



BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL

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News

Draining the Tuscan

By Robin Huffman, BEC Advocacy Coordinator

Even as BEC awaits court decisions on our legal challenge of Governor Schwarzenegger's declaration of a drought that allowed the 2009 Drought Water Bank (DWB) to proceed without environmental review, the Department of Water Resources could facilitate water transfers between individual buyers and sellers in 2010, and the Federal government may pass a bill which would institutionalize water transfers.

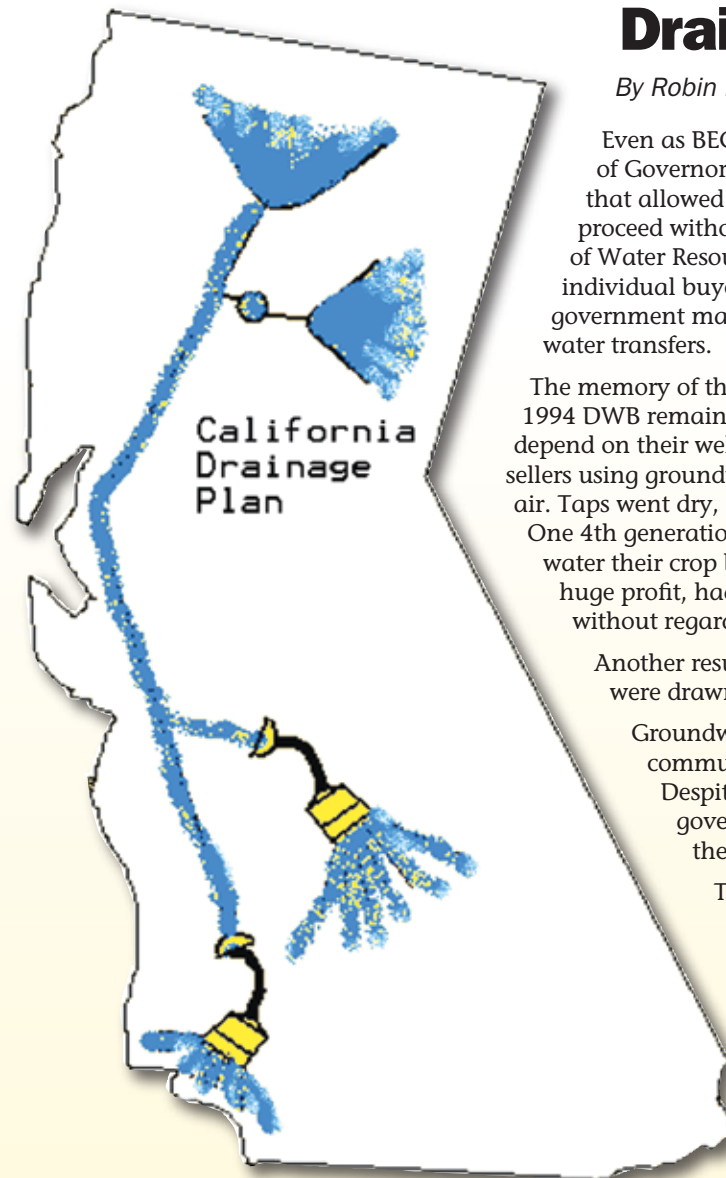
The memory of the local drop in groundwater caused by the 1994 DWB remains vivid for many residents and farmers who depend on their wells. The cone of depression from greedy water sellers using groundwater substitutions caused many wells to suck air. Taps went dry, and the municipal water in Durham failed. One 4th generation farmer lost their farm because they couldn't water their crop because the neighboring water district, for a huge profit, had taken the groundwater out from under them without regard.

Another result of the drawdown was that contaminants were drawn up in 2 of the 3 Durham municipal wells.

Groundwater substitution transfers wreak havoc on communities, both human and environmental. Despite the disruptions of the 1994 DWB, government officials still do not recognize that there is no such thing as surplus groundwater.

There is no funding in sight for the appropriate groundwater studies that will be needed to adequately consider whether or not future DWBs are a good idea.

Droughts come in two kinds: regulatory such as Governor Schwarzenegger has declared, and hydrologic, or natural. Clearly there is less water in the San Joaquin than the farmers there would like to have, and politicians are scrambling to get the farmers more water.



Senator Diane Feinstein is planning to introduce legislation to the Senate before Thanksgiving, the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009 (S.1759, HR 3750 in the House), that has the potential for unintended consequences, most notably the significant lowering of groundwater levels in the North State.

The stated intent is to permanently facilitate water transfers.

BEC, the Endangered Species Coalition and other California and national groups have come together to comment on this pending bill. Recommendations include wildlife refuge-to-refuge transfers and placing limits on transfers for agricultural use only and not for water speculation or selling on the secondary market. Additionally, groundwater substitutions should not be allowed, the United States Geological Survey should be funded to study the Tuscan aquifer, and a comprehensive environmental review to assess the potential impacts on endangered species such as the Chinook Salmon and other aquatic, riparian, and wetland dependent species in the Delta and Central Valley Watersheds is essential.

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Cartoon (above left) by Robin Huffman.

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Environmental News, a newspaper published three times a year, covers environmental news and events of Butte County and beyond. To submit articles or events for the Environmental News and Calendar, e-mail marym@becnet.org. Articles should be submitted 30 days before publication and must include the author's name, address, and phone number. BEC reserves the right to edit work for space, clarity or libel. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of BEC.

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About BEC

The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation. Founded in 1975, BEC protects the land, air, and water of Butte County through advocacy, environmental education, and information and referral services.

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How to Join BEC

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

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and many more...
Thank You!!



FROM THE BOARD ◀

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Your BEC Board of Directors has a lot of good news to report since the last Environmental News issue.

The Board has faced transitional changes and challenges on personnel developments with a united approach. We have won some significant environmental victories and had a very successful 34th BEC Birthday Bash. And, we are making major changes in our office environment.

First, we now have an Administrative Director half time position being ably filled by Nikki Schlaishunt who was hired October 1st. Nikki brings a long association with BEC to the position, including a student internship and previous employment as an administrative aide and organizational consultant. Her job qualifications include a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Her duties include oversight of all administrative day to day requirements of the organization.

On the Advocacy front we are facing a variety of environmental issues in our area that demand our attention in protecting water, air quality, and input to city and county general plans. We are continuing to work with local experts Jim Brobeck and Carol Perkins on land and water issues. Board member Robin Huffman is coordinating BEC advocacy efforts until such time as we employ an advocacy director.

Several board members are directly involved in advocacy efforts. Pamela Posey is monitoring salmon runs. John Scott is continuing efforts to stop exportation of ground water and questioning the implementation of a Crystal Geyser water bottling plant in Orland. Lynn Barris continues to track BEC's involvement in state and federal water legislation and litigation.

In a most significant victory, BEC combined with the Dry Creek Coalition of home owners near the New Era Mine in winning a suit that charged the current mine operation with violating the California Environmental Quality Act. Judge Stephen E. Benson ruled in favor of every challenge by BEC and Dry Creek Coalition home owners and ordered the mine shut down.

On another CEQA matter BEC attorneys report that a demurrer hearing went very well in a landmark case to make the State of California, Department of Water Resources adhere to the California Environmental Quality Act. The judge has up to 90 days to rule on the demurrer hearing held Sept. 29th.

A very successful BEC 34th Birthday Bash was held October 23 at the Chico grange. Attendees enjoyed great foods catered by David Guzzetti, outstanding music by MaMuse and Luke and the Delivery Boys, and a very successful silent auction. Long time environmental activist Kelly Meagher, who was the originator of the Endangered Species Faire, footed the bill for the evening so all proceeds went to funding BEC activities, specifically the upcoming Endangered Species Fair to be held May 1, 2010. Professor Mark Stemen and student interns from Chico State organized the event and handled all the arrangements including the silent auction. Nikki Robb coordinated the Bash. There was a big turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening's activities which included a short membership meeting led by Lynn Barris.

Annual awards were given out at the Bash. Carol Perkins won the Colleen Jarvis Environmentalist of the Year. Board member Heather Schlaff was given the volunteer award for her leadership in opposing the Wal-Mart expansion in Chico. Tony St. Amant was commended for his leadership in having a Water Element put into the Butte County General Plan.

Finally, under the leadership of Board Member Armeda Ferrini, a major reorganization of BEC offices has been undertaken. New furniture, painting, plumbing and other changes to the office including a conference room are almost completed.

It's been a rewarding and exhilarating last few months.

Jim Gregg, Board Chair

FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR ◀

Why BEC Matters To Me

By Nikki Schlaishunt, Administrative Director

When I was eight, I started the Kids Keep America Klean Klub. We met under the lemon tree in my backyard and made anti-litter posters and jewelry from old gum wrappers. Even then, it was clear to me that we are directly linked to the environment: what you do to the earth, you do to yourself and your family and friends.

Through the years, this basic understanding has only become deeper and more focused. In 1994, I graduated with a BA degree in political science, and in 2007, I completed my Masters of Public Administration degree. In between I completed both a paramedic and paralegal certificate. My academic experiences have given me an intellectual understanding of just how we are interconnected—how the breakdown from plastic bottles interacts with my body chemistry; the way that water runs off parking lots instead of pooling to seep back into the groundwater that we rely on for showers and drinking; how media psychologically affects our view of the world; how our world view affects society and how economics interacts with it all.

Growing up, Bidwell Park was a major part of my life. I remember building rock dams in the creek with my sister and cousins. When I was older I would get up before dawn to spend hours riding horses in Upper Park. In high school we would spend all day up at Brown's Hole, and I scolded my friends until they picked up every bit of trash that we brought in, and then some. My physical interactions with nature have given me an intuitive understanding of our interconnection. I learned that nature can soothe a battered soul as well as provide the basics that we all need to live—food, water, air.

My social action work has been rich and varied. Working with a student group, I helped start the recycling program at the University of Cincinnati. I was a volunteer with the Task Force Against Family Violence and helped people to obtain restraining orders and support services. Along with thousands, I marched against the first Gulf War in Washington D.C., and participated in the Hague International Peace Conference in 1999. I have worked as a health care advocate, a case manager for people coming out of homelessness and an early childhood educator. All of this experience has given me an emotional understanding of our interconnection—with each other and with the earth.

The Butte Environmental Council has been protecting and preserving our interconnection with the environment for thirty-four years. BEC stands up for our water as we fight to keep the Tuscan Aquifer flowing for us all. BEC speaks up for our air, attending Butte County Air Quality Management District meetings and working for regulations that will allow us to maintain both our traditions and our air quality. BEC keeps our land clean, organizing and running the annual Bidwell Park and Creeks Cleanups.

This is just a small sample of the work BEC has done and is doing for all of us living in the North Valley. With the help of our members, our donors, our volunteers and our funders, BEC will continue to ensure a healthy, vibrant community and environment for all. This is why BEC matters to me.



Robin Huffman, Advocacy Coordinator (left) and Carol Perkins, Water Resource Advocate (right).



How the West was

By Marily Woodhouse

Water + Air + Soil + Climate = LIFE

Clearcutting = Production of fiber but LOSS of clean and plentiful water, air and habitat. It's up to you. Which do you value more? Do you want a world where the US is 5% of the population but uses about a third of the world's timber, about half of which is made into disposable paper products? Or do you want a world where there is water you can drink and air you can breathe and diversity of species, a world that is not unbearably hot and barren? The words "irreparable harm", easy enough to type and read; quite a different story to live..

I live in the foothills of Mt. Lassen where the Sierra and the Cascades overlap. I also live down the road from many thousands of acres of timberland that is owned by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), the largest landowner in the state and the second largest in the US. For the past 10 years, SPI has been engaged in the systematic destruction of the Battle Creek watershed here as well as other watersheds from central California to the Oregon border. SPI practices clearcutting on a huge scale over its land holdings.

