



Santa Barbara CHANNELKEEPER®

Keeping watch for clean water

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Surfathon grom at Channelkeeper's AQUATHON
Photo credit: Noni Holroyd



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

Channelkeeper's calling is to keep watch over the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds on behalf of the people and wildlife that depend on them, and what distinguishes us from other water protection groups is our unique "boots on the ground" approach. You'll find our crew out in the field almost daily, collecting samples and data on water quality and habitat health, investigating pollution sources, surveying beaches for tar balls, leveraging volunteers to clean up creeks and beaches, documenting low flows in streams, and more. We've also got another unique and valuable asset that enables us to be an effective watchdog - our boat, the *R/V Channelkeeper*.

Our boat is an incredibly useful resource not only for our organization, but also for the local community and for scientific research. We leverage the *R/V Channelkeeper* as a platform to partner with researchers at UCSB and other scientific institutions to measure ocean acidification, track toxic algal blooms, monitor and respond to oil spills, conduct marine debris and cruise ship watchdog patrols, and assess the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas. We also use it to take kids out on the water to learn about and experience the ocean firsthand. And we use it to support other worthy community initiatives, such as the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, Gray Whales Count, and the Friendship Paddle, to name just a few.

However, it takes a lot of work –and money – to keep the boat afloat. Recently, Channelkeeper asked our community to help us raise \$5,000 so we could replace the broken radar on our boat, and the response was overwhelming! Thanks to generous water lovers like you, we raised \$2,500 in just two days (!) and were able to leverage a \$2,500 matching challenge from an anonymous donor. Our fantastic new radar is now in place and we've been able to safely resume our important on-the-water work. We are incredibly grateful for this swift and enthusiastic outpouring of support from our community, and we're thrilled to be back out on the Channel keeping watch and defending your right to clean water. THANK YOU for making it possible for us to do what we do best and protect this extraordinary stretch of coast we call home!



KIRA REDMOND | Executive Director

Leaking Legacy Oil Wells to Be Capped

California's Central Coast was home to one of the largest oil booms in our nation's history beginning in the late 1800s. Back then, once oil wells had reached the end of their useful life, they were often abandoned with slapdash techniques. Several of these poorly-abandoned "legacy wells" leak significant volumes of oil, particularly in the Summerland area. The Becker Well, located in the surf

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Key Hurdle Cleared in Offshore Fracking Case

Channelkeeper and the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) scored a big win in our effort to stop the federal government from allowing fracking and acidizing at offshore oil platforms along the southern California coast until it fully analyzes the potential impacts of these risky practices on the environment and endangered wildlife.

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement have issued numerous permits approving the use of these “well stimulation techniques” without first completing a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and consulting with federal wildlife agencies about potential impacts to endangered species, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act.

Channelkeeper and EDC filed suit against the agencies last November after they issued a finding that these practices have no significant environmental impacts based on an inadequate and less rigorous “Programmatic Environmental



Our case aims to provide much-needed information on the potential impacts of fracking and acidizing so that appropriate measures can be implemented to protect the environment.

Analysis” they completed earlier in 2016. We are extremely concerned about the impacts that well

stimulation techniques like fracking and acidizing may have on coastal and marine natural resources, including on water quality, air quality, and threatened and endangered species like blue whales, fin whales, humpback whales and southern sea otters, as well as the potential for spills of toxic chemicals used in fracking. Allowing the use of well stimulation techniques will also extend the life of existing oil platforms, increasing the risk of another catastrophic oil spill. These risks have never been meaningfully analyzed, which is why we are fighting for a comprehensive EIS.

This past July, Channelkeeper and EDC cleared a huge hurdle when the court denied the feds’ motion to dismiss our lawsuit. This favorable ruling has allowed us to proceed with our case, which aims to provide much-needed information on the potential impacts of fracking and acidizing so that appropriate measures can be implemented to protect the environment and the diverse web of marine life along our coast.



Next Round in Fight to Clean Up Agricultural Pollution

In August, Channelkeeper and a coalition of environmental justice and fishing groups filed a lawsuit against the State Water Board for repeatedly failing to protect water quality from agricultural pollution. This case is another in a series of legal actions our coalition has taken in attempt to reverse the widespread and well-documented contamination of California's groundwater and surface water by agriculture, but it takes a different tack by demonstrating that the systematic failure by the Water Board to adequately address it has become "pattern and practice."

Decades of unchecked agricultural pollution have taken a toll on California communities, fisheries, and waterways, burdening both urban and rural communities by sickening people and driving up water treatment costs. A 2013 report by the State Water Board found that more than 200 communities rely on groundwater that is contaminated by nitrates from fertilizers. Nitrate in drinking water can cause cancer, diabetes, and birth defects. Nitrogen and other fertilizers can also fuel the toxic algae blooms that turn lakes



and reservoirs green and smelly in the summer heat, making them unsafe for people and pets to swim in.

Fortunately, California does not have to choose between clean water and a thriving agricultural sector. Responsible farmers and ranchers

Decades of unchecked agricultural pollution have taken a toll on California communities, fisheries, and waterways.

have proven that it is possible to be good stewards of the land and water and be profitable.

Channelkeeper and our coalition partners - The Otter Project/Monterey Coastkeeper, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, Orange County Coastkeeper, Inland Empire Waterkeeper, Institute for Fisheries Research, and California Coastkeeper Alliance - will continue to stand up for stringent requirements to protect water quality, public health and aquatic life from agricultural pollution - one of the biggest and most harmful sources of water pollution in California and nationwide.

