



Environmental Sentinel

Your source for Butte County's environmental news and events

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Council**
Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1975

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Environmental Happenings in the Community

Upcoming BEC Events:

Oak Way Community Garden Fence-Raising Party
Saturday, March 15, 10am-2pm

Rainwater Catchment Workshop
Saturday, March 22, at 9am -- Registration Required

Film Screening of "Bidder 70" about Tim DeChristopher
Thursday, March 27

Earth Day Film: Plastic Paradise at The Big Room
Tuesday, April 22, doors at

Garden Fundraiser: Breaking Bread, Breaking Ground
Sunday, March 30, 5-8pm
Call 891-6424 today to reserve your tickets!

Endangered Species Faire
Saturday, May 3, 11am - 5pm

BEC Wine Tasting Fundraiser
Thursday, May 29, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

The Chico Bicycle Music Festival
Saturday, June 7

New Rainwater Catchment Program for Local Schools

This fall, Butte Environmental Council will be **sponsoring the installation of rain barrels at schools**. Rainwater catchment is a fun way to conserve water, as well as a great visual to teach kids where our water comes from, the water cycle, and how to value this resource. We are accepting applications now and will be **considering four schools** based on the order the applications are received as well as the feasibility of installation. The program **includes the installation** of four 55 gallon rain barrels, a hose, an interactive lesson for students, and a how-to guide for use. This project is made possible by grants from Patagonia, the Rose Foundation, and private donors.

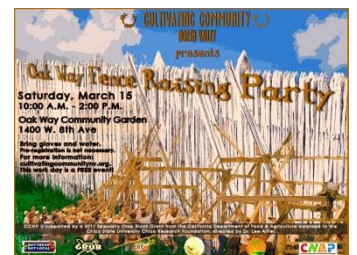
"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught."

- Baba Dioum



March 15: Fence Raising Party

Join us for the Oak Way Fence Raising Party this Saturday, March 15th 10am-2pm at **BEC's new Oak Way community garden** on the corner of hwy 32 and West 8th Ave at Oak Way Community Park. Bring gloves, water, and a friend. Thanks to Cultivating Community for helping us create a new community garden and to Independent Living Services of North Valley for helping to make it an accessible garden.



March 27: Tim DeChristopher is "Bidder 70"

BEC is proud to partner with the Chico Peace & Justice Center on a film screening of Bidder 70, a feature length documentary film about Tim DeChristopher, the college student who derailed an illegal BLM oil and gas lease auction in 2008. DeChristopher was sentenced to two years in federal prison for his act of civil disobedience on behalf of climate justice.

Join us for this powerful film:

Unitarian Universalist Church, 1289 Filbert Ave in Chico
Thursday, March 27, Doors at 6:30, film at 7pm
Q&A with directors of the film: George & Beth Gage



Don't Frack California: March 15th Mobilization

On Saturday, **March 15th** thousands of Californians are coming together in Sacramento to demand an end to #fracking in our state. It's time to stand up and tell our leaders: Don't Frack California. Get on the #DontFrackCa Bus! There are 3400 RSVPs so far!

The bus leaving from Chico is full with a waiting list but carpools are also being organized as well. To connect with other Chico people heading to this rally, contact Dave Garcia rangerdave@mynvw.com or check the rideshare board at www.dontfrackcalifornia.org/rideboard.



Check out dontfrackcalifornia.org for information.

March 30: Breaking Bread, Breaking Ground

Join us on Sunday, March 30 at the Arc Pavilion (2040 Park ave.) to raise funds for our new Oak Way Community Garden! The menu for this year's Breaking Bread, Breaking Ground fundraising dinner will be a Mediterranean feast with live music by Stevie Cook & John Seid with special guest Diane Garner.



Get your tickets today at the BEC office, Chico Natural Foods, or The Plant Barn. Credit Cards are also accepted by phone or in person at the BEC office 891-6424.

The Endangered Species Faire

Save the date! This year's Endangered Species Faire will be held **Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at One Mile Picnic Area in Lower Bidwell Park.