Just the facts, ma'am

I have lived in Manton since 1989 and became involved in working against clearcutting—not against logging—when I learned of a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) that was in the Digger Butte area and on Digger Creek, which is one of the borders of my home. As time passed I learned how many other THPs were in the area between Manton and Highway 44. There are 13 with a fourteenth just filed, that cover nearly 20,000 acres. Each one of these was filed with almost no disclosure of the adjoining THPs and no discussion of the cumulative impacts associated with the sum total of them all. According to the Dept. of Fish & Game website: (www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/timber) there are not quite 3 million acres of timberland in private ownership in California. Sierra Pacific Industries owns 1.7 million of those acres or 58%. (That's about the size of the state of Delaware or twice the size of the state of Rhode Island.) Their ownership is also across 15 counties, so I think it is fair to say that what they do matters and has consequences. CalFire oversees the THP process and according to their records, by 2006 SPI had been given approval for clearcutting and other plantation conversion of 83,403 acres in Butte, Tehama and Shasta Counties. The figure is close to a quarter million acres in all of the counties they own land in; their plan is to cut and convert 1,000,000 acres. Scientists find that the temperature in clearcut areas increases 5 to 10 degrees while the humidity decreases by 35%, although anyone who has ever walked out in a clearcut doesn't need a scientist to tell them that. In a time when water supplies are in decline throughout the west, our watersheds, which provide most of the water for the entire state, need to be protected. Many studies have been released recently that find forests are more important for protecting the regularity of water flows and the quality of our water than was previously supposed. Studies also show that plantations are more fire prone and burn at a higher severity than natural forests. Tree plantations of between 1 foot and 5 foot tall trees, that have piles of logging debris pushed up against the small replants will be lucky to survive the next 30 or more years it takes for them to start becoming a forest that can perform all of the complex functions that life as we know it, depends on.

Herbicides and chemicals

Whenever any chemicals are used commercially, the usage is reported to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). The yearly report released by the DPR is broken down into groups, such as Alfalfa or Grapes or Timberland. In 1989, the usage of chemicals on timberland in Shasta County was 3,699 pounds. By 2006 Timberland usage in Shasta County was 79,596 pounds. To put that in context: If the 1989 amount was used every year, it would have taken 21 years to use as much as was used in the one year of 2006.

- At best, no one is certain what effects these chemicals have.
- At worst, they are linked to much higher cancer rates and birth defects.
- Many of the chemicals that are used are banned in other countries.

Since I began working against clearcutting, some people have made the remark: "It's private land, they can do what they want." I believe in private rights, too, but not when it is at the expense of the larger group's health and well being. When an individual makes the choice to get drunk and drive and endanger others, do we say that it's their private right?

I encourage anyone who reads this and anyone who ever turns on a faucet with the expectation of water flowing out, to look at the aerial view of our region on the internet at the Google Earth site or go to <http://www.thebattlecreekalliance.org/> to see what the land looks like over many, many miles of the state.

Marily Woodhouse is the Sierra Club Organizer for the campaign to Stop Clearcutting California

One Mine Closed Another Proposed

By Carol Perkins

New Era Mine

On October 9, 2009 Butte County Superior Court Judge Stephen E. Bensen found the New Era Mine operators and the County in violation of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and ordered the mine closed immediately. Nearly two years have passed since residents along Dry Creek and downstream from the mine first witnessed water quality impairments in the stream and notified the County and Regional Water Quality Control Board. Cease and desist orders were issued and the respective reports indicated multiple SMARA violations, significant disturbance to the ecosystem surrounding Dry Creek, violations of Waste Discharge Requirements, no reclamation bond on file, and no stream bank alteration agreement with the Department of Fish and Game.

Surprisingly, despite the grievous conduct of the mine operators, violations of the Public Resource Code, and lack of records and reporting, the County passed Resolution 08-104 in August 2008 allowing the continued operation of the mine under the 1982 permit. This Resolution also sidestepped another law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which would have required an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Here's to a future a little more bright, in which our Supervisors recognize the importance of following all the laws established to help protect the environment and the well-being of all who share Earth's habitat.

Power House Road

The Hearst Corporation hopes to sell 500+ acres of agricultural land to Granite Construction for expansion of their Power House Road aggregate mine. Almost 90% of this land is currently used for field and tree crops. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has classified 280 acres as prime farmland. Granite Construction seeks a 50-year permit that allows open-pit mining to depths of 40 and 50 feet bgs (below ground surface) and the extraction of 1,000,000 tons of aggregate annually; converting 461 acres to wasteland – leaving less than 10% of the parcel to open land. Many of the residents believe that gold rather than aggregate is the primary interest behind this project.

Butte County Department of Development Services has performed an initial assessment of the project concluding an Environmental Impact Study is required. The assessment finds the potential for significant impacts to certain aspects of biotic and hydrologic resources, soils, and water quality. For more information, see the county web page:

<http://buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/GranitePowerHouseExpansion/GranitePowerHouseRoad.htm>

Protecting agricultural land and local food security

(General Plan Land Use, Open Space and Conservation, Economic, and Sustainability Elements)

Introduction: Long-term sustainability planning necessitates consideration of rising fuel costs, climate changes, diminishing water supplies, and their effects on Chico’s economic and food security. A transition to predominantly local sources of food and other necessities may become essential for community resilience and economic stability. Cautious planning therefore requires that productive and potentially productive agricultural crop and grazing lands be preserved within and around Chico to provide for most of the long-term food needs of future residents.

No Net Loss Policies

1. The City adopts a “no net loss” policy for land with significant potential for future food production and will protect such land from activities that would diminish that potential.
2. The City will continue to work with Butte County to maintain the Green Line and prevent further urban encroachment into traditional agricultural crop and grazing areas.
3. The City will establish an Agricultural Preserve program to assure long-term preservation of sufficient land within and around Chico to provide food security for future residents.
4. The City will allow and promote urban agricultural uses, mini-farms, community gardens, private gardens, and food marketing throughout the community and future growth areas.
5. General Plan policies will be interpreted to avoid creeping sprawl onto agricultural land.

Agricultural Land Development and Mitigation Policies

6. Parcels larger than one acre in areas traditionally dominated by agricultural crops or grazing will be designated Open Space Resource Management for agricultural uses, including mini-farms, grazing, community gardens, home gardens, and food stands.
7. Development of such parcels within 100 feet of street frontages may be considered only in locations with significant existing development, subject to dedication of the remainder of such parcels to a permanent Agricultural Preserve as a condition of approval.
8. Parcels no larger than one acre in traditionally agricultural areas may be further divided, subject to buffers adjacent to agricultural uses and agricultural mitigation fees.

9. Large parcel ranchette development on traditionally agricultural land is an unacceptable waste of agricultural potential, except where developed so as to provide a permanent urban growth boundary, with a sufficient buffer to separate urban and agricultural uses.
10. Any development of land in traditionally agricultural areas that reduces open space, future potential for food production, or carbon sequestration benefits shall fully mitigate such losses by dedicating comparable land on the urban edge as an Agricultural Preserve and permanent urban boundary, or shall pay in lieu fees sufficient to acquire such land.
11. A nexus study will establish more specific dedication requirements and mitigation fees to fully offset losses of open space, food production potential, and carbon sequestration.
12. Agricultural mitigation fees, land dedication, assessment districts, and other available means will be used to acquire and manage Agricultural Preserves on the urban edge, in agricultural buffer areas, and within the community for long-term food production. Agricultural Preserves will be managed by an appropriate public entity or land trust.
13. Title 19 will be amended to specify practices and procedures to implement these policies.

Agricultural Buffer Policies

14. Minimize conflicts between agricultural and urban uses by consistently applying Butte County’s scientifically based 300 foot open space buffer requirement, to be located on developing parcels as a condition of development approval, or utilizing roads, creeks, or intervening parcels to separate urban and agricultural uses by at least 300 feet.
15. Buffer areas will be credited to development as open space if required, as a condition of development approval, to be used for small scale farming, grazing, community gardens, parks, trails, environmental protection or restoration, aquifer recharge, or other publicly beneficial open space uses. Dedication of buffer areas to an Agricultural Preserve also may be required and credited toward mitigation requirements and impact fees. Where dedication is required, maintenance fees will be assessed to developed portions of the parcel and the buffer area will be managed by an appropriate public entity or land trust.

16. If a 300 foot buffer would prevent all beneficial uses of a parcel, the City will cooperate with the landowner to facilitate private or public use of the parcel for small scale farming, community gardens, or other beneficial uses appropriate to agricultural areas.
17. The Zoning Ordinance will be amended to provide for buffer requirements and uses, open space and mitigation credits, and dedication and maintenance procedures.

Local Food System Policies and Programs

18. Support local food production and distribution systems as essential components of a sustainable local economy, food security, and community resilience from climate change, rising energy costs, and potential shortages of oil and water.
19. Facilitate the use of underutilized parking lots, appropriate park sites, school sites and other public land throughout the community for community gardens and farmers markets readily accessible to neighborhoods. Consider acquiring or leasing additional sites in response to public need.
20. Amend the Zoning Ordinance to provide for dedication or acquisition of community garden or resident garden space as a condition of approval for large and high density development. Allow credit toward open space and development impact fees.
21. Collaborate with CARD to organize and manage community gardens and gardening as a recreational program in appropriate parks and other locations.
22. Assist farmers markets and community gardens by providing public restroom facilities and water. Provide city compost, fencing as needed, and informational signs for community gardens regarding open hours, contact information, and guidelines for use.
23. Consider waiving fees for use permits and liability insurance requirements for certified farmers markets and community gardens. Encourage Butte County to waive fees for farmers market health permits.
24. Promote and facilitate acceptance of food stamps at farmers markets.
25. Participate in cooperative efforts to provide farm-to-school, farm-to-institution, and distribution centers supplying local food products to local stores and restaurants.
26. Establish a local preference policy for food purchased for city-sponsored, contracted, and affiliated events and activities, including events utilizing public streets or facilities.

The Fair Trade Store

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Jewelry, chocolate, coffee, ornaments, gifts, toys and more!

526 Broadway Street, Chico

(530) 893-9078 Mon-Fri 12-6pm www.chico-peace.org



BEEP gained some national recognition when the indie rock-reggae State Radio trio and their crew, on tour to Chico from the Boston area, volunteered to spend a cold, rainy morning helping with the broom removal efforts.

Broom Education and Eradication Program (BEEP)

A Forest Ranch Community Action Group

By Susan Mason

In the summer of 2006, a small group of Forest Ranch residents met with representatives of organizations and individuals who had been removing invasive broom plants from downstream sections of the Big Chico Creek watershed for a number of years. These residents, concerned about the alarming spread of this highly-flammable plant in the upper Big Chico Creek and Little Chico Creek watersheds, wanted to inform their community about the hazards of broom and also to start a volunteer program to help willing property owners remove their broom plants. By December, they'd formed BEEP (Broom Education and Eradication Program), recruited a steering committee, begun providing monthly articles for the local newspaper, raised money to support their work and identified broom pulling projects for the 2007 season. By February 2007, they were hard at work removing broom plants.

From their inception, BEEP has reached out to other groups to make this a collaborative effort encompassing much of the watersheds' area. They became an affiliate of the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (BCCWA), which provides them with insurance and the non-profit status needed to accept tax-deductible donations as well as grants. Other partners who have contributed volunteer time, tools or funding include BEEP's own volunteers, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER), Butte College students, Butte County Fire-Safe Council, Butte County Dept. of Public Works, Butte County Resource Conservation District, CalFire, California Conservation Corps, California State Parks, Caltrans, CSU Chico faculty & students, Caltrans, City of Chico's Park Division, Forest Ranch Post newspaper, Friends of Bidwell Park, Mt. Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Sierra Pacific Industries, and Watersheds.us.

