



Santa Barbara CHANNELKEEPER®

Keeping watch for clean water

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Santa Barbara CHANNELKEEPER®

*Our mission is to protect and restore the
Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds
through science-based advocacy,
education, field work and enforcement*

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FROM THE HELM

More and more people in our community have come to know and trust Santa Barbara Channelkeeper as the lead voice for clean water and healthy aquatic habitats on the South Coast. However, many people don't know that we are part of a much larger network of Waterkeeper organizations that spans the globe.

Channelkeeper's story started 15 years ago when a small group of concerned citizens saw the need for a dedicated watchdog and advocate to protect and restore the precious water resources of the Santa Barbara Channel, and they turned that vision into a reality. But our roots stretch back to 1966, when commercial and recreational fishermen united to save the Hudson River.

Recognizing that citizen-led advocacy was the only way to ensure that laws were enforced and their river, livelihood and the health of their families were protected, these fishermen took on many of the nation's biggest industrial polluters and won. In 1983, they hired the first Hudson Riverkeeper to patrol the river, restore its abundant fisheries and lead citizen enforcement of environmental laws. With the help of a young attorney named Robert ("Bobby") F. Kennedy, Jr., Riverkeeper brought hundreds of polluters to justice and restored the Hudson to health. Their success inspired the formation of other "keeper" organizations, and in 1999 Waterkeeper Alliance was founded to support them.

Today, we are a global alliance of more than 240 Waterkeeper organizations, collectively patrolling and protecting two million square miles of rivers, lakes and coastline on six continents. The growth and success of the Waterkeeper movement is due in great part to the vision and dedication of Bobby Kennedy, Jr., the founder of Waterkeeper Alliance, a stalwart environmental activist, and a huge source of inspiration to water advocates worldwide, including yours truly. Bobby helped launch Channelkeeper at our inaugural Blue Water Ball 15 years ago, and we are honored to have him back for our 15th annual Ball on May 2nd. I hope you will join us to enjoy what is sure to be a deeply inspiring keynote address from a true icon of American environmentalism.



KIRA REDMOND | *Executive Director*

INTERN PROFILE



Channelkeeper's success as a clean water watchdog is a result of our commitment to scientific credibility, financial responsibility, thoughtful strategic planning, and support from our members and volunteers. We also benefit greatly from the hard work and dedication of our student interns.

Edwin Cheung is an intern for our MPA Watch program, and we asked him to share his experience with members like you, whose

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Santa Barbara Marches Toward Desalination



Despite high hopes for a wet winter, California's historic drought has continued, and so too has the City of Santa Barbara's move to reactivate its mothballed desalination plant. Channelkeeper has been the sole local environmental watchdog following this complex process, conducting extensive research about the issue and testifying at numerous public hearings. We have been lobbying the City to pursue desalination as a last resort only after exhausting other more environmentally friendly options - such as implementing incentives for increased conservation, building infrastructure for stormwater capture, and expanding the production and distribution of recycled water - and then, if desalination is still necessary due to extended drought, to use the best available technology to minimize its environmental impacts.

In addition to the significant greenhouse gas emissions caused by the highly energy-intensive desalination process, and the toxicity to marine life from the discharge of concentrated brine back into the

ocean, Channelkeeper's primary concern is with the massive death toll to marine life caused by the open ocean intake that will be used to suck seawater into Santa Barbara's desal plant. The State Water Board enacted a policy in 2010 to phase out the use of open ocean intakes for coastal power plant cooling to protect marine life from this harmful technology, and is about to adopt a similar policy for desalination plants. That policy identifies subsurface intakes, which extract seawater from beneath the seafloor and thus virtually eliminate marine life mortality, as the preferred technology, and will require any new or expanded desal facility in California to utilize subsurface intakes unless they are thoroughly demonstrated to be infeasible.

