment runoff violations.*

*Butte County cannot afford to sell AMT 120,000 gallons of water every day for 23 years, never knowing when the next drought will come.*

*Butte County cannot afford to sell AMT 120,000 gallons of water every day for 23 years, never knowing when the next drought will come.*

Please tell Mr. Cash whatever you want and use any type of postcard. Please include your name and address so he can see that you exist. Please try to send a copy of your card to the county, so we can see what AMT has received. Your card, our petitions, letters and everything else in AMT's thick file will eventually be copied for the draft EIR hearings.

Please send your postcard as soon as



Sugarloaf Peak viewed from Table Mountain is pictured above. Advanced Mineral Technology hopes to open a silica mine at the Peak. Photo courtesy Cherokee Preservation Society.

possible. Mr. Cash could sign the contract at any time. Thanks for writing. A few of us alone cannot keep AMT out. Now we need everyone's help.

If you have any questions or comments always feel free to contact Ellen or Lee anytime, 534-0400. The Cherokee Preservation Society gratefully accepts all donations. Contributions help to cover the cost of closely monitoring AMT's permitting process, reporting Mineral Resources' violations to State agencies and making sure the State follows up with citations. Cherokee Preservation Society, PO Box 1641, Oroville, CA 95967.

**Please send postcards to the following addresses:**

Mr. Phil Cash, President  
Advanced Mineral Technology  
Route 1, Box 1092  
Fairfield, Idaho 83327  
Phone: 877-716-2323 (toll free)

Planning Division  
AMT File  
7 County Center  
Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965



## Norm's Homemade Sausages

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# CHICO EXAMINER

Subscriptions are \$30 annually, anywhere in the United States. Please note: make checks payable to "Tim Bousquet" (not the *Chico Examiner*) and mail to PO Box 4627, Chico CA 95927. Thanks to everyone for your continued readership and support.

[www.chicoexaminer.com](http://www.chicoexaminer.com)

# Observing Space

By Rachel Styer

Last November when I watched my first real meteor shower, the Leonids, I also saw another sight I will not soon forget. I spied our solar system through a telescope.

I had tried to and thought of watching meteor showers before but it had never seemed to work out. I hadn't been able to stay awake, plans changed, or I had simply forgotten. But last fall I had made it out to Upper Bidwell Park to witness the most beautiful celestial sights I have ever imagined.

A friend of mine picked me up at the late hour of midnight. It felt strange to be leaving my house in the middle of the night to embark on an adventure. We rendezvous with a couple other friends and all headed up to Horseshoe Lake. I could barely contain my excitement and peered out of the side window of the station wagon as we meandered through town.

I was prepared for the nighttime show and had brought a sleeping pad and bundled up in a wool sweater and wore a thermal base layer. When we arrived at the parking lot, I was surprised to see so many cars and people at the park. It was almost as if we were about to attend a concert. And so we were, a concert of light.

We all laid out our sleeping pads and prepared to observe meteors dancing through our atmosphere. I lay down and watched the first of millions of streaks of light arc across the sky; it was breath taking and surreal. Another friend who had arrived earlier in the evening walked over and casually remarked that people were inside the Chico Community Observatory, located at Horseshoe Lake, and were looking at Jupiter through the telescope housed in the small building.

I sat up, electrified by the news. "It's open?" I asked. The friend confirmed and I jumped off my sleeping pad and ran to the observatory. I have always been mystified and enchanted by space—that big seemingly emptiness that wheels above our heads day and night, a treasure trove of cosmic past and future. Space and all of the heavenly bodies moving through it somehow makes me feel more human, more alive, undeniably real. It would be the first

time I would ever see a planet within our solar system in real time through a telescope.

I stepped into the square building, which looks much like a modern barn, and walked into the room where the scope was set up. The retractable roof was open and a large squat cylinder stood in the center space and looked toward the sky. I felt twelve again and had a hard time waiting my turn. I watch those around me step up to the scope, situate their eye close to the viewing piece and peer out into space. What were they seeing? I wondered.

The scope was pointed toward Saturn when I entered, and the person controlling the apparatus decided to move the view toward Jupiter. He walked up to the telescope punched some numbers into the glowing keypad and the cylinder rotated to capture the light reflecting off of the gas giant.

And, it was my turn. Like so many before me I was about to take in a sight that I would never visit. I was about to see a place that I could never touch. I would look at something that is so remote from my daily life that at times it seems mythical. The planets circle around the sun, a diurnal event that most never witness much less think about.

I stepped up to the scope and looked down into the viewing piece. And, filling my view of the night was Jupiter, large, bright and white, banded in different shades of gray. It looked like the moon to me, yet grander and foreign. I will have to admit that I had been expecting to see Jupiter in color, the browns, oranges and reds we all see when we look at the planet in books or on posters. But what I saw was starker, more real than any image of the magnificent planet I could conjure in my head. The largest planet of our solar system looked, well, regal.

Eventually I had to give up my space at the telescope. I walked out of the observatory quieter and awestruck. I went back to my friends sat down on my sleeping pad and resumed watching the Leonids. Their fanciful arcs across the velvety sky, sometimes simultaneously, kept my imagination flying beyond the pull of Earth. The experience was one that changed my life. I had learned no lessons,



Photo © Matt Muirhead

A 60 minute time lapse exposure caught the night sky in motion.

nor made any great effort, but I had been given a deeper sense of connection.

Chicoans are lucky to have access to such a wonderful resource. Kris Koenig at Star Safaris is a wealth of information on how the observatory came into being and when the public can access the scopes.

The Kiwanis – J. Schwartz Chico Community Observatory, operated by the Chico Kiwanis club, was built and funded through the local Kiwanis organization. The idea of a community observatory in Upper Bidwell Park was proposed to the City in 1997. At the same time a presentation was made to the Chico Kiwanis organization who wanted to sponsor the project and secure its funding. The observatory, after receiving donated time and money from local businesses and contractors, opened its doors to the public November 17, 2001. The main purpose of the Chico Community Observatory, after serving the public, is to provide a remote viewing opportunity to kindergarten through twelfth grade students on site at the observatory and via the Internet.

As for the actual observatory, the building is 40 feet by 22 feet and houses two telescopes. One, a ten inch folded refractor, which describes the optical system, was built by a local amateur astronomer, Jim Schwartz. Schwartz before he passed away donated the telescope to the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society who then donated it to Chico Kiwanis club and the observatory. The Chico Kiwanis club provided the other

telescope. It is a 14-inch (the measurement describes the aperture, or the diameter of the mirrors) Schmidt-Cassegrain on a robotic mount that can be used both for visual observing as well as remote observing through the Internet.

The larger the diameter of the scope's aperture, the better the resolution. The 10-inch telescope is designed to view double stars and planetary objects, while the 14-inch scope studies deep sky objects, nebulae and galaxies. The difference between average department store telescope and the telescopes at the observatory according to Koenig is two and a half inches. But those two and a half inches makes a huge difference, "We are able to resolve objects in a billion light years distant," says Koenig.