In 2008, BEEP received a 2-year, \$9,995 grant from the California Dept. of Food & Agriculture's Weed Management Area program, to be administered by the Butte County Resource Conservation District. This funding was used to hire team leaders who supervised the volunteer work sessions and to pay for a part-time project coordinator. BEEP has leveraged this grant with \$104,000 of in-kind cost share from their partners during the two years, an almost unheard of 1:10 ratio. More recently, BEEP has prepared and published a cookbook as a fund-raising effort for 2010.

Of course, getting results is the most important part of this project. BEEP wanted to be able to measure their on-the-ground progress and decided the most straightforward way to do that was to count broom plants as they pulled them. In just 3 pulling seasons (broom can only be pulled when the ground has been saturated from winter rains), BEEP has removed more than 150,000 broom plants, including thousands of large, mature seed-producing plants! In these two watersheds French and Spanish broom are the most common, but in Paradise, for example, Scotch and French broom prevail. By any measure, this has been and continues to be a highly successful program. BEEP has already identified their 2010 pulling areas and set the pulling dates, which are basically every Saturday morning in February and March.

If you'd like to learn more about broom, help with BEEP's broom eradication program, donate to help pay for their team leaders or want to start a similar program in your community, see the BCCWA's web site www.bigchicocreek.org. It contains a calendar of winter 2010 pulling dates, how to contact BEEP, web sites with scientific data about Spanish, French and Scotch broom and how to eradicate it, and lots of background information about BEEP along with some of the outreach materials that they use. Since their grant funding is ending, they particularly need ideas about how to raise additional funding for team leaders. These paid leaders are an essential component to their success, because they reduce the otherwise inevitable volunteer burnout.

New HazMat Facility in Butte County

The Town of Paradise in partnership with Northern Recycling and Waste Services has opened the Upper Ridge's first Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility. The facility will be open one day a week on rotating schedule Wednesdays and Saturdays.

This facility will be managed by Northern Recycling and Waste Services, and is located at 925 American Way in Paradise. The hours will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm on a rotating schedule either on Wednesday or Saturday (call or visit the website www.NorthernRecycling.biz for more details).

Call 876-3340 for location, rates and schedule.

Residential HHW Accepted	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antifreeze • Motor oil • Gasoline • Oil Filters • Pesticides • Aerosols • Bleaches • Solvents • Pool chemicals • Hobby supplies • Mercury thermostats/thermometers • Latex and oil-based paints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides • Poisons • Paint related products (thinner, stains, varnish, and lacquers) • Polishes • Batteries • Medical sharps (fee may apply) • Home-generated pharmaceuticals • Household Cleaning supplies • CFLs and fluorescent light tubes • Chemical fertilizers • Aerosols
HHW Not Accepted	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ammunition • Explosives • Garbage • Infectious and biologically active materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radioactive waste • Railroad ties • Smoke detectors • Tires • Remediation waste

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No EIR ... Crystal Geyser's Orland Proposal Moves Forward

City of Orland asks Citizens for Substantial Facts

By Carol Perkins

Orland is facing one of their biggest development battles in years. The City of Orland has placed economic desires of a few above the desire of its citizens to see protection of the environment fulfilled as California law mandates. While the State is under a drought declaration, groundwater levels continue to decline, and the north state is on the eve of ever increasing demands for our water, Crystal Geyser hopes to appropriate north state groundwater for a new use. Under the influence of international trade law, Orland would be hard pressed to limit the ability of a bottling plant to make a profit with a condition of approval over groundwater that Orland does not own. In addition, if the door is opened for one, more will come.

Chicken or the egg

The City of Orland is struggling with how to adhere to state laws under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Will a bottling plant cause direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment? Bottling plants do have an impact in all environments, and most local agencies have performed their due diligence by requiring an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Not the City of Orland. Orland contends that the Crystal Geyser bottling plant or any bottling plant for that matter is not subject to CEQA as long as the plant is located within the appropriate zoning. While this statement may be correct for local zoning regulations it is not how CEQA applicability is determined.

Orland stated they would exempt this project from CEQA before seeing a completed Application. How could the City determine that the bottling plant would produce a net economic gain? How could they foresee with certainty, without knowing fully what the operation of this plant would entail, that the bottling plant has no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment? Many of these questions would be addressed with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Floating promises

Nancy Sailsbery, Orland Director of Community Services, believes the City has the monitoring authority, and that the amount of water taken can be a local decision and included in the conditions of approval – implying the need for a new monitoring and enforcement program for this particular project. There are no plans to have an ordinance address the amount of groundwater that could be taken, and there is no such ordinance already. Crystal Geyser's 'major' pumping season occurs at the same time as that for agriculture, March through August.

The City believes they have the right under health, safety, and welfare provisions of the Constitution to regulate the amount of groundwater taken even though the amount of groundwater a landowner can take is not regulated in the State of California. Orland is not aware of legal precedent that has tested such a condition of approval, nor knows of any municipality that has tried this. The Application states the plant's pump rate is 250gpm but works out to be 100gpm averaged over the course of the year.

What is missing from the Application and the City's current Conditions of Approval?

- City plans for monitoring and controlling the amount of water Crystal Geyser will take
- The type of wastewater streams the plant will generate and how they will be handled
- Waste Discharge Requirements
- Light pollution
- Hazardous chemicals – no mention of the type of coolant for chillers and how CO2 products are handled, transported, or stored

The Application indicates the need for a back-up well permit, but provides no information about the depth or size of this well.

No consideration has been given for the impacts on water quality from the potential movement of the Orland Drycleaners plume; the toxin-laden waste stream (biocides, BPAs, metals, sediments, and other unwanted constituent by-products of filtered groundwater) that will flow from this plant at a rate of ~16,000 gpd. The water will be jettisoned as irrigation water to further impact the groundwater quality surrounding the plant as well as overwhelming the City's waste treatment plant.

No consideration has been given to the impacts on air quality – both locally and regionally – that this plant will generate over its operational life from inordinate trucking activity; onsite heating, cooling, and processing activities; and PET preform production and processing of bottle waste. Health and safety impacts on the community from trucks have not been considered. Bantering of 'clean diesel' has occurred; however, Crystal Geyser doesn't own or maintain a truck fleet or employ truck drivers.

Fortunately, while contrary to the City's subjective position of no environmental impact, their magic 8-ball foretold of some potential environmental changes. For these the City has generated a list of issues that will have to be mitigated. Mitigation implies that something will create an adverse affect on something else: in this case, public health, safety, general welfare, and the environment. It is incumbent upon the City to protect the rights of her citizens, the environment, and the common resources they share.

General Plan Water Resources Element

The Water Resources Element in the draft Butte County General Plan 2030 newly, and for the first time in the general plan, asserts the importance of water to the management of Butte County. The 26 page element is posted for public review at http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/2009-09-04GP2030DRAFT/PublicDraftGP2030/PublicDraft_Chapters/8_Water_Resources_PublicReview.pdf

Several significant recommendations by the League of Women Voters to increase the county's control of water have not been incorporated so far; nevertheless, the Water Element brings together in one document all the tools Butte County currently has in place toward managing our surface and groundwater. Currently the tools are primarily educational and voluntary.

BEC will be submitting formal comments to the county in the weeks ahead, well before the planned joint Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meeting in January for their consideration to accept the draft General Plan. Subsequent steps necessary, such as the completion of the environmental document and the zoning ordinance, before the Board adopts the general plan will likely take the final adoption date into 2011.



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Greywater: From Washing Machine *to Garden*

by Nani Teves

Tim and Stephanie Elliot recently began using greywater from their washing machine to water their garden. Greywater is the water reused from your sink, shower, tub or washing machine. On average a top loading machine uses 40 gallons of water per load and the newer front loaders use half that, which can add up to thousands of gallons a year. Tim and Stephanie have been water conscious for a long time, and their concern for water security, the drought and the lowering ground water table has focused their energy on conservation. But it wasn't until they attended a Greywater Guerrillas Workshop in the Bay Area that they learned the plumbing skills needed to adapt their washing machine water to be used on their landscaping.

In the spirit of the bay area workshop, they held one of their own in Chico, inviting community members to help install the plumbing, plant landscaping and drip irrigation. It took Tim and Stephanie about a week to gather the parts and a half day for the group to complete the system. Adapting a washing machine requires about 15 plumbing parts, available locally, and costs around 70-150 dollars depending on your irrigation specifics. A three-way valve is a good investment as it allows you to easily switch the outflow to either the sewage system (which you would need for a load of diapers) or to the garden. It is recommended that the distance from washer to garden be no longer than 50ft, however this length can increase if the washer is uphill of the garden. Using all-natural biodegradable laundry soap is essential so plants are not harmed; Tim and Stephanie use Bio Pac which is specifically designed for use in greywater systems. Other guidelines they took into consideration when planning their system were making sure to minimize contact with the water, to not let it pool up and to match their plant water needs with the amount of water they'll be reusing.

There are so many reasons to conserve water: in 2008 the Governor declared California in a drought; the ground water under Chico has dropped 13ft in 30 years and we use 250 gallons of water per person per day (including the 60-65% increase in Spring and Summer). What makes greywater so necessary and timely right now is that this past August the State of California changed code to legalize the use of "nonpotable reuse systems", ie greywater. And although water conservation is the big motivator for greywater use, it also decreases the energy needed for pumping, lessens the pressure on sewage disposal systems and reminds us of how much water we use and how easy it is to conserve. If you want to learn more, see photos or contact Tim and Stephanie go to www.ChicoEco.org.

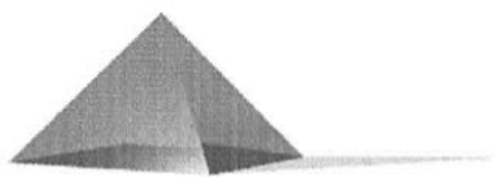
www.ChicoEco.org is a BEC website that pulls together our communal knowledge of eco-projects, a directory of green businesses, and a full calendar of action events for the purpose of global cooling.



Stephanie, Baby in belly, Tim, and their washing machine to garden greywater system!



Watering a baby plant with wash water.



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Wellness Update:

By Mary Muchowski

We just wrapped up the third year of our work on the grant from The California Wellness Foundation, and we’ve got one year to go. Our work in the last year included holding workshops on Alternatives to Toxics, attending fairs and other events to distribute information on toxics, and educational marketing through the development of magnets, brochures, posters, and Public Service Announcements (PSA). Look for our new television PSA on alternative household cleaning products which will be airing from October through December on Channel 20, 21 and 33. We are currently working on updating the information on the Alternatives to Toxics pages on the BEC website, and hope to include a link to the PSA.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO

REDUCE YOUR HEALTH RISK

DO:

Use only dry wood that has been seasoned for at least six months.

Store wood off the ground and covered outdoors.

Regularly remove ashes into a metal container and store outdoors to increase efficiency.

Use a certified technician to install and annually service your wood stove for safety and efficiency.

Upgrade to an EPA-approved wood burning appliance. If you have a wood stove older than 1990, your stove should be replaced as it is inefficient and produces a high level of toxins. The IRS is offering a 30 percent tax credit (up to \$1500) on income tax years 2009 and 2010 for purchase and installation of a 75 percent efficient wood-burning stove. **For details, see www.hpba.org.**

“Check before you Light” – Check the pollution forecast before using your fireplace or wood stove. If unhealthy air conditions are expected, do not burn. Forecasts are published daily on the Butte County Air Quality Management District website: www.bcaqmd.org. Another service for web users to register on that site is EnviroFlash, automatic daily e-mail notification on 5 types of air pollution: ozone, particulates, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. If you don’t use the computer, you can call 1-866-240-0859.