Channelkeeper has been lobbying City officials to conduct a study of the feasibility of subsurface intakes since last fall, and we did succeed in convincing them to consider it. Then we successfully lobbied the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to require such a study as

an enforceable condition of the City's permit for the facility. The City must prepare and submit a work plan to the RWQCB by August 31, 2015 and must complete the study and report back to the RWQCB at a public meeting by June 30, 2017. The RWQCB also added a permit requirement that the City pay \$500,000 to a coastal restoration project as mitigation for the marine life mortality to be caused by the City's open ocean intake.

Channelkeeper is heartened that the City will soon begin the feasibility study we've been asking for, and we look forward to the findings. Our hope is that, if a subsurface intake is found feasible, that the City will transition to this less environmentally harmful intake technology in the near future.

If the drought continues, City Council will vote to proceed with reactivating the desalination plant this June, and if they do, Santa Barbara water customers will see a \$30 increase (for the average user) in their monthly water bills effective July 1, 2015. The plant would be ready to deliver water in fall 2016.

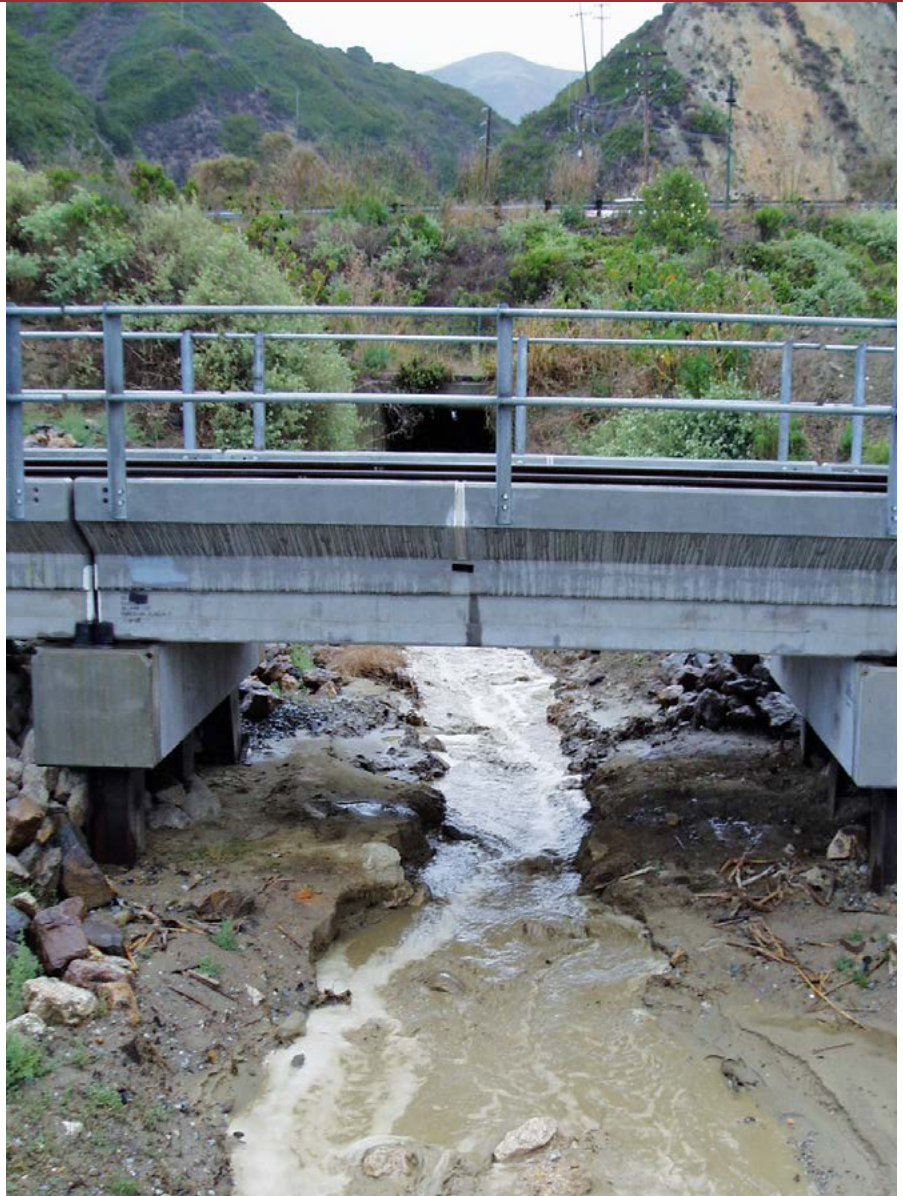
Channelkeeper Calls for Action to Protect Public Health from Fracking

This February, Channelkeeper launched a new campaign to lobby government agencies to take action to protect public health and the environment from contamination emanating from oil fields along the north coast of Ventura County.

