

Spring 2001
Volume 7 Number 1

Environmental News

A Publication of the Butte Environmental Council
Butte County’s Leading Environmental Advocacy, Education and Referral Resource

Battle to Save Comanche Creek Rages On!

Stalwart “Neighbors...” prepare for June 5 Special Election

By Luisa Garza

The battle continues and momentum is building to stop the Otterson Drive Extension (Extension), a road and bridge that would parallel and cross Comanche Creek. The Extension would be built along a thirteen-acre strip of rich riparian land in southwest Chico. Using the argument of “more jobs for Chico,” the City Council approved the project in May of 2000 and agreed to spend an estimated \$2.7 million of taxpayer’s money to pay for it. The project would provide an attractive “grand entrance” to the Hegan Lane industrial complex from East Park Avenue at the Midway.

A grass roots citizens group, Neighbors for Environmental and Fiscal Responsibility (NEFR), formed in July 2000 in response to the City Council decision to approve the project. NEFR has three primary concerns:

- The degradation of a southwest Chico neighborhood by truck traffic.
- The destruction of a last remaining haven for wild nature in southwest Chico.
- The use of public funds to support a business owner’s questionable need for a road when there are already so many places in Chico where road and traffic improvements are needed.



This swimming hole at the foot of Ivy Street is a summertime haven for neighborhood kids. It would fall victim to the proposed roadway if the Northern Crossing is built.

In the current General Plan, the targeted area of Comanche Creek is designated as a creekside greenway which disallows the construction of roads or bridges. NEFR members agreed to offer a referendum opposing the General Plan amendment that the Extension requires. NEFR members also decided to file suit against the City of Chico, challenging the illegally adopted Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The campaign to place the referendum on the ballot was highly successful - a true citizen effort with over fifty community members gathering well over 4,000 signatures. Only 2,850 signatures were required (10% of registered Chico voters) to qualify the referendum. The petitions were triumphantly delivered to the City Clerk’s office on October 17, 2000. With the petitions certified, the Otterson Drive Extension is effectively stopped unless it receives an affirmative vote of the citizens of Chico in a special election scheduled for June 5, 2001.

A legal challenge is already underway. NEFR was fortunate to hire Rose Zoia of the law firm, Brandt-Hawley and Zoia. The firm is nationally recognized as being highly successful with environmental law cases. The suit is straight-forward: The adopted EIR was illegal in several major areas, all brought up numerous times in public testimony and written comment, but never corrected. These areas are: (1) The objectives were too vague, (2) the analysis did not include cumulative impacts as required, (3) the scope of the analysis was too limited, and (4) the overriding considerations were neither compelling nor supported by the evidence. Preventing the use of this limited EIR will ensure that whenever new road projects are again considered in the area, they will need to be based on a more robust EIR that considers all the elements that affect the environmental values in the area.

At the December 19, 2000 City Council meeting, the Council had the opportunity to either stop the project or call for a special election. A 4-3 majority voted to go with the special election: Herbert, Keene, Wahl and Bertagna. They selected June 5 as election day, despite many speakers from



Until recently, there was a beaver dam in this section of the Creek; after floods breached it, the Creek continued to nourish a broad marsh. This is about the place where the City intends to put the bridge, unless the Otterson extension is stopped.

the community pointing out that a June election would effectively disenfranchise students. The Council majority gave no compelling reasons for their decision [see “Students Disenfranchised” on page 4 for more on the student issue].

On another front, several NEFR supporters answered their phones in mid-January to receive a telephone survey asking “quality of life” questions subtly slanted against the NEFR position on Otterson Drive. After some investigation, it was discovered that Tod Kimmelshue, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Hegan Lane Business complex owner Doug Guillon, and his partner Bill Brouhard, had commissioned Competitive Edge Research (a San Diego-based company with extensive ties to the National and State Republican Party machines) to conduct an extremely costly telephone poll of Chico voters to determine how the political winds were blowing regarding the referendum election. One might ask, if they are truly interested in supporting local business and job creation, why didn’t they contract with a local entity to do the

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Victory Garden, 2001

During World War II, American citizens grew vegetables to supplement family nutrition and to help generate significant amounts of canned produce for the troops. President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration led this successful program that had urban and rural folk alike planting a garden to grow as many vegetables as their space allowed. At the height of the program, there were nearly 20 million Victory Gardens tended by home gardeners, 4-H clubs, hospitals, and schools. With expanding commercial agriculture following the war, Americans became more removed from the land and left food production to the *experts*. An accelerated consciousness and concern from the early 1970s has connected Americans to the land in other ways. For example, the decline of natural habitats that support wild flora and fauna has pulled the public’s attention back to the land and water that

nourishes all life on Earth.

Humans stand to gain immeasurably from laws that enhance biodiversity such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The World Health Organization estimates that 80% of the world’s health problems are treated with plant-based medicines, yet only 5% of the known plants in the world have ever been investigated for pharmaceutical properties (e.g. the rosey periwinkle is a tropical flower used for leukemia; yew tree bark for ovarian and breast cancer). Food security also depends on genetic diversity. Monocultures are extremely vulnerable to pests and climatic changes (e.g. the 1946 potato famine in Ireland, Soviet wheat damage in 1972, citrus canker in Brazilian orange trees). Unfortunately, the planet is facing the greatest wave of species extinction worldwide since the

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Environmental News

Spring 2001

Volume 7, Number 1

The *Environmental News* is published quarterly. The *Environmental News* covers all environmental news and events for the benefit of Butte County. To submit articles or events for the Environmental Calendar, email Christy Strauch at christy@shocking.com. All articles submitted to the *Environmental News* should be sent via E-mail (w/ Word attachment preferred) to staff@becnet.org. Articles must be submitted 30 days before publication. All articles 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. The Environmental News Copyright 2001 is a publication of the Butte Environmental Council. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means; electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

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:

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Effort

Some people dream of worthy accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them.
Unknown author



Farm Sanctuary

Farm Sanctuary is a leading voice for farm animals in the United States. The organization conducts undercover investigations and exposes cruel farming practices; rescues, rehabilitates, and provides life long care for abused farm animals; and works to stop inhumane factory farms through legislation, litigation, and public awareness campaigns. Farm Sanctuary's Orland, California shelter is open to visitors on Saturdays and for special events, and the organization also offers various volunteer opportunities. For more information call 530-865-4617; write P.O. Box 1065, Orland, CA 95963; or e-mail west@farmsanctuary.org. You can learn more about Farm Sanctuary by visiting their website: www.farmsanctuary.org. National Office: PO Box 150 Watkins Glen, NY 14891 Ph. 607-583-2225 Fx. 607-583-2041

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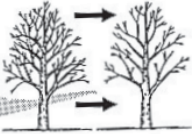
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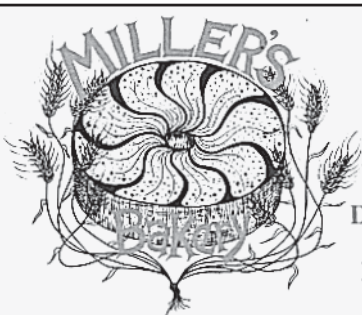
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Photo is of an unnamed Chico barroom about 1890.
Courtesy of Cliff Sanborn and CSU, Chico, Meriam
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polling?

Shortly thereafter, Kimmelshue announced a new local Political Action Committee, the “Coalition for Parks and Jobs,” formed specifically to channel large amounts of money into the pro-Otterson Extension campaign. This choice of name makes clear the approach they are taking to convince Chicanos to vote for the project. On the issue of Parks, they say that the project will provide Chico with a park including all the land that is not paved over. Try not to notice the noise of the trucks roaring by - 10,000 vehicle trips per day at full build-out. On the issue of jobs, they claim that this **THIRD** entrance to the business complex is needed to attract businesses that will provide jobs. This, in spite of the fact that Brouhard stated at a City Council meeting that they would surely achieve full build-out whether or not the bridge and road are built.

The February 6 City Council meeting proved once again that the Chamber of Commerce calls the shots with the Council majority. At a hearing to decide whether the special election in June will be a precinct or mail-in ballot, community members lined up to express solid reasons for a mail-in ballot - it would cost the City \$24,000 less than a precinct vote, and would be more convenient for all voters, including students. Only two people spoke in favor of precinct voting - guess who? Chamber President Tod Kimmelshue and Hegan Lane Business spokesperson Bill Brouhard! Although studies have shown that mail-in voting is more “fraud-proof” than precinct voting, fear of fraud with mail-ins was the ostensible reason given by the City Council majority for supporting precinct voting. Once again democracy went down in flames. The Council

majority continues to ignore the will of the people: sound reason, and fiscal responsibility.

Another item on the February 6 agenda was to discuss an advisory measure that Steve Bertagna wants to put on the ballot. It would communicate the *real* costs of not building the bridge - “way more than the extension would cost,” stated Steve. He was implying that the cost of the No Project Alternative, which requires improvements on the Midway, is linked to the cost of the gasoline toxic cleanup on the Midway [See “Toxic Task Force” on page 5]. This is a confusion of issues. The gasoline spill *is* a problem, and it *must* be cleaned up. The responsible owners are liable for all costs incurred, and there is state and federal super-fund monies that can be tapped in such situations. According to State law, it is not the City of Chico’s responsibility to cleanup the toxic contamination of the Midway. In any case, linking the no project alternative with the Midway cleanup suggests a cynical attitude on the part of the City Council majority, that they are not concerned about the need to clean up this dangerous contamination unless it interferes with improving the flow of traffic on the Midway. Why has there been no concern expressed that MTBE might be getting into your water table? The City Council majority has also ignored NEFR’s request to create a Citizens Toxic Task Force.

It should be noted here that even the project proponents acknowledge that there is no pressing hurry on the Otterson Drive Extension. Their concern is for future traffic slow downs, not the present need. This makes their use of the Midway clean-up issue even more ludicrous - if the project is not needed for five or ten years, surely the Midway clean-up can and should take place before then.

Also discussed at the Council meeting was a proposal by Maureen Kirk and Dan Nguyen-Tan that the City purchase the land now, before the election, to protect the land with Chico development standards. The Council majority spoke against the idea. Mayor Dan Herbert stated clearly for all to hear that purchase of the property would “muddy the election issues,” meaning, of course that if the City buys the land now, they would lose the “parks” argument. No action was taken. What’s Next?

With NEFR at the helm, the campaign now moves to the next phase - preparing for the special election. NEFR’s knows that the people of Chico do not want to pay upwards of \$3 million for a road and bridge to benefit a single owner when there are so many other traffic and road problems not being addressed: pot holes on East Avenue, numerous residential streets which flood every time it rains, crawling traffic and high accident rates at the corners of East Avenue and Cohasset, Esplanade and Cohasset, and Mangrove and Vallombrosa. There are already long lines of traffic on East Park Avenue at Highway 99, - the very intersection that will be clogged even more by this boondoggle project!

How does the Hegan Lane Business complex merit so much attention? Why has the Chamber of Commerce made this project a priority over all the pressing traffic and road repair needs in Chico? Why this “Gift to Guillon”? Is there is hidden agenda here that “they” don’t want to discuss? Perhaps the real reasons will surface as the campaign goes forward. It will be an interesting - and busy - spring!

The campaign will be a costly and time consuming. The “Coalition for Jobs and Parks” will have plenty of money to spend.

NEFR has to work hard for every donation - and appreciates every penny. Through the months of the petition gathering, there was a steady flow of donations, several unexpected very generous gifts, and a continued outpouring of support. NEFR believes that the community will come through once again. Here’s how help is needed:

Write letters to local papers.

- This is a crucial way to educate the public about the issues involved. The “Yes” campaign will skillfully pump out misleading statements about the value of the project. These must be countered and clarified. Chico News and Review - chicoletters@newsreview.com; Chico Examiner - chicoexaminer@yahoo.com; Enterprise Record - letters@chicoer.com

Donate money.

- Help fund the special election campaign. Unfortunately, money is power these days.

Help put on or attend fundraisers.

- Fundraisers are not only a great way to raise needed money. They are also an opportunity to build community spirit, and learn more details about the issues.

Help get out the vote!

- Walk precincts, make phone calls, table at public locations. Encourage absentee ballots for folks going on vacation and students who will be away at election time.

Check out the NEFR web site at www.shocking.com/~creeks/ for detailed information, a photo tour of the threatened site on Comanche Creek, and a calendar of current NEFR events. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 4512, Chico CA 95927. Make checks payable to “NEFR”. To offer help, call the NEFR hotline at 345-6125.

Students Disenfranchised

by Bob Ray- A CSUC Student

During C.S.U, Chico’s Christmas break, at the December 19th meeting of the Chico City Council, council members Keene, Hurbert, Bertagna, and Wahl sent what many see as a bigoted and discriminatory message to Chico students.

These 4 conservatives voted to set a June 5th (summer break) election date for the Otterson Drive special election. By setting this date, the conservative majority effectively took steps to disenfranchise a voting block that they perceived as opposing a project that they support. About 40 protesting students took notice, and at the February 6th council meeting they turned up with signs exclaiming, “Discrimination hurts everyone,” “I am part of this community,” and “I live here and I want to vote.” At that meeting, the council was poised to select a method in which to hold the special election (vote by mail or traditional polling locations). When Tom Lando (City Manager) stated that “vote by mail ballots could be sent out 29 days before the June 5th election date” it became clear to everyone that

the vote by mail option would allow students to receive their ballots. Understanding the implications, students and other members of the community pleaded with the council to select the vote by mail option. The benefits of the vote by mail option were obvious to everyone present: vote by mail was \$24,000 dollars cheaper, more people would be likely to vote, students would be included, and Chico voters had approved vote by mail specifically for special elections.

Nevertheless, Chico Chamber of Commerce President, Tod Kimmelshue, came to the podium and claimed that vote by mail was risky and plagued with fraud. He mumbled something about reading an article that described vote-by-mail fraud in the Wall Street Journal. He then indicated that he would try to “find the article for the council at a later date.” The audience pointed out that vote-by-mail verification standards were exactly the same as the verification standards used for absentee ballots. The County Clerks office staff verifies and matches every signature on every ballot with a voter’s corresponding signature on his/her voter registration card.

Therefore, there was no reason to believe that fraud could affect this election any more or less than a regular election. Sadly, the conservatives used this excuse to jump on the discrimination-for-advantage bandwagon.

They feigned concerns saying that “students living in dorms would be filling out their roommates ballots and mailing them in.” Councilmember Keene stated that he, “wanted deliberate voters” indicating that he didn’t want to make it easy for people to vote. Larry Wahl echoed this statement by saying, “nothing worth a hoot should be easy.” They indicated that students could vote by absentee and it was “insulting to students to claim the were incapable of filling out an absentee ballot application.”

Of course students are not stupid, but they are new voters just learning the ins and outs of the voting process. The absentee ballot process requires several steps and has deadlines that most people are unaware of. This process can be complicated even for people that have been voting for 50 years. The conservatives have once again jumped at the opportunity to gain an advantage and in the process thrown roadblocks in front of all Chico’s voters. Why is gaining this advantage more important than their civic responsibility? Their role as leaders is to set an election time, place, and manner that best serves to hear the will of all the people. Their actions spit in the face of democracy and degrade its value to all. They should be ashamed for using their entrusted power on city council to implement sneaky campaign tactics. Good leaders don’t use deception and influence to further their

agenda, careers, and goals. They use their entrusted power to justly serve the community. These tactics did not go unnoticed by Chico’s citizens or by the God whose values they seem to use as a step ladder instead of a cornerstone. Frankly, they are scared of students and after the last election turnout, they should be. An organized campus absentee ballot campaign will actually defeat them despite all their efforts. The Otterson Bridge has turned into a metaphorical bridge of discrimination. They should be more careful about bridges they propose and what they build. The only bridge this community should be building in the near future should be one that leads these conservatives back to private life.



Toxic Task Force

By Christine Nelson

Unfortunately, it took a tragic accident, claiming the life of one man and severely injuring another, to widely broadcast the stark fact that petroleum groundwater contamination is near Comanche Creek and the Otterson Dr. area.

This awareness first emerged for the Neighbors For Environmental and Fiscal Responsibility (NEFR) through a letter from Air Quality Planner, Gail Williams, written on June 21, 2000. Even though the City Council had a copy of the letter warning of the risk of air and water petroleum pollution, they chose to ignore it. NEFR tried to bring up the concerns but the Council majority brushed them aside.

Three south Chico businesses have been living with underground petroleum spills for many years. Kinder Morgan Chico Terminal, also known as the tank farm, has a plume that that has moved toward residences south of Hegan lane and may extend into the strip of land that divides it from the Hegan Lane industrial zone. It is now being monitored by specially placed wells. The other two businesses sit side by side on the Midway—Jesse Lange Distributing and Western Petroleum Marketers. Both have a long history of lack of compliance with California Regional Water Quality Control Board regulators.