DON’T burn plastic, magazines, coated, painted or pressure treated wood, plywood particle board, wet, rotted, or moldy wood as all contain toxic substances that are harmful when inhaled.

The Effect of Wood Smoke on Health

By Armeda Ferrini, Ph.D.

When people talk of wood stoves and fireplaces, everyone seems to have an opinion. “I have been burning wood in my home for 30 years and I feel fine!” “Hey, why pick on wood smoke – why not get the farmers to stop burning their rice stubble?” “Everyone knows that cars produce lots more pollution than our wood stoves!” “I need to burn because that is how I heat my home and wood is plentiful and cheap around here.” I love to see a good crackling fire, feel the warmth and the smell of wood smoke – it reminds me of good times.”

Even though wood burning is a natural process, the smoke it produces contains very fine particles and many types of toxic gases that are known to be hazardous to our health. The extent of damage from wood smoke depends on the age and health of the person breathing it.

The component of wood smoke that is most harmful is fine particulate matter, called PM2.5, measuring only 2.5 microns. For comparison, a human hair measures about 60 microns. These particles are so tiny that they reach the smallest airways and it is difficult for the lungs to dispel them. They damage our lung tissue and increase the risk of pneumonia, bronchitis and asthma, particularly among children and elders. These fine particles also enter the bloodstream and inflame our blood vessels, increasing cardiovascular disease risk, particularly among older people. It is documented that the number of hospital admissions and premature deaths are increased with the increase in wood-burning in a community. Further, research has found wood smoke can cause a significant increase of hospital admissions for respiratory problems among children.

In Butte County, residential wood stoves and fireplaces are the biggest source of fine particle pollution. As expected, the highest concentration of wood smoke occurs from late November through January. In winter 2008-2009, residential fuel burning was responsible for 47 percent of all PM2.5 in the air. In contrast, during that same time period, managed burn in Butte County emitted 14 percent, agriculture was responsible for 4 percent, and automobiles, 4 percent.

In addition to fine particulate matter, wood smoke also contains several toxic gaseous pollutants, many of which are carcinogens: for example, carbon monoxide, benzene, nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde. Experts are also concerned with the health effects of many types of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons - widespread pollutants found in wood smoke - as many of those are also known carcinogens.

Unfortunately, our valley location makes wood smoke a greater problem because the air may become still in the winter, allowing the pollutants to remain in many neighborhoods for days instead of being swept away by the wind. Studies report that up to 70 percent of smoke from chimneys can re-enter a home or neighboring residences.

Butte County generally has from 25-28 bad air days each winter, violating the PM2.5 standards of the Clean Air Act. Because of this, the district has until 2012 to develop and implement a plan to reduce the PM2.5 air pollution or it may face sanctions that could include the loss of federal highway funds. But it is difficult to convince individuals to consent to mandatory restrictions on residential fuel burning to meet the federal standards. At the September meeting, the Butte Air Quality Management District proposed a mandatory curtailment of residential wood burning on projected bad air days for Butte County residents. Homes with no other heat source were to be excluded. Even though all board representatives from Chico voted “yes,” the proposal was rejected by board members representing other communities in Butte County and was not adopted. However, the Chico City Council is now working on a plan to ban residential wood burning within the city limits on poor air quality days.

Since mandatory curtailment of wood burning on bad air days did not pass in Butte County, the district has implemented the voluntary Check Before You Light program, effective November 1st. The District asks that residents not use their woodstove or fireplace on a poor air quality day, when advisories are issued. See the box, “What you can do to reduce your health risk,” for ways to learn of the advisories. Each of us should regularly monitor the air quality in Butte County by checking the advisories, particularly during the winter months and wildfire season.

Many counties within California have implemented restrictions on residential wood-burning on days when particulate matter pollution is expected to be high with much success on improving the air quality and their residents’ health. A recent study conducted at Fresno State concluded that the mandatory wood-burning ordinance passed in the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District in 2003 significantly reduced small particulate air pollution, reduced premature deaths in that county and saved the residents millions of dollars in health care costs.

Mandatory restrictions, local grants awarded to individuals to replace inefficient wood stoves and federal tax rebates on low emission wood stoves can substantially reduce the health hazards of wood smoke: respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, hospitalizations and premature deaths.

Armeda Ferrini, Ph.D. is a retired professor from the Department of Health and Community Services, California State University, Chico. She is a member of the BEC Board of Directors.

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Good Medicine

By Julia Murphy

From the website www.onthecommons.org which is devoted to exploring and promoting responsibility for a shared future, a recent article by Jonathan Rowe¹ opens by pointing out the skyrocketing drug use by American children. But Rowe is talking about prescription drugs for illnesses like asthma, depression and restlessness in school as the epidemic.

Rowe discusses the idea that economic growth may be at odds with human health. He cites the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, which manufactured the drug tamoxifen used to treat breast cancer. AstraZeneca also manufactures “fungicides, herbicides, and other chemicals widely implicated in causing cancer.” He then goes on to note that “Business Week magazine reported that, since 2001, every net new job in the US has come from the medical sector,” and “(D)isease, not health, is the driver.”

But we can buck this trend. We have powerful medicine at our disposal: affordable, widely available medicine. We can purchase it at the Farmers’ Market; and as we buy food from our friends and neighbors who grow it, we contribute to the economic health of the community as well.

Winter vegetables provide vitamins and minerals to boost health over the winter cold and flu season. Here are some of the best:

1. Kale. This leafy green or purple winter garden staple is a member of the Brassica family, which also includes cabbage, broccoli, and others. It contains compounds (organosulfur phytonutrients) that help prevent cancer—especially for those most at risk. Statistically, that’s men, smokers and people over age 64. As if that wasn’t a good enough reason to eat kale, it also aids in your cell’s ability to detoxify and cleanse (particularly the liver and skin), protects lung health and can help prevent cataracts!

2. Broccoli. This Brassica family member, in addition to having many of kale’s health benefits, also supports stomach health by eliminating a bacteria which is a primary cause of ulcers. Broccoli sprouts have been found to directly counteract animals’ cancer response to UV light; it is a great source of calcium and is rich in flavonoids, which help guard against heart disease. Pregnant women, eat your (organic!) broccoli—a cup contains 94 mg. of folic acid, which is necessary in DNA synthesis, and can help guard against birth defects.

3. Apples. An excellent source of soluble and insoluble fiber, which helps keep cholesterol level down. Apples are anti-inflammatory, regulate blood pressure and overproduction of fat in liver cells. Apples have been shown in studies to lower asthma risk and support general lung function. Nutritional value is highest in the whole, raw fruit.

4. Winter Squash. Smokers take note: Benzo(a)pyrene, a cancer-causing ingredient in cigarette smoke, causes Vitamin A deficiency. Eating squash and other foods rich in Vitamin A can help protect you from emphysema (of course, quitting can, too). Squash is full of beta-carotene, which protects against cholesterol building up in arteries and blood vessels, which leads to stroke and heart attack. The carotenoids in winter squash can also help regulate blood sugar levels, which is key for treating diabetes and is an anti-inflammatory. Containing folate, squash is another good vegetable for pregnant women.

5. Beets. Their luscious color is from the betacyanin they contain, which has been linked to increased liver effectiveness and protection against colon cancer. Beets help prevent cancer mutations in the stomach after exposure to nitrates, a common preservative in processed meats. The betaine in beets helps fight inflammation, and they also contain folate).²

These are just five of the many vegetables you’ll find at your local Farmers’ Market. Remember that organic vegetables are more affordable at the market and are free of pesticides and herbicides that may undercut the vegetables’ health benefits; but better conventional veggies than none at all. There is only one Market in Chico that accepts EBT (food stamps)—Richard Roth’s Friday market at its new home, the Dorothy Johnson Center, on 16th and C St. See his website, <http://www.cchaos.org>.

Roth is a Grange member and early childhood educator who is taking his belief—that good, nutritious food should be available to every member of the community—and acting on it. Roth’s market runs from 2:00 to 6:00 every Friday, and anyone with produce or crafts to sell is welcome to come set up a table—there is no fee. Non-profits with a related theme (environmental health, environmental justice, nutritional information, community services) are also welcome to come and participate. As more and more people are losing jobs and homes, the number of people depending on food assistance is going up. Please help spread the word that there is a market in Chico where EBT cards are accepted, and check it out for yourself. We can make knowledge of the health benefits of these vegetables—and access to them—available for everyone.

¹ <http://www.onthecommons.org/content.php?id=2514>

² <http://www.whfoods.com/>

Good Bugs?

By Karla Kent

I don’t know about you but I really don’t like bugs. They ooze when you step on them, they are always where you don’t want them, and they look so creepy. But I have recently had to remind myself that there are good bugs; and you should remind yourself too. After you find out about all the good bugs you might end up like me, wanting an organic garden of your own.

We have our obvious friend the Ladybug. The Ladybug eats aphids, and aphids really like to eat our plants. Thankfully the Ladybug doesn’t look creepy—in fact it’s kind of cute—so we don’t freak out when we see one. Actually we have a tendency to try and pick them up, and if it tries to fly away, we will chase after it. *Hippodamia Convergens* is the most successful species of Ladybug. Other names for the Ladybug are: Lady Beetle or Ladybird Beetle. They come in variations of red, orange, pink, yellow and black. They can have as many as 20 spots or no spots at all.

Bees, I feel are unfortunately misinterpreted, they buzz loudly, and they have the ability to sting. But Bees are treasured bugs because they make honey. Another valuable fact about the bee is it is quite the pollinator. If we want our plants to produce anything from flowers to fruit or nuts to veggies; then our plants need to be pollinated. And for that we are thankful for the existence of Bees. This is why it is so important that you don’t use pesticides in your yard.

Then there are the slightly creepier ones like the Praying Mantis. Okay maybe it’s not that creepy, but as a child I was always afraid that if I tried to pick one up it would probably bite me, or even worse, move. Now that I have become more educated, I am no longer afraid of the bug, and I find it rather elegant. This bug likes to eat bugs. Unfortunately it is not very picky. A Praying or “preying” Mantis will eat any bug that is near it (it’s very territorial) even toward other Praying Mantids; it will eat your friendly bugs too. So, as a bug to protect your garden: not very efficient. “A novelty, an educational tool, a pet, a garden sentry, Mantids are all these things, but they not a cure-all for what may be ailing your plants.” (GreenMethods.com; Cherim, M)

So there you have the popular three: Ladybugs, Bees, and Praying Mantids. And then of course there are Butterflies; they are not good or bad. Well a little of both really, see when in its larva state (caterpillar); the darn thing will eat away at your plants. How can something good come out of something bad? Here you have the proof! I find it rewarding just to have the chance to lay eyes on a Butterfly. And if you ever get the chance—the privilege of witnessing a Butterfly come out of its cocoon—then you are truly lucky! So I don’t think I will mind them eating my plants. Butterflies also help pollinate, to a small extent, so they are not all bad.

These bugs that I have mentioned are just the most favored of all the bugs. There are still many, many more good bugs out there. And so many more things we can learn about the Ladybug, or the Bee, or the Praying Mantis, even Butterflies. There is much to learn from others who have written books, or created websites to pass down the information that they have gathered. Some good websites to visit would be: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2154.html> <http://www.celticbug.com/Legends/Lore.html> <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species?l=1460>

Happy Birthday to BEC

34 Years and Counting!

The BEC Birthday BASH, celebrating 34 years of dedication to the environment, and Endangered Species Faire Fund-raiser was a resounding success. One of the most well-attended BEC gatherings ever, with well over one hundred people in attendance, the old Grange Hall was buzzing with the sounds of “enviros” enjoying each others’ company. Various local organizations participated in this event and shared their knowledge, while photos of BEC events, people and history were projected on the wall.