Our campaign stemmed from findings of a recent scientific study published by the consulting firm Blue Tomorrow and UCSB's Dr. Arturo Keller, which indicate that fracking and enhanced recovery activities by nearby oil producers may be contaminating coastal streams and beaches.

Channelkeeper sent letters to the Ventura County Environmental Health Department and the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, petitioning them to install signage on Solimar, Mondos and Faria beaches to warn the public to stay out of the water where the contaminated creeks empty to the beach. We also called for a moratorium on further fracking and injection activities in the area until appropriate government agencies can conduct tracer tests to verify that operations aren't polluting the water and endangering public health.

The agencies responded and have committed to a thorough review of the situation and our petition.



Intern Profile

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support makes it possible for us to provide mentorship and career development opportunities for many young people in our community. Edwin offered the following thoughts.

I knew that being a part of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper would allow me to get in on the ground floor of the statewide effort to protect our marine environment and to make a difference for the many coastal ecosystems that are close to my heart. Some of my best experiences were a result of being able to work at the place that I love – the beach. I've seen some things that I don't think I will ever forget. The violet-green sunsets over the water. The dolphins, seals and whales. The sky after a midday shower. These are just a few of these things I've witnessed while conducting MPA Watch surveys for Channelkeeper.

Being an intern has changed the way I think about resource management, relevant data and marine resources in general. I now know what it takes for conservation in areas such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to work. I will take the knowledge that I have gained about MPAs and their management into my future endeavors.

My favorite thing about Channelkeeper is probably Penny Owens, my internship coordinator. Since I work remotely, I rarely come by the office, but Penny makes sure that I'm up to date and have what I need to do a good job. She is always there to provide guidance and advice, which reflects on how much she truly cares. Being a part of Channelkeeper has been a cool experience so far and I am excited to see what else is in store!

Channelkeeper Speaks Out in Sacramento



As a member of the California Coastkeeper Alliance (CCKA), Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is fortunate to have strong representation in Sacramento on important state water policy processes. In February, Channelkeeper teamed up with CCKA to represent the interests of citizen water quality monitoring groups at a hearing before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Channelkeeper's Stream Team Program is one of the most robust and longest running citizen monitoring efforts in the entire state, and we leveraged our expertise to help ensure that the SWRCB utilizes citizen monitoring data to assess the health

of our waterways, as required by law.

Channelkeeper also submitted a 40-page comment letter to the SWRCB in February in response to their recent proposal to declassify the Ventura River as impaired by over-pumping and water diversions. Available data clearly demonstrate that over-pumping and diversions are negatively impacting water quality and aquatic habitat in the River, and numerous regulatory agencies have adopted similar findings. Channelkeeper is currently engaged in legal proceedings against the SWRCB and the City of Ventura to prevent over-pumping in the Ventura River.

Leading the Way with High-Tech Citizen Monitoring

Channelkeeper is a leader among citizen monitoring groups nationwide due to our strategic use of high-tech tools to collect reliable data on the health of our waterways. Our innovative data collection efforts were highlighted in the Winter 2015 issue of *Environmental Monitor* – a premier industry publication for professionals in the field of environmental monitoring.

In March, Channelkeeper presented a summary of one of our recent data collection projects to local regulatory agencies and community groups. For the past two years, we installed time-lapse cameras and deployable sensors at strategic locations throughout the Ventura River at the end of the rainy season. The sensors record water quality measurements every 30 minutes around the clock throughout the summer and fall. This continuous monitoring initiative has enabled us to document harmful impacts of excessive algae growth as well as alarming fluctuations in flow levels in the river.