When the explosion took place at Jesse Lange, they were attempting to address their on site problems but the off site extent of petroleum pollution is extensive and every bit as dangerous. It is not known how far the petroleum and MTBE additive may have migrated and it is not known if Comanche Creek frontage land is also affected. It is known that petroleum has followed underground utility conduits so that free petroleum has ended up under the P.G.&E. facility across the Midway from Jesse-Lange.

There are many emerging issues that will effect both the investigation and cleanup of the petroleum spills from these sites because the investigative phase, where the boundaries of the contamination is delineated, hasn't even been mapped yet.

There must be increased emphasis by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to rapidly identify the areas that require cleanup and hold those responsible for the contamination, accountable. The cleanup stage will be even more daunting and requires Chico and Butte County to be involved in a de-politicized, solution-oriented effort with property owners, petroleum companies, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, other agencies, as well as local neighbors. There has been far too little public information and involvement considering the long history and severity of contamination in this area.

The NEFR Toxic Task Force is now called the Southwest Chico Toxic Task Force and is under the umbrella of the Butte Environmental Council (BEC). Detailed information on the history of the Midway and Hegan Lane petroleum leaks and plumes are available at BEC. We would like to organize a public meeting to provide knowledgeable community members and officials an opportunity to attempt to answer the questions of the citizenry in the near future. You can call 345-7590 for more information.

For more information, see front page article.

"Victory Garden" continued from page 1

disappearance of the dinosaurs. This loss is destroying the genetic diversity of our planet. Scientists estimate that we are currently losing 100 species a day. One quarter of the world's species could be lost within the next 50 years.

In 1962, Rachel Carson wrote in her seminal book Silent Spring, "We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lays disaster. The other fork of the road - the one 'less traveled by' - offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth."

Eleven years after Carson's statement, the United States Congress passed the ESA with almost unanimous approval and it was signed into law by Republican President Nixon. He stated at the time, "Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed." The ESA authorized the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to list threatened and endangered species and undertake myriad efforts to protect and hopefully restore the species that have been listed. The law made endangered species protection one of the highest priorities of the federal government.

An independent scientific poll conducted by the Journal of Society and Natural Resources (12:469-479) in 1999 demonstrated extensive support of the ESA with 84% of Americans opting to maintain or strengthen the ESA (<http://forests.org/archive/america/pollmajo.htm>). The poll also revealed that

Unfortunately, the planet is facing the greatest wave of species extinction worldwide since the disappearance of the dinosaurs. This loss is destroying the genetic diversity of our planet.

eastern senators and representatives are generally much more supportive of the ESA than western politicians, but it is clear that the majority of the public in the west overwhelmingly supports the ESA.

Not only has the U.S. government and a vast majority of Americans prioritized animal and plant species, but religious organizations have also recognized the importance of all of creation. Patriarch Bartholomew, leader of the Orthodox Christian Churches stated in 1997, "To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin.... For humans to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation, for humans to degrade the integrity of the Earth by causing

changes in its climate, stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands...for humans to contaminate the Earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life with poisonous substances - these are sins."

A May 6, 1999 Congressional Research

The World Health Organization estimates that 80% of the world's health problems are treated with plant-based medicines, yet only 5% of the known plants in the world have ever been investigated for pharmaceutical properties

Service Issue Brief by M. Lynne Corn, Endangered Species: Continuing Controversy, elaborates on the level of support for the ESA by the general population and religious groups.

Debate, pro and con, on ESA splits largely along demographic lines. While most demographic groups support species conservation, that support is stronger among urban and suburban populations and less so in rural areas; and strong among those in the east and along the coasts and less so in central and mountain states. Sport hunters and anglers seem divided on the issue. It is also noteworthy that, while the debate often centers on jobs and biology, people on both sides claim ethical support for their positions, and some religious groups now participate in the debate. In addition, some industries (e.g., logging and land development) generally see ESA as a serious problem, while others (e.g., some commercial fishing and many recreation interests) see it as generally supporting their interests.

On a local level, the Chico Enterprise Record's shortsighted bias has attempted to blame species and habitats as the obstacles to all social ills (jobs, housing, schools) and is a continuing disservice to the community and the school children that are waiting for the new high school (Enterprise Record editorial 2/4/01). For clarification, the real causes of the high school quagmire are the lack of understanding of state and federal laws (the Clean Water Act and the ESA specifically) within the Chico Unified School District coupled with corruption and greed by one out of town developer. The uneducated marriage between the CUSD and the developer has inexplicably led to institutional arrogance at CUSD, keeping the construction of the school in limbo for three years until the student peak has passed and the school may no longer be needed. At least some acknowledgement of the problem presented by the school/developer alliance finally surfaced in February 2001



when CUSD announced that it is going to analyze four possible high school sites equally under State environmental review requirements, leaving itself with more options than the most constrained property previously prioritized. Our local wetlands and dependent species have never been the problem for CUSD. They are treasures for good stewards of the land to cherish for current and future generations.

While narrow interests on the local front and beyond seek to exploit more of the wildlands in the Sacramento Valley, the ESA has been a bulwark against species loss in the nation for 27 years. If you think that it isn't working and should be eliminated, you're not thinking about the bald eagles, otters, cut-throat trout, and gray whales. All those species, and hundreds more, have benefited from the 1973 law. There are 971 domestic species currently listed as endangered and 273 as threatened, but only ten have recovered. The ESA needs to be strengthened for species and ecosystem protection while creating additional incentives for property owners to participate in conservation efforts. In addition, a study needs to be initiated to analyze federal laws and programs that are detrimental to listed species or that discourage conservation by private landowners.

Edward O. Wilson, a distinguished Harvard University biologist, acknowledges our limited understanding, "We have only a poor grasp of the ecosystem services by which other organisms cleanse the water, turn the soil into fertile living cover, and manufacture the very air we breathe." Unless we act now, we stand to lose lifesaving medicines, productive agriculture, abundant fisheries and genetic secrets of diverse life forms. Let's let nature's garden live wild and free and not relegate biodiversity to history books.



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Butte County Butterflies

By Katie Jones

I've collected butterflies for 4 years. My mom and I would find butterflies that had flown into car windshields, bring them home, and identify them using a book from the library. My dad got me a butterfly-collecting kit, and then I started on a real collection. At first, my dad caught the butterflies and identified them, but as I got older I started catching some myself. We are still catching new butterflies and buying new equipment today, and now I catch about half of our combined total.

Right now, I have six boxes of butterflies, but only about 4 ½ full ones. I have the smallest butterfly in the world, the Pygmy Blue, and the largest butterfly around Chico, the Two-Tailed Swallowtail. There are several families of butterflies. Most have a good number of butterflies, but a couple have only one species.

The family with the larger butterflies is Papilionidae. This group includes Swallowtails and Parnassians. The Parnassians are usually higher up in the mountains, but we have Swallowtails here. The Swallowtails have 'tails' on their hind wings. These are very noticeable while the butterfly is at rest. There is the Pipevine Swallowtail, which is very common, the Western Tiger Swallowtail, which is about as common, and the Two-Tailed Swallowtail, which is the largest butterfly in Chico. The Pipevine is a large, iridescent black butterfly. The Western Tiger Swallowtail is about the same size, but yellow with a little black. The Two-Tailed Swallowtail is a yellow butterfly, but with less black than the Western Tiger and bigger than the other two butterflies. It also has two tails on either hind wing instead of one, as its name suggests.

The family with the smallest butterfly is Lycaenidae. This includes Hairstreaks, Copper, and Blues. These are very small butterflies, and are hard to identify. There are many different species, and I will only name a few. There is a small gray butterfly known as the Common Hairstreak. These have small 'tails' on their hind wings, and the Lycaenidae rub their hind wings back and forth against each other when at rest. There is a coppery-purplish butterfly called the Purplish Copper. The purple color is more of an iridescent sheen over the copper color. There are two common blues, the Acmon Blue and the Western Tailed Blue. The Acmon Blue is bright blue, with a line of orange dots along its hind wings. The Western Tailed Blue is blue, but not as bright blue as the Acmon. It has two tiny tails on its hind wings, but no

orange.

Nymphalidae has several medium-sized butterflies. The more common ones include the Painted Lady, West Coast Lady, California Tortoiseshell, Mourning Cloak, Buckeye, Red Admiral, and the Common Checkerspot. The Painted Lady is very fast. It is brown and orange. The West Coast Lady is smaller than the Painted Lady, and it has blue spots on the hind wing. It is also slower. The California Tortoiseshell is orange brown over the top, but the underside is like tree bark. These live more in shadowy places. The Mourning Cloak is brown all over, except along the outer wing edges. These have cream, with a few blue spots. The Buckeye is brown, with several other colors, but the main thing is that it has two large spots on its hind wings. They look like the spots on a peacock's tail. The Red Admiral is black, with stripes on its four wings and white spots on the tips of its forewings. The Common Checkerspot is black, with white spots all over the wings and orange edges.

Danaidae has only one butterfly that lives here. This is the Monarch. It is a large orange butterfly striped with black. This is the butterfly people tend to think of when speaking of butterflies, but it is an oddity. It is poisonous, because its young eat milkweed. It is the only member of its family that lives here. And it migrates, which is unusual for butterflies.

Satyridae has two butterflies that live here, but they are very similar. They are the California and Ringless Ringlets. Ringlets fly low and erratically, and they tend to land in tall grass, making it hard to see them. If you



Two-Tailed Butterfly

do get a good look at them, though, they are both yellowy-gray. The Ringless Ringlet has fewer or no tiny 'rings' on the hind wing. The California has a few more spots, but they are very hard to tell apart.

Pieridae has butterflies in between Satyridae and Nymphalidae size. There are three common ones. The Cabbage Butterfly, the Orange Sulphur, and the Sara Orange-Tip. The Cabbage butterfly is white, with a few black spots. It is very common, as is the Orange Sulphur. This butterfly is yellow-orange, with a black outline over the edge of the wings and a red dot on each hind wing.

There is a white Alba form, but these are not very common. The Sara Orange-Tip is white, with a vivid orange wing tip on the forewings.

Hesperiidae has four small, quick butterflies. One is a little orange butterfly with a little bit of dark brown on it. This is called the Fiery Skipper. The next butterfly is almost identical. It is called the Field Skipper, and it has a little more brown than the Fiery Skipper does. There are two "dusky-wings" that are also hard to tell apart. The dark brown Mournful Dusky-wing has a thin white fringe along its hind wings. The Persius Dusky-wing has a fringe too, but it is brown, like the rest of the wings.

I use a jar with cotton in the bottom to kill the butterflies. I pour ethyl alcohol into the jar and put on the top. The fumes kill the butterflies quickly and painlessly. I mount them at a uniform height on a mounting pin and label them. I put them in the proper butterfly grouping and I'm done. All the butterflies mentioned here are included in my butterfly booklet, Butterflies of the Annie Bidwell Trail.

Editors Note: The butterfly booklet is available from Katie Jones, 5 Summerwood Court, Chico CA 95926 for \$1.00. Katie is 12 years old.



Monarch Butterfly



Night Treks to the Compost Bin

by Karen Laslo

It's evening, just getting dark, mid-September. My husband, Lin, and I sneak out into the backyard. We take one last look over our shoulders and then creep around behind the garage. Lin holds the flashlight while I dump the garbage into the makeshift, chicken-wire compost bin. We are addicted to composting and cannot stop doing it.

When we first moved to Chico we rented a house situated next door to our landlord. We thought about asking our landlord if we could build a couple of compost bins. But we were afraid to ask him because he might say no. And if he said no, we wouldn't be able to compost and, like I said, we were addicted to composting. The thought of not being able to decompose made us cringe. Better to build an illicit compost bin then to end up using plastic bags, dumping our garbage into the trash where it would sit stinking in the hot sun until the garbage truck hauled it away. So one day when our landlord wasn't home we got some chicken-wire and bound it together to make a large cylindrical compost bin, put some leaves in the bottom and started using it.

Our addiction to composting started several years earlier at our home in Sierra Valley, eastern Plumas County, California. After building our house and garage we put in a garden and planted some apple trees. Then we landscaped a small yard with flowers and trees. We wanted to grow everything organically and to do that we needed to make our own organic compost. Lin built four, 4x4x4' sturdy wooden bins, lined up next to each other so we could transfer the compost from bin to bin as it matured. We installed a faucet next to the bins so that water could be added each time we layered the materials to be composted. Every couple of months we'd hitch up the utility trailer to our old jeep and go to our neighbor's ranch to get horse manure for the compost. The horse manure speeded up the process of decomposition by adding nitrogen which made it heat up quickly. I still remember those outings with fondness. While we shoveled manure into the trailer we'd visit with our neighbors.

The wonder I felt for the decomposition process never ceased for me, the witness of that transformation that defines for me the deeper connections between life and death. In the first bin our garbage was still visible as garbage, mixed with yard clippings and layered with horse manure. But already ants, sow bugs, centipedes and other tiny creatures would

appear, along with millions of microorganisms we couldn't even see, and all these were busy eating our garbage and heating it up. In the second bin the garbage looked less like garbage and more like the rich soil it was to eventually become. In the third bin, although an occasional avocado seed or a corn cob could still be discerned, the result was no longer garbage at all but rather the decaying into new life that we call compost. Ah, but the fourth bin! I would look down into that last bin where the finished compost was heaped up, light and fluffy. It smelled like the Earth itself. Digging down into the bin I'd discover the source of this final miracle of transformation in the form of hundreds of earthworms. Careful not to harm them, I shoveled the compost into my wheelbarrow. Where would we humans be without the silent and essential work of all these tiny agents of decomposition? How easy it is to take them for granted as we go about our business each day, forgetting that without them we would soon bury ourselves in our own waste.

We had a division of labor on our homestead. Lin took care of the vegetable garden and I took care of the yard and the little apple trees. Sometimes when we were running low on compost we would argue about who needed it most. We had both seen the results of its use. In the yard the leaves on the lilacs were the size of saucers. They bloomed the first year I planted them so profusely you could smell their heavy perfume before you entered the yard. The same thing happened in Lin's vegetable garden where the crops thrived. We had so much basil we gave some to one of the local restaurants. Huge carrots and cabbages the size of soccer balls. Lettuce, potatoes, onions, beets, spinach, garlic - all grown organically with our own compost. We were grateful.

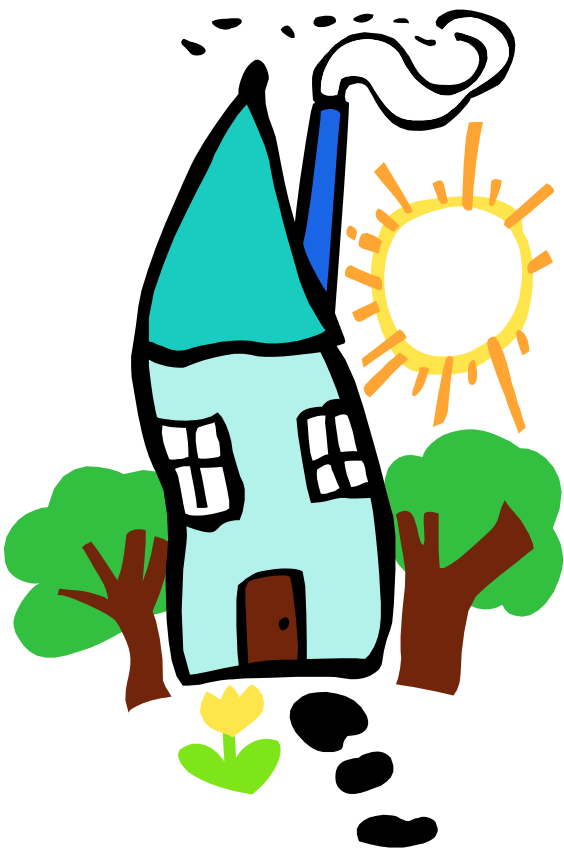
It was in Sierra Valley that I started my evening treks out to the compost bin in the dark after dinner. I would bundle up against the cold winter nights and head up the path Lin had cleared through the deep snow earlier in the day. When the moon was full the snow filled fields glowed and tiny ice crystals sparkled in the moonlight. I could see the tracks of rabbits and deer. On moonless nights the sky was so full of stars hardly any blackness showed between their sharp pinpoints of light. The dome of stars was so close overhead it



seemed to touch down to the very edge of the prairie. The garden, silent now, was covered with a blanket of compost and a quilt of snow. After dumping the garbage into the bin I would stand still for a moment listening to the deafening quiet of winter until the sub-zero temperatures sent me scurrying back to the warmth of the wood stove.