The observatory is open weekly, Thursday through Sunday, from dark until three hours after dark. And from Monday through Wednesday, the observatory turns into an interactive classroom available to teachers and students.

The amount of visitors at the observatory varies. Koenig reports that on public evenings 25 to 150 people may stroll into the observatory per night. The observatory hopes to extend its public hours to a seven-night schedule.

Anyone interested in visiting the observatory and would like to coordinate a visit with a significant celestial event, either tune into KPAY or KEWE to listen to Koenig's "Sky Notes," a short program on night sky phenomena. The Chico Community Observatory web site also has a link to Sky Notes. [www.chicoobservatory.com](http://www.chicoobservatory.com).

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# Does Chico need a better tree ordinance?

By Al Braun

The Town of Paradise, population 26,000, has a tree ordinance. The City of Chico, population 80,000, does not. The predominant tree in Paradise the Ponderosa Pine, a tree with commercial value, is both found and logged in most of the western states. Chico has a wide variety of trees, but commercially valuable trees are in the minority. The presence of a tree ordinance is not a true measure of how much the resident of a community value their trees. Chico is known as the “City of Trees” because of the old, mature shade trees that fill the residential areas. Also the founding father, Jon Bidwell was a tree enthusiast and planted a wide variety of trees in the Chico area, many of them still standing. Bidwell Park also has hundreds of acres within the city limits filled with great oaks and other trees that have existed since at least the early 1800s. The real question of interest now is: Does Chico needs a tree ordinance to protect these and other trees within the greater Chico area?

The recent loss of many old trees caused by developer Andrew Meghdadi has raised this question. Many residents of Chico believe it is time the City enact a tree ordinance. Before doing so, there are several considerations that should be addressed.

The biggest problem with the Paradise tree ordinance is enforcing it. In Paradise, that job falls on a code enforcement person who works part time and also administers all other code violations, such as junk cars in from yard, barking dogs, RVs and trailer houses parked too long on the streets. His job is complaint driven; he responds to calls from residents and does not initiate investigations on his own. Even if this code enforcement person issues a citation, it amounts to a warning and not a penalty or fine. In extreme cases, the worst that can happen is a \$1,000 fine, a six-month jail sentence or

both. Violations of the tree ordinance are defined as a misdemeanor and by state law are subject to certain limitations. About two years ago the state changed the penalty for cutting down and selling commercial trees without a permit from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Perhaps these perimeter might also be incorporated into any new tree ordinance Chico may adopt.

The second biggest problem is administering the ordinance. Who is in charge? The town or city’s municipal council? The registered voters or residents? In Paradise, a citizen’s committee originally wrote the tree ordinance after a year of meeting and research with assistance from California Department of Forestry and professional arborists. It was submitted to the Town Council for endorsement and ratification. Instead, two councilmen made drastic and arbitrary changes, neutralizing the document by taking the teeth and heart out and then passed it as a council-sponsored ordinance.

By taking this action, that permitted them to make changes in the future without voter approval. In fact, the council made four significant changes to the tree ordinance in the next two years without and citizen participation. Two particular councilmen enacted changes to make the ordinance more builder or developer friendly.

Measure U, the Paradise tree ordinance was written as an ideal tree ordinance to be administered by a full-time paid urban forester. To some degree, Paradise was not ready or willing to have the trees monitored and administered by a trained professional. The City of Chico already has a paid urban forester and has had for several years. That provides Chico with a real advantage in creating and adopting a better tree ordinance.

Measure U would have provided some alternative penalties, in addition to the existing tree ordinance penalties of either a \$1,000 fine a six-month jail sentence or

CHICO TREES: Page 16

## Keeping A Chico Tradition Alive...



...At Duffy's!

# Duffy's

TAVERN

Photo is of an unnamed Chico barroom about 1890. Courtesy of Cliff Sanborn and CSU, Chico, Meriam Library, Special Collections.

ALDER, KIRCH, BLUE OAK, CAMPHOR, SHARP MYRTLE, DOGWOOD

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You can start a tree care plan of your choice with us—between 15 and 25 hours of professional, trained arborists. We'll help you schedule with A to Z Tree Care may cost you (purchase) the 15 hours of proper pruning annually.

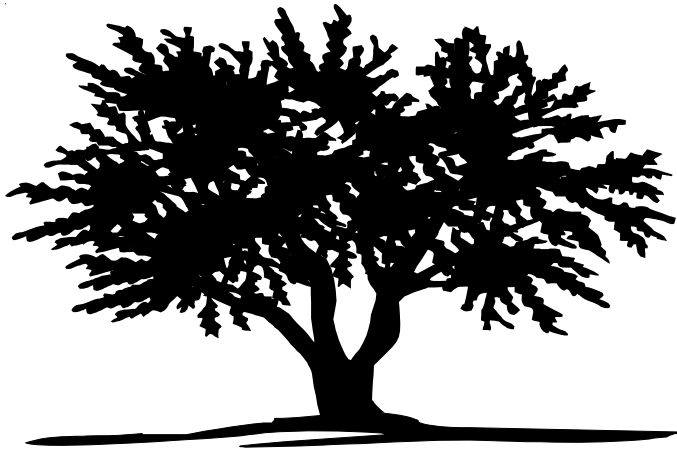
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Homepage: <http://www.guestbook.com/azcnew/arborists.html>



The Environmental Calendar



April

Ongoing Events

**Chico Farmers’ Market**  
Chico Farmer’ Market is held every Saturday rain or shine at the municipal parking lot on East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Wall Street from 7:30 am until 1 pm. For more information call 893.3276.

**Thursday Night Farmers Market**  
The Thursday Night Market is held from 5pm until 9pm each Thursday in downtown Chico. Portions of Third Street, Fourth Street and Broadway are blocked off for farmers, vendors and performers to delight and entertain.

**Chico Community Observatory Weekly**  
Chico Community Observatory is open to the public Thursday through Sunday from sunset until three hours after sunset. The observatory is located at in the upper Bidwell Park near the Horseshoe Lake parking lot. For more information contact Chico Community Observatory, c/o Kris Koenig, at 879-0207 or [www.chicoobservatory.com](http://www.chicoobservatory.com).

Anthropology Forum

Thursday 25  
The Bidwell Environmental Institute, the Rawlins Endowed Professor of Environmental Literacy, The Religious Studies Department, and the Environmental Studies Program present Bron R. Taylor who will speak on “Radical Environmentalism and Bioregionalism: The Promise and Peril of Dark Green Religion.” For more information please call 898.6341.

Tree Pruning 101

Friday 26  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico’s young street trees. Chico’s shade

canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

Chapman/Mulberry Cleanup

Saturday April 27  
Meet at the Chapman School parking lot at 8 am to lend a hand in the effort to make Chapman Town sparkle. The cleanup will last until 3 pm. There will be raffle prizes for volunteers. Chico Scrap metal will also provide a bin for recyclable metal. For more information call T.E.A.M. Chapman at 879.7450.