MPAs: Not Just for Fish

Home to a whopping 18 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the Santa Barbara Channel boasts one of the largest networks of MPAs in California and is a focal point for marine conservation. These underwater parks not only protect marine ecosystems, but they can also bolster local economies and enrich people's lives.

Over 25,000 local jobs rely on coastal tourism and recreation in Santa Barbara County, and 60,000 people visit the Channel Islands each year for aquatic recreation. Believing that MPAs have untapped potential as attractive destinations for eco-tourism, Channelkeeper has been working to foster a new market for MPA-based eco-tourism by partnering with local businesses to develop and promote recreational tours to local MPAs.

We worked with eight local businesses to publish an "Explore Your MPA" brochure and distribute it to more than 50 coastal hotels and tourist information centers from Goleta to Ventura. The brochure highlights dozens of opportunities offered



Photo by Stacey Janik on a Naples MPA dive trip subsidized by Channelkeeper.

by local eco-tourism businesses to kayak, dive, surf, or otherwise explore MPAs in the Channel.

Channelkeeper is also helping these businesses expand their market base and experiment with new MPA tour offerings by partly subsidizing and marketing their MPA tours. Recently, we facilitated a unique trip with Truth Aquatics for 30 SCUBA divers to explore the spectacular pinnacle reef at the Naples MPA. By providing

unique opportunities for people to experience and learn about their local MPAs firsthand, we are not only helping local businesses expand their customer base, but also fostering ocean stewardship.

To learn about more about upcoming MPA eco-tours or to discover ways to explore our extraordinary MPAs on your own, please sign up for our e-newsletter and visit the MPA pages on our website at www.sbck.org/mpa.

Island Clean-up Removes 1,300 Pounds of Trash!

On February 26th, Channelkeeper teamed up with Santa Barbara Adventure Company, Island Packers and several other environmental organizations,

businesses, and government agencies to clean up trash at Santa Cruz Island and to raise awareness about the growing problem of trash in our oceans.



Nearly 40 volunteers scoured a two-mile stretch of beach on the southeast side of the Island. We found derelict fishing gear washed ashore from heavy winter swells scattered everywhere. Plastic garbage was the next most common type of debris we encountered. We picked up 1,300 pounds of trash, which was shuttled by kayak and zodiac and then transported back to the mainland by Island Packers, where it was disposed of by the National Park Service. We had to leave an estimated one ton of additional derelict fishing gear on the beach due to lack of space on the return trip. Many thanks to all who participated!

Channelkeeper Partners with Brewer to Promote Water Conservation

The current drought has forced our community to face some difficult challenges and choices about how to meet our water supply needs. Reducing our demand for water through increased conservation is the cheapest and most environmentally friendly drought response measure available, so Channelkeeper has been working to promote heightened conservation through a combination of outreach, education and advocacy. Our community has done a good job with water conservation in this drought and even before it, but we can and need to do more, so Channelkeeper is providing information and practical tools to help us do just that.

We recently forged an exciting partnership with Figueroa Mountain Brewery (FMB) to distribute water-saving rain barrels to local citizens. FMB generously donated several 60-gallon oak barrels used in the beer-making process to Channelkeeper, and we co-hosted a free public event on February 8th to distribute the barrels to water-conscious citizens and demonstrate how to convert them to rain barrels with simple conversion kits we provided.



Rain barrels are a multi-benefit water conservation tool that promotes water reuse while also reducing stormwater runoff, the number one source of water pollution in our area. The barrels collect and store rainwater from rooftops—which would otherwise pour directly off the roof or flow through roof gutter downspouts and become stormwater runoff—to use later for watering plants and gardens. They are simple to install and work in a wide variety of settings, giving people who want to make a difference an easy tool to conserve water, save money and prevent pollution at the same time.

Recognizing that clean water is essential to great beer and our quality of life, FMB works hard to reduce, reuse and conserve water. They view their partnership with Channelkeeper as an innovative way to help connect the dots between stream and keg and between sustainability and profitability.