After a delectable, mouth-watering vegan dinner prepared by David Guzzetti (a long time BEC supporter) and his wonderful crew, we had a brief update about BEC by Lynn Barris, Vice Chair of the Board, during the annual membership meeting. Nikki Schlaishunt was recognized for accepting the new position as Administrative Director and Lynn also handed out awards. The ‘Colleen Jarvis Environmentalist of the Year’ award went to Carol Perkins for her wonderful contribution to BEC’s advocacy and the ‘Barris Farms Environmental Volunteer’ award went to Heather Schlaff for her tireless contribution to a variety of local issues, particularly the WalMart expansion. After the meeting, the crowd was enraptured by the beautiful, sweet harmonies and thoughtful lyrics of MaMuse. Later, Luke and the Delivery Boys entertained the crowd and enticed many folks to get up and dance!

A million thanks are in order! Kelly Meagher funded the event, and Mark Stemen rallied his Chico State “dream team,” with Nikki Robb at the helm to create a “green” event they could all be proud of! This also meant that BEC staff did not have to spend much time on the organization and implementation of this event which allowed us to keep up with our regular work. Thank you to Nikki Robb and all the Chico State students who contributed to making this event such a huge success! Additionally, Julia Murphy was invaluable, corraling, mentoring and organizing the student interns, creating the nice BEC display and slideshow, soliciting donations for the silent auction, creating center-pieces for the dinner tables, taking photographs, cleaning, etc. etc. etc.

We’d like to thank everyone for sharing this memorable evening and for supporting Butte Environmental Council!

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 12

8.5 TONS of Garbage and Recyclables Gleaned from Our Parks and Creeks!!

BEC’s Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup was a great success again this year. Held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 in conjunction with the 25th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, we had record number of 278 volunteers show up, eager to clean our beautiful park and creeks. After just four hours of cleaning, these volunteers were able to pick up just over seven tons of trash and about one and a half tons of scrap metal and recyclables! We cleaned approximately 20 miles of creeks, and many areas of Bidwell Park.

There were several groups that formed teams to help clean, which made things go a little more smoothly: Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, CORE, 90 members of the CSUC Interfraternity Council, Friends of Bidwell Park, Men of Honor, PVHS Blue & Green Club, Sierra Club - Yahli Group, Streaminders, Torres Shelter, and Vectors.

Invaluable help was provided by the local CCC crew, DWR and Lifescapes in the form of personnel and trucks and trailers to transport the trash to the four collection sites. There were also numerous volunteers that helped with organization and cooking for the BBQ, including but not limited to (I apologize if I forget anyone):

The Site Leaders: Roger Cole, Robert Dresden, Mark Gailey, Susan Mason, Steve Miller, Michael Stauffer & Jo and Kate Taft.

Outstanding volunteers: David Bilinski, Steve Green, Chuck Lundgren, Gene Anna & OJ McMillan, Laurie Muchowski, Julia & Robert Murphy, and Arlie Smith.

BEC Board Members: Nora Burnham, Armeda Ferrini, Robin Huffman, and Pamela Posey.

City of Chico Personnel: Raul Gonzalez, Lise Smith-Peters and John Rollo.

BEC Staff, etc.: Maggi Barry, Karla Kent, Mary Muchowski, Carol Perkins, Nikki Schlaishunt.

The organization and publicity for this event was greatly enhanced by the support of the Butte County Fish & Game Commission, Butte County Public Works, the California Coastal Commission and the City of Chico. Special thanks also to the Chico News & Review, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company and Waste Management.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this great community event, and hope to see you next year!

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 12



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 12

2009 Cleanup Totals	
Material Collected	Pounds
Trash	14,100
Scrap Metal	1,820
Recyclables	1,190
TOTAL	17,110



California Coastal Cleanup Day 2009 Stats	
Volunteers:	80,508
Pounds of Trash:	1,148,223
Pounds of Recyclables:	214,425
Total Debris:	1,362,648 lbs
Miles cleaned:	2,365

A Festival for All Ages

By Marvey Mueller, Snow Goose Festival Outreach Coordinator

Celebrating the Winter Waterfowl Spectacle at the 11th Annual Snow Goose Festival, January 28-31, 2010, Chico, CA

No matter what your age or outdoor interest, there is something for everyone at the 11th Annual Snow Goose Festival. Headquartered in Chico, this four-day event, January 28–31, 2010, serves up a rich offering of nature experiences.

The cast of wildlife characters are many but the main stars of the festival are the thousands of snow geese, swans, ducks and sandhill cranes that travel the great Pacific Flyway many hundreds of miles to their winter stop in the North Sacramento Valley.

From little ones to Grandpa, hardy adventurers to armchair enthusiasts, everyone can see the spectacular seasonal show of the majestic Snow Geese. As they do from November to March, tens of thousands of snow geese will hold court in rice fields and wildlife refuges waiting for festival visitors. How can visitors see the show?

The high adventure types have several day-long choices that will challenge their stamina as they travel high for sightings of Evening Grosbeaks and Varied Thrushes or low for the Eurasian Wigeon and Rough-legged hawks. Other choices for the fit include a hike in the Sutter Buttes or a Big Day Birding. To see Snow Geese galore, energetic visitors can travel from dawn to dusk and refuge to refuge with a dedicated birding expert. Or they can learn about birds and other wildlife while snowshoeing in beautiful Lassen Volcanic National Park.

The many field trips that leave from the Center offer a range of outdoor experiences that are as varied as the species and habitats in the region. Whether it's touring a rice farm, pursuing a Red-tail on the Raptor Run or finding fairy shrimp in a vernal pool, there is an adventure awaiting everyone.

For kids of all ages, the Family Owl Prowl offers a unique glimpse into the amazing nocturnal world of owls. Listen to an Arctic tale of a Loon during a special storytelling time provided by CSCU Museum of Anthropology or have a lesson in beginning birding at the Chico Creek Nature Center. Kids can also create bird and nature crafts when they visit the Junior Naturalist Activities area all weekend long.

Some families may never even leave the Festival Center. The roomy Masonic Center in Chico will be bulging with exciting exhibits and activities for children and adults. And it's not just about birds; there are displays about all the best nature places in the area, the many agencies that contribute to the conservation of our land, workshops on Designing Gardens for Wildlife, plus the original art of all the children who entered the State Junior Duck Stamp contest. Speaking of art – special Festival shows of wildlife art will be open at two local galleries!

For those who like to take it easy, there are gentle trips to practice birding basics or workshops that will take you on armchair adventures. At the Center, take a workshop and learn all about the Snow Goose. Birding experts will give tips on identification and local authors will share their literary interpretations of the wonders of nature.

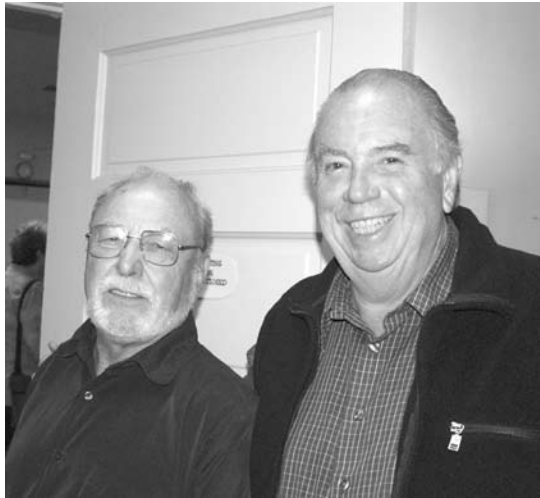
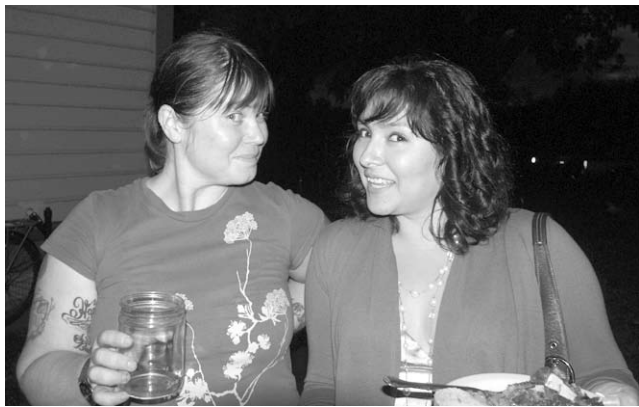
In addition, the festival is complimented by a three week long Uptown/Downtown Art of the Pacific Flyway Exhibit and Saturday's "Gathering of Wings" banquet and silent action with keynote speaker, Stephen Shunk.

Please visit our website for more information
www.snowgoosefestival.org
or call 530-345-1865

Above and middle right: Snow Goose Festival goes by Carolyn Short.



Photos from the Annual Birthday Bash and Clean-Up events – *Be Sure to Join Us Next Year!*



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Draining the Tuscan

continued from page 1

Recent estimates attributed to the Bureau of Reclamation that there are 300,000 acre feet of "excess" water to transfer even as the Governor has declared a drought is counterintuitive at best.

The May 2009 Department of Water Resources Groundwater Level Comparison Report shows that groundwater levels in the Sacramento Valley and Redding Groundwater Basins have lowered from Spring 2006 to Spring 2009.

"On average, groundwater levels were down by about 7.5 feet (-7.5 ft) in the northern Sacramento Valley and the Redding Basins in March 2009 compared to March 2006. The greatest decrease in groundwater elevation was on the west side of the Sacramento Valley in Glenn County in one deep observation well that had a decline of 34.1 feet (-34.1 ft) in March 2009 compared to March 2006."

The report further states that groundwater levels were down, on average, in all well types and for all well depths. Butte County was down the average of 7.5 feet while Glenn County was down 9.6 feet. Glenn County supervisors are beginning to take note as well as the farmers.

Much more notice of the state and federal legislative activities should be taken by local government officials whom many citizens are trusting to control the situation. According to Assistant Director Vickie Newlin, the Butte County Water and Resource Conservation (BC WRC) department does not have the authority to officially comment on proposed water legislation, state or federal.

Butte County's Water Resource District is one in the Four County Memorandum of Understanding in which the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama agree to "voluntary joint efforts toward regional coordination, collaboration, and communication" about our common water resources, both surface and groundwater.

While the Four County MOU and other measures such as Butte County's Chapter 33 Ordinance and the new Water Resources Element in the draft Butte County General Plan 2030 are steps toward better managing increasingly tight water supplies, the question remains as to whether or not the North State is moving fast enough to shore up our surface and groundwater supplies before the state and federal government permanently facilitate mega groundwater transfers to the arid part of the State, south of the Delta.

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Leaders of Chico!

Cars are Bringing the World to its Knees 2 PPM at a time.* Are You Okay With That?

By Donna Cook

"Our purpose as responsible people is not to come out of this looking good. It's what kind of world we pass on to future generations" (excerpt from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's letter to other members of the German underground during World War II).

How about if leaders in neighborhoods, schools and citizen organizations get together to devise a more equitable, streamlined way to prioritize people in neighborhoods rather than the literally world-destroying cars and trucks now given top billing.

After we decide what kind of neighborhoods we want and how we want to get them, then we can meet with elected officials or city staff with our plans. The city's sustainability task force might also support us.

