



Butte Environmental Council

Educating and advocating for the land, air and water

August 2012

Butte Environmental Council e-News *Your Environmental Sentinel*

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Dear Robyn,

Thank you for your ongoing support of BEC. There are lots of fun ways for you to support BEC in the next few weeks. Hope to see you there!

Rummage Sale, Wine Tasting, and Other Upcoming Events...(click on highlighted title for Facebook event link)

The Mother of All Rummage Sales this Saturday (August 18) 525 Salem St., is only three short days away! Hearts pounding in anticipation, we eagerly anticipate descending like thrift vultures on the Fresh Kill of new-to-us stuff. You still have two days left to **drop items off** at **Chico U-Lock-It, 1905 MLK Parkway (by the 20th St. Park)** between **9 am and 6 pm through Friday**; this is a fundraiser for BEC, and your donations are gratefully welcomed. The rummage sale will be held at **the Tri-Counties Bank parking lot on Salem and 5th Streets**. Please make sure to stop by Saturday morning after the Farmers' Market and check out the pickin's!

BEC Wine Tasting Fundraiser
Thursday, August 30, 4pm-6pm, The Crystal Room (968 East Ave.) Have you ever been intimidated by the Grocery Outlet's wine selection? Admit it, it's daunting! But in case you haven't heard, some fabulous wines can be found at discount prices. This is a perfect opportunity to find out which Groc-Out wines you like the best -- and to support your friendly neighborhood environmental watchdog in the process. Three dollars gets you in, and may the best wines win!

And Also...

Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup
Saturday, September 15th
Wear good shoes/boots, bring a refillable water bottle, and get ready for a morning of good, hard work! Round up your friends or colleagues and create a team. Two meeting points are: **1057 Park Ave. (across from the Circle K)** and at **Hooker Oak Recreation Area, off Manzanita Ave.** Volunteers will be treated to a BBQ at 12:30 at Hooker Oak Rec Area.

BEC Member Meeting (4:30-5:00) and Birthday Bash (5:00-9:00) Saturday, September 29th
At the **Arc Pavilion, 2040 Park Ave.** Save the date!

Supporting BEC Friends & Allies

We'd like to give a giant THANK YOU! to some local businesses who are going above and beyond with their help and support. Click on the highlighted name to link to their website...



Tri-Counties Bank. Thanks to Daniela, Scott, and Julie for helping us out with a FANTASTIC downtown location for the Rummage Sale. Not only do you folks embody our community values -- but we love that you're *our* bank, and you're LOCAL.

Chico U-Lock-It. Kristina, Candace, and Josh are donating a storage space as a drop-off spot for the Rummage Sale -- in addition to their ongoing donation of a storage space for our BEC cleanup and ESF gear. Such a pleasure to work with these folks --and they give Chico Chamber of Commerce members/business owners three months free storage. Flash your business license, and you're in! Such a deal! We love U, Chico U-Lock-It!

Grocery Outlet. Hats off to the Grocery Outlet for working with local non-profits to offer these great wine-tasting events; thanks also to **the Crystal Room** for hosting our wine-tasting on August 30, and to the **Chico News & Review** for turning us on to this fun opportunity. Dang! Now that Grocery Outlet jingle is stuck in my head.

A shout-out to **Pat** at **Digger News** for continually helping us promote our workshops in Oroville and Paradise. Pat also helped us find chicken owners for our egg research in Oroville by running ads about the project (and the \$25 stipend for participation!). We support and appreciate the Digger as a community resource, and greatly respect all Pat's excellent work at keeping that resource available.

And thanks to **Gordy Ohliger**, who is donating what might be a mini-estate sale to the Mother of All Rummage Sales. You're the best, Gordy, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity.

Right To Know: Yes on CA Prop. 37 Labeling Genetically Modified Foods

BEC has endorsed the Right to Know Campaign and encourages you to vote yes on 37 and to support the campaign efforts. The initiative needs all the grassroots help and support you have to give, because industry backlash against the bill is well-funded and well-connected. Please visit the Yes on 37 [website](#) to learn more about how you can help this important initiative pass in California--which will enable other states to duplicate our success.

NO
The United States and Canada do not require labeling of genetically engineered foods

YES
In 50 countries there are significant restrictions or outright bans on GMOs.