Tule Lake Weekend

Friday 26–Sunday 27  
Join the Altacal Audubon Society for a weekend at Lava Beds National Park. The group will meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 4:30 pm on Friday 26 to embark on a camping trip in Lava Beds National Park. Please RSVP with Richard, 893.5382.

May

Ongoing Events

**Chico Farmers’ Market**  
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UPCOMING BEC EVENTS

**The Endangered Species Faire**  
Saturday May 4, 2002

**Bidwell Park Cleanup**  
Saturday May 18, 2002

*Please call the BEC office at 891-6424 for more information.*

Community Observatory, c/o Kris Koenig, at 879-0207 or [www.chicoobservatory.com](http://www.chicoobservatory.com).

**Friday Night Concerts**  
Be at the Downtown Park Plaza at 7 pm each Friday to see a different Chico community band. Call 345.6500 for more information.

Tree Pruning 101

Wednesday 1  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico’s young street trees. Chico’s shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

Fun without Alcohol Fair

Thursday 2  
Come one, come all to the Fun without Alcohol Fair! at the CSUC campus, Kendall Hall Lawn. The event begins at 10:00am and lasts until 3:00pm. Please call 898-6450 for more information.

Tree Pruning 101

Friday 3  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico’s young street trees. Chico’s shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

Endangered Species Faire!

Saturday 4  
Join Butte Environmental Council and the California Office of Education from 10 am until 4 pm at our free educational and entertaining Faire featuring interactive educational booths, activities, food, entertainment, music and crafts. The theme this year is “Nature’s Cycles: What goes around, comes around.” For more information call the BEC office at 891.6424.

31st Chico Artisan’s Faire

Sunday 5  
From 10 am until 5 pm, the 31st Chico Artisan’s Faire will be held at Chico’s downtown Park Plaza. Fine Quality Arts and Crafts. There will be continuous

Entertainment and its great for all ages. For more information call 345-9652.

Tree Pruning 101

Wednesday 8  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico’s young street trees. Chico’s shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

Neal Road Cleanup

Saturday 11  
Meet at 9:15 am at 4<sup>th</sup> and Cherry Streets to help the trash along Neal Road make it to the Dump! Call Associated Students Recycling at 898.5033 to sign up.

Gardening Event

Saturday 11  
Join the Cohasset Community Association from 10 am until 4 pm to learn all you need to know about green thumbs. Among the wonderful activities will be composting classes, landscape advice and a 4-H Club art show. Visit the mountain and take away knowledge, plants and a wonderful experience. For more information call 343.4951.

Maidu Shelter Hike

Saturday 11  
Chico Creek Nature Center, from 11:30 am until 12:30pm, will take a hike to a rock shelter in upper Bidwell Park with Naturalist Elizabeth Betrams. Not recommended for children ages 6 and under. Pre-registration required. Please call for more information, 891-4671.

Tree Pruning 101

Saturday 11  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico’s young street trees. Chico’s shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

Tree Pruning 101

Wednesday 15  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico’s young street trees. Chico’s shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a





The Environmental Calendar

hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

California Wild Heritage Campaign

Wednesday 15  
Chico Group Meeting at 6:30pm. Meet at 635 Flume Street. Call 343-9541 for more info.

Tree Pruning 101

Friday 17  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico's young street trees. Chico's shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

Bidwell Park Cleanup

Saturday 18  
Text here!

Excursion

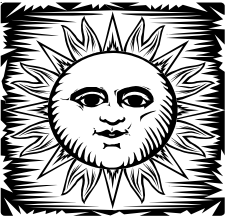
Sunday 19  
Join the California Wild Heritage Campaign on a day hike through the native and rare plants and unusual geology that make Mount Lassen Volcanic Wilderness quite special. For more information, contact trip leader Michael Guerriero, 707-777-3408, mguierro@northcoast.com.

Tree Pruning 101

Wednesday 22  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico's young street trees. Chico's shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.

Tree Pruning 101

Saturday 25  
Join the Chico Tree Enhancement and Education project to learn how to care for Chico's young street trees. Chico's shade canopy needs volunteers to lend them a hand. Call Roger Cole at 895.0866 for more information on time and location.



June

Ongoing Events

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Friday Night Concerts  
Be at the Downtown Park Plaza at 7 pm each Friday to see a different Chico community band. Call 345.6500 for more information.

Shingletown Star Party

June 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14  
Join the North Valley Astronomers (NOVA) at the Shingletown airport for a night sky excursion. For information on registering please visit <http://rigel.csuchico.edu/nova>.

Country Hoe Down

Saturday 1–Sunday 2  
Join the Farm Sanctuary staff and all of the Sanctuary critters for their unique country

conference that includes shelter tours and hayrides, activist training workshops, veggie cookouts and a barn dance. This year's Hoe Down also features noted animal rights speakers. For more information call 865.4617.

Colorsplash Butterflies

Saturday 1  
Join the Chico Creek Nature Center from 11:30am until 12:15pm will make beautiful butterflies using liquid watercolor, coffee filters, and clothespins. Fun art activity for 5 to 12 year olds. Pre-registration, please call 891-4671.

Super Sell-A-Thon Community Yard Sale

Saturday 8  
Join the Chico Area Recreation and Park District Fundraiser from 8 am until 2 pm at the Super Sell-A-Thon Community Yard Sale at 20th St. Community Park. Come out to a Benefit of a community Yard Sale, exposure to a larger market, convenient parking, central location for easy access and high visibility, free advertising! Just pick up a form at the CARD office 545 Vallombrosa Ave. Chico. 12'x 12' Spaces \$20. For more information call 897-4711.

Relay For Life

Saturday 22 through Sunday 23  
The American Cancer Society's "Relay For Life" Fundraiser is 24-hour team event, in which a one member of each team is on the track at all times. This is a team event to fight Cancer. For more details contact Chris Mulqueeney at 321-6722.

July

37th Annual 4th of July Celebration


Thursday 4  
Chico's 37th Annual 4th of July Celebration, will be held at Bidwell Park at the One-mile Area from 7:30 am until 3 pm. Food, crafts, fun and entertainment for all! For more details contact the Do-It Leisure at 343-6055.

Pond Tour 2002

Saturday 13  
The Floating Hearts Garden presents The Pond Tour 2002 from 7:00am until 1:00pm. Tour Packets and tickets can be picked up at the following locations: Zamora' Nursery, Christian & Johnson Gift & Shop, Sutherland Landscape, Mendon's Nursery (Paradise) Growing grounds, Nanucket, Red Tavern, & Congregational Church. For more information call 342-4913.

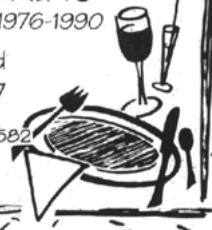
Chico Community Campout

Saturday 20  
Chico Area Recreation and Park District will host the Chico Community Campout at the 20th St. Community Park. This event will include: Campfire songs, hot dog roast, star-gazing, s'mores, camping demonstrations, face painting, a wildlife presentation and a pancake breakfast on Sunday Morning. Tent camping only. Alcohol Free and Smoke Free event. Pre-registration required \$10 Per Family contact the CARD Office at 895-4711.