My enthusiasm for composting did not diminish, in fact it grew. I tried to talk everyone I knew into composting too. I joined the Plumas County Recycling Committee so I could teach at their Saturday morning composting workshops. I joyously lectured on the value of composting. I hauled in buckets of finished compost to show my students. I had them help me build a compost heap. I gave them a myriad of written information on how to compost and endless diagrams on how to build wooden, wire and brick compost bins. This was the culminating experience of my composting career.

But then, as life is wont to do, it brought changes for Lin and me and we had to leave our mountain homestead. Thinking a university town might be a fun place to live, we moved to Chico. That's how we ended up having to hide our predilection for composting from our landlord. In time we bought our own home. We discovered, out behind the garage, that the previous owners had left behind one, plastic compost bin. While it's not as lovely to look at as our Sierra Valley bins, it still serves as a site for the ageless miracle of decomposition. And we don't have to sneak our garbage out back. We can compost out in the open where all of our neighbors can see us. And if one of them stops in the alley to ask me why I'm dumping my garbage into a big plastic black box I will surely tell them.



Coming Home For the Remedies

Natural Cleaning

Next time you need to give the kitchen a quick once-over, reach to the pantry for the cleaning supplies. Natural products, such as baking soda, lemons, and vinegar, are safe for the environment and work well for everyday cleanups.

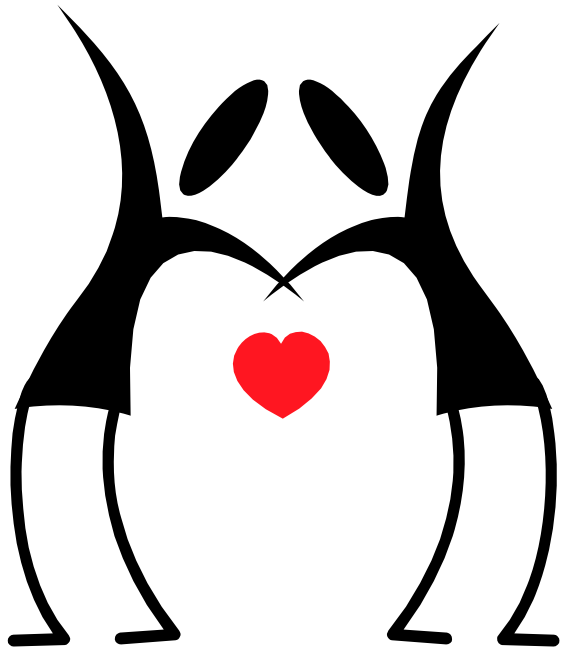
- Scour sinks, countertops, and appliances with baking soda and a damp sponge.
- Deodorize and unclog drains by pouring in baking soda followed by a dousing of vinegar. Let it fizz a few minutes. Rinse with boiling water.
- Vinegar and liquid soap clean no-wax vinyl and polyurethane-finished wood floors. Dissolve the soap in warm water and then add a little vinegar. Mixing the two directly will minimize their effectiveness.
- Use a vinegar-and-water rinse to cut through the film on windows, glass appliance doors, and tile.

- For mineral deposits on glassware or porcelain, soak clean rags in vinegar and place them over the deposit for several hours. Rinse.
- Sprinkle salt on the cut side of half a lemon, and rub it on tarnished copper to polish it. This is also a great way of cleaning wooden cutting boards (remember, never use wooden cutting boards to chop meat).
- Reduce stains on countertops by allowing lemon juice to stand on the stain for 30 minutes. Then sprinkle on baking soda and scrub gently.
- Remove stains from white kitchen linens by dabbing the stain with lemon juice. Then hang the fabric in the sun.
- Any discoloration around light switches, on cabinet doors or drawer fronts can be removed easily using a thick paste of baking soda and water. Rub it GENTLY onto the dirty area with a soft cloth then wipe off. You will be very surprised how easy it is to clean and refresh these areas.

Some of the hints above reprinted from Better Homes and Gardens, October 2000. Visit them at www.bhg.com



Volunteer!



Want to help make our community a better place? Teach your kids about the environment? Spend some time outdoors? Learn new skills? Meet people with similar interests? Consider volunteering for a local environmental or social-service organization.

Tips for Volunteering

There are many volunteer opportunities that don't require a major or regular time commitment. If you see an activity that appeals to you, call to get on the organization's list of potential volunteers or to get the schedule.

Be persistent in contacting the organization. They're all short-staffed and just because they haven't returned your call in a few days doesn't mean that they don't want your help.

Many organizations have only a very few regular volunteers. Most groups are delighted when even an extra one or two people show up to help.

Most organizations don't require or expect that you will become a member in order to participate in their volunteer activities.

Children and young people are often very welcome as volunteers too. They get the same enjoyment from helping that adults do, so give them the opportunity to participate.

Don't assume that you must have special skills or physical strength. Most volunteer activities can accommodate a variety of abilities and provide training, where necessary.

Dress appropriately for the activity.

You can be a volunteer on your own too. Adopt a section of a street, park, or creek and spend an occasional hour or two picking up trash and recyclables.

Our Eco-Directory (pages 22- 23 in this EN) lists more than 60 local organizations that could use your help. Here are some specific needs:

Bidwell Park needs volunteers to help with trail maintenance, weeding in Lower Park, painting, and litter control. People who visit Bidwell Park on a regular basis may want to consider participating in the new Citizens Trails Advisory Committee or becoming a member of Park Watch. Park Watch members are trained on providing Park visitors with information on Bidwell Park and rules and regulations. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 895-4758 or shogue@ci.chico.ca.us. Parks in other communities have similar programs. In Paradise, call 872-6291, in Gridley, call 846-5695 and in Oroville, call 538-2415.

The California Native Plant Society needs occasional volunteers for Scotch Broom removal (an invasive non-native brush that crowds out native plants). Call John Copeland 343-1748. They also help maintain the Chico Creek Nature Center Garden with weeding, pruning, planting, and fixing/ installing drip system, or by donating native plants or wildflower seeds. Call Sam Hillaire at 893-9697, Wes Dempsey at 342-2293 or Gen, at the Nature Center, 891-4671.

Chico Food Not Bombs serves vegetarian meals to the homeless and hungry every Saturday and Sunday from 12-2pm in Depot Park. They need volunteers to help cook, transport and serve food. Anyone can help out whether you can come every weekend or just drop by every once in a while. Food Not Bombs is a grassroots organization with over 100 autonomous chapters around the globe. Food Not Bombs believes that many of society's problems stem from a simple crisis in human values where human life comes second to material gain. Contact Zeke at 893-

5772 or zrogers@sunset.net or visit their web site <http://sunset.net/~zrogers/fnb>.

The Chico Peace & Justice Center is cultivating peace through community gardens, poetry workshops, "Peace of Mind" brown-bag lecture series, grassroots organizing workshops, resource Library and more! "If you want peace then work for justice." Join their team of peace activists! Contact Ama at 893-9078.

Chico Tree Enhancement and Education Program offers free workshops, training volunteers to help Chico's young street trees. Want to learn how to prune shade trees? Learn what makes trees grow best and what trees to plant in your yard? Learn why topping is called the most expensive pruning method? Take part of Thursday, Friday, or Saturday to learn, have fun and help Chico's young trees! Contact Roger Cole at 895-0866 or rwcole@jps.net for the Spring (Feb-May) workshops schedule.

Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE) is an Associated Students CSU, Chico organization that matches people who want to volunteer with organizations that need help. All community members can use the Volunteer Connection Program to identify available volunteer opportunities. Community non-profit social service agencies are welcome to utilize the Volunteer Connection Program to recruit volunteers for their specific needs. CAVE has opportunities this spring for volunteers to serve as cabin counselors at Whiskeytown Environmental School, outside of Redding, CA. Volunteers spend an adventurous week outdoors helping 5th and 6th grade students learn about their natural environment. The available dates are: Mar. 12- 6, Mar. 19-23, Mar. 26-30, Apr. 2-6, Apr. 9-2, Apr. 17 0, Apr. 23-27, Apr. 30-May 4, May 7-11, May 14-18, May 21-25, May 29-Jun. 1, Jun. 4-8. Contact CAVE at

898-5817 or ntimmons@csuchico.edu.

Habitat for Humanity builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses through volunteer labor, donations of money and materials and with the help of the homeowner families. The Chico affiliate is repairing and landscaping houses every weekend, year-round. A local house-building project is planned for next year. You don't need to have any prior building experience or repair skills to participate, just a willingness to learn. Construction professionals are welcome too, of course. Contact Pam Easterly at 895-1271.

The Nature Conservancy's Dye Creek Preserve (45 minutes north of Chico) has an occasional need for volunteers on various projects throughout the year. Activities include native grass seeding in the fall, tree planting in the winter and spring, serving as a hike docent, maintaining trails, and working on small carpentry projects throughout the year. Contact Joe Short at 527-0424 or joeshort@jps.net.

Northern California Regional Land Trust is a private nonprofit conservation organization specializing in conservation of natural resources. They assist northern California landowners and public agencies in the voluntary protection of land and other natural resources. They need volunteers for assisting with various tasks such as database entry, mailings and related tasks. Contact Keith McKinley at 530-894-7738 or ncrlt@shocking.com
Does your organization want more volunteers? Send an e-mail describing your volunteer needs to slmason@pachbell.net and we'll include your listing starting with our next issue. It's easy! It's free!

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Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

A Little History

Established and incorporated as Bidwell Nature Center/Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (BWRC) in 1974, the group has operated non-stop caring for close to one thousand animals each year. As the rehabilitation portion of our mission expanded, so did the demand on our volunteers and resources, both of which were limited.

Since our primary mission was and still is, the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife, BWRC was able to turn over the education portion of our effort and our physical location in Bidwell Park to the Altacal Audubon Society in the early 1980’s. Altacal Audubon established what is now known as Chico Creek Nature Center.

What we do and how we do it

The BWRC continues to offer a 24-hour answering and referral service for injured and orphaned California native wildlife for all of Butte County and the north-state area. Educational programs are still available free to interested groups upon request.

BWRC is entirely volunteer-operated. We are a non-profit, independent association whose funding comes solely from membership dues, donations and the support of the Butte County Fish & Game Commission. Local California Department of Fish & Game Wardens and Special Agents of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also support BWRC.

Wildlife rehabilitation is one means of counteracting mans’ often adverse effect upon the wild animal populations in our area. Wildlife rehabilitation is the emergency and extended care of numerous wild animal species, some of which are threatened or endangered. The primary goal is, and always will be, to release as soon as possible all wild animals to their native habitat. BWRC maintains a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Permit as well as a Memorandum of Understanding with California Dept. of Fish & Game. Some of our permanent non-releaseable wildlife are used as educational tools for various events.

What can you do to help BWRC?

- Join BWRC
- Transport wildlife to and from veterinary clinics
- Transport raptors to the U.C. Davis Raptor Center
- Donate towels, bed pads and newspapers (no colored print)
- Donate wildlife food (nut meats, puppy/kitten chow, KMR, Esbilac, Tiny Tiger, etc.)
- Care for wildlife until it is ready to be released (all members work out of their own homes-there is no physical location

for BWRC)

What do you do if you find injured or orphaned wildlife?

- Call for advice before picking up wildlife- Hot Line: (530) 343-9004
- Native wildlife does the best in its natural environment
- If an animal is “bright eyed and bushy tailed”, it probably does not need to be “rescued”! If it is in harm’s way, place it in dense shrubbery, back in its nest, back on a tree branch or other suitable location.
- Young birds of all species often leave the nest long before they can fly (fledglings) and the parent birds will feed them wherever they may happen to be.
- It is normal for hawks and owls to be on the ground while learning to fly and hunt. Leave them alone.
- Deer leave their young fawns “parked” in cover for long periods of time. Wildlife almost never abandon their young. If you find a fawn, leave the area immediately so the parent can return. Only rescue when the mother is confirmed dead. Jack rabbits and cottontails do much the same. Do not take baby jack rabbits!
- Do not take wild animals away from their parents!
- If you do feel that an animal needs to be rescued, place small birds and mammals in a large brown grocery bag with soft papers or towel in the bottom. Secure the top. Cardboard boxes appropriate to the size of the animal also work. Cut vertical slits and secure the top well. Large sick or injured wildlife generally should not be handled. Call animal control or the appropriate agency.
- Never attempt to feed or water birds or animals without first checking with a trained wildlife rehabilitation volunteer.
- Resist the urge to make pets of young wildlife. There are strict federal, state and local laws against keeping wildlife as pets. They may also carry diseases.

And to wrap up

Often when wildlife is rescued, it will die. If not initially, later when released. It is difficult to raise wildlife on a proper diet, train it to hunt on its own and find its natural food upon release. Always talk to the experts when dealing with wildlife...call someone who knows.

Remember, with native wildlife...“Often the best thing to do...is nothing at all.”
Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation
P. O. Box 4005
Chico, CA 95927
Contact: Marilyn Gamette
Hot Line: (530) 343-9004

Happy Spring!

Back in October, a severely injured male red-tailed hawk was found on a ranch in Delhi. Apparently he had flown into an electrical transformer and was badly burned.

The rancher called around for advice and found that the Stanislaus Wildlife Center was willing to try to rehabilitate him.

As the volunteers set about to capture the injured bird, another hawk circled above and cried several times. This other hawk remained on the ranch, appearing regularly and crying for its mate. Hawks mate for life and it is not unusual for them to search for a missing partner until the beginning of the next mating season.

In mid-January, almost 4 months since the initial capture, the rehabilitated hawk was ready for release. The volunteers took it back to the ranch where he was first found. Within minutes of the successful release, the two hawks found each other again and were left sitting together in a nearby tree.

Happy Spring!



Diazinon Phase-Out

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reached a voluntary agreement with diazinon’s chief manufacturer, Syngenta, to phase out all home and garden applications of the pesticide over the next four years, according to sources familiar with the deal.

Used in everything from household ant and roach killers to grub-killing lawn sprays, diazinon is marketed under such brands as Ortho, Spectracide and Real-Kill.

The agreement is a major milestone in pesticide regulation, effectively marking the end of organophosphates, or OPs, chemicals derived from nerve gas agents developed during World War II.

Once among the nation’s most widely used pesticides, OPs were singled out for a regulatory crackdown six years ago amid studies linking them to neurological disorders and other health problems in children.

“All of these chemicals act through the same biochemical mechanism in the brain ... they all occupy the same chemical family as sarin nerve gas,” said Philip Landrigan of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, leader of a coalition of pediatricians seeking to abolish the use of OP pesticides.

Under the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, Congress ordered sweeping safety reviews of all pesticides, starting with OPs. But thousands of pesticide uses have yet to be evaluated. Chemical and agriculture interests have fought the process, arguing that the EPA is targeting safe pesticides needed to protect crops.

Diazinon manufacturers say the product poses no health threat with normal application, and the EPA, which considers it less risky than other banned OPs, will continue to allow some commercial crop uses. But Syngenta officials say they can’t justify paying for new studies needed to prove diazinon’s safety for consumer use.

The EPA’s agreement to a phase out “confirms the value and safety of this product,” Syngenta’s Eileen Watson said.

Environmental and consumer groups urged retailers to halt diazinon sales immediately. “This is probably the best EPA could do for consumers in the face of pressure from a pesticide industry that’s exposed people to unsafe products for decades,” said Richard Wiles of the Environmental Working Group. “Policy here is slowly catching up to science.”



Reducing Plastic Waste Tops 2001 Legislative Agenda

Enacting a major Plastic Waste Reduction Law for California is Californians Against Waste (CAW's) Top Priority for 2001.

Plastic recycling in California is failing. While overall recycling in the state has reached record levels, recycling of plastic containers and packaging is in decline. After peaking at just over 24% in 1995, recycling rates for plastic containers have dropped to less than 18% in 1999. And the recycling rates are even lower for plastic bags, wraps and polystyrene foam.

Plastic Generation Grows

Both state and national waste characterization studies indicate that plastic is one of the fastest growing components of our solid waste stream and a major contributor to litter.

An analysis for the US Environmental Protection Agency shows that plastic waste is growing seven times faster than the waste stream as a whole. Additionally, a 1999 study for the State of California shows that Californians are throwing away more than three million tons of plastic waste every year.

"In California and across the country plastic waste is growing exponentially," said CAW Executive Director Mark Murray. "Last year California generated enough disposable plastic products and packaging waste to completely cover Lake Tahoe's 191 square miles with a sheet of plastic more than one inch thick."

Today, California is landfilling more than 17 million cubic yards of plastic waste. By some estimates, this represents nearly one-fourth of the volume of all material landfilled.

More than a Landfill Problem

Plastic is more than just a landfill problem. The more than 75 billion pounds of plastic products and packaging produced in this country every year poses a wide variety of dangers to human health and the environment. At every step in the production of plastics, hazardous substances are used and hazardous wastes are produced.