The City of Chico currently has a 49-page program that limits access to city help based on a point system, many meetings with city staff, a program developed by the city and a willingness of the neighbors to pay for improvements. We can do better than that. We shouldn't have to pay twice for safe streets—once in taxes and again in our neighborhoods. Recent Complete Streets legislation makes it possible to use regular transportation money to make city streets useable and safe for everyone. But we've already had taxes and laws passed that provide money for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Most of that money is not spent for those uses. The same people who were trained that cars and trucks are the most important road users are the same people who are supposed to make the changes. And money isn't the only fix.

Do we bow to the idea that just because "it's always been that way," that it always has to be—at any cost?

Chico could be the best bicycling and walking city in the United States. We have the climate and the terrain, the people and the parkland. Neighborhoods that start enjoying more play space for children, right in their front yards, can become models for other neighborhoods. Neighborhood safety that spreads would then allow children to bicycle, skateboard, rollerskate or walk to school, visit friends or just enjoy the fresh air.

I am willing to visit any group in Chico willing to plan how to make their neighborhood and community safer for people outside of cars. There is an 8-minute video of some California bicycle boulevards available by link <http://www.streetfilms.org/archives/berkeley-bike-boulevards/> or DVD (contact me for free loaner). If you are a leader (or mother or father) who would like to meet with others to share ideas as resources for neighborhoods, contact me and we'll all get together.

Contact information: Donna Cook, djmac1010@sbcglobal.net and please put Neighborhood Safety in the subject line, or leave a message for me at BEC and I'll call you back.

**CO2 levels are rising 2 parts per million per year at the present time. During the time that Europe reduced its emissions by 20%, US emissions increased by 2%. As of this writing, President Obama is not expected to attend the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change.*

Complicated problem: GLOBAL WARMING

Simple Solution:



**PULLINS
CYCLERY**

801 Main St., Chico
(530) 342-1055
pullinsusa@aol.com

Leave a Legacy

For the land, air, water, and future generations

A legacy gift to the Butte Environmental Council will not only ensure that some of our most beautiful and important resources in the northern Sacramento Valley and foothills are protected and preserved, but could also provide you with income for life, a reduction in capital gains taxes, and other benefits.

There are many ways that you can be a part of our environmental legacy:

- Remember BEC in your will or living trust
- Name BEC as a beneficiary of your IRA or Qualified Retirement Plan
- Name BEC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy

If you currently have a will, you can easily add a codicil (an amendment) to include a bequest (a gift in your will) to BEC. An example of appropriate language for inclusion in your will or living trust is:

"I give, devise and bequeath to Butte Environmental Council, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation with the mailing address of 116 West Second Street, Suite 3, Chico, California, 95928, the sum of \$_____ dollars [or otherwise describe the gift or asset] for its general purposes and use at the discretion of Butte Environmental Council's Board of Directors."

If you are interested, please contact your personal financial planner or attorney. For basic information, please contact Butte Environmental Council at 530.891.6424.



Butte Environmental Council
116 West Second Street Suite # 3
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-6424
(530) 891-6426 (fax)

Become a BEC Volunteer!

We need YOUR help!

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

If you can volunteer your time (no matter how much or how little) and/or have a special skill to share, please fill out the coupon below. If you have volunteered in the past but are not sure if we still have your name and current phone on file please submit an updated form.

We will keep your name on file and give you a call when our needs coincide with your offer.
THANK YOU!

Please mail or fax this form to the BEC office (see address above)

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.)

___ Creek Cleanups

___ Endangered Species Faire (traditionally the 1st Saturday in May)

___ Publicity

___ Soliciting sponsors/donations

___ Booth Construction and set-up (Friday before the Faire)

___ Tear down and clean-up

___ Environmental News articles, BEC's quarterly newspaper

___ Fundraising

___ Office Work

___ Mailings

___ Phones

___ Research

___ News clippings (cutting and filing)

___ Photography (taking photo's of BEC events and activities; nature photography)

___ Writing letters to elected officials and regulatory agencies

___ Environmental Health/Toxic Awareness

Other (please specify) _____

See businesses below by number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CRV	\$	\$	◆	\$	◆	\$	\$		◆	\$	\$		◆	\$		◆	\$	\$	◆	\$
Glass		\$	◆	\$	◆	\$	◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Metal																				
Bi-metal cans		\$	◆			◆	◆			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Tin cans		\$				◆	◆			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Aluminum foil/ pie pans			◆				\$			◆										
Scrap metals		\$		\$		\$					\$	F								
Plastics														◆						
#1 Plastic		\$	◆	◆	◆		\$		◆	◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#2 Plastic		\$	◆		◆		\$			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
#3-7 Plastic		\$	◆				◆			◆	\$		◆	◆		◆	◆			
Paper																				
Newspaper			◆		◆	◆	\$			◆			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	
Magazines			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Phone books			◆				◆			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Cardboard			◆		◆	◆	\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	◆
Mixed paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Ledger paper			◆				\$			◆			◆	◆			◆		◆	
Hazardous Waste																				
Alkaline batteries			◆					◆	◆					◆						
Car batteries		\$				\$	◆	◆			\$	◆		◆						
Paint								◆						◆	◆					
Pesticides								◆						◆						
Fluorescent lights & ballasts							\$	◆						◆						
Used motor oil							\$	◆				◆		◆	◆		\$			
Anti-freeze								◆						◆	◆					
Miscellaneous																				
Appliances (no freon)		◆				F						F								
Appliances (with freon)												F		F						
Cars														F						
Yard waste							◆					◆	◆							
Ewaste								◆				◆		◆	◆		◆			

◆ Accepts recyclables listed

\$ Cash paid for recyclables listed

F Fee charged to accept recyclables listed

- 1) 20/20 Recycling Centers**
California Department of Conservation
Albertson's, 1050 Oroville Dam Blvd., Oroville
Albertson's, 146 W. East Ave., Chico
Safeway, 1596 Hwy 99, Gridley
Safeway, 1016 W. Sacramento Ave., Chico
Safeway, 690 Mangrove Ave., Chico
Safeway, 1366 East Ave., Chico
Safeway, 6020 Clark Rd., Paradise
T-F 11-5, Sa 8:30-5, closed 1:30-2
- 2) Aldred Scrap Metals/Steel Mill Recyclers**
786 Oroville-Chico Hwy, Durham, 342-4930 M-F 8-5
- 3) AS Chico Recycling Donation Center**
417 Cherry St., Chico, 898-5033
Sa 10-2:30, www.csuchico.edu/as/recycle
- 4) Berry Creek Rental & Recycle**
10 Menzie Lane, Berry Creek, 589-4828, Tu-Su 9-6

- 5) California Vocations (C.O.V.E.)**
Curbside recycling in Magalia, Paradise,
Paradise Pines, west side of Skyway to Nimshu
877-0937, M-F 8-4
- 6) Chico Scrap Metals, Chico Scrap Metal South & Nor-Cal Recyclers**
Auto bodies (call first), 878 E. 20th St., Chico,
343-7166, M-F 8-12, 1-4, Sa 8-12; 766 Oroville-Chico
Hwy., Durham, 345-6241, M-F 8-4
1855 Kusel Rd., Oroville, 532-0262
M 8-4, Tu-F 9-4, Sa 8-12
- 7) Chico Transfer & Recycling**
2569 Scott Ave., Chico, 893-0333, M-F 8-4, closed
12-1 for lunch. www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 8) Butte Co. Household Hazardous Waste**
Collection Facility /AC Industrial Services
1101 Marauder St. (at Chico Airport) 343-5488, Fri-
Sat. 9-1 Free to Butte County residents.
- 9) Country Roads Disposal**
Curbside recycling in Bangor, Berry Creek, Feather
Falls & Palermo, 589-3680, M-F 8-5
- 10) Fair St. Recycling - Work Training Center**

- 2300 Fair Street, Chico, 343-8641
M-F 9-4, Sat. 9-3:30, www.wtcinc.org/fsr.htm
- 11) Joe Verni Recycling**
4980 Lincoln Blvd., Oroville, 534-7402
M-F 9-3:30, Sa 9-1
- 12) Neal Road Landfill**
879.2350, Toll-free # 866.369.DUMP, http://www.
buttecounty.net/publicworks/divisions/solidwaste/
landfill.html
- 13) NorCal Waste Curbside Recycling** 342-4444
- 14) NorCal Waste Oroville Recycling Center & Household Hazardous Waste**
2720 S. 5th Ave., Oroville, 533-5868; Recycling Center
M-Sa 8:30-3:30; Hazardous Waste F 1-6
Free to City of Oroville residents.
- 15) Ord Ranch Transfer Station & Gridley Household Hazardous Waste Recycling**
Ord Ranch Road, Gridley, 846-0810; Transfer Station
Sa-Su 9-4; Hazardous Waste 2nd Sunday of month,
Gridley residents only 9-4
- 16) Paradise Elementary School**
588 Pearson Rd., Paradise; Drop boxes open 24 hrs.

- 17) Recycle Paradise**
951 American Way, Paradise
Holiday Mkt, 14001 Lakeridge Cir., Magalia
(CRV, newspapers only); Stratton's Mkt.
5760 Sawmill Rd., Paradise (CRV, newspapers
only) 877-2777, M-Sat 10-4
- 18) TOMRA Pacific**
Collins & Denny Mkt, 434 Plumas Ave., Oroville
Raley's Supermarket, 2325 Myers St., Oroville
(916) 381-6861, Tu-Sa 9:30-5, closed 1-1:30
- 19) Waste Management-North Valley Disposal**
Curbside recycling in Chico (893-4777), Biggs, Durham
(by Appt), & Gridley (846-0810)
www.northvalleydisposal.com
- 20) Westside Recycling & Wood Products**
2669 Hwy. 32, Chico, 892-2262, M-Sa 10-6, Su 10-4
- 21) Earthworm Soil Factory**
704 Neal Rd., 895-9676 (accepts yard waste)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

www.recyclebutte.net

Calendar

Fridays, All Year - Chapmantown Farmers

Market - located in the park at the Dorothy F. Johnson Center, from 2:00pm - 6:00pm 16th & C Street, for more information please visit <http://www.cchaos.org/>

Saturdays, All Year - Chico Farmers Market -

located in the Brickworks parking lot, at 2nd St & Wall St from 7:30am - 1:00pm for more information: (530) 893 - FARM or <http://northvalley.net/farmersmarket/>

Chico Grange Hall - Available for Event Rental

The Grange Hall is located at 2775 Nord Ave. at Rodeo Ave. near Henshaw. Meetings of the Chico Grange are generally every 3rd Monday, potluck at 5:30pm, meetings start at 6:30pm. Meetings are open to the interested public. Dining Room is 1,365 square feet with a commercial size warming kitchen, auditorium/meeting room is 1,925 square feet. The maximum occupancy is 125 for the dining room, and 225 for the meeting hall. Facility is handicapped accessible. For more info: http://chicogrango.org/info/public_html/index.php

Monday, November 16 - Altacal Audubon Society - Sea Turtles and Birds of Costa Rica

6:30pm Presented by Julie Nelson, Program Meetings for the general community are held at the Chico Creek Nature Center, 1968 E. 8th St. She will speak of her experience, exciting work, and the amazing nature of both sea turtles and migratory and resident species of birds. Dozens of incredible photographs will be included! For more info: <http://www.altacal.org>

Tuesdays, November - December, Friends of Bidwell Park - Volunteer in the Park - Sycamore Restoration Site at One Mile

Volunteers will remove invasive Himalayan blackberry and help water plants. Meet at the north end of Caper Acres or walk towards Council Ring. From 1:30 - 4:30pm. Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing. The City Park Division will provide tools, water and instruction. If you're under 18, please bring release form signed by parent or guardian. For more information, call Park volunteer coordinator Lise at (530)896-7831 If you arrive late, call (530)624-3982 for work site location. For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Wednesdays - Saturday, November - December, Friends of Bidwell Park - Upper Bidwell Park Trail Maintenance

Help any time between 9am and 2:30pm. Call Park Division trail crew leader Lloyd Johns at 624-9672 for work site location. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing, bring lunch if you plan to work all day. Tools, gloves and water will be provided. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, call Park Division volunteer coordinator Lise at 896-7831 for maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Thursdays, November - December, Friends of Bidwell Park - Volunteer in the Park - One Mile Recreation Area

Volunteers will pull weeds, weed around oak seedlings and more. Meet at the Sycamore baseball field parking lot. From 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing. The City Park Division will provide tools, water and instruction. If you're under 18, please bring release form signed by parent or guardian. For more information, call Park volunteer coordinator Lise at 896-7831. For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Saturdays, November - December, Friends of Bidwell Park - Saturdays in the Park - Remove invasive hackberry trees from the area between picnic sites 24-25 in Lower Park

From 9am to noon. If driving, park on Vallombrosa Ave at Madrone, cross pedestrian bridge to Petersen Dr, turn left and walk about 500 feet. Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes and weather appropriate clothing. The City Park Division will provide tools, water and instruction. If you're under 18, please bring release form signed by parent or guardian. For directions, call 624-3982. For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Wednesday, November 18 - Sierra Club,

Newsletter Folding. Join us to help fold and sort the newsletter for mailing; it only takes about an hour, and we always have a lot of fun! Volunteers are always needed: newcomers and old members are both welcome. Call 343-9277 for directions and more info.