While all the barrels donated by FMB this first time around were quickly snatched up by Channelkeeper Board members, we plan to continue this great partnership and distribute more barrels to interested citizens when FMB has more to donate later this year. Channelkeeper will sell them for \$100 each (including the conversion kit). Email us at info@sbck.org to reserve yours today!

12th Annual Student Art Show Celebrates the SB Channel

For the twelfth year in a row, Channelkeeper hosted our ocean-themed juried student art show, “What the Channel Means to Me.” The goal of the show, which is open to high school students from Carpinteria to Goleta, is to inspire local youth to create art that celebrates the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel and for their art to in turn inspire others in our community.

Art students from San Marcos, Dos Pueblos and Santa Barbara High Schools submitted more than 300 works of art to this year’s show. Our juror, local artist Erika Carter, selected 60 pieces to be in the show as well as the prize winners.

At an opening exhibit and awards ceremony at the Jodi House Gallery on March 5th, State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson presented the winners with their awards and cash prizes made possible by our sponsor, Trillium Enterprises Inc. The show remained on display at the Jodi House Gallery throughout the month of March, and the winning pieces will be featured at Channelkeeper’s Blue Water Ball on May 2nd.



ART SHOW WINNERS

1st Place: Ryan Arnold, *Santa Barbara High School*

2nd Place: Ally Ryan, *Dos Pueblos High School*

3rd Place: Emily Engle, *Dos Pueblos High School*

4th Place: Cooper Jasiorkow, *Dos Pueblos High School*

Jurors’ Choice: Lily Stelzer, *Santa Barbara High School*

Environmental Ethic: Emma Tracy, *San Marcos High School*

Honorable Mentions: Shagun Shama, *Dos Pueblos High School*
Isabella Franco, *Dos Pueblos High School*
Taylor Meijer, *Dos Pueblos High School*

Seafaris: Getting Kids Out on the Water

Since today’s youth are the decision-makers of tomorrow and their environmental ethics are critical to our planet’s future, one of Channelkeeper’s primary goals is to inspire environmental stewardship in the younger generation.

Last year, Channelkeeper launched a new program that aims to spread ocean awareness and stewardship among local youth by providing a unique opportunity to get kids out on the water to experience the marine environment firsthand. We have been offering free experiential education cruises, or “Seafaris,” on our boat to showcase the rich biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel and various efforts underway to monitor, protect and restore it. Our passengers have the exciting opportunity to visually explore the kelp forest ecosystem at Mohawk Reef

through our use of a SCUBA diver-operated underwater camera connected to an LCD monitor on the boat, while our on-deck staff scientist explains what passengers are seeing beneath the surface. They also learn about the importance of water quality to the health of kelp forests and other important local marine habitats, and what they can do to prevent pollution that can harm these important ecosystems.

The target audience for our Seafaris is underserved youth groups and families who may lack the means or opportunity to get out on the water and whose level of environmental awareness is relatively



low. To date we’ve provided 15 Seafaris for 79 local kids (and their adult chaperones) from various youth groups and after-school programs. If you have a group in mind that might benefit from a Seafari, please contact us at penny@sbck.org or 805.563.3377 ext. 4.