Plastics are made from finite, nonrenewable petroleum and natural gas.

Production of plastic products and packaging is one of the most chemically intensive activities. According to the US EPA, 35 of the 47 chemical plants ranked highest in carcinogenic emissions are involved in plastic production.



Workers at these chemical refineries (along with nearby residents), are at increased risk of injury or death due to toxic emissions and/or chemical explosions.

Plastics contain additives (i.e. colorants, stabilizers, and plasticizers) that may include toxic constituents such as cadmium and lead.

Plastics may harm human health. Some plastic chemicals, such as ethylene dichloride and vinyl chloride used to produce vinyl are considered to be carcinogenic. They may also trigger other health problems such as liver, kidney and neurological damage.

Chemicals in plastics may reduce sperm counts. In October, a panel convened by the National Institutes of Health found that the most commonly used plasticizer, DEHP, was a developmental toxin. Studies showed that male rodents exposed to DEHP had decreased sperm levels. DEHP, which is used in plastic food packaging, children's toys and medical devices, has the potential to leach out of plastics. Exposure can occur through breathing, ingestion and possibly through absorption of the skin.

Plastic Litter and Waste Cleanup Costs Approach a Billion Dollars

Plastic litter and waste represents a significant and growing cost to the state, local government and ultimately ratepayers and taxpayers. California's annual garbage bill for cleaning up and landfilling plastic waste is conservatively estimated at more than \$750 million annually.

Studies show that plastic represents 50 to 80 percent of the volume of litter collected

from roads, parks and beaches, and 90 percent of floating litter in the marine environment.

State and local agencies spend millions picking up litter each year- of which plastic is often the largest component. Last year Cal Trans alone spent \$16 million cleaning up litter on California highways. This sum excludes the costs incurred by volunteers and businesses participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

California's total cleanup cost for plastic litter and waste cleanup will easily top one billion dollars this year.

The Legislative Focus

State Senator Wes Chesbro (D-Arcata), has once again agreed to carry CAW-sponsored legislation to reduce plastic waste and increase recycling.

Last year, Chesbro authored CAW-sponsored Senate Bill (SB) 1110, which would have established recycling requirements on plastic food, drink, and cosmetic packaging, while strengthening existing requirements on non-food packaging. While that measure passed the State Senate, it was

defeated in the Assembly Consumer Protection Committee due to opposition from lobbyists for the plastics industry and product makers.

Just one day after SB 1110 failed passage, the California Integrated Waste Management Board released a study showing that the recycling rate for plastic containers had fallen to just 17.9% in 1999- well below the 25% requirement in state law.

"Over the last two years, more than 80% of plastic containers were littered or landfilled in California, at a substantial cost to taxpayers and the environment." Said Chesbro. "In light of the State Waste Board's new analysis of the plastics problem, I am hopeful that the legislature will take another look at this important recycling issue."

This year, Senator Chesbro and CAW intend to take a simpler approach to plastic waste reduction, modeled after Germany's successful "Green Dot" program. The proposal will require manufacturers of plastic packaging to pay a fee to cover the cost of recycling plastic waste.

Using a weight-based fee equal to the difference between the cost of recycling and any material scrap value, manufacturers will have a market-based incentive to:

1. Reduce packaging size and waste.
2. Simplify product materials and design to reduce recycling costs.
3. Support the development of recycling markets in order to increase scrap values.

Revenue from plastic packaging fees would be used to cover the cost of recycling, increase opportunities for recycling, and potentially even provide incentives for litter cleanup.

Despite the simplified approach, Senator Chesbro and CAW will undoubtedly face still opposition from plastic manufacturers, chemical producers and product makers and their trade associations.

During this past legislative session, opponents of SB 1110 reported spending more than \$4.5 million to lobby members of the California legislature. Additionally, many made campaign contributions directly to swing members of key legislative committees. CAW will never be able to match this level of political expenditure.

Reprinted from CAW's The Recycling Advocate, Vol. 6 No. 2

For more information call them at (916) 443-5422 or visit their website at: <http://www.cawrecycles.org>



@Risk: How Much Toxic Pesticide Is Used Near Your Child's School?

Environmental Working Group press release- Feb. 21, 2001

OAKLAND - More than 7.7 million pounds of toxic pesticides a year are used near California schools, according to state data analyzed by Environmental Working Group (EWG). Now parents, teachers and kids anywhere in the state can use the Web to find out just how much and what kind of pesticides are used near their own schools.

EWG's new website, @risk (www.ewg.org/california) provides detailed information on all pesticides used within 1.5 miles of every school in California in 1998, the latest year for which records are available. Click on a county, then click on a school to see the total amount of pesticides applied, details on each chemical used, or how your school compares to others in the county.

"Every parent, and everyone else who cares about our children's health, has a right to know what toxic chemicals kids might be exposed to at school," said Bill Walker, EWG's California director. "When we send our kids off to school, we expect them to spend the day in a safe environment."

Children's developing bodies and brains are known to be more susceptible to the harmful effects of toxic pesticides, but thousands of California children attend schools directly adjacent to or surrounded by fields where pesticide use totals tens of thousands of pounds a year. State and independent studies show not only that pesticides routinely drift from farm fields onto nearby school campuses, but that drifting pesticides pose health risks for people miles away from the fields:

- * The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has just released a report on pesticide monitoring at five Central Coast schools, that found average airborne levels of the acutely toxic fumigant methyl bromide more than twice as high as state scientists say is safe for children.
- * Last summer, an EWG air sampling program detected dangerously high levels of chlorpyrifos, a neurotoxic pesticide recently banned for home use as unsafe for children, in the air around Fresno. (The air sampling report, released Feb. 20 in Fresno, is also available at www.ewg.org/california.)
- * Last week, another new DPR report said reported cases of pesticide poisoning increased by 20 percent statewide in 2000, and pesticide drift was the most common cause.
- * A National Cancer Institute researcher who matched pesticide data and medical records in 10 California agricultural counties recently reported that pregnant women living up to 9 miles away from farms where pesticides are used may have an increased risk of losing an unborn child to birth defects.

EWG is a non-profit research organization with offices in Oakland, Seattle and Washington, D.C. EWG uses information technology to inform the public about environmental threats to public health, especially the health of children.

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Spring 2001 BEC Environmental News



Beavers or Meadowfoam? Widening Highway 149

by Jill Lacefield

The question of whether to protect beavers or meadowfoam when widening Highway 149 took center stage at a recent meeting between the Butte County Association of Governors (BCAG) and CalTrans. County Supervisor Jane Dolan spoke for protection of the beavers, inhabiting a nearby lake; CalTrans project engineer, Winder Bajwa, reminded association members that, unlike the beaver, meadowfoam is an endangered species in need of protection. All were trying to grapple with the soaring costs of expanding the highway, costs that have doubled from a 1991 estimate of \$41.5 million to a current estimate of \$80.9 million.

Unfortunately, no one spoke to the root of the problem: California's skyrocketing population growth and its gross dependence on the automobile, both of which threaten our environment and health. No one talked about the real issue because, in the face of environmental degradation and out-of-control urban sprawl, most Californians are at a loss for words. After all, how do we even begin to talk about reversing the destructive track we're on, a track that finds us not merely dependent on cars for transportation of people, goods, and services – but enslaved? And no one talked about the root problem or real solutions because talking about alternative methods of transportation and urban planning is much harder to talk about. These are conversations that require vision, commitment and political risk. These conversations take courage.

Yet, this is what policy makers and elected officials must start talking about, in earnest. Perhaps we start the new conversation by stopping the old one. The Highway 149 dilemma is not about beavers and meadowfoam. No life is expendable and once the environment and its inhabitants are chewed up by asphalt and sprawl, there is no regaining it. The problems of species depletion (the human species included) and environmental degradation are not answered by arguing for one life form over another. They are answered by taking a hard look at how we live.

According to facts compiled by the California Futures Network on land use and transportation, we are not faring well. Between 1970 and 1995, the state's population increased from 20 million to 32 million, yet the number of "vehicle miles traveled" (VMT) more than doubled from 103 billion to more than 270 billion miles per year. In other words, in spite of a heightened awareness of the negative impact of cars on our health and environment, Californians' dependence on the automobile out-paced its population growth.

In addition, statistics show increasing numbers of drivers spend more than one hour each day in their cars. And, to no one's surprise, 5 of the 10 most congested metropolitan areas are located in California, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and San Bernardino/Riverside. In the Bay Area alone, vehicle hours of delay are projected to grow by 249% by 2020.

While big city congestion is far from Butte County where most residents still enjoy the simple life, our own problems are increasingly apparent. Witness our own sprawl north into vast tracks of untouched landscape and the changing foothills, impacted by house after house, crawling up our pristine ridges. Or try driving across town between 4 and 6 p.m. any work day. The problems are right here, right now.

To begin to truly address these problems and issues such as the widening of Highway 149, we must stop asking the wrong questions and start asking the right ones. It is not a question of whether we save the beaver or endangered meadowfoam; the questions are much bigger: How do we sustain all life and our own liveability? How do we slow population growth and curb our dependency on the automobile? How do we take the difficult, but crucial, steps toward fundamental change in the very way we live in California and throughout the U.S.?

Fortunately, the answers are at hand. State government can create and fund policies that encourage smart land use and transportation planning. Policy makers can focus on incentives for decreasing vehicle miles traveled per capita; for increasing mass transit use, bicycling, and walking; and for promoting "compact urban form" in all cities – a model that returns to traditional land use patterns, mixing housing, jobs, shopping, and services and supported by mass transit. Indeed, we know much about what needs to be done, but will we do it? Will we elect and empower government officials to take political risks and help reverse course?

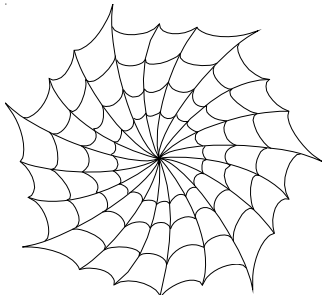
We can start by letting BCAG know that neither compromising beaver habitat along Highway 149 nor maneuvering to exempt meadowfoam from protection are acceptable. Instead, we should ask them to dig deep to find long-term solutions that sustain the environment and all life. If we fail to do so, we remain part of the problem and solutions remain only ideas sitting in a file on some bureaucrat's desk. Surely, we can do better than that.



www.becnet.org

Check this out...

WEB SITES of interest...



by Susan Mason

Can It be Recycled? Well, Yes, But...

In theory, almost anything can be recycled or reused. Some recycling advocates claim that since about half of the trash going into landfill is paper, we could easily reduce the waste stream by 50% “just” by recycling all paper. A similar argument is made for yard wastes, which also occupy a sizable percentage of landfill space. However, if waste stream reduction was this simple, a lot of California county and city recycling coordinators, presently struggling to reach the state-mandated goal of 50% waste reduction, would have achieved this milestone long ago. Recycling is a complicated business. It requires both economic and social incentives to recycle rather than throw away. In rural counties, like Butte, it’s even more difficult because we don’t consume enough of some products to create a viable recycling market for them. Some people think recycling itself is wasteful.

As you might expect, the Web is full of sites about recycling. Learn what’s really recyclable and why. Become more informed about the recycling choices you unconsciously make when you buy products. If nothing else, looking at some of these sites will provide you with enough information to entertain or bore your friends and family for weeks.

Local Links

You might think that the Web would be a great place to find out where to recycle locally. Well, we’re not there yet, but at least many of the major players—Butte County Public Works, CSUC, local cities and towns, and the trash haulers—all have their own Web sites where they can post this information, once they gather it. Here’s what’s available so far:

AS Recycling CSU, Chico

www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle

This has the most complete list of places in Chico to take commonly recycled items. Click on Eco Resource for links to other sites along with recycling articles and tips. Note: AS Recycling offers the only plastic 6-pack ring recycling in the county.

NorCal Waste Systems

www.norcalwaste.com

Some of the NorCal locations have posted recycling information. This one hasn’t yet, perhaps because it’s a fairly recent acquisition of NorCal. NorCal operates the only materials recovery facility in Butte County, which sorts recyclables out of the waste stream instead of collecting them separately curbside. It would be interesting to see some photos of this facility posted on their Web site.

Team Recycle

www.teamrecycle.com

This is the Web site where Butte County Public Works posts local motor oil and oil filter recycling information. It lists places that accept used motor oil and even pay you for it. There’s also a section of recycling tips and information about re-refined motor oil.

Waste Management (AKA North Valley Disposal)

<http://northvalleydisposal.com>

For those who have curbside recycling through WM, this site contains an almost complete list of items that can be put into the green bin. There’s also an outdated (5/99) list of buyback prices for their drop off recycling facility and the Chico yard waste curbside collection schedule for 2000. Hopefully, this site will be updated soon.

State Links

Much of the state-level recycling information is focused on two laws—AB2020, the s^tate’s so-called bottle bill, mandating recycling of some beverage containers, and AB939, the landfill waste diversion mandate. Many counties and cities in the state have included pages about recycling on their Web sites too.

California Integrated Waste Management Board

www.ciwmb.ca.gov

Only one in four cities and counties in California reached the 50 percent waste diversion goal by the end of 1999. This is the place to check out all the statewide programs that are in place to boost this rate, to read about local businesses that have been honored for their recycling efforts, to find out how Butte County compares to other similar counties in its waste diversion efforts, and to learn more about what’s going into our landfills. It’s also the site for CalMax, a business and educational materials exchange program that is very underutilized by local businesses and teachers.

California Resource Recovery Association

www.crra.com

A somewhat dull site, but useful for the links to other recycling information

Californians Against Waste

www.cawrecycles.org

This is a nonprofit grassroots organization entirely focused on promoting a recycling economy. CAW has influenced all of California’s major recycling legislation. This is one of those sites where you could spend hours following all of the links.

California State Association of Counties

www.csac.counties.org

If you would like to see what other areas in the state are doing about recycling, this site will link you to all of the other counties in California that have official Web sites. Click on “Counties Close-Up”, then on “Counties’ Websites”. Some of the county sites also provide

links to the incorporated cities within the county. Many of the larger counties and cities have posted their recycling guides online. Often, you’ll find the information under the Public Works Dept. or Environmental Resources heading. Check out some of the more comprehensive sites, for example, Sonoma County’s www.recyclenow.org.

Industry Links

If an item or material has any potential for being recycled, you can be sure that there’s an industry Web site to discuss recycling it. The text frequently glosses over the difference between being recyclable and actually being recycled, but can provide useful background information. Occasionally, you can even learn where you can recycle an item.

Aluminum Association

www.aluminum.org

Beverage containers aren’t the only aluminum that’s recycled; in fact, they’re less than 20% of the total.

Aseptic Packaging Council

www.aseptic.org

The containers for soy/rice milks and juice boxes are called aseptic packages. If you’ve ever torn one apart, you know that it consists of layers of several different packaging materials. This web site touts the aseptic package as being “Earth Smart” and maybe it is if only because it’s such a small percentage of the waste stream. If you click through the site, you’ll learn that it’s only economical to recycle these containers in areas that also recycle wax-coated milk cartons. Neither item is recyclable locally.

The Rubber Room

www.rubber.com

Click on “Tire and Rubber Recycling” to see all the different components of tires that can be recycled. You won’t learn anything about where to recycle tires locally (for that, try any tire dealer or the landfill), but it should make you realize that worn-out tires are useful for more than burning in cogeneration plants or by accident at tire dumps. With millions of tires being discarded every year, it’s something to consider.

Plastics Resource

www.plasticsresource.com

Although this site is definitely a PR piece for the plastics industry, it contains lots of well organized information about the plastics recycling industry, including some uses for recycled plastic. Plastic containers (the ones with the recycle arrows around a number) can be recycled locally, depending on how far you’re willing to drive. Presently, only a few large businesses can recycle plastic film (e.g., the plastic cover stretched over the cases of cans you buy at Costco) locally even though there’s a manufacturer of this product in Oroville.

Rechargeable batteries

www.rbrc.com

Recycle rechargeable batteries at the stores listed at this site. Call the store first, though, because some of the retailers have dropped the program due to lack of demand from customers.

Styrofoam

www.epspackaging.org

Look at this site to find California’s polystyrene foam (blocks of Styrofoam) recycling locations.

Steel

www.recycle-steel.org

America’s number 1 recycled material—learn all about it.

And a Few Others

Consumer Recycling Guide

www.obviously.com/recycle/

Learn where to recycle those more obscure items such as computer floppy disks and CDs.

Palo Alto’s Comprehensive Recycling List

www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/recycle/recyclopedia.html

Palo Alto, always in the forefront, has created this site for local residents to find out where to recycle everything. For items you don’t think you can recycle in Butte County, this site should give you some new ideas about places to take them.