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# Ban the bottle

## Glass bottle ban on Butte Creek okayed by county supervisors

By Ken Keller

Recently the Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy spearheaded a County ordinance that prohibits glass beverage containers on or in Butte Creek. The County passed the law in December 2001.

Tubers are part of the glass bottle problem. Some of them leave behind bottles after cruising down the creek on hot summer days, injuring people who come after them. The glass bottles are a concern for private property owners because of potential liability according to a county staff report. People who swim or tube in the creek have been tossing glass bottles on private property. It would be the responsibility of the property owners to post signs notifying passers by of the ban on glass bottles.

Ed Craddock, director of Water and Resource Conservation for Butte County, said the law would be another tool law enforcement could use if rowdy groups of people are smashing bottles along the creek. It is hoped the law will cut down on the amount of glass along the waterway.

The Conservancy is looking for individuals, local groups and agencies that control land on or near Butte Creek to place and install the Bottle Ban signs. An example of the sign can be seen on the Conservancy's web site at: [buttecreekwatershed.org](http://buttecreekwatershed.org). The Conservancy will provide the sign. It is the responsibility of the sign holder to provide instillation of the sign. Only a limited number of signs are available at this time.

Individuals and business can help support this program by sponsoring the signs. Individuals or local groups may sponsor a sign for \$50 each. For more information contact the Conservancy at 893-5399. The Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy will conduct the Public Outreach Program for the new glass ordinance. This will include public service announcements, web site presentation, mailings and newsletter notice. Visit the website for more information, [www.buttecreekwatershed.org](http://www.buttecreekwatershed.org).



# Experience the beauty of the Butte Creek Outdoor Classroom

By Alicia Eller and Robyn Hancock

The Butte Creek Outdoor Classroom, which is part of the Butte Creek Ecological Reserve, is a beautiful 93-acre piece of land along Butte Creek. During this time of year colorful wildflowers and fluttering Swallowtail butterflies paint the riparian habitat. The sights and sounds of Butte Creek's flowing water run through your soul, reminiscent of the oneness of all life.

Looking around the reserve, noticeable scars on the land tell the story of the past. Remnants from mining include large rock piles, erosion and soil compaction. There are also many invasive species brought to the area intentionally, as well as accidentally, by early settlers. The species, such as star thistle, vinca and broom, are crowding out native wildlife that lack defenses against these new visitors. Although these footprints are harmful to the ecosystem, they can also offer something positive by providing an opportunity to learn important lessons about our relationship to the Earth.

The main goals of the Butte Creek Outdoor Classroom are research, restoration, and wildlife observation. Many classes from California State University, Chico have ongoing research projects at the reserve. Restoration efforts include planting native trees, such as Valley Oak, Sycamore and Cottonwood. About 100 trees were planted last winter, and 700 new seedlings sprouted from acorns eagerly wait in the green house looking forward to stretching their roots in the ground next planting season. A native plant garden is also being created to provide a concentrated area where students of all ages can learn about the biodiversity of the Butte Creek riparian habitat, including medicinal and edible plant species.

This spring five elementary school classes will be visiting the plein air classroom to take part in planting native trees and grasses. They will also engage in various activities that help to increase awareness of the natural world and enforce the connection we have to the land and each other. Students will have the opportunity to learn about native wildlife, like the endangered Chinook Salmon, ecosystem concepts, and how people fit into the picture.

All community members are encouraged to visit the outdoor classroom and experience the beauty and magic of our common home. It is open to the public seven days a week. If you are interested in bringing classes to the Butte Creek Outdoor Classroom or would like to know more about the project contact Dr. Mark Stemen at [mstemen@csuchico.edu](mailto:mstemen@csuchico.edu).

**HELPING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY TO  
PRESERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT...**

**UNWANTED TOXIC WASTES?**

Come visit our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.  
You can assist in keeping our local "toxic-free" and help insure  
the quality of our environment for generations to come.  
Open 9:00am to 1:00pm, Fridays and Saturdays.  
For more information call:

**A/C Industrial Services Corporation**  
1417 Nevada Street, Chico, CA 95928  
209-298-0007

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# Recycling in Butte County

See Listed Businesses Below by number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CRV	☆	☆	◆	☆	◆	☆	☆		◆	☆			◆	☆	☆	◆	☆	☆	◆	☆
Glass		☆	◆	☆		☆	◆			◆	☆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Metal					◆															
Bi-metal cans		☆	◆		◆	◆				◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Tin cans		☆				◆	◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Aluminum foil/ pie pans		☆	◆	☆		☆	☆			◆	☆			◆						
Scrap metals		☆				☆					☆									
Plastics					◆														◆	
#1 Plastic		☆	◆	◆	◆		☆		◆	◆	☆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#2 Plastic		☆	◆		◆		☆			◆	☆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#3-7 Plastic		☆	◆				◆			◆	☆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
6-Pack plastic rings			◆							◆										
Paper					◆															
Newspaper			◆			◆	☆			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Magazines			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆					◆	
Phone books			◆		◆		◆			◆			◆	◆					◆	
Cardboard			◆			◆	☆			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆
Mixed paper			◆				☆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Ledger paper			◆				☆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Computer paper			◆				☆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Hazardous Waste																				
Alkaline batteries			◆					◆						◆						
Car batteries		☆				◆	◆	◆			☆	◆	◆	◆			◆			
Paint								◆						◆						
Pesticides								◆						◆						
Fluorescent lights & ballasts							☆	◆						☆			☆			
Used motor oil							☆	◆						◆			☆			
Anti-freeze								◆						◆						
Other automotive fluids														◆						
Miscellaneous																				
Appliances (no freon)		☆				◆						☆		☆						
Cars		◆				◆														
Tires																				

