



Environmental Sentinel

Your source for Butte County's environmental news and events

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Council**
Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1975

Butte Environmental Council Newsletter

July 2014

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Dear Robyn,

In this issue of our Environmental Sentinel, we wanted to take a brief moment to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for what you, as a BEC Angel, allow us to accomplish. BEC Angels represent only 14% of our membership but bring in 60% of our membership income! We truly couldn't accomplish our work without your generosity and support, and we are so very grateful! We have added six new angel members this year, and you can imagine how much more of an impact we can have with just one more angel! Please consider sharing your commitment with a friend and encourage them to join you in support of the work we do on behalf of the land, air, and water of the beautiful region we love. Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,

Robyn DiFalco
530-891-6424

Upcoming BEC Events

Sunday, July 27

[Grand Opening of the Oak Way Community Garden](#)

Friday - Sunday, Aug 29-31

["A Crack in the Climate" Butcher Shop Show, Estes Rd.](#)

Saturday, Sept 13

[Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#)

Sunday, Sept 14

[Humboldt Community Garden Harvest Festival](#)

Saturday, Sept 20

[Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup](#)



Saturday, Oct 18
[BEC's 39th Anniversary Gala, Arc Pavilion](#)

Who are your local heroes?

Now's your chance to nominate a long-admired friend, colleague or mentor for an award. BEC Members are encouraged to nominate local environmental heroes for BEC's annual awards.

In 2013 BEC honored these local heroes for the following awards:

- **Environmentalist of the Year - Dave Garcia**
- **The Barris Farms Service Award - Susan and Stephen Tchudi**
- **The Michael McGinnis Lifetime Achievement Award - Wes Dempsey**

The BEC Board of Directors will vote on the award recipients in August and the awards will be presented at BEC's Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 18th.

Please submit nominations through our Nomination Form by **August 24**, including nominee's name and a brief explanation of who the person is and why s/he merits the award. The form includes a listing of all past recipients so you have that handy as you submit your nominations.



An Ill-Conceived Legacy

The northern Sacramento Valley faces a serious threat. Gov. Jerry Brown continues to push his **twin tunnels** project, under the guise of the **Bay Delta Conservation Plan**. The plan proposes a pair of massive tunnels with design capacity sufficient to drain the Sacramento River in a dry year.

Carol Perkins, BEC's water policy analyst has spent months reviewing and analyzing more than 40,000 pages of the plan's description and environmental review documents. In case you missed her great Guest Commentary in the July 10th Chico News & Review, please [click here](#) to read this brief but important story.



Fracking Campaign: keeping us on the edge of our seats!

Have you been following the recent setbacks experienced by the local campaign to ban fracking in Butte County? Dramatic developments this summer have presented steep challenges but our grassroots group is meeting each challenge head on!

In early June, approximately 10,000 signatures were submitted to the Butte County Elections Office to put a fracking ban on the November ballot. Shortly thereafter, verification of the signed petitions was abruptly halted due to the intervention of a



law firm, hired by fracking proponents. This was reported in a [June 26 article by the Chico News & Review](#) ("Goliath Goes to Court") and regular updates are being posted on ["the Frog" blog](#) at [ChicoSol.org](#).

Since that time, the grassroots organizers of the **Frack Free Butte County campaign** have been up against tight deadlines as they explore legal options to get the ballot initiative moving forward again. **On Tuesday, July 15, about 30 members of Frack-Free Butte County attended a hearing** in front of a Butte County Superior Court Judge asking the court to waive the so-called "facial defects" in the petition and order the county elections office to resume validating the signed petitions in time for the November ballot.

Here's the latest update from campaign organizers:

Frack-Free Butte County is working on a dual strategy in order to get a Fracking Ban in Butte County--

1. We are pursuing a "Writ of Mandate" (without an attorney!) through the Butte Co. Superior Court in an attempt to require the county to qualify our ~10,000 signatures from the Petition Campaign so the Board of Supervisors can certify our Citizen Initiative for the November Ballot.

2. We are pursuing a request to the Butte County Board of Supervisors that they send the County's recently drafted Fracking Ban Ordinance to the Planning Commission as soon as possible, thereby making the document public and allowing interested citizens the opportunity to review the Fracking Ban county staff have written.

How can you stay tuned on the latest developments? [Visit the FFBC facebook page](#). Please "Like" and "Share" our FFBC updates on the facebook page and also follow us on the [Frack Free Butte County website](#) to hear about court dates and critical Planning Commission or Board of Supervisor meetings...

This is a critical time for the campaign! Together we can protect our groundwater from the threat of fracking and prevent corporate polluters from denying us our democratic process of allowing the people to vote on this important issue.

Member Exclusive Deal

Celebrate [BEC's 39th Anniversary](#) at our annual **Gala & Awards Dinner, Saturday, October 18th the Arc Pavilion, 2020 Park St in Chico.**

Enjoy live music, a no-host bar featuring our local award-winning beers and wines, and many beautiful and unique items in our Silent Auction.