National Recycling Coalition

www.nrc-recycle.org

Current news stories about recycling and a good source for recycling education programs.

Recycle Congress

www.recyclecongress.org

See how the U.S. Congress stacks up in recycling efforts.

Recycline

www.recycline.com

This is a directory of recycled products with links to many national recycling information sites.

If you have some favorite environmental Web sites, we would like to learn about them. Send your comments to slmason@pacbell.net.



www.becnet.org

Dragonflies... for a Change of Pace

By Kathy Biggs

Like birds and butterflies, dragonflies come in vibrant colors, they fly, and they have interesting life histories and behaviors. They emerge from their natal waters and change from ugly aquatic underwater nymph to beautiful, dazzling flying predators during the spring and summer months. For some species their flight season extends into the fall. And if you're used to observing nature, you've already developed the skills for watching them!

All you really need in order to be a dragonfly watcher are your eyes. Optional items however would include shoes that can get wet, an insect net, an 8-10X magnifying hand lens, glassine envelopes and plenty of sunscreen. If you don't own close-focus binoculars then a camera with a zoom lens can also be helpful: often regular binoculars won't focus in close enough while a camera will. You can click for a picture, or just use the camera for viewing.

To date, more than sixty species of dragonflies have been identified in California - over 100 if you include the damselflies. Butte County is actually California's most prolific dragonfly area with 60 species of dragonflies and damselflies now known to occur here. But dragonfly studies in the United States are in their infancy, as Ornithology was a century ago. Just 3 years ago only 40 species of Odonata (the scientific name for their order that includes dragonflies and damselflies) were known to exist here. Then through observation of live flying 'bugs', review of museum specimens and photographic records, 20 more species were found. Part of the thrill of watching dragonflies is the ability of even beginners to add to their understanding. Go out and find new one in a new locality!

In California, dragonflies range in size from the Giant Darner, at 6 inches, to the Pacific Forktail, a damselfly, at less than 1 inch. All the in-between sizes are present, with many shapes and a variety of hues repre-

sented. They come not only in red, fuchsia, orange, pink, blue, gold, saffron, black, emerald, maroon, earth tones, and more, but also in metallic colors. Some have colored, spotted or banded wings, others may have clear wings but clubbed abdomens or a spike on their tail. And, no, they do not sting or bite. They have mouths which they do use to bite their prey (mostly mosquitoes and gnats) but they do not bite people unless caught and handled roughly, and even then it is like a good pinch. They have no stingers: the projections on the end of their abdomens are their claspers, used by the male to hold the female in their unique 'wheel' mating position.

Unfortunately, you couldn't find a handy guidebook for them until this year. The Audubon Society's Insects and Spiders field guide and Powell & Hogue's California Insects can be helpful, but these older insect guides cover only a few western species of dragonflies. Common Dragonflies of California, A Beginner's Pocket Guide became available just this year. It uses the new common names that were adopted by the Dragonfly Society of the Americas in the fall of 1966. All the other guides mentioned were written before this and use non-standardized common names. It is hoped that everyone will use these standardized names now and that the hobby of dragonflying will thereby avoid the confusing proliferation of common names the butterflies have developed. If you have Internet access you may find Common Dragonflies of California's companion web site useful: 'California Dragonflies' <<http://www.sonic.net/dragonfly>>. Besides more information on identification, it contains distribution maps and local sightings.

We are lucky in that Butte County offers many great places to begin the study of dragonflies. Just find a spot near water on a calm, sunny summer day; any natural or artificial body of water will do. But Bidwell State Park would always be an excellent destination. Like hummingbirds, and very much unlike the butterflies, dragonflies can maneuver quickly, making rapid zigzag maneuvers. Occasionally though, you'll find one basking in the sun or claiming and defending a territory on a pond or stream where it can be observed at leisure. Otherwise, enjoy the aerial antics of Earth's very first fliers: indeed, they predate the dinosaurs and are among our most ancient creatures.

In Odonatology, the study of dragonflies, you can have fun, be outdoors, and even contribute to a growing body of new knowledge! Enjoy!

Kathy's beautiful full-color pocket guide *Common Dragonflies of California* may be purchased for \$10.00 (tax included) as a special price to our readers. You may purchase it directly from Kathy Biggs at Azalea Creek Publishing, 308 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472 And please visit her California Dragonfly website at: <http://www.sonic.net/dragonfly>

The following are a few of the most common California dragonfly species found in Butte County.

Reminder: 25 mm equals one inch.

Dragonflies:

- Flame Skimmer- red-orange including inside halves of wings, length 52-61 mm
- Cardinal Meadowhawk- bright red, rests with wings forward, 32-38 mm
- Blue Dasher- baby blue, white 'face', perches on pond vegetation, 32-40 mm
- Spot-winged Skimmers- either 8 or 12 large dark spots on wings, 44-55 mm
- Black Saddlebags- black with black saddlebag mark on inner hind wings, 49-56
- Green Darner- green eyes and thorax, blue (males) or brown (females) abdomen, 65-79 mm
- Blue-eyed Darner- blue eyes, abdomen

mosaic of blues brown &/or blacks, 62-70 mm

Damselflies:

Damselflies are the small, slender-bodied and dainty 'blue-tailed flies' with widely separated eyes.

At rest, they hold their wings closed sail-like over their backs, while dragonflies' wings are held out flat to the sides.

- American Rubyspot- base of wings ruby red, bronzy-brown body, 38-48 mm
- Bluets- patterned blue and black, blue abdomen tip, wings held alongside abdomen 25-40 mm
- Dancers- patterned blue and black, blue abdomen tip, wings held above abdomen, 25-50 mm
- Forktails- abdomen mostly black with a blue tip, 22-30 mm

Bidwell Park Treasures

By Tim Manolis

Bidwell Park is an excellent place to view a wide variety of dragonflies and damselflies (Family Odonata). Of about 108 species in this group known to occur in California, 66 species are found in Butte County and at least 45 of these have been recorded in Bidwell Park. A few Sonoran Zone species — Desert Firetail, Neon Skimmer — reach the northern limits of their ranges in Bidwell Park.

The first list of species found in the park dates back to June 14-15 1914, published in Clarence H. Kennedy's pioneering 1917 paper on California dragonflies. Kennedy also published lists for the Feather River near Oroville and nearby Table Mountain. There are some interesting differences between Kennedy's list for the park and the current occupants. Familiar Bluet and Widow Skimmer are now common in the park, but were not reported by Kennedy. Both of these species are common inhabitants of artificial ponds, lakes and irrigation canals, and can tolerate polluted waters. They have apparently spread into northern California in recent decades as a result of human activity. Fortunately, no species seem to have disappeared from the park since Kennedy's day.

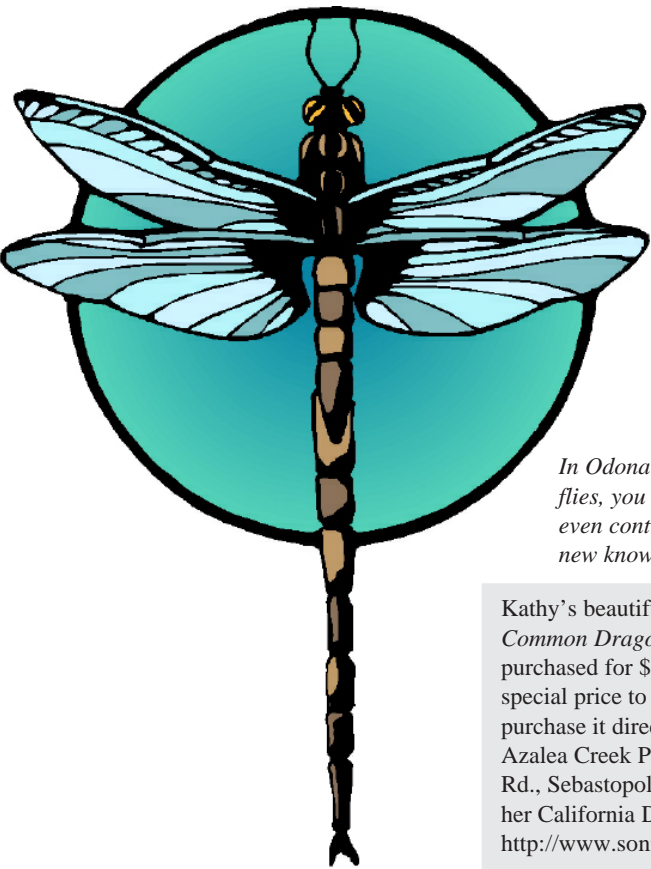
The following species of dragonflies and damselflies have been found in Bidwell Park:

Dragonflies

- Pacific Spiketail (*Cordulegaster dorsalis*)
White-belted Ringtail (*Erpetogomphus compositus*)
Pacific Clubtail (*Gomphus kurilis*)
Grappletail (*Octogomphus specularis*)
Bison Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus bison*)
Sinuous Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus occidentis*)
Gray Sanddragon (*Progomphus borealis*)
California Darner (*Aeshna californica*)
Blue-eyed Darner (*Aeshna multicolor*)
Shadow Darner (*Aeshna umbrosa*)
Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*)
Western River Cruiser (*Macromia magnifica*)
Pale-faced Clubskimmer (*Brechmorhoga mendax*)
Western Pondhawk (*Erythemis collocata*)
Comanche Skimmer (*Libellula comanche*)
Neon Skimmer (*Libellula croceipennis*)
Eight-spotted Skimmer (*Libellula forensis*)
Widow Skimmer (*Libellula luctuosa*)
Twelve-spotted Skimmer (*Libellula pulchella*)
Flame Skimmer (*Libellula saturata*)
Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*)
Red Rock Skimmer (*Paltothemis lineatipes*)
Spot-winged Glider (*Pantala hymenaea*)
Common Whitetail (*Plathemis lydia*)
Variegated Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum corruptum*)
Western Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum occidentale*)
Striped Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum pallipes*)
Black Saddlebags (*Tamea lacerata*)

Damselflies

- American Rubyspot (*Hetaerina americana*)
California Spreadwing (*Archilestes californica*)
Spotted Spreadwing (*Lestes congener*)
Western Red Damsel (*Amphiagrion abbreviatum*)
California Dancer (*Argia agrioides*)
Emma's Dancer (*Argia emma*)
Sooty Dancer (*Argia lugens*)
Aztec Dancer (*Argia nahuana*)
Vivid Dancer (*Argia vivida*)
Tule Bluet (*Enallagma carunculatum*)
Familiar Bluet (*Enallagma civile*)
Northern Bluet (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)
Pacific Forktail (*Ischnura cervula*)
Black-fronted Forktail (*Ischnura denticollis*)
Western Forktail (*Ischnura perparva*)
Desert Firetail (*Telebasis salva*)
Exclamation Damsel (*Zoniagrion exclamationis*)



The Move from Riprap to Road Base Produces Rosy Numbers

by Mark Stemen PhD, CSU, Chico

The last issue of Environmental News pointed out that in 1999 Chico diverted 48% of its waste from the Neal Road landfill. While that figure is still short of the 50% diversion rate that State law mandates by 2000, it is pretty close. The people in Chico should be proud. We have made great strides. One of the flagships of the effort is the curbside recycling service offered to all residents. The waste haulers and city staff have made it easy to recycle, and 83% of city residents do so. Numbers are not available for businesses, but it appears to me that most of the places I visit are trying to do something. But are residents and businesses really diverting half the waste they were in 1990? A closer examination of the numbers hints that we are not.

First, it important to note the 1999 diversion figures are not new numbers, really. In 1995 the City filed for a new base year calculation, and the 1999 report is a mathematical estimation based on the 1995 report, combined with changes in population, taxable sales, employment, the consumer price index, and construction in the residential and non-residential sectors. The City obtains a number for each item, as well as the reported disposal at the landfill, and then plugs these figures into a formula supplied by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The formula produces a “reporting year diversion rate.” For 1999, the figure was 48%. At no point in the process were the actual recycled materials weighed or counted.

The last time the City looked at the recycling stream and tried to calculate its weight and composition was for the reporting year 1995. The City filed the report in 1998, and the numbers are reveling. In 1995 Chico residents and businesses sent 63,314 tons of waste to the landfill, and diverted 47,427 tons into different uses. Of the diverted total, 6,031.5 tons were cans, bottles and newspapers, the common recyclables in household

garbage. So what made up the other 87% of the recyclable stream? Well, the compost facility at the airport took in 8,380 tons of leaves and yard waste, cardboard recycling or reuse accounted for 2,005 tons, and the rendering of food waste into lard diverted another 660 tons from the landfill. Add in waste avoided through mulched grass at parks, golf courses, and athletic fields (2762 tons), re-use at thrift stores (4,257) and garage sales (547 tons), plus other miscellaneous items and the total is still only 25,498 tons, or a 23% diversion rate. Where are the other 21,929 tons?

Over 46% of Chico’s waste diversion came from one commodity: construction and demolition debris, or C&D. C&D consists of ripped up roads, torn down buildings and other chunks of aggregate material. For the past five years much of the aggregate material has ended up at a debris yard operated by Baldwin Construction. Operators at the yard separate the materials and then grind it up in large machines. The concrete is used as road base and the asphalt is blended into new pavement. In 1995 Baldwin Construction diverted 24,366 tons of material, of which approximately 90% came from the City of Chico. A similar operation located on site of the recently razed Fred Meyer building recycled over 90% of the structure by reducing the material to a pile of gravel.

In 1990, the base year for the State-mandated program, and for many years prior, demolition firms *donated* this type of material to farmers who used it as riprap, or to improve drainage in a field. Reauthorization of the Clean Water Act in 1996 severely limited such activities, so the firms made the wise business decision; they turned trash into a commodity. All of this is well and good, of course, but for purposes of State Assembly Bill 939 reporting, I think it is inappropriate for the Waste Board to consider 22,000 tons of large

rubble a “diversion” because the material rarely went to the landfill in the first place. The board also credits golf courses 7.6 tons per acre in diversion if they don’t bag the clippings even though they never bagged the clippings. Adding such materials skews the numbers, and makes us think we are doing better than were are.

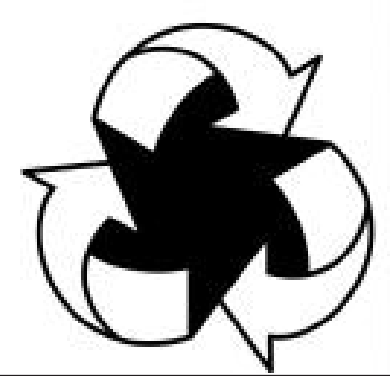
Despite the creative allowances, it is still going to be hard to get to 50%. As they say in the industry, all the low lying fruit has been picked. Now we have to climb. Even with the efforts of companies like Baldwin, C&D is still the second largest component of the waste stream. C&D falls between paper (#1) and yard waste (#3), both of which have city programs to encourage recycling. A high percentage of the C&D that shows up at the landfill comes from residential and small business construction. Like residential recycling two decades ago, the high valued items are beginning to disappear from the waste stream. Doors, windows, and fixtures—the aluminum cans of C&D—are being recycled into the rental repair trade, but plenty of valuable material is being unnecessarily entombed at Neal Road.

Much like households, space and convenience are the top priority for construction recycling. The City of Chico needs a program for low valued construction recyclables like the program offered for residents. Construction sites could get two containers, for example, one for waste and another for co-mingled recyclables: lumber, drywall, cardboard, and metal. Another option being tested in Atlanta is on- site grinding of home construction debris. Independent contractors bring portable grinding equipment to the site and reduce the wood and drywall scraps to usable mulch in a few hours. A magnetic head removes nails and the material is left in a pile to be spread later. Landscapers love it. The gypsum in the drywall loosens the

soil and the wood chips reduce erosion. As a community we also need to begin moving toward “designing for discard” when we plan structures. At minimum, we need to make it easier to deconstruct buildings, to remove the windows and doors and such. We also need to avoid toxic materials in the initial construction process. Lead and asbestos contamination keep many conscientious contractors from attempting to deconstruct buildings, forcing them to send it to a registered facility. Green building proponents argue fiberglass and PVC are the asbestos of the 21st century. We need to plan ahead.

We also need to respond to changes in the business world. The days of the company town and “the factory” are over. Current figures have 80% of small businesses failing in the first year. If that is true, then buildings are going to change occupants and requirements. Office buildings have responded with walls that can move. Retail construction should follow suit. Did anyone else find it ironic that a national home improvement outlet could not remodel its own store?

They are many things we can do to reduce waste because “waste” is a verb, not a noun. It reflects the choices that we make. I think we can make better choices, and we just might do so, if funny numbers did not mislead us.



