



# 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

April 2016

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### Quick Links

BEC Website

### Greetings!

If you haven't heard, my name is Natalie Carter, and I am the new Executive Director here at BEC. As the newest addition to the BEC family, I want to take this opportunity to thank YOU. Your membership makes the work BEC does possible, BEC is people like you. It is deeply humbling to be charged with carrying on BEC's amazing legacy of advocacy, education and action but I know that together our voice can make real and meaningful change. Together we can preserve and protect our region's natural resources, not just for today, but for generations of environmental leaders to come...THANK YOU

Sincerely,  
Natalie Carter  
530-891-6424

### Upcoming BEC Events

**Saturday, April 9** 4 - 11 p.m.

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

Arc Pavilion, 2040 Park Ave, Chico

**Saturday, April 16** 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

[Citizen Science Outing, "Taming of a River: Stairway of Power"](#)

**Tuesday, April 19** 5:30 - 8 p.m.

[Earth Day Movie Night](#)

Sierra Nevada Big Room, 1074 E 20 St, Chico

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

[Endangered Species Faire](#)

**BEC Event Calendar**

**Renew BEC Membership**

**Last Month's E-Sentinel**

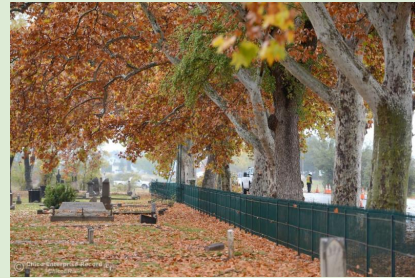
One Mile Group Picnic Area, Lower Bidwell Park

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

## We Speak for the Trees

Since PG&E's "Pathways Project" removed historic sycamore trees from Oroville in 2014 Butte Environmental Council has been rallying the community to make our voices heard to protect the hundreds of remaining trees throughout Butte County still threatened by PG&E's "Pathways Project".

**BEC has been working with our allies to identify strategies to reduce removals and achieve better mitigation plans.**



BEC and our allies have organized huge turnouts from the community voicing strong opposition to PG&E's massive tree removal plans. We have called for comprehensive replanting plans and for PG&E's commitment to maintain new trees. Meanwhile BEC has been working behind the scenes to influence the outcomes, both PG&E's plans as well as the County and Cities responses.

When **PG&E proposed to remove more than 100 trees along the Midway** BEC met with PG&E, county officials and our community allies to ensure that not only were the trees assessed for risk, and the removed trees replaced, but also that new trees were maintained. What tree advocates in the Bay Area achieved through litigation, we have accomplished through negotiation! **64 trees will be planted by PG&E, replacing the 32 that will be removed for the safety of the pipeline**, and PG&E has agreed to contract with the Butte County Resource Conservation District for the maintenance of the trees.

Together we have shown that counties, cities and the citizens can reduce the scope of PG&E's tree removal project and hold them accountable for mitigating their impact. Without the support of BEC members we could not do this important work. BECause of you, we CAN Speak for the trees. Help keep the conversation going, [Join BEC today!](#)

## Move the Junkyard

**Important Hearing: Move the Junkyard We need your help on Thursday, April 7!** Come to the [Chico Planning Commission meeting](#) at 6:30 p.m. and help us speak for environmental justice. Chico Scrap Metal was ordered to move 10 years ago by City Council but now the City is reconsidering this. In February, the Planning Commission rejected a proposal to let Chico Scrap Metal (CSM) continue to operate indefinitely.

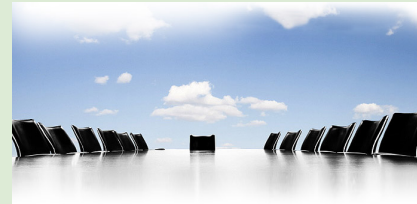


The junkyard is an industrial operation that is incompatible within a residential neighborhood. In 2008, the State of CA [Department of Toxic Substance Control \(DTSC\)](#) fined Chico Scrap Metal \$381,000 for its uncontained toxins and mandated a cleanup. CSM claims to have cleaned up

their act and proposes a new facade or fence along 20th St. But these aesthetic changes are not enough. A residential neighborhood and Chapman Elementary School are located next to the toxic site. The City's General Plan and the Neighborhood Plan require that the scrap yard be relocated.