Given the lack of assurance from independent sources regarding the safety of genetically modified foods, it is understandable that the vast majority of Americans support labeling GMO foods. According to a MSNBC Health poll in March of 2011, 96% of respondents supported GMO labeling. Polls consistently show support around the 90% mark--a level almost never seen in public opinion polls.



From the CA Right to Know website:
"More than 1,000 businesses and professional supporters have endorsed the Prop 37 Right to Know initiative including a broad range of consumer, farm, environmental, and health advocates."

The Butte Environmental Council is among those supporters; we believe that genetically modified food is a poor use of technology, and that sustainable farming systems represent a better direction for food security.

Governor Brown Plays "Hide and Go, CEQA!"

BEC and other environmental advocates in California are concerned about the governor's interest in "reforming the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Governor Jerry Brown is advocating for certain environmental project such as High Speed Rail to be exempt from environmental review. But regardless of potential environmental benefits a project might offer, the importance of maintaining tough environmental review standards can not be understated.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was created in 1970, on the heels of the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) which took effect in 1969. CEQA has four major functions:

1. To inform government decision-makers and citizens about the potential environmental impacts of proposed activities;
2. To find ways to reduce or avoid potential environmental damage;
3. To prevent such damage, either by adopting alternatives or mitigating measures;
4. To disclose to the public why a project was approved despite significant environmental impacts.

Under CEQA, projects are assessed in an initial study; upon completion of the study, a project is either projected to have no significant environmental impacts (a *negative declaration*) or potential impacts are

examined in an *environmental impact report* (EIR). The EIR must address cumulative impacts and project alternatives; propose mitigation; and respond to significant questions regarding the project.

CEQA provides one of the best legal footholds for California citizens to practice environmental protection. The document is reviewed by the State Secretary of Resources every two years as required by law, and so is in a state of continual revision.

But that is apparently not enough for Governor Jerry Brown, who states "**I've never seen a CEQA exemption that I don't like.**" The Governor has signed three bills limiting CEQA's power so far, and is on track to sign another. [The Sacramento Bee published a recent article detailing Governor Brown's record on CEQA.](#)

Procession of the Species Booth at Chico Palio Kickoff, September 8



Recruiting artists and educators for a fun, creative opportunity!

Come visit the Procession of the Species table at Chico Palio, and learn more about the Endangered Species Faire and how to become a part of the Procession of the Species!

We'll have photographs of past Processions, brochures about next year's Procession, and some puppets that have been in the parade. Learn how you can become involved.

We'll have sign-up sheets for next year's event, and materials for children to make a small puppet.

This event will be from

10am-3pm at One Mile/Sycamore Field, in Chico on Saturday, September 8th.

Help Amy Find the Foxes

Masters student Amy Brasch is originally from Paradise; she emailed us from New Zealand with a research request:

(I'm) researching citizen science and its contribution to conservation efforts of Sacramento Valley red foxes in California. I did my undergraduate degree at UC Davis, and now I'm doing a Master's degree in New Zealand. My research project is in collaboration with UC Davis and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (where I currently reside). As part of my research, I am administering a quick 5 minute survey to get public feedback on the UC Davis fox sighting website:

<http://foxsurvey.ucdavis.edu/>



What that means to You, Esteemed Reader, is that if you've had a Red Fox sighting, please log in to that website and record your sighting there. Citizen science is fun, it's a way to connect to your biotic community, and you'll help Amy get good data for her thesis! And thanks to you, Amy, for reaching out to us in a way that benefits us both.

Our members are a hugely valuable resource for this kind of information, and we value them for this (and so many other!) reasons.

ERRATA: Thanks to member Gary Wilson for his diligence:

Gary was responding to the article "Sweat, Glow, Perspire" in July's Environmental Sentinel and the statement that **perspiration eliminated toxins.**

Gary pointed out that "As far as ridding your body of wastes and toxins, that is handled primarily by Renal/Urinary Function, Hepatic Function, Lymphatic network and the GI tract. The primary function of perspiration is temperature control."

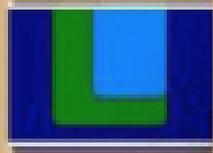
His concern was that BEC was undermining its reputation as an organization that relied on sound science, and we welcome his concern and the opportunity to rectify a misstatement.

Hope we see you at our upcoming events. Together we can accomplish what is impossible alone.

Sincerely,

Robyn DiFalco

Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council



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