Moving?... Don’t Just Throw It Away

When you’re packing up at the end of the school year, it’s quick and easy to throw away everything you don’t want to lug home for the summer. Before you toss it, though, consider those folks who can’t afford to buy food, bedding, cleaning supplies, toiletries, household goods and clothing. There are many agencies in Butte County that can pass on your throw-away items to people who really need them. The landfill isn’t going to appreciate these items, but someone who’s cold and hungry certainly will. It takes a little more time to separate the junk from the reusable, but it’s worth the effort. Here are some of the organizations that will make good use of your stuff.

Butte County Gleaners accepts many kinds of food. They’re



located in Chico (899-3758), Concow (533-1682), Gridley (846-4233), Oroville (533-43460, Paradise (872-0637) and Magalia (873-2868).

Catholic Ladies Relief Society in Chico (895-8331) needs food, cleaning supplies, toiletries, can openers, utensils, paper bags, paper towels & toilet paper.

Chico Community Shelter Partnership (891-9048) needs toiletries, clothing (especially socks, shoes, gloves, jeans, jackets and sweaters) and non-perishable snack food.

Chico Food Not Bombs (896-1747) needs food to prepare vegan meals for the homeless.

Clothes That Work in Chico (345-7608) and Oroville (534 48890 needs work clothing in good repair to give to people who are starting back into the work force.

Esplanade House in Chico (891-2977) needs food and small household goods such as dishes, pots & pans and brooms.

Help for People Community House in Paradise (872-4357) needs food and clothing.

Grace Lutheran Church in Gridley (846-4736) needs food

and clothing in good condition.

Jesus Center in Chico (345-2640) needs larger containers of food plus rain jackets, ponchos, gloves, socks and umbrellas.

Lighthouse Mission in Oroville (534-7729) needs food.

Oroville Rescue Mission (533-9120) needs food.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gridley (846-2140) needs food, blankets and jackets.

Seventh Day Adventist Church in Paradise (872-9548) needs food, kitchen items, clothing and bedding. In Chico, non perishable food donations can be dropped off at their church at 1877 Hooker Oak.

In addition, there are numerous thrift stores operated by charities that would appreciate your donations. Remember, though, that items you donate should be in good condition. If you give them unusable junk, they will have the additional expense of sending it to the landfill.



ELEMENTal Focus on Mercury

Highlight on Mercury...

Exposure to mercury occurs from breathing contaminated air, ingesting contaminated water and food, and having dental and medical treatments. Mercury, at high levels, may damage the brain, kidneys, and developing fetus. This chemical has been found in at least 714 of 1,467 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency.

What is mercury?

Mercury is a naturally occurring metal which has several forms. The metallic mercury is a shiny, silver-white, odorless liquid. If heated, it is a colorless, odorless gas.

Mercury combines with other elements, such as chlorine, sulfur, or oxygen, to form inorganic mercury compounds or “salts,” which are usually white powders or crystals. Mercury also combines with carbon to make organic mercury compounds. The most common one, methylmercury, is produced mainly by small organisms in the water and soil. More mercury in the environment can increase the levels of methylmercury that these small organisms make.

Metallic mercury is used to produce chlorine gas and caustic soda and also used in thermometers, dental fillings, and batteries. Mercury salts are used in skin-lightening creams and as antiseptic creams and ointments.

What happens to mercury when it enters the environment?

- Inorganic mercury (metallic mercury and inorganic mercury compounds) enters the air from mining ore deposits, burning coal and waste, and from manufacturing plants.
- It enters the water or soil from natural deposits, disposal of wastes, and volcanic activity..
- Methylmercury may be formed in water and soil by small organisms called bacteria.
- Methylmercury builds up in the tissues of fish. Larger and older fish tend to have the highest levels of mercury.

How might I be exposed to mercury?

- Eating fish or shellfish contaminated with methylmercury.
- Breathing vapors in air from spills, incinerators, and industries that burn mercury-containing fuels.
- Release of mercury from dental work and medical treatments.
- Breathing contaminated workplace air or skin contact during use in the workplace (dental, health services, chemical, and other industries that use mercury).
- Practicing rituals that include mercury.

How can mercury affect my health?

The nervous system is very sensitive to all forms of mercury. Methylmercury and metal vapors are more harmful than other forms, because more mercury in these forms reaches the brain. Exposure to high levels of metallic, inorganic, or organic mercury can permanently damage the brain, kidneys, and developing fetus. Effects on brain functioning may result in irritability, shyness, tremors, changes in vision or hearing, and memory problems.

Short-term exposure to high levels of metallic mercury vapors may cause effects including lung damage, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, increases in blood pressure or heart rate, skin rashes, and eye irritation.

How can mercury affect children?

Very young children are more sensitive to mercury than adults. Mercury in the mother’s body passes to the fetus and can pass to a nursing infant through breast milk. However, the benefits of breast feeding may be greater than the possible adverse effects of mercury in breast milk.

Mercury’s harmful effects that may be passed from the mother to the developing fetus include brain damage, mental retardation, and incoordination, blindness, seizures, and an inability to speak. Children poisoned by mercury may develop problems of their nervous and digestive systems and kidney damage.

How can families reduce the risk of exposure to mercury?

Carefully handle and dispose of products that contain mercury, such as thermometers or fluorescent light bulbs. Do not vacuum up spilled mercury, because it will vaporize and increase exposure. If a large amount of mercury has been spilled, contact your health department. Teach children not to play with shiny, silver liquids.

Properly dispose of older medicines that contain mercury. Keep all mercury-containing medicines away from children.

Pregnant women and children should keep away from rooms where liquid mercury has been used.

Learn about wildlife and fish advisories in your area from your public health or natural resources department. (See WaterNews article on this page.)

Has the federal government made recommendations to protect human health?

The EPA has set a limit of 2 parts of mercury per billion parts of drinking water (2 ppb).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has set a maximum permissible level of 1 part of methylmercury in a million parts of seafood (1 ppm).

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set limits of 0.1 milligram of organic mercury per cubic meter of workplace air (0.1 mg/m³) and 0.05 mg/m³ of metallic mercury vapor for 8-hour shifts and 40-hour work weeks.

Where can I get more information on Mercury?

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) can tell you where to find occupational and environmental health clinics. Specialists in these clinics can recognize, evaluate, and treat illnesses resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. You can also contact your community or state health or environmental quality department if you have any more questions or concerns. Source of Information : Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1999. Toxicological profile for mercury. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. For more info, contact: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Division of Toxicology 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop E-29 Atlanta, GA 30333 Phone: 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737 FAX: 404-639-6359 Web: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/> Email: ATSDRIC@cdc.gov

For more links on mercury, visit:

<http://www.syrcl.org/issues/mercury1.html>
<http://water.wr.usgs.gov/mercury/fs06100.html>

WaterNews for January 12, 2001

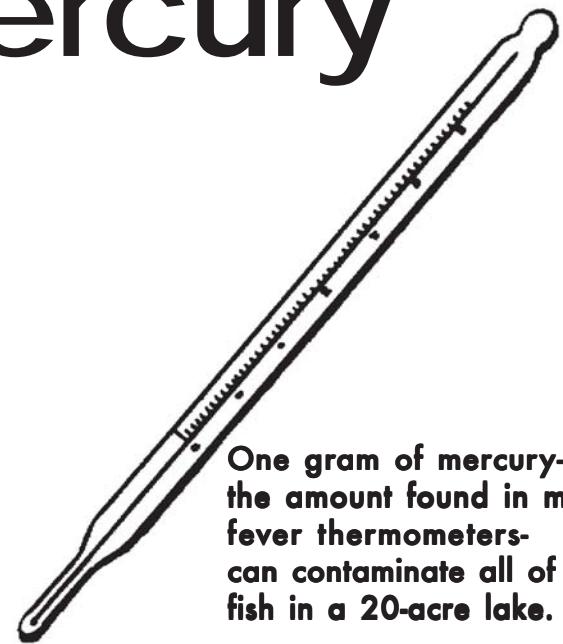
WaterNews is a weekly on-line publication that announces publications, policies, and activities of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Water. Inside this week’s WaterNews from January 12, 2001:

FDA and EPA Issue Advisories on Fish

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued advice to pregnant women and others on the hazards of consuming commercially available fish that may be contaminated with mercury. EPA, in conjunction with the FDA’s announcement, issued advice concerning fish from non-commercial sources - freshwater fish both caught and directly eaten by subsistence and recreational fishers. EPA is recommending that women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children, limit consumption of such fish to one meal per week (six ounces of cooked fish per adult; two ounces of cooked fish per child).

Additional information on FDA’s advisory is available at <http://www.fda.gov> on the Internet.

Additional information on EPA’s advisory as well as a listing of state and local contacts on fish safety is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ost/fish> on the Internet.



One gram of mercury- the amount found in most fever thermometers- can contaminate all of the fish in a 20-acre lake.

The Menace of Mercury Thermometers

What do the cities Ann Arbor, Michigan; Duluth, Minnesota; and San Francisco, California, have in common?

The three cities recently banned the sale of mercury thermometers for health and environmental reasons. Exposure to mercury in the air and water can cause paralysis and insomnia, and delay development in small children. It also contributes to pollution. One gram of mercury- the amount found in most fever thermometers- can contaminate all of the fish in a 20-acre lake.

Does one broken fever thermometer pose a serious health threat? Not if the spill is cleaned up properly, reports Health Care Without Harm, an organization dedicated to eliminating pollution in health care practices. To clean up spilled mercury on a hard surface, wear gloves and use stiff paper to push the beads together. Or, collect the beads with an eye dropper, place them in a widemouthed jar, and seal tight. For a carpet spill, the contaminated section should be cut out and removed. Don’t vacuum because the heat will evaporate the mercury.

And don’t toss any mercury in the garbage. Garbage is either landfilled or incinerated, and the mercury will eventually make its way back into the environment. Take the thermometer to a household hazardous-waste collection site. Or better yet, remove your thermometer while it’s still in one piece and replace it with a digital model.

The City of Chico Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF)- A/C Industrial Services takes mercury thermometers. They are located at 1101 Marauder St. Chico 95973 Phone: (530) 343-5488 Open Fridays & Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Other products containing mercury must be disposed of at a hazardous waste facility. These products include:

- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Mercury vapor lamps
- Metal halide lamps
- High pressure sodium lamps
- Neon lamps
- Mercury switches
- Thermostats and thermostat probes
- Thermometers
- Blood pressure gauges
- Mamometers
- Dental amalgam
- Laboratory solutions
- Alkaline batteries made before 1993



Items That Can be Recycled or Donated for Reuse

This information is some of the data gathered by Butte Environmental Council for the Butte County Public Works Department’s *Butte County Recycling & Reuse Directory* to be published later this year. The *Directory* will contain detailed information about recycling centers, thrift stores and used merchandise stores, including locations, days and hours of operation and items accepted. If you would like to receive a copy of the *Directory* when it’s available, 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 & sell used merchandise. Call for more information about items these businesses will accept. Please do not drop off items without approval.

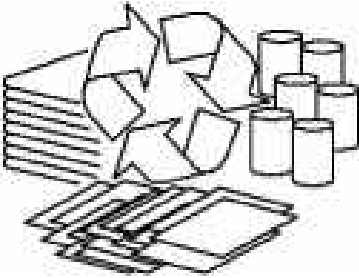
- Aerosol Cans**
See **Household Hazardous Waste Facilities (HHWF)**
- Aluminum Cans-CRV**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Aluminum Foil & Pie Pans**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Antifreeze**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Appliances, Major**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
Refrigerators, freezers & air conditioners 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 HHWF or Neal Rd. Landfill for more information.
- Aseptic Containers**
Can’t recycle locally
- 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 in Oroville 538-7820
STARS bike donation program in Chico 891-2704
Some thrift stores accept donations of bicycles in good condition.
- Bi-Metal Cans**
See Recycling Chart-page 18

- Books**
Butte County Library Adult Reading Program (donations) 538-7198
Butte County Library-Biggs Branch (donations) 868-5724
Butte County Library-Durham Branch (donations) 879-3835
Butte County Library-Gridley Branch (donations) 846-3323
Butte County Library-Oroville Branch (donations) 538-7641
Butte County Library-Paradise Branch (donations) 872-6320
Chico Shred (recycle hardcover) 893-1062
North Valley Services (recycle) 865-5631
Most thrift stores 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 of Chico 895-1271
- Calendars**
See **Educational & Craft Materials**
- Carpet**
Can’t recycle locally
- 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 Chart-page 18
- Clothing**
Many thrift stores will accept donations of clothing in resalable condition
- Computer Disks & Laser CDs**
See www.greendisk.com
- Computers**
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**
Can’t recycle locally
- Drywall (Sheetrock)**
Can’t recycle locally
- Educational & Craft Materials**
ARC of Butte County 891-5865
Chico Christian Center 342-4276 (greeting cards & calendars only)
Many youth groups, preschools and elementary school also accept these items.
- Eyeglasses**
Lenscrafters 345-0225
- Fire Extinguishers**
To recycle, take to HHWF
To recharge, FireMaster 893-0110
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs & Ballasts**
See Recycling Chart-page 18

- Food**
There are numerous food banks and soup kitchens that accept donations of fresh, canned and packaged food items. Home-made or home-canned items are not accepted. See page 14 for a list.
- 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 HHWF
- 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 Chart-page 18
- Glass Containers-Non-CRV**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Glass-Other**
Light bulbs, mirrors, windows, Pyrex, ceramics and drinking glasses should be 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 House hold 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 HHWF
- Kitchen Scraps**
Turn kitchen scraps into compost with a worm composter from Green Fire 895-8301
- Magazines**
See Recycling Chart
Libraries, nursing homes, doctors’ & 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 HHWF
- Metal, Scrap**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Milk Cartons, Wax-Coated**
Can’t recycle locally
- Motor Oil Filters**
Butte County Public Works 538-7681
Chico Drain Oil Service 345-9043
Also see HHWF and www.teamrecycle.com

- Motor Oil**
See www.teamrecycle.com
Also see Recycling Chart-page 18
- Music- Records, Tapes & CDs**
Thrift stores will accept these items if in salable condition. There are also some stores who specialize in buying and reselling used records, tapes and CDs, so call around.
- Newspaper**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Nursery Containers**
Most nurseries will accept used containers.
- Paint**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Pallets**
Chico Pallet Recycling 570-3807
- Paper-Office**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Pesticides**
Take to HHWF
- Phone Books**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Photo Chemicals**
Take to HHWF
- Plastic Bags**
Most Holiday Markets, Albertson’s, Raley’s & Safeway stores have plastic bag recycling bins.
- Plastic Film**
Can’t recycle locally
- Plastic-6-Pack Rings**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Plastic Containers-CRV**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Plastic Containers—non-CRV**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Plastic-Tyvek**
Call (800) 448-9835 or see www.dupont.com/tyvek/envelopes/
- Propane Cylinders**
For 1 lb size, take to HHWF, for larger sizes, take to scrap metal dealers (remove valve)
- Sinks, Toilets, Bathtubs (Porcelain)**
Baldwin Contracting Co., Inc. 891-6555
- Solvents**
Take to HHWF
- Sporting Goods**
Play It Again Sports 345-7427
Most thrift stores accept donations of sporting goods.
- Styrofoam-Formed**
Can’t recycle locally
- Styrofoam ‘Peanuts’ Packaging**
See **Bubble Wrap & Peanuts**
- Textiles & Rags**
Any good ideas?
- Tin Cans**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
- Tires**
See Recycling Chart-page 18
Most tire dealers will recycle used tires for a fee. Call for sizes & fees.

Continued on Page 17



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 of Chico 895-1271
Gates Resale 342-2309

Transmission Fluid

Take to HHWF

Wood-Unpainted

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

X-Ray Films

Chico Shred 893-0333

Yard Wastes

Crowder Enterprises 345-1136
Neal Rd. 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*



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Scott Hodgkinson/Owner

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Open 9 AM to 1 PM, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
For more information call:
A/C Industrial Services Corporation
1111 Nevada Street, Chico, CA 95928
JACU0007

...It's What We Do!



What Can and Can't Be Recycled Here?

Items that are generally never recyclable

- Glass such as mirrors, windows, Pyrex, drinking glasses, light bulbs
- Painted lumber
- Palm trees and palm fronds

Items that can be recycled in some places, but not in Butte County

- Aseptic packaging (juice boxes, soy/rice milk containers)
- Carpet
- Milk cartons-wax coated
- Plastic film (heavy plastic used to cover merchandise)
- Sheetrock

Styrofoam-formed into blocks

Items that are difficult to recycle

- Appliances (non-working small)
- Building materials
- Couches
- Mattresses
- Electronics (non-working) such as stereos, TVs, vacuum cleaners, VCRs
- PC monitors-monochrome

Items that must be taken to a hazardous waste facility or require special handling

- Aerosol cans
- Appliances containing freon (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners)
- Asbestos
- Automotive fluids (antifreeze, hydraulic & transmission fluids)
- Fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts
- Fuel (gasoline, diesel)
- Mercury-containing products
- Motor oil filters
- Mothballs
- Pesticides
- Photo chemicals
- Pool chemicals
- Propane cylinders (non-refillable, one pound size)
- Solvents

Who Owns What?