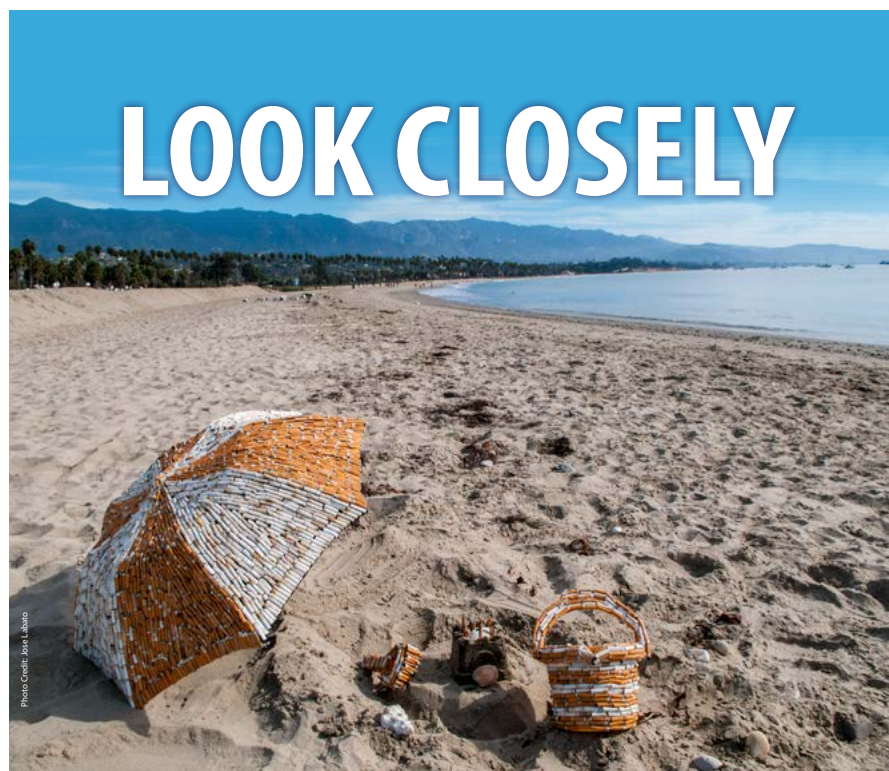
Educating Kids about Marine Debris

Education is one of the core tools that Channelkeeper uses to achieve our mission. We work hard to educate our community, and youth in particular, about how human behaviors affect local waterways and the environment and how we all can and must be part of the solution to pollution.

Through our long-standing Clean Water Environmental Stewardship Training (CWEST) program, Channelkeeper provides interactive educational programs to teach kids about watersheds and the marine environment through fun, hands-on activities and experiments that build science and math skills while also fostering environmental awareness and stewardship. We have educated 25,000 young people across Santa Barbara and Ventura counties through our CWEST program in partnership with many other great educational institutions in our community.

Channelkeeper has been partnering with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History since 2006 to deliver interactive watershed awareness curricula to local youth. This year we are partnering on a new project, "Marine Debris, the Ocean and Me," which focuses on marine debris education and prevention. The project, which is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, uses a three-pronged approach to address marine debris in Santa Barbara.

The first component teaches local elementary school students about the environmental impacts of marine debris. The second component engages the Museum's teen program, Quasars to Sea Stars, teaching these high school students about the most common types of marine debris and ways to prevent



Artwork created by Sarah Todd with 6,522 cigarette butts that were collected on SB's East Beach (above) on California Coastal Cleanup Day, 2014.

We're all responsible

KEEP SB MARINE DEBRIS FREE

- ✓ Need a reminder? Set an alert with the free RIPPL™ App
- ✓ Sign the Ocean Conservancy's Pledge to Fight Trash and learn more at:

sbnature.org/debrisfree



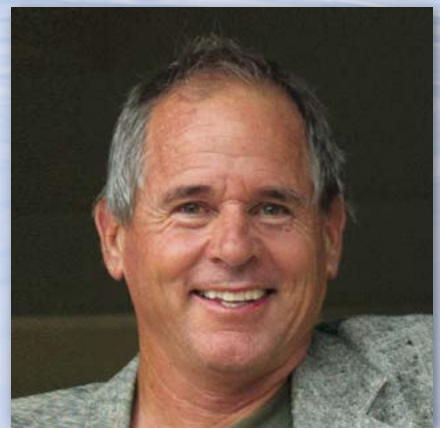
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Sea Center



trash from making its way to the ocean, and training them to teach junior high school students about marine debris. The final component of our project targets the general public, providing informational materials and tools to local residents, tourists and beach-goers to promote environmentally-conscious

behaviors through various events and cooperation with ocean-front businesses. Look for our new marine debris educational materials at the next community festival, and please spread the word to your friends and families to Help Keep SB Marine Debris Free!