CSM was given an extension in 2006 and again in 2011, promising to move if given more time. The time is up. **Join us on Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 for a public hearing at the Chico Planning Commission meeting, 421 Main St. We need as much support as possible at this meeting to ensure CSM is no longer able to violate the zoning and neighborhood plans.**

## Now Accepting Applications to Serve on the BEC Board of Directors



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

We will have 5 current board members standing for election and at least one vacancy this year. **If you are interested in being part of the BEC leadership team, please submit an application and your bio for the ballot by Friday, May 20.** Any current BEC members interested in serving BEC are encouraged to apply. For more info about board expectations, and to download the application form, visit [www.becnet.org/board-directors](http://www.becnet.org/board-directors). Call Natalie at 891-6424 for any questions about serving on the board.

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

## Local Legends will Perform at BEC's Garden Party Fundraiser

Join us this Saturday, April 9 for BEC's **Garden Party Fundraiser with musical guest Spark N' Cinder**, featuring Jimmy Fay, Steve Cook, Kim Gimbal, Jeff Daub and Dan McLaughlin.

Spark N Cinder's performance featuring Jimmy Fay, Steve Cook, Kim Gimbal, Jeff Daub and Dan McLaughlin will be their first performance together in five years. The band has been playing benefit performances at BEC events dating back to the '70s.



Our fifth Annual Garden Party Fundraiser is a **family-friendly spring gathering in support of our beautiful Humboldt and Oak Way community gardens.** We are celebrating with a locally

For more information about the event, visit [becnet.org](http://becnet.org) or call 530-891-6424.





## 38th Annual Endangered Species Faire

This year BEC will host the 38th annual **Endangered Species Faire on Saturday, May 7** at One Mile Group Picnic Area in Lower Bidwell Park from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



This is a free event that includes live music, local food, interactive educational booths and a rescued animal show by Wild Things. This event will also feature a festive puppet parade with hundreds of local kids and an eco-savenger hunt to promote hands-on learning within the community.

**To promote a green event** attendees are asked to ride their bikes to the faire where Chico Velo will be providing free bike valet services. Also Klean Kanteen will provide waste-free water stations. Don't forget to bring your reusable water bottles!

For more information about the event, booth registration, and volunteering opportunities, visit [becnet.org](http://becnet.org) or call 530-891-6424.

## Honoring Earth Day with a Night of Inspirational Films

Come celebrate Earth Day with BEC and our friends Klean Kanteen, ChicoBag and Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. for a **night of short films** with a water, food and sustainable agriculture theme.



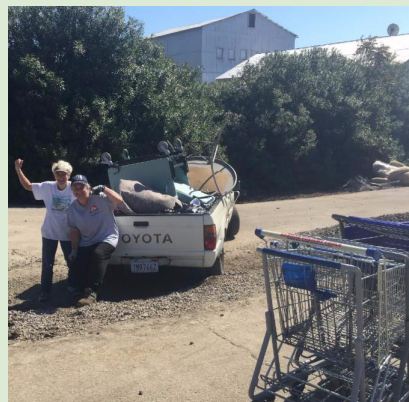
This year the event will take place on Tuesday, April 19 at the Sierra Nevada Big Room. Doors open at 5 p.m. and films start at 6 p.m. The event will feature eight different films along with raffle prizes, pretzels and popcorn, and beer for purchase.

Mark your calendar for this great night of inspirational, informative and humorous short films. As always, **your donation is the price of admission**, starting at \$5. All proceeds benefit BEC, the Sacramento River Preservation Trust, GRUB Education Program and Earthshed Solutions, local environmental non-profits in the Chico area.