If you're confused about what company is really picking up your trash, you're not alone. Here's the rundown:

Waste Management

Bought:

- North Valley Disposal & Recycling (now called North Valley Waste Management)
- Paradise Solid Waste Systems(now called Paradise Waste Management)
- Tri-County Disposal (now called Waste Management)

Also Operates:

- Chico Transfer & Recycling Center
- Curbside Yard Waste Program for Chico
- Gridley Household Hazardous Waste Recycling
- Neal Road Landfill
- North Valley Organic Recycling
- Ord Ranch Transfer Station
- Recycle Paradise
- Town of Paradise Vegetative Waste Collection Program

NorCal Waste Systems of Butte County

Bought:

- Butte County Disposal (now called NorCal Waste Systems)
- Oroville Solid Waste Disposal (now called NorCal Waste Systems)

Also Operates:

- NorCal Waste Systems Oroville Hazardous Waste Collection Site
- City of Oroville Curbside Yard Waste Recycling Program
- NorCal Waste Systems Oroville Recycling Center

City of Chico- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

The City of Chico, in cooperation with A/C Industrial Services, has established a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF) where residents and small businesses within the Chico Urban Area can conveniently recycle and dispose of their hazardous waste.

The HHWCF is located at the Chico Municipal Airport at 1101 Marauder Street, behind A/C Industrial Services offices and is open Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no charge at the facility for City of Chico residents since they pay a monthly fee on their water bill to use the facility.

Unincorporated county residents in the Chico Urban Area may also use the HHWCF by purchasing an annual \$20 user's pass, which provides unlimited use of the facility for a year from the date of purchase. The annual passes can be purchased at the HHWCF or from the City of Chico Finance Department at 411 Main Street.

Hazardous waste from small businesses will also be accepted by appointment only and will be charged a fee based on costs of handling, processing and disposing of the hazardous waste. To make an appointment, businesses can call A/C Industrial Services at 343-5488.

What is Hazardous Waste?

Paints, cleaners, used motor oil or any products that say "Danger", "Poison", "Warning", or "Caution" on the label are harmful and must not be thrown into the trash, poured down the drain, or dumped into the gutter.

Examples of Household and Small Business Hazardous Waste Accepted at the HHWCF

- Household cleaners: Bleach and liquid cleaners: Upholstery and rug cleaners: Oven cleaner: Furniture polish: Tub and tile cleaners: Drain cleaners
- Automotive care products: Used motor oil and filters: Used car batteries: Brake and transmission fluids: Antifreeze: Gasoline
- Paint and paint-related products: Oil-based paint: Latex paint: Wood stain: Paint and varnish remover: Paint thinner
- Garden care and pest control products: Pesticides: Herbicides: Rodent bait: Ant and roach spray: Pool chemicals: Small propane gas cylinders
- Miscellaneous: Household batteries: Fluorescent lights: Epoxies and adhesives: Aerosol cans: Lighter fluid: Mothballs

The Following Wastes are Unacceptable:

- Wastes contaminated with PCBs
- Radioactive wastes
- Infectious medical wastes
- Explosives

Hazardous Waste Transportation Tips

When taking your hazardous waste to the HHWCF, please follow these safety tips:

- Do not transport more than 5 gallons or 50 lbs. Of material at one time. State law prohibits transportation of larger amounts without a special license.
- Keep products in their original container. If the original container is not available, make sure to label the container with its contents.
- Do not mix products.
- Make sure lids are tightly sealed.
- If a container is leaking or dirty, wrap it in plastic or place it into a larger container with absorbent material, such as newspaper or "kitty litter".
- Transport your material in the trunk or rear of your vehicle.
- Do not leave hazardous materials sitting in the sun or stored overnight inside your car.

City of Chico Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF)

A/C Industrial Services

1101 Marauder St., Chico, CA 95973, Tel (530) 343-5488

Open Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

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(530) 893-3817

P.O. Box 7617, Chico, CA 95927-7617

LornaLou@aol.com



The Environmental Calendar

Thursday

March 8

Butte Environmental Council's 2001 Environmental Banquet is a fundraising event for the Endangered Species Faire and will be held from 6 to 9:30 at the Masonic Center, 1110 W. East Avenue in Chico. The evening will include a silent auction, a delicious catered buffet dinner by Guzzetti Catering and award presentations by local groups. The highlight of the banquet will be a presentation by Frances Spivy-Weber who has been the Executive Director for policy of the Mono Lake Committee since 1997. \$20 per person. *Butte Environmental Council*

BEC Environmental Banquet I'm coordinating seating for anyone who wishes to sit with other Yahi group members at the BEC Dinner. Join us in support of BEC and our Yahi award winners. Call Betty 345-7205 if you'd like a space saved for you. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Fri-Sat

March 9-10

Environment and Law Seminar- The Environmental Advocates and the Political Science Department will be hosting an Environment and Law Seminar on Friday, March 9 from 4pm-10 pm and Saturday, March 10 from 8 am-5 pm. The general theme is "Land Use". The event will take place in Ayers Hall- Rm 106. *Environmental Advocates, Community Legal Information Center*

Saturday

March 10

Cross-Country Ski Backpacking Tour This is for people who own ski equipment. We'll go where the snow is good. Bring skis, boots, poles, appropriate clothing, lunch, water and \$ for drivers. Call leader for time and meeting place. Leader: Larry, 342-7998. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

"Owl Prowl Night Walk" 6:30pm-8pm Don't miss out on our most popular weekend event-the Owl Prowl! Scott Torricelli, will lead participants through lower Bidwell Park in search of owls. This unique program will get you up close and personal with owls, and expose you to their natural habitat, physical adaptations, and nighttime activities. This free event will depart from the Chico Creek Nature Center at 6:30pm. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Space is limited to 35 people. Rain cancels this event. Please call 891-4671 to pre-register. *Chico Creek Nature Center*

Monday

March 12

Creation of Upper Bidwell Park Advisory Group This meeting will be held at 5:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the downtown City of Chico Council building. Anyone interested and concerned about the trails in Upper Bidwell Park are urged to attend. This will be an organizational meeting to discuss creation of an advisory group to the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission. The purpose is to involve individuals and groups who want to support the long-term improvement and planning for trails in Bidwell Park in accordance with the Trails Manual. Comments or questions should be directed to the Chico Park Department (895-4972 *City of Chico Parks Department*

Mon-Fri

March 12-16

Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE) Volunteer for Camp Spend an



adventurous week outdoors helping 5th and 6th grade students learn about their natural environment. For other dates to participate in this activity, see Volunteer! on pg. 8. Interested volunteers should contact the CAVE office at 898-5817. Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE) is an Associated Students CSU, Chico organization that matches people who want to volunteer with organizations that need help. All community members can use the Volunteer Connection Program to identify available volunteer opportunities. Community non-profit social service agencies are welcome to utilize the Volunteer Connection Program to recruit volunteers for their specific needs. *CAVE*

Friday

March 16

The 10th Annual Northern & Central California Peace Conference Kick-Off "Peace Activism in the 21st Century", includes Open-Mike and Jazz Concert Conference Kick-off. It will be held at Moxie's Café, 128 Broadway, Chico at 6 pm. For more information contact Amaera BayLaurel Ceccone at 893-9078, *Chico Peace & Justice Center*

Saturday

March 17

Dye Creek Hike Hike up Dye Creek about 2 1/2 miles to Campo Seco Indian Cave and marvelous view of canyon. Lots of spring flowers. Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwys 32 and 99) at 8 AM or at the Nature Conservancy headquarters at Dye Creek Ranch at 9 AM. Bring lunch and water and wear good hiking shoes. Leaders: Joe Short 527-0494 or Wes Dempsey 342-2293 *California Native Plant Society*

Sat-Sun

March 17-18

The 10th Annual Northern & Central California Peace Conference will be held at Selvester's Café, California State University, Chico at 9 am both days. Speakers will include San Francisco's International Action Center, Gloria La Riva and Nader 2000, California State Director, Ross Mirkarimi. Other speakers include Ahmed el-Sherif on the Middle East Peace Efforts, Chico City Councilperson and former Chico Peace & Justice Center Coordinator, Coleen Jarvis and many more! The Chico Peace & Justice Center is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and social, economic and environmental justice through education, advocacy and community building. For more information contact Amaera BayLaurel Ceccone at 893-9078, *Chico Peace & Justice Center*

Sunday

March 18

Centerville Flume Hike (grade 2, class A).

Meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 11:30 in the morning. We will then carpool to the trailhead which is about 4 miles from the park and ride. This is an easy flat hike with scenic views. Bring good walking shoes, plenty of water, lunch, and a smile. The distance of the hike will depend on the decisions of the group that day, but I would estimate it to be 7-10 miles total. Rain cancels. Please call so that I have an idea of how many will be going. Leader: Roylene 894-5353; assistant leader: Teresa, 899-7331. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Saturday

March 24

Dye Creek Preserve Hike (grade 2, class B)(members only) Enjoy a moderately strenuous day hike into the spectacular Dye Creek Preserve Canyon managed by the Nature Conservancy. Dye Creek is a large acreage foothill terrain featuring a variety of wildlife, precipitous cliffs, a Native American village site, cave and Dye Creek itself. Bring boots, lunch and water. Rain does not cancel. Approximate return time: 5-6 P.M. Costs: \$2 per person and \$ for carpool. (Approx. 80 miles round trip). Meet at 8:15 A.M. at the Chico Park and Ride. Leader: Alan, 872-0419; assistant leader: Dave. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Cross-Country Ski Backpacking Tour This is for people who own ski equipment. We'll go where the snow is good. Bring skis, boots, poles, appropriate clothing, lunch, water and \$ for drivers. Call leader for time and meeting place. Leader: Larry, 342-7998. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Dye Creek Hike Hike up Dye Creek about 2 1/2 miles to Campo Seco Indian Cave and marvelous view of canyon. Lots of spring flowers. Meet at the Nature Conservancy headquarters at Dye Creek Ranch at 9 AM. Bring lunch and water and wear good hiking shoes. Leaders: Joe Short 527-0494 or Wes Dempsey 342-2293 *California Native Plant Society*

"Aquatic Investigations for Kids" 11:30am-1pm Explore the outdoors and Big Chico Creek with naturalist, Theresa Brandt. This outdoor program will present the water cycle and riparian habitat of Bidwell Park through hands-on observation and discussion. This program is geared for children ages 5 to 12. This free event will meet at the Chico Creek Nature Center. Space is limited to 15 children. Pre-registration is required by calling 891-4671. *Chico Creek Nature Center*

Wednesday

March 28

Conservation Easements as Applied to Farmland: The California Experience to Date- Al Sokolow of UC Davis 7:00 pm at the Chico City Council Chambers. Thirty six local and regional conservation organizations (32 land trusts, 4 open space districts) in California have programs that seek to acquire easements on farmland for the express purpose of preserving agriculture. What have been their accomplishments and experiences to date, especially in the Central Valley? Based on interviews and other information gathering with managers of all 36 organizations and using a series of charts and maps, we look at the (1) statewide pattern of agricultural easement activity; (2) other conservation programs, (3) the relationship of farmland protection to environmental protection objectives; (4) land trust organization, origins, and evolution; (5) funding; (6) the connections between easement activity and county and city planning. This research has been supported by the Great Valley Center and the California Department of Conservation. For more information call the Northern

California Regional Land Trust at 894-7738 *Northern California Regional Land Trust*

The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance monthly meeting 7- 9 pm in the Chico City Council Building, conference Rm #1. For more information contact Suzanne Gibbs at 342-3429 *Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance*

Saturday

March 31

Sutter Buttes Day Hike (grade 1, class A). Hike the smallest mountain range in the world right in our own back yard! Spring is a lovely season to discover the inside charm of the Sutter Buttes. The hike will be an easy 5 miles with plenty of time to relax and enjoy the scenery. Our guide will give us interesting information about the Buttes and their history. Entrance fee is \$25 to be paid by March 17. Limited to 20 people. Meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 8 A.M. to carpool; those coming from the Sacramento area may meet us in Gridley. A round trip drive of about 100 miles with a return time of around 4 P.M. Call leader to reserve a space and get more information. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549; assistant leaders: Carol, 343-9241, Teresa, 899-7331. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Dye Creek Hike Hike up Dye Creek about 2 1/2 miles to Campo Seco Indian Cave and marvelous view of canyon. Lots of spring flowers. Meet at the Nature Conservancy headquarters at Dye Creek Ranch at 9 AM. Bring lunch and water and wear good hiking shoes. Leaders: Joe Short 527-0494 or Wes Dempsey 342-2293 *California Native Plant Society*

Saturday

April 7

Table Mountain Hike. (grade 1, class A). Join us atop wildflower-covered Table Mountain. One group will picnic and fly kites and a second group will hike. Bring your favorite kite, lunch and drinks. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 9 A.M. to carpool. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Bidwell Park Trail Maintenance Day Help maintain trails in Upper Bidwell Park from 8:00 am till noon. People of all ages are welcome to participate. It's a good way to



learn more about the park trails and what's being done to maintain and improve them. Volunteers should meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot located on the eastside of Horseshoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the City. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Dept. (895-4758) or via email at shogue@ci.chico.ca.us *City of Chico Parks Department*

Sat & Sun

April 7 & 8

Free Composting Workshops The A.S. Chico Recycling Program and the City of



The Environmental Calendar

Chico are offering free composting workshops for students, residents and business owners. Composting allows people to turn old yard and food waste into a healthy fertilizer/food compound to spread on their surrounding plants. This is also beneficial to the environment because it lowers the amount of waste that is put into city landfills. Participants will be instructed how to set up their own 8 x 10-inch compost bins that will become a home for about 1000 worms. They will also learn what kinds of materials they can and can't be put in with the worms. It's a great way to recycle, help the environment and meet interesting people like yourself. All beginner workshops are on the weekends of April 7th, 8th, 21st, 22nd, May 5th, and 6th from 9:30-10:30 AM at the Compost Display Area behind the CSU, Chico tennis courts along the RR tracks. An advanced session is being offered on Saturday, May 12 from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. For further information contact A.S. Recycling at (530) 898-5033 or Email us at asrecycle@csuchico.edu or contact Barbara Kupicki : (530) 898-5033 A.S. *Recycling*

Sunday April 8

Feather Falls Hike (grade 2, class B). A moderately strenuous hike to the majestic (640 foot high) Feather Falls. If you've never hiked this trail, you're in for a real treat. We'll choose a nice picnic spot for lunch, overlooking the falls and canyon or by the pretty Fall River. Wear sturdy boots and bring your favorite lunch and lots of water. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 8 A.M. to carpool. Leader: John, 892-1262. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Saturday April 14

Centerville Flume Hike. (grade 2, class A). We will meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 11:30 in the morning. We will then carpool to the trailhead which is about 4 miles from the park and ride. This is an easy flat hike with scenic views. Bring good walking shoes, plenty of water, lunch, and a smile. The distance of the hike will depend on the decisions of the group that day, but I would estimate it to be 7-10 miles total. Rain cancels. Please call so that I have an idea of how many will be going. Leader: Roylene 894-5353. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Paskenta Mt and Cross Bike Ride. (grade 5, class B) The bike ride is about 25 miles of rolling terrain (50% paved, 50% gravel roads). Lots of beautiful springtime scenery. Bring your properly maintained bike, helmet, tube, pump, lunch, lots of water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers (75-mile round trip drive). Meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 9 A.M. Leader: Larry, 342-7998. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Seniors' Walk on Otterson Drive (grade 1, class A). See what it is all about or even drive part of the area. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 1 P.M. Leader: Joanne, 893-2154. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Saturday April 21

Wildflowers/Wetlands Tour of Bidwell Ranch. Docent led wetland and wildflowers tour on the "ranch" will last approximately 1.5 hours. Meeting place is the east end of the parking lot at Wildwood Park (the ball fields) at the entrance to Upper park at 11 A.M. Wear rubber boots or old shoes as the ground is usually wet. This is a joint venture with the Butte Environmental Council in support of the Stop Bidwell Ranch Effort. For questions call Betty 345-7205. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Sat & Sun April 21 & 22

Free Compost Workshops (See info under April 7th and 8th for times and place) For further information contact A.S. Recycling at (530) 898-5033 or Email us at asrecycle@csuchico.edu or contact Barbara Kupicki : (530) 898-5033 A. S. *Recycling*

Sat-Mon April 21-23

Monterey Weekend Getaway (grade 2, class A). We will visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium and have our very own docent to show us around the whole thing. There will be plenty of food and a fish tank food contest. Our stay will be at the new Westwood Inn.