The registration deadline for educational booths and vendors is April 11:
[register online at www.becnet.org/endangered-species-faire](http://www.becnet.org/endangered-species-faire)

We need volunteers immediately to help with one of the most wonderful events of the Faire: the Procession of the Species. What this is, is a parade of puppets; Paper Mache, fabric, and reused materials hand-made by local school kids and community members. Join Susan and Steve Tchudi and other wonderful puppet makers in local classrooms working with kids, teaching them about endangered species, puppet design, and puppet creation. For more information, email Susan, susan@turkeytailfarm.net

Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Chico Bag, Klean Kanteen, and the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company are sponsoring an **Earth Day Film screening of "Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch"** at the Big Room. A film short "One Plastic Beach" will also be shown of beachcomber artists Richard Lang and Judith Selby Lang, whose work will be on display in the Mezzanine.

Any donation gets you in the door and **proceeds benefit three local nonprofits: the Sacramento River Preservation Trust, Kids & Creeks, and BEC's Recycling And Rubbish Education program.** Doors open at 6pm, film begins at 7pm.



Farmers Against Fracking

150 farmers across California have **signed a letter to Governor Brown asking him to halt fracking.** Farmers in Butte County who want to sign on or join a local chapter of Farmers Against Fracking should contact Tia Lebherz to get involved or help publicize the letter. Please join their Facebook page and share this information if you know farmers who want to get involved.



Regulating Butte County Fracking Through the Zoning Code

The Board of Supervisors will **consider the hazards of fracking on Tuesday, April 8th.** They will vote on an option that would limit or regulate the water-intensive and highly polluting practice of fracking by modifying the Zoning Code to require a Conditional Use permit for any new proposed fracking project. This would also require a public hearing and environmental review of the proposed project.



While **our ideal outcome is to have fracking banned in Butte County,** the Zoning Code change is also worth pursuing because it may be the "politically palatable option" that has a better chance of getting passed in our county. Meanwhile, Citizen Action Network launched the Frack-Free Butte County campaign with a press conference this morning at Oroville Dam. Citizens are **gathering signatures for a November 2014 ballot initiative that would ban fracking in Butte County. Tonight at Lyon Books** (Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 pm) there will be a training for anyone interested in getting involved in this effort.

Membership: Holding BEC Accountable

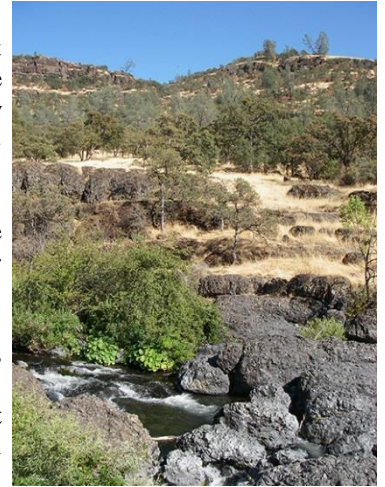
Just as BEC is committed to curbing the waste of material resources, we believe that our work must be efficient and impactful to be **worthy of the financial resources you generously donate**. We request your support of our mission "to protect and defend the land, air, and water of Butte County and the surrounding region" and we practice detailed financial accounting to ensure that we are balancing our budget accurately and honestly.

Membership gives you open access to the work BEC accomplishes on your behalf, and we strive for best practices and accountability in all our activities, which are ultimately fueled by your generosity.

Your contribution leverages the grants we receive from private foundations, and these large donors require a detailed report at the end of the grant period explaining the use of their funds. We show that we followed through with the activities outlined in our original request, **we share the impact their contribution made**, and we explain how the financial support they provided was used efficiently.

We feel that this same accountability is appropriate for our community and individual members, and **we strive to be worthy of your support**. As you know, BEC operates on a grassroots budget, stretching every dollar we have. **Your generosity truly makes our work possible, and we appreciate your commitment to renewing your membership, spreading the word about our work, and attending our events**. Thank you for your continued support!

Every dollar has an impact: **Join BEC today** if you're not yet a member. If you are due to renew, interested in becoming a BEC Angel, or would like more information about the accomplishments made possible by your generosity, please give us a call (530) 891-6424, [email Justina](mailto:justinaj@becnet.org) at justinaj@becnet.org, or stop by our office in downtown Chico at 116 W. 2nd Street, Suite 3 in Chico.