Check out [BEC's website](http://BEC's website) for more information.

## Block Party with a Purpose

Since the onset of our Block Parties with a Purpose Program in December **we have collected an estimated 12 tons of rubbish from Chico's waterways**. This accomplishment couldn't have been met without the tremendous help of local volunteers dedicated to making our community better.



April's event was a huge success with dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to fill a 20 yard roll off bin. In April we collected: 3 couches, 1 recliner, 5 bikes, 1 mattress, 6 shopping carts and tons of rubbish from Little Chico Creek, Big Chico Creek, and Lindo Channel.

The Butte Environmental Council will be holding its **final monthly Block Party with a Purpose event Saturday, June 4** from 9 a.m. to noon concentrating on Lindo Channel.

[This project is free](#) and supports residents joining together to clean up sections of Chico's urban creeks, which are impacted by invasive species and garbage.

## Wildflower Open Classroom Lends Little Hands for the Oaks

A big thank you to Wildflower Open Classroom families for coming to help us spruce up our oak plots in Middle and Upper Bidwell Park! Teaching the **youth to be stewards to the environment and promoting a connection to our wild areas** is one of the many great aspects to this project.



Last November and December we planted plots that are already seeing healthy seedlings, especially in our valley oak plots at the 5-Mile parking lot and the Chico Equestrian Center horse arena.

Please stay tuned for opportunities to help water our oak seedlings this summer. **If you'd like to be involved, get on our "Tree People List" [visit the oaks page](#).**

## Become Water-Wise and Habitat-Friendly

**Appreciate the spring bloom at more than a dozen Chico gardens** that showcase alternatives to traditional landscaping and are alive with birds and pollinators.

These beautiful gardens demonstrate: **water conservation** using drought tolerant plants and drip irrigation. They also showcase **wildlife-friendly habitat** including: ponds, birdbaths, logs, brush piles, wildflowers, native grasses and



other favorite plants for birds and pollinators.

Registration is free, however donations will be used to design and install water-wise and habitat-friendly public gardens and related educational activities. This tour is sponsored by the Butte Environmental Council, Altacal Audubon Society's Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program, and Mt. Lassen Chapter - California Native Plant Society.

To register or for further information checkout [becnet.org](http://becnet.org), [mountlassen.cnps.org](http://mountlassen.cnps.org), or [www.altacal.org](http://www.altacal.org)

## Carriers Take on New Nature Skills

Our newest program, **Carriers of the New Story**, has been a success among our communities young adults! Developed in the beginning of 2016 by staff member Danielle Baxter, board president Mark Stemen, and board members Kelly Munson & Kevin Killion, this program aims to **encourage community stewardship involvement and through mentorship.**



There are 3 main components of the program: regular meetings where participants practice the of Way of Council, monthly leadership based workshops, and deep nature connection outings led by local survivalist Scott Grist. More than 20 Butte College and Chico State students have joined us, along with a number of community "elders" who have volunteered to guide these young adults through the program. We are excited by the success of Carriers of the New Story, and are looking forward to continuing to grow this amazing community opportunity!

## Energy Conservation Tip: Home assessments for upgrades

Here's an inexpensive way to cool your house by up to 28 degrees! **Install a whole house fan.** Whether or not your home has air conditioning, installing a whole house fan can

help keep you cool while cutting cooling costs. Whole house fans are designed to work early in the morning and after the sun goes down when the outside temperature drops below 80 degree.



If you have AC turn it off, open up your windows and turn on the whole house fan. The fan draws fresh, cool air in through the windows and forces the hot air out through the attic. the whole house fan cools your entire house with outside air at about **one-tenth of the price** of comparably priced air conditioners.