Chart Legend	◆ ACCEPTS recyclables listed	☆CASH PAID for recyclables listed	*FEE CHARGED to accept recyclables listed
<b>1) 20/20 Recycling Centers</b> <b>California Department of Conservation</b> Albertson's, 1050 Oroville Dam Blvd., Oroville Albertson's, 146 W. East Ave., Chico Safeway, 1596 Hwy 99, Gridley Safeway, 1016 W. Sacramento Ave., Chico Safeway, 690 Mangrove Ave., Chico Safeway, 1366 East Ave., Chico Safeway, 6020 Clark Rd., Paradise T-F 11-5, Sa 8:30-5, closed 1:30-2	<b>2) Aldred Scrap Metals/ Steel Mill Recyclers</b> 786 Oroville-Chico Highway, Durham 342-4930 M-F 8-5	<b>3) AS Chico Recycling Donation Center</b> Corner of W. 4th St & Cherry St., Chico 898-5033 Sa 10-2:30 Web: <a href="http://www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle">www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle</a>	<b>4) Berry Creek Rental &amp; Recycle</b> 10 Menzie Lane, Berry Creek 589-4828 Tu-Su 9-6
<b>5) California Vocations (C.O.V.E.)</b> Curbside recycling in Magalia, Paradise, Paradise Pines, west side of Skyway to Nimshu 877-0937 M-F 8-4	<b>6) Chico Scrap Metals, Chico Scrap Metal South &amp; Nor-Cal Recyclers</b> Auto bodies (call first) 878 E. 20th St., Chico, 343-7166 M-F 8-12, 1-4, Sa 8-12 766 Oroville-Chico Hwy., Durham, 345-6241 M-F 8-4 1855 Kusel Rd., Oroville 532-0262 M 8-4, Tu-F 9-4, Sa 8-12	<b>7) Chico Transfer &amp; Recycling</b> 2569 Scott Ave., Chico 893-0333 Tu-Sa 10-4:30 Web: <a href="http://www.northvalleydisposal.com">www.northvalleydisposal.com</a>	<b>8) City of Chico Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility /AC Industrial Services</b> 1101 Marauder St. (at Chico Airport) 895-4829 or 343-5488 Fri-Sat. 9-1 <i>Free to City of Chico residents, others should call for information about fees.</i>
	<b>9) Country Roads Disposal</b> Curbside recycling in Bangor, Berry Creek, Feather Falls & Palermo 589-3680 M-F 8-5		<b>10) Fair St. Recycling-Work Training Center</b> 2300 Fair Street, Chico 343-8641 M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-3:30 Web: <a href="http://www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm">www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm</a>
		<b>11) Joe Verni Recycling</b> 4980 Lincoln Blvd., Oroville 534-7402 M-F 9-3:30, Sa 9-1	<b>12) Neal Road Landfill</b> 345-4917 Daily 7-4 Web: <a href="http://www.northvalleydisposal.com">www.northvalleydisposal.com</a>
		<b>13) NorCal Waste Systems Curbside Recycling in Chico</b> 342-4444	<b>14) NorCal Waste Systems Oroville Recycling Center &amp; Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site</b> 2720 S. 5th Ave., Oroville 533-5868 Recycling Center M-Sa 8:30-3:30 Hazardous Waste F 1-6 Free to City of Oroville residents
		<b>15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station &amp; Gridley Household Hazardous Waste Recycling</b> Ord Ranch Road, Gridley 846-0810 Transfer Station Sa-Su 9-4 Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of month, Gridley residents only 9-4	<b>16) Paradise Elementary School</b> 588 Pearson Rd., Paradise Drop boxes open 24 hours/day
			<b>17) Recycle Paradise</b> 951 American Way, Paradise Holiday Mkt, 14001 Lakeridge Cir., Magalia (CRV, newspapers only) Stratton's Mkt. 5760 Sawmill Rd., Paradise (CRV, newspapers only) 877-2777 M-Sat 10-4
			<b>18) TOMRA Pacific</b> Collins & Denny Mkt, 434 Plumas Ave., Oroville Raley's Supermarket, 2325 Myers St., Oroville (916) 381-6861 Tu-Sa 9:30-5, closed 1-1:30
			<b>19) Waste Management-North Valley Disposal</b> Curbside recycling in Chico (893-4777), Biggs, Durham (by Appt), & Gridley (846-0810) Web: <a href="http://www.northvalleydisposal.com">www.northvalleydisposal.com</a>
			<b>20) Westside Recycling &amp; Wood Products</b> 2669 Hwy. 32, Chico 892-2262 M-Sa 10-6 , Su 10-4





# Recycling Index



The following information has been gathered by the Butte Environmental Council for the Butte County Public Works Department’s Butte County Recycling & Reuse Directory. The Directory contains detailed information about recycling centers, thrift stores, and used merchandise stores, including locations, hours of operation, and items accepted. If you would like to receive a copy of the Directory, call Bonnie Low at Butte County Public Works (538-7681). This is not a complete list of businesses that accept donations and does not include thrift stores or businesses that buy and sell used merchandise. Call for more information about items these businesses will accept. Please, do not drop off items without approval.

**Aerosol Cans**  
See Household Hazardous Waste Facilities (HHWF)

**Aluminum Cans, CRV**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Aluminum Foil & Pie Pans**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Antifreeze**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Appliances, Major**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”  
Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners must have freon removed before disposal.  
These companies will remove the freon for a fee and recycle the appliance.  
A-1 Appliance 534-3436  
Appliance Resale House 343-4904  
Derr’s Appliance Supply 342-0654  
Durham Appliance 899-1609  
Ginno’s 342-2182  
Halldorson Appliance 891-1814  
Hudson’s Appliance Center 877-6312  
Sam’s Appliance 534-3988

**Appliances, Small**  
Most thrift stores will accept donations of small working appliances.

**Asbestos**  
Contact your local household hazardous waste facility or the Neal Road Landfill for more information.

**Aseptic Containers**  
No local recycling facility.

**Asphalt, Bricks, & Concrete**  
Baldwin Contracting Co., Inc. 891-6555  
Franklin Construction Inc. 343-9600  
Robinson Construction Co. 534-7616 (no bricks)

**Batteries, Automotive**  
See Recycling Chart  
Most businesses that sell auto batteries will recycle used auto batteries for free.

**Batteries, Alkaline**  
AS Recycling Donation Center 898-5033

Energy Masters 345-4129

**Batteries, NiCd (rechargeable)**  
See www.rbrc.com

**Bicycles**  
Chico Bike & Board 343-5506  
STARS bike donation program  
Oroville 538-7820  
STARS bike donation program  
Chico 891-2704  
Some thrift stores accept donations of bicycles in good condition.

**Bi-Metal Cans**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Books**  
Chico Shred (hardcover)  
893-1062  
North Valley Services 865-5631  
The following accept donations of books in good condition:  
Butte County Library Adult Reading Program 538-7198  
Butte County Library-Biggs Branch 868-5724  
Butte County Library-Durham Branch 879-3835  
Butte County Library-Gridley Branch 846-3323  
Butte County Library-Oroville Branch 538-7641  
Butte County Library-Paradise Branch 872-6320  
Most thrift stores also accept donations of resalable books.

**Bricks**  
See Asphalt, Bricks, & Concrete

**Bubble Wrap & Peanuts**  
A & C Postal Center 343-5440  
Chico Box & Postal Center 895-1477  
Mail Boxes Etc. 891-1623  
Mail Boxes Etc. 898-1623  
Mail Boxes Etc. 893-1818  
The Packaging Store 872-0991  
Paradise Postal Center Plus 877-2631  
Postal Plus 891-1626

**Building Materials**  
Habitat for Humanity, Chico 895-1271

**Calendars**  
See Educational & Craft Materials

**Carpet**  
No local recycling facility.

**Carpet Pad**  
Floor Layers Recycling Center 894-7890

**Car & Boat Donation (running vehicles only)**  
ARC 232-3666  
Northern Valley Catholic Social Services 345-1600  
Salvation Army 342-2199  
Other local charities may also have vehicle donation programs.