Changes to the Channelkeeper Team



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Ken Falstrom, Sean Hecht, Blaine Lando, David Powdrell, John Simpson, Laura Moreno

Channelkeeper is thrilled to welcome several new members to our Board of Directors.

Ken Falstrom has rejoined our Board after a brief hiatus, and is one of the founding members of our Board. Ken is a fourth generation Californian and a retired attorney. He formerly served as President of the Hope School District Board of Trustees, President and Board Member of the Environmental Defense Center, and a Board Member of several other non-profit organizations including Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, Santa Barbara Chapter ACLU, Legal Defense Center, and Summer Solstice Celebration. Ken is also a UCCE Master Gardener.

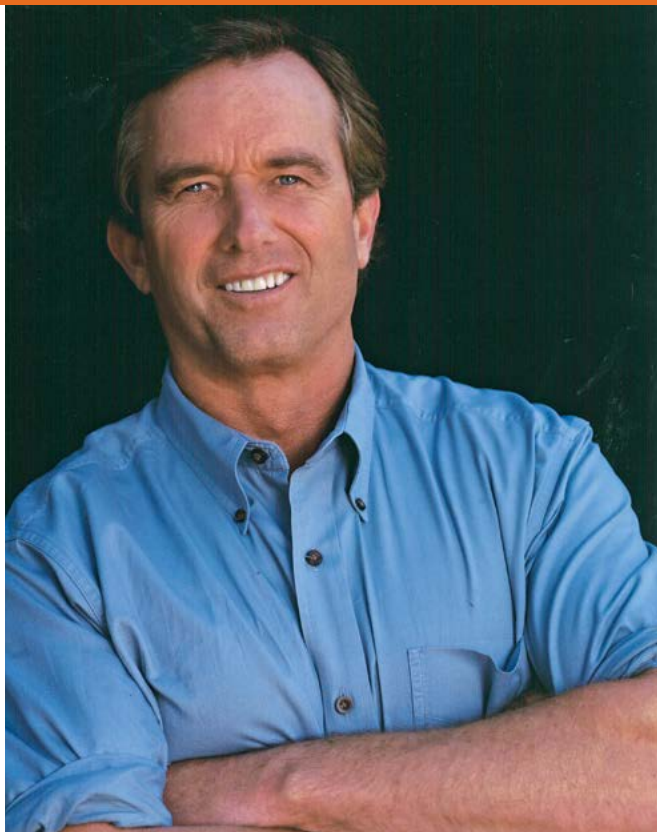
Sean Hecht was born in northern Idaho, raised in Maui and moved to Santa Barbara to attend UCSB. Sean is very involved in the community through both philanthropy and his business endeavors. He is one of the founding Board members of the Sangham Foundation, which focuses on the well-being of children and clean water. Sean is also a member of the Santa Barbara chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization. For leisure, Sean enjoys surfing, skiing, and playing golf.

Blaine Lando is President of Mattole Valley Naturals, makers of high-energy greens, nutrient-dense whole foods and master herbs in a brilliant fusion of eastern alchemy and clinical science. He is also co-owner of the California Wine Festival and part owner of the Jun Brewery. Born and raised in Hawaii, Blaine earned a degree in Business Economics from UCSB and now lives in Montecito with his wife and two young daughters. Blaine is a surfer and passionate about the ocean.

David Powdrell has been a practicing CPA since 1985. A graduate of the University of Colorado with a Master's in taxation, he currently serves as co-chair of the Carpinteria Arts Center. He has served as a Board member for Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, Summer Solstice Celebration, Friends of the Carpinteria Library and Carpinteria Rotary Charitable Foundation, and currently serves as an advisory board member for several other non-profits. David was named "Carpinterian of the Year" in February 2015. He writes for Edhat, is an accomplished photographer, and enjoys music, gardening, and anything ocean-related.

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Celebrating 15 Years of Clean Water with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.



Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is thrilled to welcome Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as the keynote speaker at our 15th annual Blue Water Ball on May 2, 2015.