November 19-22 - Altacal Audubon Society - 13th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium,

Stockton, CA if you want a wild time at a birding event you need to attend the CVBS. Where else can you attend an event where for two successive years the hosting venue has been in the midst of a total remodel? We have been challenged to make it three years in a row! Well, not this year. We are back at the same hotel address, but it is now a new Hilton - and it is gorgeous! This is a great opportunity to just hang out with old and new friends. Contact Information: Frances Oliver, Registration Coordinator, Phone: 209-369-2010, Email: cvbsreg@gmail.com See <http://cvbs.org/> or for hotel registration, Stockton Hilton Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd, Stockton, California, Phone: 209-957-9090

Sunday, November 22 - CNPS, Old Plant

Introduction Station Tree Walk. Meet at the Mendocino Genetic Resource Center at 9:30am (from Skyway drive south on Dominic Drive to Morrow Lane, left to kramer Lane, south to parking by gate). Established in 1904, woody plants from all over the world were planted here by the USDA to test their use in medicine, agriculture and forestry; many still survive. Expect to see lacebark pine, Shantung maple, mourning cypress, Chinese wingnut, giant bamboo, several species of pistachio, and many others. Leaders: Wes (530) 342-2293 and Gerry (530) 893-5123.

Sunday, November 22 - Sierra Club - Yahi Group, Friends of Bidwell Park - Round Trip Hike on South Side of Bidwell Park (grade 3, class A) A 12-14 mile round trip from the end of the Annie Bidwell/South

Side Trail in upper park all the way to the Upper Park Ecological Reserve. We will go out on the Guardian's Trail along the cliffs of Upper Park with great views and return on the lower South Side Trail. Bring lunch, water and comfortable shoes with tread. Meet at the trailhead, at Chico Canyon Road and Falcon Pointe Drive, at 9am. Leader: Alan, 891-8789 or ajmendoza@prodigy.net For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Thursday, November 26 - Sierra Club - Yahi

Group, Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe (grade 1, class A) Ski or snowshoe followed by Thanksgiving Dinner at the Mineral Lodge. If there isn't enough snow cover we'll take an easy hike. Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30am. Turkey dinner in Mineral 1:30pm and return to Chico around 4:30-5pm. Cost: @\$18 for dinner, plus \$ for drivers. Reservations required. Call Larry, 342-7998 for more info.

Friday, November 27 - Chico Peace and Justice Center - The day after Thanksgiving "Black Friday"

Although the Chico Peace and Justice Center supports "Buy Nothing Day" in protest of excessive consumerism, we also want to offer Fair Trade options to people who are looking for guilt-free shopping. Come by the Fair Trade Store (located inside the Peace and Justice Center) and check out our latest certified fair trade holiday shipment from countries around the world including Kenya, Argentina, Peru, Thailand and India.

Sunday, November 29 - Altacal Audubon Society - Colusa National Wildlife Refuge This year's Great Fly-Out field trip.

Trip leader Jennifer Patten will be held at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. The 4507-acre refuge is the winter home to over 20,000 ducks and 50,000 geese. We'll meet at the Chico Park'N'Ride at 2pm, (the first parking lot off the hwy exit). We'll car pool to Colusa NWR, and if there's enough time we'll take a short hike down their one-mile Discovery trail. Colusa is accessible for people with disabilities. Restrooms, designated parking areas, and a universally accessible viewing platform are available. Bring your folding chair, drink, sack lunch, binoculars, field guide, and dress warmly. Heavy rain cancels. For more information and to sign up please call or e-mail trip leader Jennifer Patten, 530-345-9356, jpchico@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, December 5, 2009 - Friends of the Herbarium - Basics of Native Grass Seed Collection and Storage

by Linnea Hanson and Susan Erwin. The workshop will meet from 9:00am - 4:30pm. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$100.00 personal, \$125.00 business (\$90.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 24 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 8 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact Linnea Hanson at lhanson@fs.fed.us or (530) 532-7425. For more information about workshop registration please contact the Chico State Herbarium office at (530) 898-3511 or NS@csuchico.edu. For details and registration form visit: http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/workshops/Seed_Collecting_12-5-09.pdf

Saturday, December 5 - Sierra Club - Yahí Group, Cross Country Ski (grade 2, class A). We'll go where the snow is good. This is for people who own ski equipment. Bring ski gear, lunch, water, appropriate clothing and \$ for drivers. Call leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Larry, 342-7998.

Sunday, December 6 – CNPS - Centerville Flume. Meet at Chico Hwy 99/32 Park and Ride (West Lot) at 9am or at the trailhead on Centerville Road (where it crosses the PG&E ditch, about a mile beyond the museum) at 9:45am. Bring lunch and water. Easy walking along the ditch bank but there are also occasional narrow trestles over the flume, about 4 miles overall. In years past we have seen 24 different kinds of flowering plants in bloom. Leaders: Wes 530-342-2293 and Gerry 530-893-5123.

Saturday, December 12 - Altacal Audubon Society - Field workshop on Identifying Ducks in the field and on the Wing. All workshops begin at 6:00am in Room 235 of Holt Hall on the Chico State Campus. Participants will return to Chico State at approximately 2pm. Participants must register in advance by calling Scott Huber at (530) 321-5579. Weather can be cold, windy and wet, please dress accordingly - hats, scarves and gloves are recommended. Please bring drinking water and a sack lunch. For more info: please call Scott Huber @ (530) 321-5579

Friday, January 1, 2010, Friends of Bidwell Park - Upper Bidwell Park Banana Belt Hike to view early spring flowers and the last of the fall flowers. Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, Mt. Lassen Chapter. Meet at 10am at Parking Area E. Bring lunch and water. For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Friday, January 1, 2010, Friends of Bidwell Park Annual Polar Bear Swim across Lower Bidwell Park's Sycamore Pool starting at 1pm. This is a no-host event – you just show up at the appropriate time. For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Friday, January 1, 2010, Friends of Bidwell Park - Bidwell Park Hike - Meet at the Five Mile parking lot (south side) at 1pm. Hike will be to the Yahí Trail or to Lower Bidwell Park, depending on the group's wishes. Bring snacks and water. Rain cancels. Call Jeanne 899-9980 or John 872-8258 for more information. Sponsored by the Sierra Club Yahí Group. For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

Sundays, January 10, February 14, March 14, Friends of Bidwell Park - Invasive Plant Removal in Cedar Grove, in their 8th year of eradicating invasive bladder senna plants from the park. From 9am to noon, meet at the Cedar Grove Parking Lot. Tools, gloves, and water provided. Wear closed toe shoes and long pants. We'll be moving around so if you come late, call 321-3406 for directions to work site. Rain cancels. For maps and forms visit: <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/>

January 11 - 13, 2010 – SRPT, CNPS, - Northern California Botanists - ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM - Details are being finalized, but you can see the draft schedule at: http://www.norcalbotanists.org/symposium/symposium2010_agenda.htm This schedule will be updated on a regular basis until complete, so check back to track changes. Please pass this announcement on to anyone you think might be interested. For more information about Northern California Botanists please go to: <http://www.norcalbotanists.org/> For more info: ljaneway@csuchico.edu

Saturday, January 23, 2010 - Altacal Audubon Society - Field workshop on Geese: dark, light, speckled and blue. All workshops begin at 6:00am in Room 235 of Holt Hall on the Chico State Campus. Participants will return to Chico State at approximately 2pm. Participants must register in advance by calling Scott Huber at (530) 321-5579. Weather can be cold, windy and wet, please dress accordingly - hats, scarves and gloves are recommended. Please bring drinking water and a sack lunch. For more info: please call Scott Huber @ (530) 321-5579

January 28-31, 2010 - SRPT, 11th Annual Snow Goose Festival Join us for the 2010 Snow Goose Festival of The Pacific Flyway where we will have: over 50 Guided Field Trips & Workshops, Junior Naturalist Activities, Uptown/Downtown Pacific Flyway Art Exhibit & Reception, Banquet & Silent Auction, Keynote Speaker, Stephen Shunk, Exhibits & Vendors Galore! 2010 Highlights: Nature Films, Storytelling, Huell Howser films. Online registration begins in early December. Pacific Flyway Art Exhibit Venues Uptown @ Avenue 9 Gallery & Art Guild, www.avenue9gallery.com. Downtown @ All Fired Up! Ceramic Art Studio, www.allfiredupchico.org. For updates and information visit our website: www.snowgoosefestival.org Phone (530)345-1865 Email info@snowgoosefestival.org

Saturday, February 6, 2010 - Friends of the Herbarium - Introduction to the Identification of Bryophytes technical interest by Shana Gross For details and info visit: <http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html>

Saturday, February 6, 2010 - Altacal Audubon Society - Field workshop on Swans and Cranes. All workshops begin at 6:00am in Room 235 of Holt Hall on the Chico State Campus. Participants will return to Chico State at approximately 2pm. Participants must register in advance, by calling Scott Huber at (530)321-5579 also contact for more info. Weather can be cold, windy and wet, please dress accordingly - hats, scarves and gloves are recommended. Please bring drinking water and a sack lunch.

Saturdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2010 - Friends of Bidwell Park - Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance - Remove invasive French & Spanish broom Help the Forest Ranch community action group BEEP (Broom Education and Eradication Program) in their 4th year of pulling broom in the upper Big Chico Creek and Little Chico Creek watersheds. From 9am to noon. Meet at the Forest Ranch Post Office to carpool to work site. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring gloves & water. Heavy rain or snow cancels. For more information, call Dulcy at 892-8726.