**Cardboard**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Clothing**  
Many thrift stores will accept donations of clothing in resalable condition

**Computers, Monitors**  
City of Chico Household Hazardous Waste Facility  
895-4603  
AC Industrial Services  
343-5488

**Computers (working)**  
Chico Computers for Schools 895-4175  
Executive Suite 342-1996  
Many thrift stores will accept donations of working computers and peripherals.

**Concrete**  
See Asphalt, Bricks, & Concrete

**Drink Boxes**  
No local recycling facility.

**Drywall (sheetrock)**  
No local recycling facility.

**Educational & Craft Materials**  
ARC of Butte County 891-5865  
Chico Christian Center 342-4276 (greeting cards & calendars only)  
Many youth groups, preschools, and elementary schools also accept these items.

**Eyeglasses**  
Lenscrafters 345-0225

**Fire Extinguishers**  
To recycle, take to your local household hazardous waste facility.  
To recharge, FireMaster 893-0110

**Floppy Disks & CDs**  
1-800-305-3475  
See www.greendisk.com

**Fluorescent Light Bulbs & Ballasts**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Food**  
There are numerous food banks, churches, and soup kitchens that accept donations of fresh, canned, and packaged food items. Home-made or home-canned items are not accepted.

**Frozen Food Packaging**  
Tear a corner of the packaging. If there’s no plastic layer, recycle container with your paper. Otherwise put in trash.

**Fuel**  
Take to your local household hazardous waste facility.

**Furniture**  
Upholstered furniture is difficult to donate unless it’s in very good condition. Many thrift stores will accept donations of wood furniture.

**Glass Containers, CRV**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Glass Containers, Non-CRV**  
See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Glass, Other**  
Light bulbs, mirrors, windows, Pyrex, ceramics, and drinking glasses in good condition should be donated. Otherwise, put in trash.

**Grease & Food Service Oil**  
North State Rendering Co. 343-6076

**Greeting Cards**  
See Educational & Craft Materials

**Grocery Bags**  
See Plastic Bags



Paper bags can be recycled with newspapers.

**Hangers**

Many thrift stores accept hangers.

**Hearing Aids**

North State Audiological Services  
899-3277  
The Hearing Foundation 800-327-8077

**Household Hazardous Waste Facilities (HHWF)**

NorCal Waste Systems Oroville  
Household Hazardous Waste 533-5868  
City of Chico Household Hazardous Waste 343-5488  
Gridley Household Hazardous Waste 846-0810

**Household Items**

Thrift stores accept donations of household items in good condition.

**Hydraulic Fluid**

Take to your local household hazardous waste facility.

**Kitchen Scraps**

Turn kitchen scraps into compost with a worm composter from Green Fire.  
895-8301

**Magazines**

See “Recycling in Butte County”  
Libraries, nursing homes, doctors’ and dentists’ offices, and preschools often accept magazine donations.  
Mattresses and Box Springs  
Twin and full-size can occasionally be donated to transitional housing programs. Stores must sterilize used mattresses before selling them and only a few stores have the equipment to do so.

**Mercury**

Take to your local household hazardous waste facility.

**Metal, Scrap**

See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Milk Cartons, Wax-Coated**

No local recycling facility.

**Motor Oil Filters**

Butte County Public Works 538-7681  
Chico Drain Oil Service 345-9043  
Also, contact your local household hazardous waste facility or  
www.teamrecycle.com.

**Motor Oil**

See www.teamrecycle.com  
Also see “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Music, Records, Tapes & CDs**

Thrift stores will accept these items if in salable condition. There are also some stores that specialize in buying and reselling used records, tapes, and CDs.

**Newspaper**

See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Paint**

See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Pallets**

Chico Pallet Recycling 570-3807

**Paper, Office**

See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Pesticides**

Take to your local household hazardous waste facility.

**Photo Chemicals**

Take to your local household hazardous waste facility.

**Plastic Bags**

Most Holiday Markets, Albertson’s, Raley’s, and Safeway stores have plastic bag recycling bins.

**Plastic Film**

No local recycling facility.

**Plastic, 6-Pack Rings**

See “Recycling in Butte County”

**Plastic Containers, CRV**

See “Recycling in Butte County”

**Plastic Containers, non-CRV**

See “Recycling in Butte County”

**Propane Cylinders**

For 1 lb size, take to a HHWF, for larger sizes, take to scrap metal dealers (remove valve.)

**Sinks, Toilets, and Bathtubs (porcelain)**

Baldwin Contracting Co., Inc. 891-6555

**Solvents**

Take your local household hazardous waste facility.

**Sporting Goods**

Play It Again Sports 345-7427  
Most thrift stores accept donations of sporting goods.

**Styrofoam, Formed**

Can’t recycle locally.

**Styrofoam Packaging (peanuts)**

See Bubble Wrap & Peanuts

**Tin Cans**

See “Recycling in Butte County.”

**Tires**

See “Recycling in Butte County.”  
Most tire dealers will recycle used tires for a fee. Call for sizes and fees.

**Toner Cartridges**

AS Computerworks 898-4447 (recycling)  
Chico Laser Savers 896-1811 (remanufacturing)  
Hubbs Stationery 892-4940 (recycling)  
Laser “Renew” Zit 893-4253 (remanufacturing)  
Office Depot 345-1623 (recycling)  
OfficeMax 343-7599 (recycling)  
The Copier Doc 345-6593 (remanufacturing)  
The Packaging Store 872-0991 (recycling)  
Ray Morgan Company 343-6065 (remanufacturing)  
RC Copiers 873-5004 (remanufacturing)  
Sierra Stationers 342-6406 (recycling)

**Tools**

Habitat for Humanity, Chico 895-1271  
Gates Resale 342-2309

**Transmission Fluid**

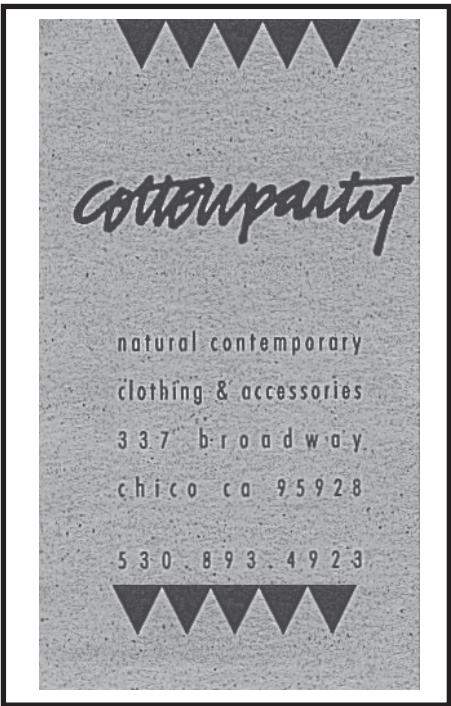
Take to your local household hazardous waste facility.