Tickets are on sale now for \$45, but get your tickets soon! **We're offering a special early bird BEC Member ticket at \$39** (for our 39th anniversary)

until September 18th! To purchase tickets by phone with a credit card, call BEC at 891-6424. Tickets are also available at the BEC office in downtown Chico and will soon be available at local venues in town.

Not yet a BEC member? [Join today!](#) Lapsed membership? [Renew today!](#) Don't miss this fantastic BEC celebration.



Grand Opening of Oak Way Garden: Sunday, July 29 at 5pm

The Butte Environmental council is proud to announce the **Grand Opening** of the new **Oak Way Community Garden** at the corner of Nord Ave and Oak Way in Chico.

On **Tuesday, July 29th** the garden will be open to the general public, with festivities from **5:00pm to 7:00pm**. Join us for a pleasant evening full of music, food, drinks, and mingling in our beautiful new garden. You're encouraged to bring your own lawn chairs and blankets if you'd like to rest while enjoying the beauty of the garden.

The event will also feature a garden potluck for all who are interested: bring a homemade dish containing at least one item from your personal garden. This is a "competitive potluck" and attendees will vote on the best dish -- the winner receives a prize basket!

For more information, please contact Garden Coordinator, [Taylor Tansom](#) or call the BEC office at 891-6424.



Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup

We all appreciate the beauty of Bidwell Park and recognize the great asset it is to the Chico community. This year, BEC would like to invite individuals, social groups, and local businesses to give back to the park by participating in the annual [Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup](#) event.

On **Saturday, September 20th**, BEC and the City of Chico will host this annual community event as part of the broader [Coastal Cleanup Day](#) events. Each year this event brings hundreds of individual participants from within many areas of our community: schools, churches, youth groups, university organizations and families.

In recent years, we've had **participation from several local businesses, including Klean Kanteen, FishBio, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company,** and others. What a great opportunity to do some community service with your colleagues and show your businesses' support for Chico's parks and creeks!

Groups are encouraged to **wear your company or organization logo** on the day of the event. We'll have a photo contest on social media and you'll be encouraged to get shots of your group in action, helping to clean our beloved park. **As a business partner to The Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup, your company will be recognized for your generous efforts and your willingness to set an example of excellent community service.** This can also be a great team-building opportunity.

This year we've made it [easy to pre-register your team](#), whether you're a business, a social club, a school group, family or an individual. **Everyone who pre-registers by September 1st will receive a free t-shirt.** So mark your calendar for September 20!



Water you doing to help?

After years of continuously depressing water news and conversations (worst drought in recorded history, the Twin Tunnels are a 'done deal', drinking water in some towns is now flammable, and wells are going dry in the local foothills) at the end of the day, **there is nothing left to do but to take action.**

For each of us that action will manifest in different ways. Some of us will leave a flower pot saucer in our veggie bed sprinklers to fill up each morning providing a little water for the thirsty birds, some of us will protest against fracking at Board of Supervisors meetings, and some of us will quietly collect rain and kill our lawns.



This fall BEC will be organizing many different opportunities for you to take action; we'll be planting oak trees, installing rain barrels in schools, organizing advocacy forums on the Water Bond and Water Transfers, getting garbage out of Little Chico Creek, and focusing on restoring greenways. [Check here often for activities and resources.](#)

"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result." Mahatma Gandhi

8th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival

BEC is proud to partner with Friends of Butte Creek as a sponsor for this year's **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** on **Saturday, September 13**. The 8th Annual event will be expanded this year for a full day of great environmental, educational and exciting adventure films.

The program will start Saturday morning with the first ever Wild and Scenic **Children's Program** featuring two showings at the Pageant Theater, 9:30 and 11:00. This is a first for having a Children's Film Program. FBC will also feature an afternoon matinee at 1:00 PM at the Pageant featuring an Aquatic theme. We have some great fishing and river restoration films with "**DamNation**" as the feature film. "DamNation" was just released this spring and features the great film making of Ben Knight and Travis Rummel ("Eastern Rises"; "Red Gold") directed by Matt Stoeker and Yvon Chouinard. See and learn how removing dams that are obsolete and useless has freed rivers across the country.

We will migrate to the **Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room at 5:30 PM** for our exciting evening event featuring over 2.5 hours of wonderfully inspiring films about our planet, people, animals and the good, bad and ugly of how we coexist. The usual Big Room Buffet will be offered and fantastic items in our Silent Auction will be available.

Come Join the Friends of Butte Creek, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Butte Environmental Council, California Native Plant Society and others celebrating the Empowerment of People to create positive change for the future.