I Feel the Earth Move Under my Feet

When I accepted the position as RARE program coordinator I knew that I was going to need to get up close and personal with **GARBAGE!** One of the aspects of the program is scheduling field trips to our local landfill for teachers and students in Butte County. I had never been to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste facility so **I booked a tour** and off I went. I met Butte County recycling coordinator, Steve Rodowick and our tour began. As you enter the landfill... [read more](#)



Heartfelt Thanks

On behalf of BEC and the Chico Bicycle Music Festival we wish to send a heartfelt **thank you to everyone involved in making the Love & Bicycles fundraiser a wonderful success**. We want to send lots of love and thanks to Sammie Zangrilli for coordinating this event so elegantly. Without her loving dedication, this event would not have happened! We wish to thank Blush Catering for the delicious food, Carrie Walsh and The Habitat Lab for the lovely atmosphere, and the many priceless volunteers who set up, facilitated and cleaned up after the event. Also, of course, many thanks to all that attended!



We would also like to thank the **24 local environmental groups that came together** to share their projects and information at the Environmental Coalition Community Gathering. The potluck food was scrumptious and beverages provided by Sierra Nevada Brewery and LaRocca Vineyards were a refreshing addition to the event. We want to extend special thanks to BEC Board Member Luanne Manss for organizing all the details that made this event run so smoothly.

Our thanks are blooming for Cultivating Community North Valley for hosting the fence raising party coming up this weekend, a true act of community cultivation!

Environmental Happenings in the Community

Party for a Frack-Free Butte County

Sun, March 16, 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Help support a ballot initiative for a moratorium on Fracking PROTECT OUR WATER Women's Club
592 East 3rd Street



MaMuse

Fracking Documentary: The Sky is Pink Food and Drinks available COST: \$10

5th Annual Seed Swap

Sun, March 16, 2pm - 6pm

2775 Nord Avenue, Chico, CA, United States (map)

The 5th Annual Seed Swap is a celebration marking the arrival of Spring and the gardening season. The Seed Swap is a free event and will include the seed exchange itself as well as speaker presentations and community seed stories, local vendors and non-profits as well as food, music and other activities for people of all ages. Follow Up Contact Information: Stephanie Ladwig-Cooper, Chico Permaculture Guild, 530-828-6390 <http://chicopermaculture.wordpress.com> Sherri Scott, GRUB Education Program, 530-342-3376

Chico Creek Nature Center Ecological Impact Family Volunteer Day

March 22nd All day

Wine Tasting fundraiser for Chico Creek Nature Center

March 27th 4:00pm - Chico Grocery Outlet

Oroville Dioxin Education workshop at Hmong Cultural Center

Fri, March 28, 4pm - 5pm

Hmong Cultural Center-Butte County, Feather River Boulevard, Oroville

Oroville Dioxin Education workshop at the Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County, 1940 Feather River Blvd. on Friday, March 28th, 4 - 5pm.

Feather River Cleanup Day

Saturday, March 29, 9am - 12pm

Riverbend Park, Oroville

Help Butte County Resource Conservation District pick up litter from Feather River!

6th Annual Walk4Water

Sat, April 5, 8:30am - 6:00pm

One Mile, Chico

Raise \$ and awareness for safe water & water conservation in developing countries. Bring your own bucket to carry on a 2K or 5K walk. Educational stations along the route. Starts at One Mile Recreation Area. For more information, call 342-5746. The walk demonstrates to participants the difficulties people in developing nations encounter daily in obtaining fresh water. The program so far has helped provide more than 5,000 Africans clean water, sanitation and training in hygiene. For information, call Shirley Adams of Bridging the Gap Foundation at 342-5746.

Sierra Club Program, "Does Fracking Contaminate Water, Air and Cause Earthquakes?"

Wed, April 9, 6:30pm, Chico Library, E 1st Ave/Sherman Ave, Chico

Vernal Pool Conference, AquAlliance, Sierra Nevada Big Room

April 10 & 11

Vernal Pools in Changing Landscapes: From Shasta to Baja.

The conference will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at Sierra Nevada Brewing Company in Chico with field-trips on Friday, April 11th. The keynote address will be delivered by Robert Holland.

Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

at Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, Chico

Field trips: Friday, April 11, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

various North State locations to be announced