**Wood, Unpainted**

Crowder Enterprises 345-1136  
Neal Road Landfill 345-4917  
North Valley Organic Recycling 521-2031  
Ord Ranch Transfer Station 846-0810

**Yard Wastes**

Crowder Enterprises 345-1136  
Neal Road Landfill 345-4917  
NorCal Waste Systems Oroville Recycling Center 533-5868  
North Valley Organic Recycling 521-2031  
Ord Ranch Transfer Station 846-0810  
Town of Paradise Vegetative Waste Recycling Program 877-0824  
Turn your yard wastes into compost—take a composting class from AS Recycling 898-5033



# Protecting trees

CHICO TREES *From Page 9*

both. Neither of these penalties has actually functioned as a deterrent on a complaint driven system, especially when just one tree can be worth over \$1,000 dollars or more as a log. Other penalties that might be enacted as part of a tree ordinance include the following:

Loss or suspension of a business license. The City of Chico can require all tree workers and contractors or developers to have a city-issued license before performing any business under city jurisdiction, and then control the issuance and suspension or revocation of such licenses.

Denial, postponement, or suspension of building permits or other city-issued permits as applicable.

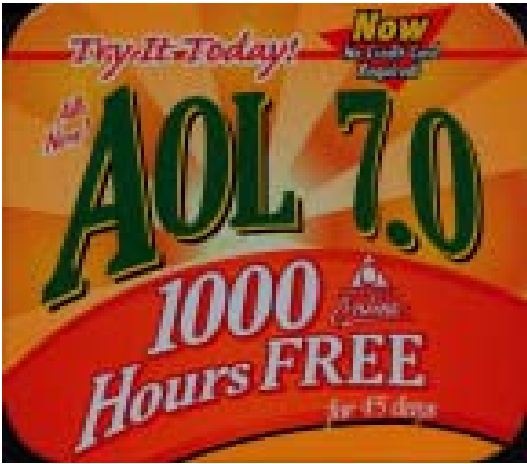
Required restitution such as the planting of two or more 15-gallon minimum sized trees (or larger) and their maintenance for five years or until the trees are self-sustaining, for every tree lost.

Require hours of community service time according to the nature and severity of the violation. Hours could be calculated at minimum wage in proportion to estimated cost of damage done. The value of a lost tree, or stand of trees, can be determined by certain real estate appraisers who typically value a mature tree at ten percent of the value of a home.

Whatever penalties added to a new tree ordinance must uphold the objective of notifying property owners and would-be violators of the gravity of the penalties for any violations. Enforcement and penalties are the most critical conditions for a tree ordinance to be effective.

Just Say NO...

...MORE AOL CDs



Has this all too familiar item been plaguing ***your*** mailbox?

**THE MISSION**

To make it clear to AOL that a lot of people do not want and have never asked for their CDs. To stop the needless pollution of the environment due to distribution of unwanted materials. To preserve our personal privacy.

**WHAT TO SEND**

We take CDs from AOL as well as their subsidiaries, CompuServe and Netscape. We DO NOT take any other media. Please don't send us jokes about coasters; we've heard them all. Also, we don't share, trade, or lend AOL CDs.

**THE OBJECTIVE**

To collect 1,000,000 unwanted AOL CDs from people like you. We'll then transport the 1,000,000 CDs in an armada of trucks or something and give them back to the their rightful owners, AOL. We'll ask then to stop sending unrequested, unwanted, and destined for landfill CDs.

Send Unwanted CDs to:  
No More AOL CDs  
1935 El Dorado Ave  
Berkeley, CA 94707 USA

Or bring them by the BEC office to be mailed. For more information visit [www.nomoreaolcds.com](http://www.nomoreaolcds.com)



# Simplicity Circles

## Building Community One Circle at a Time

By Chari Neal-Haren

In our fast paced world do you ever feel as though something is missing in your life? Maybe it's a sense of community, lack of time for friends and family, or maybe it's not having time to pursue your passions. Cecile Andrews, who visited Chico in April, addresses this problem in her book *The Circle of Simplicity: Return to the Good Life*.

Andrews promotes the use of simplicity circles, which consist of preferably no more than eight people. These circles are small, intimate groups, which allow people to come together and discuss changes they would like to make in their lives. They then go out and try, in small steps, to achieve their goals. For example, if someone wants to get to know their neighbors they would make a commitment to the group to borrow a cup of sugar from their neighbor. Now they have a goal and a week to achieve their goal. Since they know they're going to have to report it to their simplicity circle next time they meet, they have more of an incentive to follow through with their goal. These circles give people the encouragement to do what they said they would do and the security of having the support of others trying to accomplish the same thing.

Andrews' simplicity circles are tied with the voluntary simplicity movement, which she says allows people to "look for ways to simplify their lives—to rush less, work less, and spend less" and to "slow down and enjoy life again." She goes on to state that people are "questioning the standard definitions that equate success with money and prestige and the accumulation of things. They are returning to the good life." Not only does living simply improve ones quality of life, it reduces their impact on the environment.

If you are interested in learning more about voluntary simplicity, there are a couple of good websites that would be very helpful [www.simpleliving.net](http://www.simpleliving.net) and [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org). If you are interested in joining a simplicity circle in the Chico area, contact the Environmental Action and Resource Center (E-ARC) at 898-5676.



Preferable Paper From page 1

standard. Various organizations provide certification of this process; certain standards and certifiers are more rigorous and respected than others. The Forest Stewardship Council ([www.fscoax.org](http://www.fscoax.org)), the Certified Forest Products Council ([www.certifiedwood.org](http://www.certifiedwood.org)), and the Smartwood Alliance ([www.smartwood.org](http://www.smartwood.org)) are among the certification organizations. Cost varies, but is often competitive.

**4. Purpose-grown non-wood fiber crops (e.g., hemp, kenaf, bamboo).** These non-tree plants are grown to produce fibers for making paper. (These are not “waste” fibers, in contrast to agricultural residues, which are byproducts of plants grown for other purposes). Cost varies but is typically higher than wood-fiber paper, due to smaller-scale production, less investment in harvesting and processing technologies, and other factors. Organizations that offer further information include Fiber Futures ([www.FiberFutures.org](http://www.FiberFutures.org)), Agripulp ([www.agripulp.com](http://www.agripulp.com)), and Vision Paper (for kenaf) ([www.visionpaper.com](http://www.visionpaper.com)).

(Non-wood fiber papers are not easily compared to wood-based paper, because the specifics of each situation determine which approach is more or less environmentally preferable. Such comparisons can be difficult and controversial. I suggest that you do your homework and decide for yourself. I generally prefer using non-wood fibers where they have been grown in a more benign way than fiber from even sustainably-managed forests. However, in certain circumstances I prefer paper made from plantation trees over paper made from hemp or kenaf. I believe that some high-yield tree species—even in plantations—provide greater ecological services than a comparable acreage of high-fiber non-wood crops such as hemp or kenaf. But many [if not most] tree plantations are not managed in an environmentally optimal manner.)

