

# Butte Environmental Council e-News

## *Your Environmental Sentinel*

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Dear Robyn,

Earth Month and Bike Month are beautiful and busy times here at BEC. Here's what we've been up to, and what we've got on the horizon...

## Here Comes the CBMF

*(Below: Sammye and the Pedal Power Generator at the Endangered Species Faire)*

What the heck is with this **Flash Bike Mob?!** Where's that **music** coming from? And why does everyone have a **huge grin** on their face?

Silly Rabbit, it's the **Chico Bike Music Festival!**

From event mastermind Sammye Tchudi-Zangrilli's [website](#), *The Chico Bicycle Music Festival (CBMF) is a non-profit event to promote human-scale transportation and talented local musicians through innovation, bicycles and community. Taking place on June 2nd from 12pm till dark, (the CBMF) is the perfect finale to BIKE month, a national campaign promoting bicycling to work, school and play. What makes this musical event different is the bicycle generator, which audience members pedal to provide the musicians with power for their instruments—a literally "empowering" involvement!*

The action will begin at **noon** in **Camilla Way Park**, across from Morning Thunder Restaurant, and travel at **2:00** to **Cedar Grove** in Bidwell Park (where the Endangered Species Faire was) and finish up at the **GRUB Farm, 1525 Dayton Rd.** The GRUB party is from **6 pm** until the last happy exhausted biker pedals off (with light and helmet- Safety First!) into the beautiful June night.

Too many amazing musicians to list here; check this [link](#) for the day's lineup.

**Share the grin, the sweaty good times, and the great music! Help us finish Bike Month strong--side by side, one revolution at a time.**

## A small but significant water victory

*Omitting "conjunctive management" from the NSV IRWM Plan*

We're pleased to report that the term "conjunctive management" will not appear as a foundational objective in the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Water Management Plan -- and proud to say we had a little something to do with that.

BEC was concerned with the requirement to coordinate NSV water reliability efforts with local conjunctive use initiatives. We saw this objective as fraught with pitfalls to the environment as well as to maintaining a sustainable water supply for the region. So did many in the region who took the time to comment as early as January of this year."

The NSV IRWM process provides a monthly forum for regional discussions about water management and planning, specifically focused on development of a Plan that enables this region to pursue Proposition 84 funding opportunities. Our Water Resource Advocate, Carol Perkins sat down and discussed our concerns with Ann Schwab and Bill Connelly (two of three NSV IRWM Board members representing Butte County) prior to the special Board meeting on May 7th, 2012. Ann and Bill 'went to bat' for us and successfully advocated for the removal of these terms! Thank you Ann and Bill, one less worry... This week the NSV IRWM TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meets publicly to refine the supporting documentation behind the Goals and Objectives and hopefully begin outlining 'project definitions.' The meeting is held at the Willows Library at 9:00AM. More information can be found at: [www.nsvwaterplan.org](http://www.nsvwaterplan.org).

## Feather River Clean-Up June 23

*Doin' it for our Oroville friends and members...*

BEC is proud to participate in the first-ever Feather River Clean-Up on June 23 in Oroville! Led by the Feather River Parks & Rec. District, BEC's cleanup area will extend from the Veterans Memorial Hall to River Bend Park. This part of the Feather is beautiful and used by locals and visitors alike for recreation, sport, and sightseeing.

Volunteers are needed for this addition to BEC's traditional September Cleanup. Information for this event will be available soon on BEC's website, or contact the BEC office to volunteer or ask questions, **891-6424** or **staff@becprotects.org**

## Humboldt Community Gardens

*A Project of Butte Environmental Council*

In 2011, BEC began working with the City of Chico to establish a community garden on unimproved city land across from Marsh Jr. High at Humboldt Rd and Notre Dame Blvd / El Monte. The City purchased the land for a park over twenty years ago, and a portion is currently being used as a storm water retention basin. After a lot of help from city staff and members of the community, we were able to strike a deal. In spring 2012 BEC signed a lease with the City of Chico to use the property for a community garden.

The Humboldt Community Garden operates under BEC's non-profit status. Individuals who want to use the garden, in turn sign "member" agreements with BEC. These agreements contain the rules and responsibilities of all parties. The garden will operate using a typical community garden governance structure. An advisory committee of garden "members" will oversee the garden, with the help of the garden coordinator. All decisions will be made democratically at monthly member meetings.