Hostel. We will leave Saturday morning and return Monday evening. Your cost: \$75.00 for Sierra Club members and \$90.00 for non-members. Additional costs: gas for drivers (600 miles round trip) and entrance fee to Aquarium. Your \$40.00 deposit by March 15 reserves your spot. Limited to 8. Leader: Goodie 894-3988; assistant leader: Annette 872-3557. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Wednesday April 25

The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance monthly meeting 7- 9 pm in the Chico City Council Building, conference Rm #1. For more information contact Suzanne Gibbs at 342-3429 *Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance*

Saturday April 28

Hike Bidwell Park's south side. (grade 2, class A) Let's explore the newest addition to Bidwell Park. Along the way we will see an old homestead, a cabin, a pond and great views of Upper Park. Bring lunch, water and hiking boots. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 9 A.M. Leader: John, 892-1262; assistant leader: Carol, 343-9241. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Feather Falls Hike (grade 2, class B). A moderately strenuous hike of 7-9 miles to the majestic (640 foot high) Feather Falls. We'll divide into two groups. If you want a nice meandering hike, one group will hike to the viewing platform, the other group will continue for a more vigorous exploration above the falls. Wear sturdy boots and bring your favorite lunch and lots of water. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Chico Park and Ride at 8 A.M. to carpool. Leader: Jeanne, 345-2549, assistant leader: Jan, 894-0438 *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Sunday April 29

The Wildflower is the anchor of the Chico Velo Century Series. It was first offered as an organized event in 1981. Today the ride has a bunch more choices. There is the Mildflower 65, an option that leaves off the Table Mtn. loop and the Flatflowers (35 or 65 miles) which boasts absolutely no hills. The Wildflower has grown steadily over the years to 3,000 participants. 2,250 ride the hills (Mildflower 65 and Wildflower 100), 750 ride the Flatflowers and 100 young cyclists ride the Childflower 15 on the bike path to Durham. The rides satisfy the three biggest

century rider's desires, the challenge, the scenery and the food. Pre-registration is necessary. You can download it at Chico Velo's website <http://www.chicovelo.com/wildflowernew.html> You can also get the packet mailed to you by emailing us at EdMcL@chicovelo.com , by phoning us at (530) 343-8356 or FAXING us at (530) 342-4646. *Chico Velo*

Saturday May 5

22nd Annual Endangered Species Faire The Butte Environmental Council's 22nd Annual Endangered Species Faire- "Wild Woodlands" theme in Cedar Grove, Bidwell Park from 10 am to 4 pm. Featuring delicious food, local arts and crafts, numerous fun and educational exhibits, along with musical and theatrical entertainment. Come see the live animal friends of Wild Things! It's free- so come join in the fun! For more information call BEC at 891-6424 *Butte Environmental Council*

Downtown Chico Historic Tour (grade 1, class A) Learn more about the history of downtown Chico and hear the story behind many of the area's old buildings and structures. Our leader will be Dave Nopel. Meet at 9 A.M. at the Children's Playground area near 1st and Esplanade. Leader: Alan, 872-0419; assistant leader: Greg, 342-3191. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Bidwell Park Trail Maintenance Day Help maintain trails in Upper Bidwell Park from 8:00 am till noon. People of all ages are welcome to participate. It's a good way to learn more about the park trails and what's being done to maintain and improve them. Volunteers should meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot located on the eastside of Horse-shoe Lake in Upper Bidwell Park. Gloves, tools, training and beverages are provided by the City. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information contact Steve Hogue at the Parks Dept. (895-4758) or via email at shogue@ci.chico.ca.us *City of Chico Parks Department*

Sat & Sun May 5 & 6

Free Compost Workshops (See info under April 7th and 8th for times and place) For further information contact A.S. Recycling at (530) 898-5033 or Email us at asrecycle@csuchico.edu or contact Barbara Kupicki : (530) 898-5033 A.S. *Recycling*

Saturday May 12

Durham Bike Ride. This is an easy, flat ride from Chico to Durham. We will meet at the Pat and Larry's parking lot in down town Chico. The trailhead begins there. We will then ride from Chico to Durham on the bike trail, and a backcountry road. Bring money for a treat at the French bakery. \$10.00 will be plenty. Be sure that your bike is in good working order, and wear layers. Please call so that I have an idea of how many will be going, and to get the meeting time. Leader: Roylene, 894-5353. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Advanced Compost Workshop Session (See info under April 7th and 8th for times and place) For further information contact A.S. Recycling at (530) 898-5033 or Email us at asrecycle@csuchico.edu or contact Barbara Kupicki : (530) 898-5033 A.S. *Recycling*

Saturday May 19

Turner Mountain Hike (grade 2, class B). Enjoy views of Lassen, Shasta, Almanor and

the Sutter Buttes as we ascend 3.5 miles and 1900 feet to the top Mt. Turner (elevation 6995 feet). Bring boots, lunch and appropriate clothing. Snow conditions may change plans, call leader in advance. Meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 9 A.M. Leader: Larry, 342-7998. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Visit Locke and Sacramento Crocker Art Museum (grade 1, class A). We will drive down the Sacramento River Road to the old Chinese community. We then will return to Sacramento to see the museum, which specializes in well-known California paintings. About a 200-mile round trip. Bring \$ for museum and carpooling and bag lunch. Call leader for more information. Leader: Joanne, 893-2154. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Wednesday May 23

The Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance monthly meeting 7- 9 pm in the Chico City Council Building, conference Rm #1. For more information contact Suzanne Gibbs at 342-3429 *Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance*

Sat-Mon May 26-28

Mill Creek Memorial Day Backpack & Trail Maintenance (grade 3, class A)(Educational). Join the Yahi Group for our annual Memorial weekend trail maintenance trip. We will hike 14-15 miles downstream starting at Upper Mill Creek (4000 ft.) to Black Rock (2000 ft.). On the way we hike through forests, enjoy wildflowers and follow along the creek. The U.S. Forest Service will provide tools and the car shuttle back to our cars. Individual commissary, bring backpacking gear and \$ for carpooling. Group size is limited, call for reservations. Approximate round trip drive of 180 miles. Return time about 6 P.M. Monday, May 28. Leader: Goodie, 894-3988; assistant leader: Annette, 872-3557. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Saturday June 2

Mountain Bike Ride to Rice Creek Falls (grade 5, class B). We'll ride by Willow Lake and Feather River Meadows with views of Mt. Lassen for a total distance of 25 miles. The falls should be full from the snow melt. Bring properly maintained bike, helmet, tube, tire patch, pump, lunch, lots of water and \$ for drivers. Meet at the Chico Park and Ride at 9 A.M. Leader: Larry, 342-7998. *Sierra Club, Yahi Group*

Monday June 4

Butte Environmental Council's Summer 2001 Environmental News to be printed and ready for distribution! Till then, we hope you have a wonderful Spring!!!



Butte County Eco-Directory

A.S. Chico Recycling Program

BMU 302 CSU, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0765
530/898-5033 fax: 530/898-4978
Web: www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle
Email: asrecycle@csuchico.edu
Barbara Kopicki

A.S. Enviromental Affairs Council

BMU 309 CSU, Chico
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530/898-5701 fax: 530/898-6014
Web: www.csuchico.edu/eac
Email: asenvironmental@csuchico.edu
Kat Polan

Altacal Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3671 Chico, CA 95927
530/891-4671
Web: www.audubon.org/chapter/ca/altacal
Email: Skip Augur wba@acm.org
Judy White (Chapter President)

American Lung Association

1108 Sheridan Suite B Chico, CA 95926
530/345-5864 fax: 530/345-6035
Web: www.lungusa.org/superiorbranch/index.html
Sara

Arboretum Management Club, CSUC

Big Chico Creek Restoration
1st & Normal Streets Chico, CA 95929-0750
530/345-4542
Web: www.csuchico.edu/amc
email: rkatz@mail.csuchico.edu
Rob Katz

Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation

P.O. Box 841 Durham, CA 95938
530/899-1700
Web: www.kirshner.org
Email: admin@kirshner.org

Bidwell Park Endowment Fund

P.O. Box 3223
Chico, CA 95927-3223
530/345-7265
Tom Barrett

Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

P.O. Box 4005 Chico, CA 95927
530/343-9004 (Ans. Srvc.)
Email: marilyn_gamette@fws.gov
Marilyn Gamette

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

602 Sycamore St. Chico, CA 95928
530/342-3429 fax: 530/342-3401
Email: bigchico@csuchico.edu
Suzanne Gibbs

Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy

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Chuck Kutz

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Butte Humane Society

2579 Fair St. Chico, CA 95928
530/343-7917 fax: 530/343-3734
Web: www.buttehumane.org
Email: shelter@buttehumane.org
Tracy Ross

California Conservation Corps

2345 Fair Street Chico, CA 95928
530/895-4336 pager: 916/592-6500
Web: www.ccc.ca.gov
Bill Reeves

California Native Plant Society

1722 J St., Suite 17 Sacramento, CA 95814
916/447-2677
Web: www.cnps.org

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

P.O. Box 1790 Graeagle, CA 96103
530/836-1115 fax: 530/836-2062
Web: www.dnai.com/~ccate/CSPAPagerev0.html
Email: cspa@psln.com
Bob Baiocchi

California Wilderness Coalition

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, CA 95616
530/758-0380 fax: 530/758-0382
Web: www.calwild.org
Email: info@calwild.org

California Wild Heritage Campaign

631 Flume Street Chico, CA 95928
530/343-9541
Web: www.californiawild.org
Email: jessica@calwild.org
Jessica Rios

Cherokee Watershed Group

7399 Hwy 99 Oroville, CA 95965
530/343-0916 fax: 530/894-7829
Email: colefarm@shocking.com
Gary Cole

Chico Cat Coalition

P.O. Box 4214 Chico, CA 95927
530/894-1365

Chico Certified Farmers Market

305 Wall St. Chico, CA 95928
530/893-3276 fax: 530/893-0680
Email: karrottalk@aol.com
Terry Givens, Market Manager

Chico Conservation Voters/

South Chico Neighborhood Association

PO Box 3582 Chico, CA 95927
David Guzzetti

Chico Creek Nature Center

1968 E. 8th St. Chico, CA 95928
530/891-4671 fax: 530/891-0837
Web: www.chico.com/naturecenter
Email: naturecenter@chico.com
Judy White, Director

Chico Flyfishers c/o The Nature Conservancy

500 Main St. Chico, CA 95928
530/897-6373 fax: 530/342-0257
Email: dzeleke@tnc.org
Dawit Zeleke

Chico Food Not Bombs

Web: <http://sunset.net/~zrogers/fnb>
Email: zrogers@sunset.net
Zeke Rogers 530/893-5772

Chico Natural Foods

818 Main St. Chico, CA 95928
530/891-1713 fax: 530/891-6066
Web: www.chiconatural.com
Scott Richman & Cheryl McCoy, Co-Managers

Chico Peace & Justice Center

526 Broadway Chico, CA 95928
530/893-9078
Web: www.becnet.org/ChicoPeace
Email: peace@shocking.com
Amaera BayLaurel, Coordinator

Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program

P.O. Box 68 Forest Ranch, CA 95942
530/895-0866
Email: rwcole@jps.net
Roger Cole

Chico Velo Cycling Club

P.O. Box 2285 Chico, CA 95927-2285
530/343-8356 fax: 530/342-4646
800/482-2453
Web: www.chicovelo.com
Email: chicovelo@aol.com
Ed McLaughlin

Community Action Volunteers in Education

(CAVE)
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Chico, CA 95929-0750
530/898-5817 fax: 530/898-6431
Web: www.csuchico.edu/cave
Email: ntimmons@csuchico.edu
Nan Timmons, Executive Director

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy

Box 307 Vina CA 96092
530/839-2358
Web: www.csuchico.edu/watershed/deercreek/
Dianne Gaumer

Environmental Action & Resource Center

CSU, Chico
418 Ivy St. Chico, CA 95929-
530/898-5676
Web: www.csuchico.edu/earc
Email: earc@csuchico.edu
Kanita Brown

Environmental Advocates

CLIC, West 2nd & Cherry, CSUC
Chico, CA 95926-
530/898-4354 fax: 530/898-4911
Web: www.csuchico.edu/clic/ea.htm
Email: clic@csuchico.edu
Jeff Furgison

Farm Sanctuary

P.O. Box 1065 Orland, CA 95963
530/865-4617 fax: 530/865-4622
Web: www.farmsanctuary.org/
Email: west@farmsanctuary.org
Diane Miller, ext 11

Friends of Butte Creek

500 Orange St. Chico CA 95928
530/879-0887 fax: 530/879-0885
Email: ahart@harpo.to
Allen Harthorn

Friends of Plumas Wilderness

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530/283-1007
Ruth Jackson

Friends of the River

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530/343-9541
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Jessica Rios

Habitat for Humanity

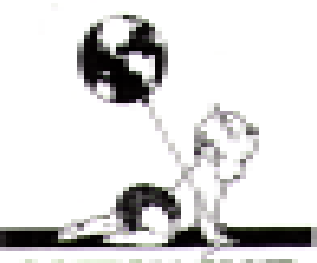
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P.O. Box 3073, Chico CA 95927
530/895-1271 fax: 530/895-0432
Web: www.habitat.org
Pam Easterly, Director

Humanity Rising

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530/899-7719
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John Omaha

Lassen Forest Preservation Group

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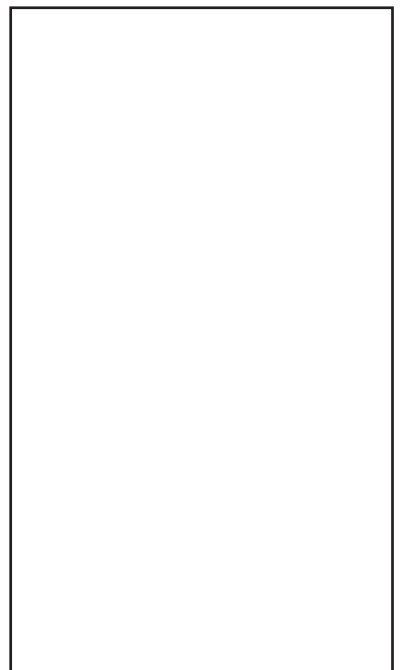
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Butte County Eco-Directory

Little Chico Creek Watershed Group
Dept. of Biological Sciences, CSU, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0515
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Jean Hubbell

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Kerry Burke

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Dr. Donald Holtgrieve

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530/345-6125
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John Merz, Chair

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Betty Volker

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Young Life Woodleaf
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Web: www.woodleaf.yl.org
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Become a BEC Member!

What does BEC do?

- **Sponsors the Endangered Species Faire**
- **Works with Ecolife staff in classroom presentations**
- **Participates in public hearings on proposed developments**
- **Sponsors cleanups of Chico creeks**
- **Helps thousands of residents with recycling and toxics questions**
- **Monitors wetland losses**

What BEC membership brings you

- A subscription to the periodic *Membergrams*.
- The right to serve on and vote for BEC's Board of Directors.
- Invitations to special BEC events and the Environmental Banquet.
- **Most importantly, the opportunity to join more than 800 local environmental activists who help support the movement to preserve and enhance our natural world.**

Sign me up for a BEC membership

- ☐ **\$20** **Low income**
- ☐ **\$35** Individual
- ☐ **\$50** Household
- ☐ **\$100** Wetlands Watch
- ☐ **\$150** Energy Elite
- ☐ **\$500** Cougar Cadre (Receives 4 tickets to the Environmental Banquet)

Become a BEC Angel

I would like to become a "BEC Angel" by pledging \$ ____ per
☐ month or ☐ quarter to BEC. Enclosed is my first payment.

Method of payment

- ☐ **Electronic Funds Transfer** now available. Call BEC at 891-6424 for details.
- ☐ **Check**, made payable to BEC.
- ☐ **Credit card** (circle one) **Visa Mastercard Amex Discover**

Credit Card No. _____ **Exp.** _____

Signature _____

Make checks payable to Butte Environmental Council. Mail this form to BEC, 116 W. Second Street., #3, Chico, CA 95928. Contributions to BEC are tax-deductible (less the cost of any premiums).

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email

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
- ☐ 22nd Annual Endangered Species Fair (Spring 2001)
 - ☐ 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

Contribute to BEC through the United Way

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.

- ☐ Please don't share my name with other groups.
- ☐ I prefer not to be thanked in the *Membergram* for my donation.

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