A Few Other Factors for Consideration

**Chlorine.** Paper of any fiber source should to be as chlorine-free as possible. Chlorine is used to bleach paper to make it white, but its use produces such toxic substances as dioxins. Oxygen and ozone are two alternative methods for whitening paper. Choose unbleached paper wher-

ever possible.

**Genetic manipulation.** Forest products companies are increasing research on and use of genetically modified tree species to increase, for example, the rate and amount of growth. In general I don’t think it is worth the risk to create new species and propagate them into the environment, as there are safer alternatives such as using fiber and paper more productively. I recommend avoiding the purchase of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

**Basis weight.** This refers, in effect, to the weight and thickness of each sheet of paper. Reducing basis weight can save paper without changing the number of pages you are using, essentially by “lightweighting” each piece. But before you put your paper on a diet, consult with your colleagues and clients to be sure that the strength, opacity, and other factors you all desire or require are satisfied.

Environmental Defense changed its newsletter from 61-pound basis weight paper to lighter 47-pound stock, a 25 percent reduction in paper used to provide the same number of pages—or, put another way, to provide the same surface area for communicating the desired number of words and images. Johnson & Johnson reduced one product’s packaging basis weight from 30-pound to 28-pound paper, saving 230,000 pounds of paper and \$450,000 per year. In another product group, carton sizes were reduced, partitions eliminated, and printed inserts downsized, saving 132,750 pounds of folding cardboard, 523,000 pounds of corrugated cardboard, and about \$990,000 annually.

**Buy in quantity.** The more paper of any type you buy at a time, the less each unit will cost you and the easier it will be to specify (and afford) particular characteristics such as recycled content or nonwood fiber. Consider working with other companies and organizations to coordinate bulk buys of environmentally preferable paper. Agreeing upon the many factors such as roll size, brightness, basis weight, and storage may not be easy, but such coordination can save money and maximize environmental benefit. Consult with a broker, who may be able to help arrange larger-volume purchases, as well as research specialty paper providers.

**Conserving paper saves trees.** A primary motivation of paper recycling and

conservation is to reduce logging. But it is hard to equate quantities of paper saved to quantities of wood or acres of forest preserved. There are many variables involved: supply and demand dynamics, multiple potential uses for a given tree (e.g., many paper or lumber products), co- and by-products, differing paper production methods and ingredients, wood moisture content, etc.

In a basic sense, most forest products companies use wood quite efficiently; a tree might be cut for lumber, with smaller pieces and chips going to paper production, and sawdust powering the sawmill or paper mill. Non-fiber byproducts of pulp and paper production, such as “black liquor” delignification wastes, are often burned at the mill for energy.

Still, the less paper we use, the fewer trees will be harvested. In general, it takes a little more than one ton of wood to make a ton of newsprint, and roughly 2–3 tons of wood to make a ton of office copier or printer paper. Each Sunday edition of The New York Times uses about 75,000 trees; a large paper mill can consume about 75 acres of clearcut trees per day.

World paper demand is growing steadily. However, this does not mean that trees and forests cannot be saved, nor that a deforested future is fate. Rather, it implies that the future is choice, not fate, and that the choice can be made with great flexibility. The more systematic, pervasive, and comprehensive are the savings, the more forest extraction will be avoided regardless of the reallocation of demand pressures and supply flows. If you want to make a balloon smaller, don’t just squeeze it one place and make it bulge somewhere else; rather, let out some air. More efficient and productive use of wood fiber at every stage of the forest products sector—from the tree through the mills to the consumer and recycler—could allow us to reduce the world’s wood consumption cost-effectively by 50 percent, and possibly by as much as 80 percent or more. Every twig’s worth of paper we conserve adds up to help reduce the demand for more logging. By using more smarts and less stuff, each of us can pitch in at home and at work to help



supply the services people want from wood with less harm to our environment.

*Chris Lotspeich, an independent consultant and former RMI Senior Associate, researched and negotiated the use of the paper in the book Natural Capitalism. He also conducted the research that formed the basis for Natural Capitalism’s Chapter Nine, “Nature’s Filaments” (see [www.natcap.org](http://www.natcap.org)). He can be reached at [chrislot@secondhill.com](mailto:chrislot@secondhill.com).*

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Barbara Kopicki

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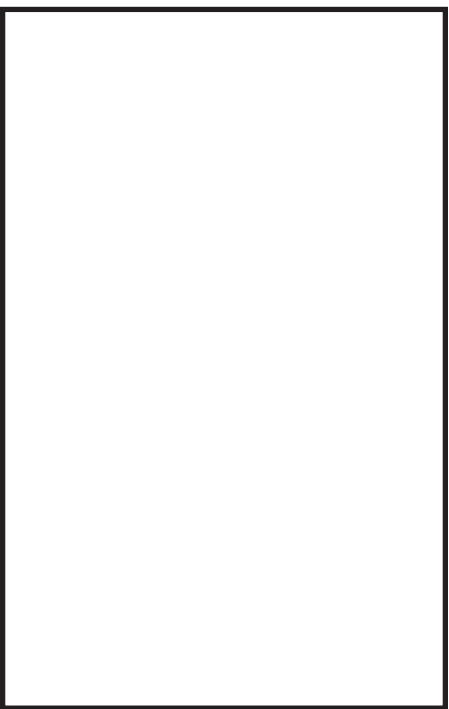
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# Become a BEC Volunteer!

**We need your help!**

We need help — lots of help! With the Environmental Banquet, the Endangered Species Faire and the various Creek Cleanups — our small staff and Board of Directors has its hands full. Any assistance is always very much appreciated.

If you can volunteer your time (no matter how much) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. If you've volunteered in the past, but aren't sure whether we have your name and current phone on file, you can also submit an updated form. We'll keep your information on file and give you a call when our needs coincide with your offer. Thank you!

**Mail this form to BEC, 116 W. Second St., #3 Chico, CA 95928.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Times that are usually most convenient for me to volunteer:

- ☐ Weekday mornings    ☐ Weekday afternoons
- ☐ Weekday evenings    ☐ Weekends

I am interested in helping with the following activities (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Artwork (graphic art, illustrations, etc.)
- ☐ Various Creek Cleanups
- ☐ 23rd Annual Endangered Species Fair (Spring 2002)

☐ Publicity

☐ Soliciting sponsors/donations

☐ Booth construction & set-up (the day before the Faire)

☐ Clean-Up
- ☐ *Environmental News*, BEC’s quarterly newspaper
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Office work

☐ Mailings      ☐ News clippings (cutting & filing)

☐ Phones      ☐ Research
- ☐ Photography (taking photos of our events and activities; nature photography)
- ☐ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies

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If your employer participates in payroll deductions for the United Way, you can make a donation to BEC in every payroll period. There's one minor glitch: BEC isn't listed on any United Way contribution forms, so you have to ask your employer to notify United Way that your contribution is for BEC. After that, the United Way will forward your contribution to BEC.

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