The Humboldt Community Garden is starting as a one-acre plot surrounded by a five-foot high wire fence. The space is divided into twenty-seven 15'x15' and twelve 25'x25' individual garden plots, three 25'x60' "agency gardens", and a 40'x60' picnic area. A central pavilion will allow for cooking demonstrations on site, connecting field to fork. While the garden is within walking distances of three major apartment complexes and sits along a main bike path, it is assumed that some gardeners will drive. So, the garden is set back 150' from Humboldt Ave to allow for off-street parking in front of the garden.

Introductory prices for a one-year plot lease are as follows:

**\$25 for a 15x15 plot**

**\$50 for a 25x25 plot**

The lease includes water and limited liability insurance (a city requirement). Water service is slated to begin in mid-May. The Humboldt Community Garden is intended to be self-supporting. All improvements to the plot are the responsibility of the gardener. The garden coordinator will attempt to arrange bulk purchases of compost.

Interested applicants should submit

- a Plot Registration Form
- the "Rules & Agreements" document
- the "Release of all Claims" waiver form.
- cash or check for the annual plot fee (Checks should be made out to "Butte Environmental Council".)

## ESF+You=Magic!

The 33rd annual **Endangered Species Faire** was a GREAT success, and it was wonderful (as always!) to see so many old friends, and meet new ones. The morning kicked off with the first ever **Earth Walk**, a

walk-a-thon event to support the ESF featuring education stations from Kids & Creeks, Friends of Bidwell Park, Chico Natural Foods Cooperative, Stream Team, Recycling And Rubbish Exhibit, the Chico Creek Nature Center, and Sigma Chi.

An extra-special **thank you** goes out to the **musicians**, who brought the festive atmosphere to the Grove, and to **Stephen and Susan Tchudi**. The Tchudis were Masters-of-Ceremony at the Faire, moving the musicians through their program, and were the organizers of the **Procession of the Species**. This parade, narrated by **Kathy Faith**, featured puppets representing many different endangered species of birds, bugs, and other assorted critters, from the small to the giant. There was a thrilling fifteen-foot-long rattlesnake puppet carried by several people, with a woman on the end shaking its rattle as they coiled sinuously through the Grove. The groups of school kids and their parents, walking with their creations held up and bouncing to the rhythm of Wolf Thump, was an amazing and endearing sight. The Tchudis put in time, money, and mostly love to teach these kids about endangered species and how to make puppets. Their example, and the people who followed it, was a shining high point in the Faire.

**Blush Catering** and **Maria's Gone Tamales** provided delicious food for Faire-goers; a grateful Thank You goes out to them as well. And thanks also to **Chico Creek Nature Center** and **Bidwell Wildlife Rehabilitation** for bringing the critters that the kids (and grown-up kids) find so fascinating.

For more on the ESF, see the Chico News & Review's [article](#) of 5/11/12.

## Bike Month, All Month

*Don't miss the Tour de Cupcake...*

Bike Week is over, but Bike Month rolls on! The **Butte Bicycle Coalition** and **Chico Velo** are the 'legs' of Bike Chico, now in its 6th year. BEC was delighted to join the bike shops and other groups that set up on the Plaza for Bike Night on May 10th.

And don't miss the Butte Bicycle Coalition's upcoming "**Tour de Cupcake**" on **Sunday, May 20**-details are very hush-hush at this point but you can sign up for the Tour [here](#). This "Alley Cat" style race is \$15 for a single rider, \$25 for a family entry. All proceeds go to benefit the Butte Bicycle Coalition.

BEC took Bike Night as an opportunity to solicit community engagement on our Transportation Policy, a work in progress. The Policy is one of the topics on the agenda for our **Advocacy Meeting** on **Wednesday, June 6th** from **5-7pm**. We'll get cupcakes if you'll attend!

## BEC at the KZFR Bocce Fundraiser?

**BOCCE**. Does the word make your heartbeat quicken?

Would you like to play on a BEC team at the KZFR/ Chico Creek Nature Center Benefit Bocce Ball Tournament on Saturday, June 24th at the Chico Racket Club?

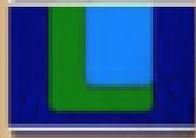
There are four people on a team; the cost is \$300 split four ways (\$75 each). This entitles you to a KZFR shirt, 16 entry passes for your team supporters (an \$80 value) and full use of the Racket Club facilities (pool, hot tub, kids' activities, post-tournament acoustic concert, and more). Contact the BEC office at **891-6424** or [staff@becprotects.org](mailto:staff@becprotects.org) if you want to represent BEC and rule the pallino!

Please forward this message to a friend who might be interested in getting involved with BEC or attending one of our events.

Sincerely,

*Robyn DiFalco*

Butte Environmental Council



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