Mr. Kennedy's reputation as a resolute defender of the environment stems from a litany of successful legal actions. He was named one of *Time* magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for his success in helping Riverkeeper lead the fight to restore the Hudson River.

Kennedy serves as Chief Prosecuting Attorney for Hudson Riverkeeper and President of Waterkeeper Alliance. He is also a Clinical Professor and Supervising Attorney at Pace University School of Law's Environmental Litigation Clinic. Earlier in his career he served as Assistant District Attorney in New York City and is credited with leading the fight to protect New York City's water supply. An award-winning author, his work has appeared in numerous publications and on the *New York Times*' bestseller list.

Kennedy is a licensed master falconer and pursues a life-long enthusiasm for white-water paddling. He has organized and led several expeditions in Canada and Latin America, including first descents on three little known rivers in Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela. In addition, he is widely regarded and highly sought after for his eloquent and inspiring speeches, so please join us on May 2nd and hear for yourself!

Changes to the Channelkeeper Team

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John Simpson graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in English. Entrepreneurial ventures led John through launches of various toy products through his company OTB Distributing and culminated in a distribution deal for the Razor scooter. That led to his involvement in Trikke Tech, where he has served as President and CEO since 2002. John, his wife, and their young daughter are all currently enrolled at the Lou Grant Parent Child Workshop in Carpinteria. John also plays in two "Americana" bands and is an avid surfer and sailor.

We are also very excited to welcome **Laura Moreno** to the Channelkeeper staff as our new Communications and Administrative Coordinator. Laura recently graduated from UCSB with a degree in English and Spanish. Growing up surfing with her dad, she is excited to continue her lifelong passion and advocacy for the ocean through her work with Channelkeeper. Laura replaces our former Communications Coordinator Ted Barthell, who moved on in February to take a new job in product marketing at Impact Radius, a software start-up.

Finally, we wish to express our deep gratitude to **Josh Simmons**, who resigned from the Channelkeeper Board after two years of service. He recently started his own consulting company, Prosper Sustainably, which assists businesses, governments, nonprofits, and tribal communities in developing and

implementing lasting solutions to meet environmental and sustainability needs. Many thanks and best of luck to Josh and Ted, and welcome aboard to the awesome new members of our crew!



Josh Simmons



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Upcoming Events

Stream Team

Stream Team is Channelkeeper's volunteer-based water quality monitoring program. Every month, volunteers join Channelkeeper staff to test for common water quality parameters at numerous sites in the Ventura River and Goleta Valley watersheds. Come join us to help monitor and protect our local waterways. We host sampling events in Ventura on Saturdays at 9 am and in Goleta on Sundays at 10 am. Upcoming dates are April 11 & 12, May 16 & 17, June 6 & 7, July 11 & 12, and August 1 & 2. Email jennad@sbck.org or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5 for more information.



15th Annual Blue Water Ball

You won't want to miss Channelkeeper's 15th annual Blue Water Ball fundraising gala, so save the date to join us on Saturday, May 2nd from 5-9:30 pm at Deckers Outdoor Corps' LEED-certified headquarters in Goleta! This fun and inspiring event will feature a gourmet dinner, fine local wines, great music, an awesome auction, and a celebration of Channelkeeper's recent victories for clean water.

Best of all, we are thrilled to feature Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as our keynote speaker (see page 11). To become an event sponsor, donate auction items, volunteer or reserve your tickets or table today, please email morgan@sbck.org or call us at 805.563.3377 ext. 2. We look forward to seeing you there!

Volunteer for MPA Watch

Are you into marine conservation AND long walks on the beach? Learn how to collect valuable data on our local Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) while walking along the beautiful beaches of Campus Point, Naples and Gaviota through Channelkeeper's MPA Watch program. MPA Watch is a citizen science initiative to monitor human uses of coastal MPAs and collect data to help inform the management, enforcement and science of California's MPAs. Our next MPA Watch volunteer training workshop will take place on April 9th at 6:30 pm at UCSB. Email penny@sbck.org for more information and future training opportunities.