Saturday, February 27, 2010 - Friends of the Herbarium - Health and Safety in the Field. Technical/ general interest, by Josephine Guardino For details and info visit: <http://www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Events.html>

Mar 1-5, 2010 - CNPS - Dunes, Wetlands, and Coastal Scrub Volcanoes: An Introduction to the Plants and Habitats of the San Quintin, Baja California Sula Vanderplank and John Rebman Julie Evens For more info visit: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>

Mar 25-27, 2010 - CNPS - Rare Plants and Habitats of Eastern San Luis Obispo County David Keil, Deborah Hillyard, Kevin MerkJulie Evens For more info visit: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>

Mar 29-31, 2010 - CNPS - Vegetation Rapid Assessment Carrizo Plain. Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evens Julie Evens For more info visit: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>

Apr 12-14, 2010 - CNPS - Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy UC Davis and Central Valley vernal pool sites. Carol Witham, Jennifer Buck, Nick Jensen Julie Evens For more info visit: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>



Altacal Audubon Society

PO Box 3671, Chico, CA 95927
ptjptj@gmail.com
www.altacal.org

American Lung Association

10 Landing Circle, Ste 1
Chico, CA 95926
530.345.5864, Fax: 530.345.6035
www.californialung.org
nvr@northvalleyregion.org

Arboretum Management Club, CSUC

Big Chico Creek Restoration
First & Normal Sts., Chico, CA 95929
530.345.4542
www.csuchico.edu/amc
pmaslin@csuchico.edu

A.S. Recycling Program

BMU 002, CSU Chico, Chico 95929
Drop off center: 417 Cherry St., Chico
530.898.5033, Fax: 530.898.6782
www.aschico.com/recycle
asrecycle@csuchico.edu

A.S. Environmental Affairs Council

BMU 203, CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929
530.898.5701 or 530.218.5820
Fax: 530.898.6014
www.csuchico.edu/eac
asenvironmental@csuchico.edu

Barber Neighborhood Association

(Southwest Chico neighborhood)
barberneighbors@yahoo.com

Barry R. Kirshner Wildlife Foundation

P.O. Box 841, Durham, CA 95938
530.345.1700
www.kirshner.org

Bidwell Park Endowment Fund

PO Box 3223, Chico, CA 95927-3223
530.345.7265, ptombarrrett@sbcglobal.net

Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

PO Box 4005, Chico, CA 95927
530.343.9004 (Wildlife Help Phone)

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

PO Box 461, Chico, CA 95927
530.892.2196, www.bigchicocreek.org
coordinator@bigchicocreek.org

Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy

PO Box 1611, Chico, CA 95927
530.893.5399, Fax: 530.893.0694
www.buttecreekwatershed.org
creek@buttecreekwatershed.org

Butte Environmental Council, Inc.

116 W. 2nd St. Ste 3, Chico, CA 95928
530.891.6424, Fax: 530.891.6426
www.becnet.org, staff@becnet.org

Butte Humane Society

2579 Fair St., Chico, CA 95928
530.343.7917, Fax: 530.343.3734
www.buttehumane.org
shelter@buttehumane.org

California Conservation Corps

2725 Hwy 32, Ste F Chico, CA 95973
530.894.0495, www.ccc.ca.gov

California Native Plant Society

2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
916.447.2677, Fax: 916.447.2727
cnps@cnps.org, www.cnps.org

California Native Plant Society

Mt Lassen Chapter
PO Box 3212, Chico, CA 95927
530.343.8240
wyethia@earthlink.net

California Oak Foundation

1212 Broadway, Ste 842
Oakland, CA 94612
510.763.0282, Fax: 510.208.4435
www.californiaoaks.org
oakstaff@californiaoaks.org

California Park Association

1750 Humboldt Rd., Chico, CA 95928
530.343.4161, Fax: 530.894.6984
www.calipark.com

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

1316 Neilson St., Berkeley, CA 94702
510.526.4049; jbeuttler@aol.com
www.calsport.org

California Wilderness Coalition

1212 Broadway, Ste. 1700
Oakland, CA 94612
510.451.1450, Fax: 510.451.1445
www.calwild.org, info@calwild.org

CARE (Chico Advocates for a Responsible Economy)

PO Box 7647, Chico 95927
www.chicocares.org, info@chicocares.org

Chapman-Mulberry Neighborhood Organization

C/O Supervisor Jane Dolan
District 2, Butte County
196 Memorial Way, Chico, CA 95926
530.891.2830, F: 530.879.2479
Jdolan@buttecounty.net

Cherokee Preservation Society

530.534.0400, Fax: 530.534.0400
Chico Avenues Neighborhood Association
PO Box 4510, Chico, CA 95927
www.chicoavenues.org
chicoavenues@sbcglobal.net

Chico Certified Farmer's Market

305 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928
530.893.3276, Karrottalk@aol.com
Terry Givens, Market Manager

Chico Community Environmental Gardens

151 Silver Dollar Way, Chico, CA 95928
530.680.5291, Fax: 530.899.9190
www.ccegardens.org

Chico Creek Nature Center

1968 E. 8th St., Chico, California 95928
530.891.4671, Fax: 530.891.0837
www.chico.com/naturecenter
naturecenter@chico.com

ChicoEco

379 E 10th Ave, Chico
530.892.1227, www.chicoeco.org
nanibay@hotmail.com

Chico Food Not Bombs

http://chicofnb.googlepages.com
chicofnb@gmail.com
(530) 893-5772

Chico Grange

2775 Nord Ave., Chico, CA 95926
530.895.1817
www.chicogrango.org

Chico Greenline Coalition

PO Box 3524, Chico, CA 95927
www.chicogreenline.com
info@chicogreenline.com

Chico Natural Foods Co-op

818 Main St., Chico, CA 95928
530.891.1713, www.chiconatural.com

Chico Peace and Justice Center

526 Broadway, Chico, CA 95928
530.893.9078, www.chico-peace.org
chico-peace@sbcglobal.net

Chico Tree Enhancement & Education Program

PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942
530.895.0866, roger@streaminders.org

Chico Velo Cycling Club

PO Box 2285, Chico, CA 95927
530.343.8356, Fax: 530.342.4646
800.482.2453, www.chicovelo.org
ed@chicovelo.org

Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE)

BMU 309, 3rd Floor, CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929
530.898.5817, Fax: 530.898.6431
caveclerical@csuchico.edu, www.aschico.com/cave

Community Legal Information Center, CSUC

Environmental Advocates
Chico, CA 95926, clic@csuchico.edu
530.898.4354, Fax: 530.898.4911
www.csuchico.edu/clic/ea
clic@csuchico.edu

Environmental Action & Resource Center

CSU Chico, BMU 301, Chico, CA 95929
530.898.5676, Fax: 530.898.6782
www.csuchico.edu/earc
earc@csuchico.edu

Environmental Water Caucus (EWC)
319 Lenox St., Oakland, CA 94610
Land: 510.893.1330; Cell: 510.693.4979
Fax: 510.893.1331; www.ewccalifornia.org
dnesmith@ewccalifornia.org

Farm Sanctuary
PO Box 1065, Orland, CA 95963
530.865.4617, Fax: 530.865.4622
www.farmsanctuary.org
info@farmsanctuary.org

Flying Mammal Rescue of California
916.838.7002
admin@flyingmammalrescue.org
www.flyingmammalrescue.org

Friends of Bidwell Park
PO Box 3036, Chico, CA 95927
530.892.1666
www.friendsofbidwellpark.org
info@friendsofbidwellpark.org

Friends of Butte Creek
PO Box 3305, Chico, CA 95927
530.893.0360, friends@buttecreek.org
www.buttecreek.org

Friends of the Biological Sciences Herbarium
CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929
530.898.5381, ljaneway@csuchico.edu
www.csuchico.edu/biol/Herb/Friends.html

Friends of Plumas Wilderness
PO Box 225, Taylorsville, CA 95983
530.283.6649

Friends of the River
915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95814
www.friendsoftheriver.org
info@friendsoftheriver.org
916.442.3155, Fax: 916.442.3396

GRUB (Growing Resourcefully United Bellies)
530.680.4543

Habitat for Humanity
2288 Park Ave Ste A, Chico, CA 95926
Mail: PO Box 3073, Chico CA 95927
530.343.7423, www.buttehabitat.org
tritter@buttehabitat.org

Institute for Sustainable Development
CSU Chico, Chico, CA 95929
530.898.3333, Fax: 898.3336
sustainability@csuchico.edu
<http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/>

Kids & Creeks
PO Box 3271, Chico, CA 95927
530.895.1749, contact@kidsandcreeks.org
www.kidsandcreeks.org

KZFR
341 Boradway St Ste 411, Chico, CA 95927
530.895.0706, Fax: 530.895.0775
Studio: 530.895.0131, On Air: 530.895.0167
www.kzfr.org, G.M.: gm@kzfr.org

Lassen Forest Preservation Group
1540 Vilas Road, Cohasset, CA 95973
530.342.1641

Little Chico Creek Watershed Group
379 E 10th Ave, Chico, CA 95926
530.892.1227; nanibay@hotmail.com

Middle Mountain Foundation
PO Box 3359, Yuba City, CA 95992-3359
530.671.6116, www.middlemountain.org
middlemountain@yahoo.com

Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy
40652 Hwy 36 East, Mill Creek, CA 96061
Phone & Fax: 530.595.4470
milcrk1@aol.com

Neighbors for Environmental & Fiscal Responsibility
(NEFR) 530.345.6125
PO Box 4512, Chico, CA 95927-4512

Northern California Regional Land Trust
167 E. Third Ave, Chico, CA 95926
530.894.7738, Fax: 530.894.7738
www.landconservation.org
jwatts@landconservation

Plumas Forest Project
PO Box 903, Blairsden, CA 96103
530.836.0461, John Preschutti
always@psln.com

River Partners
580 Vallombrosa Ave, Chico, CA 95926
530.894.5401 ext 22
www.riverpartners.org
info@riverpartners.org

Sacramento River Preservation Trust
631 Flume St., Box 5366, Chico 95927
530.345.1865, Fax: 530.899.5105
www.sacriverttrust.org
jmerz@sacriverttrust.org

Sacramento River Watershed Program
PO Box 188585, Sacramento, CA 95818
916.549.4017, www.sacrivert.org
marylee@sacrivert.org

Shady Creek Outdoor School
(formerly known as Woodleaf Outdoor School)
530.292.3436, georges@sutter.k12.ca.us
www.shadycreek.org

Sierra Club, Yahi Group
PO Box 2012, Chico, CA 95927
530.345.2696
www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/yahi/

Sierra Forest Legacy
915 20th St., Sacramento, CA 95811
916.442.3155 x207, Fax: 916.442.3396
craig@sierraforestlegacy.org

South Chico Neighborhood Association
PO Box 3582, Chico, CA 95927
guzzettidavid@yahoo.com

Southwest Chico Neighborhood Association
www.swchicoe.org, swcna@swchicoe.org

South Campus Neighborhood Council
Attn: Charlie Pruesser
1405 W 3rd St, Chico, CA 95928

Streaminders
PO Box 68, Forest Ranch, CA 95942
530.895.0866, roger@streaminders.org
www.streaminders.org

The Cause
530.895.8852
www.be-the-cause.org

The Bidwell Ranch Conservancy
Chico, CA, 530.345.7205

The Esplanade League
PO Box 4868, Chico, CA 95927
www.esplanadeleague.org
eleague@shocking.com

The Nature Conservancy
Northern Central Valley
500 Main St., Ste. B, Chico, CA 95928
530.897.6370, Fax: 530.342.0257
www.nature.org

Torres Community Shelter
101 Silver Dollar Way, Chico 95928
530.891.9048, www.chicosshelter.org/
louise@digitalpath.net

TreeAction
530.892.1818, www.treeaction.org
fgair@sbcglobal.net

Trout Unlimited
1808 B 5th St., Berkeley, CA 94710
510.528.4164, www.tu.org

Upper Ridge Wilderness Areas, Inc.
PO Box 154, Magalia, CA 95954
530.873.6396, magahoff@aol.com

Valley Water Protection Association
7399 Hwy. 99, Oroville, CA 95965
530.343.0916, colewaterinfo@yahoo.com

Vallombrosa Avenue Neighborhood Association
2096 Vallombrosa Ave, Chico, CA 95926

116 W. Second St., Suite 3
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-6424

www.becnet.org

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