



Butte Environmental Council
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL AWARDS LEADERS OF THE REGION

Chico, Calif. Sept. 26, 2012- Four environmental leaders of Chico have been recognized for their important work in the region, receiving the Environmentalist of the Year Award and the BEC Service Award for 2011 and 2012. The recipients have strengthened the voice for improved public policy through raising awareness on environmental issues. Their involvement with BEC has strengthened the organization's role in the region, and helped fund the not-for-profit organization.

Environmentalist of the Year for 2012 is Pamm Larry, Initial Instigator and Chief Rabble Rouser for a Proposition 37, and NorCal Director for Labelgmos.org. Her work has been monumental in the fight for proper labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods. California is the only state to bring political attention to GE food, which is attributed highly to the energy and passion of Larry's work. She has been traveling throughout the state for months, spreading awareness in any way she can. Despite the outcome of her tireless efforts, Larry says, "the fact that we have this on the ballot means we have already one."

Tony St. Amant has spent the last 20 years trying to protect long-term water supplies in Butte County by broadening public participation in the local water policy process. His activism assisted in the 2010 Butte County general plan where the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to support a sustainable water element within the plan. This plan has expanded to six counties all working together to represent the needs of the people, the economy, and the environment. Amant, 2011 Environmentalist of the Year, is focused on what he calls "a marathon, not a sprint" towards developing good public policy where competing interests can make a decision about Northern California water that will benefit everyone in the end. Amant is the recipient of the 2011 Environmentalist of the Year Award.

Former Chair of BEC, Jim Gregg, is recognized as 2011 BEC Service Award recipient for his years of service to the council and personal commitment to keeping the organization afloat financially. His time spent educating the community about environmental issues is highly respected in the State.

The 2012 recipient is Jon Luvaas, a former Chico Planning Commissioner. He is recognized for his service to BEC in the area of land-use planning, and plays a key role in latest efforts on the Butte County General Plan, sharing his knowledge and serving as a personal ambassador.

“These are some amazing individuals that are making national impacts,” said Mark Stemen, Chair of Butte Environmental Council. Recipients were carefully chosen by the Butte Environmental Council board last month.

Award recipients have helped BEC become the successful environmental protection organization that it is, with achievements this year including the Chico Parks & Creek Clean Up where over 300 volunteers picked up more close to three tons of garbage. BEC also opened the Humboldt Garden where plots of gardening land are available to the community. The educational Earth Walk, Endangered Species Faire, and Chico Bicycle Music Festival attendance and support considerably surpassed previous years.

The Butte Environmental Council is a non-profit organization. Founded in 1975, BEC has built a legacy as the leading environmental organization in the region and is devoted to environmental education and advocacy.

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