For more information: www.buttetecreek.org

Tickets available online: www.buttetecreek.brownpapertickets.com

Tickets available in Chico: Pure Skin at 136 W. 3rd

Street; Chico Natural Foods Co-Op at 818 Main Street



The poster for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival features a central graphic of a raised fist holding a film strip that loops around a sunburst. The words 'inspiration', 'conservation', 'change', 'community', and 'adventure' are arranged in a circle around the fist. The background is a cracked, brownish texture. At the top, it says 'SYRCL's WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL'. Below that, 'Hosted by: Friends of Butte Creek' with a fish logo and 'Information at: www.butte creek.org'. Further down, 'Local Sponsors:' lists Sierra Nevada, Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Butte Environmental Center, CNPS, and Klean Kanteen. On the right, 'Children's Program & Matinee at Pageant Theater' and 'Evening Program: Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room'. At the bottom, 'empowerment' is written in large letters, with 'pure skin' and 'Natural Foods' logos to its right. Ticket information and dates are at the very bottom.

SYRCL's **WILD & SCENIC** FILM FESTIVAL

Hosted by: Friends of Butte Creek
Information at: www.butte creek.org

Children's Program & Matinee at Pageant Theater

Evening Program: Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room

Local Sponsors:

- Sierra Nevada
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- Butte Environmental Center
- CNPS
- Klean Kanteen

empowerment pure skin Natural Foods

Tickets: buttecreek.brownpapertickets.com, Pure Skin, Chico Natural Foods Co-Op

September 13th - Saturday 3 Events - 2 Theaters
Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room & Pageant Theater

A Crack in the Climate

Got plans over Labor Day weekend? BEC will be involved with this year's Butcher Shop 2014 presentation of [A Crack in the Climate](#) - a festival and collaboration between local theatre artists who will present their newest stage work in Chico over Labor Day weekend.



Recent performances from past festivals have included an agitprop drama about the Chico Farmer's Market by the Donna Breed Players as well as ongoing adaptations of Chico's most famous fiction writer, Raymond Carver. **This year's theme focuses on some local environmental topics including climate change, fracking, GMOs, drought, and valley fever.** The Butcher Shop shows have been taking place over Labor Day weekend for several years in the almond orchard at the end of Estes Road.

Admission is free to the show and will take place on the nights of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, **August 29-31**. Shows begin at **7:30 p.m.** each night. Food trucks will be available for hungry patrons prior to show time.

If you're in town over Labor Day, come out for some local political theatre under the stars and support BEC, Frack-Free Butte County, and local arts!

Succeed with Native Plants

BEC is proud to sponsor the upcoming Horticulture Symposium on Native Plant Landscaping, hosted by The Mount Shasta chapter of the California Native Plant Society. This day-long event takes place on **Sunday, September 14, 2014 8:30 am - 4 pm**, at the Chico Women's Club in Chico.

Participants will learn how to

- Design a pleasing landscape
- Choose & maintain native plants
- Create bird & pollinator habitat
- Use less water & fertilizer
- Q & A time with the experts

Registration is \$35.00 or \$30.00 for CNPS members, (lunch included) Please register online [here](http://mountlassen.cnps.org/) or visit their website <http://mountlassen.cnps.org/> for more information.



40 years of BEC

Next year marks BEC's 40th year of advocating on behalf of the land, air, and water of our beautiful region. In preparation of this upcoming anniversary, we are collecting testimonials and weaving together the amazing history of the work BEC has accomplished. **Do you remember some of the important environmental events that involved BEC? Do you know any of the early activists? What was BEC like "back in the day"?**



Please help us with this anniversary project and share your BEC history and memories. [Email](#) or call **(530.891.6424)** to contribute this priceless anniversary project.

Other Community Events

[Chico Creek Nature Center - Nocturnal Ecology 101, Family Program](#)

Saturday July 19th - 7:30pm - 9:30pm

[River Road Show Presentation: Chico Rotary Club](#)

Thursday, July 24th

The Sac River Trust executive director, Lucas RossMerz, will present to the Chico Rotary Club from 7:30 to 8:00 am at Canyon Oaks Country Club on Thursday, July 24th. The speaker program will start at 7:30 am - 20 minute talk on current Sac River Watershed projects and conditions, leaving 10 minutes for Q&A

[Comanche Creek Greenway Workday](#)

Sat, July 26, 9am - 12pm

East Park Ave at Midway Comanche Creek Greenway Workday -(9 am to noon) Join community & neighborhood volunteers at the intersection of East Park Ave. and Midway, the eastern boundary of the city-owned Comanche Creek Greenway. Volunteers will remove invasive plants and pick up trash. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Bring work gloves if you have them. For more information, call 966-6861. Sponsored by Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway and the Chico Park Division. Rain cancels.

[CA Fracking Hearing in Sacramento](#)

Sacramento - July 21, 4:00pm - 7:00pm. Natural Resources Agency Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street



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