A contractor can help you determine the correct whole house fan size, capacity and number of attic vents needed for your home. [Find a contractor.](#)

## Recycling Education Tip: Batteries, a Shocking Truth

Due to prohibitive expense of the recycling process of **alkaline batteries** they don't usually get recycled when they are turned in to be recycled. Alkaline batteries are usually landfilled in a specially lined landfill, like those in Nevada.



One way to reduce **battery waste** is to avoid electronics that require single-use batteries. Always opt for devices that have a charger and for the electronics you already have purchase rechargeable batteries instead of single use alkaline.

Remember the 5 Rs: refuse what you do not need, Reduce what you do need, Reuse what you consume, Recycle what you cannot refuse, reduce or reuse and Rot (compost) the rest..



(530) 895-9999 // 1909 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PKWY.

LOCATED BEHIND MEEKS LUMBER AT THE CORNER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING & E. 20TH

**Now Accepting E-Waste for Recycling!**

## Environmental Events in the Community

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



### **Apr 7 "Grow your Food: Know your Garden"**

First of a six month spring planting series. Assist and learn how to turn a cover crop into the soil in preparation for planting veggies at the Chico Peace & Justice Center, 526 Broadway St. 10-noon. Contact Colleen for more information 239-272-6551.



**Apr 8 [Banff Mountain Film Fest](#)**, Laxson Auditorium, Chico State, 7 p.m.

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



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

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

**Apr 10 [Earthshed Solutions HOW \(Hands-on Workshop\)](#)**

*Energy Efficient Design*. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Frog & Toad Farm. This is the first HOW of the season and is focused on several techniques used in the creation of an energy efficient property design.

**Apr 12 [Chico Seed Lending Library "Lettuce Get Together"](#)**

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

**Apr 13 [Art & Design of Crop Rotation](#)**

CSUC University Farm, 311 Nicolas C Shouten Lane from 5 to 6:30 p.m. This workshop will discuss and learn how to creatively design a rotational pattern that optimizes plant productivity and soil health. Participants will work on planning & evaluating designs appropriate to their own gardens. Contact Lee for more information 530-636-2525

**Apr 16 [Celebrate the Jewel at Chico Creek Nature Center](#)**

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



**Apr 16 [Toss Less: Salvage More](#)**

Chico Branch Library 1108 Sherman Ave. 2:30 to 4 p.m. Grub Ed hosts discussions and sharing tips & recipes on how to become a food waste warrior. Contact Laurie at 530-342-1995 or [laurie@grubchico.edu](mailto:laurie@grubchico.edu) for more information.

**Apr 23 [Earth Day in Bidwell Park](#)**

Meet at Bidwell Park at 9:30 a.m., South 1 Mile, east side of Sycamore Field. Contact Shane Romain, Park Services Coordinator, City of Chico, Parks Division  
Office: 530-896-7831, Cell: 530-624-1102 or [shane.romain@chicoca.gov](mailto:shane.romain@chicoca.gov)

**Apr 23 [Spring Field Day with the Organic Vegetable Project](#)**

University Farm, 311 Nicolas C Shouten Lane from 1 to 4 p.m. Featuring field tours, variety trial, vegetable tastings and bee hotel building-come visit this hallmark of Sustainability. Contact Lee @ 530-636-02525, for more info.

**Apr 23 [Chico Velo Wildflower WildFest and Rider Check-in](#)**

From 2:00 to 8 p.m. we're holding an expanded Event Expo hosting live music, food trucks and Sierra Nevada beer to purchase.  
Hosted by Sierra Nevada Brewery and Chico Velo.



**Apr 24 [Wildflower Century, hosted by Chico Velo](#) Register here: [www.wildflowercentury.org](http://www.wildflowercentury.org)**

**Apr 29 [Arbor Day Tree Planting with Chico Tree Advocates](#)**

Meet behind the "FREE TREES" banner that's on the fence west of 518 W. 6th Avenue. Bring gloves and water. Call Charles at 530-518-1417 to confirm your participation.