Leaking Legacy Oil Wells to Be Capped (*continued*)

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zone on Summerland Beach, is the worst offender, often causing noxious odors, sheens on the water, and oil on the beach. Fortunately, thanks to advocacy by Channelkeeper, other environmental groups, concerned citizens, and elected officials, the California State Lands Commission is on track to properly re-abandon the Becker Well in November.

However, Summerland and Ellwood are home to nearly 200 other legacy wells. Senate Bill 44, authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, will provide \$14 million over the next seven years for the state to investigate and cap other legacy wells off our coast. Channelkeeper served as an expert witness for the bill in Sacramento and rallied scores of citizens to submit letters of support, and it passed both the State Senate and Assembly with bi-partisan support and was signed by Governor Brown earlier this month. Channelkeeper will continue to engage with the State Lands Commission and serve as a lead advocate to ensure that leaking legacy wells are properly abandoned.

Hold the Foam and Skip the Straw

Single-use plastics continue to be a major source of pollution to our creeks, beaches and ocean, and Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Foam is one of the biggest culprits.

EPS Foam is harmful to wildlife that can accidentally ingest it and to the manufacturing workers that produce it, and currently is not viably recyclable. Styrene is a known animal and probable human carcinogen and is ranked the fifth worst global industry for toxic waste production by the US EPA. Polystyrene and EPS, commonly known as Styrofoam, can be identified by the number “6” on cups, lids, cutlery, take-out containers and more.

Americans use and dispose of 500 MILLION plastic straws a day!

Fortunately, municipalities are taking action to reduce this pernicious pollution source. To date, more than 110 local governments across California have adopted foam ban



ordinances, including Carpinteria, which has had a ban on foam in take-out food containers in place since 2008.

Channelkeeper, in partnership with the Community

Environmental Council and other groups, is working with Carpinteria to strengthen their ordinance by including a ban on the retail sale of foam cups, plates, coolers and other disposable foam products, and we're lobbying the City of Santa Barbara and other South Coast municipalities to follow suit. Channelkeeper is collecting letters of support for local foam bans to send to our elected officials, so please visit www.sbck.org/foamban to support this effort today.

Plastic straws are another pervasive type of litter often found at beach clean-ups. Americans use and dispose of 500 MILLION plastic straws a day! Channelkeeper and our partners are developing education and outreach materials to raise awareness and encourage people to go straw-free for the sea or use reusable straws instead. We're also teaming up with local elementary school kids to ask local restaurants to offer straws only upon request and to consider more environmentally friendly options like paper or compostable straws.

Please join us in the movement for plastic-free seas by supporting local foam bans and pledging to hold the foam and skip the straw!



Trash collected from this year's Coastal Clean-Up Day

New Focus on Federal Water Policy

Our coast is under attack by a series of federal actions aimed at gutting the bedrock environmental laws we rely on to protect our waterways and communities from pollution. Although Channelkeeper typically focuses our advocacy on local and regional policies affecting our waters, we have had to step up and fight back against these environmental assaults at the federal level now as well, and fortunately, we're able to leverage the expertise and reach of our partners at the national Waterkeeper Alliance and California Coastkeeper Alliance to make an impact. Following are just a few examples of our new federal water policy advocacy efforts.



Our coast is under attack by a series of federal actions aimed at gutting the bedrock environmental laws we rely on to protect our waterways and communities from pollution.

In February, President Trump issued an Executive Order entitled “Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda” which requires the US EPA and other federal agencies to establish task forces to evaluate existing regulations and make recommendations regarding those that should be repealed, replaced or modified to make them less “burdensome.” Channelkeeper joined Waterkeeper Alliance and 120 other Waterkeeper organizations in submitting lengthy comments to EPA in vehement opposition to the modification or revocation of any EPA regulation that results from this ill-conceived Order.

In July, the Department of Interior initiated a process to develop a new five-year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, which could open up federal waters previously off-limits in the Arctic, Atlantic, and West Coast to fossil fuel leasing and pave the way for increased oil and gas drilling on our coast. The entire Pacific Coast has been excluded from the five-year leasing plans for the past 25 years, and California hasn't issued a new lease in State waters since the devastating oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel in 1969. Channelkeeper submitted comments urging that the Santa Barbara Channel remain excluded from the five-year leasing plan, which would threaten the progress we have made to protect our coastal resources and to transition from dirty fossil fuels toward cleaner, renewable energy sources.

Also in July, the US EPA and Army Corps of Engineers initiated a rulemaking process to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act, which would significantly reduce the scope of the Act and the number and types of waterways protected by it. Channelkeeper joined Waterkeeper Alliance and 115 other Waterkeeper organizations in submitting comments in strong opposition to this rulemaking.

To combat these and other attacks on our federal environmental laws, Channelkeeper has been working closely with California Coastkeeper Alliance to advocate for the adoption of new state laws to protect California waterways and communities. We worked extremely hard to advance Senate Bill 49, the California Environmental Defense Act, which would enshrine current federal environmental protections into state law if rolled back at the federal level. The bill made it through all Legislative Committees and is now just one vote away from the Governor's desk. Unfortunately, however, the Assembly did not vote for SB 49 by the deadline as they raced to pass several important reforms requiring a 2/3 vote, including funding for transportation and affordable housing and a massive Parks and Water bond. We will redouble our efforts to ensure the bill's passage when the Legislature reopens early next year, and will continue to track and weigh in on federal actions that seek to undermine crucial protections for our waterways, aquatic life and communities.

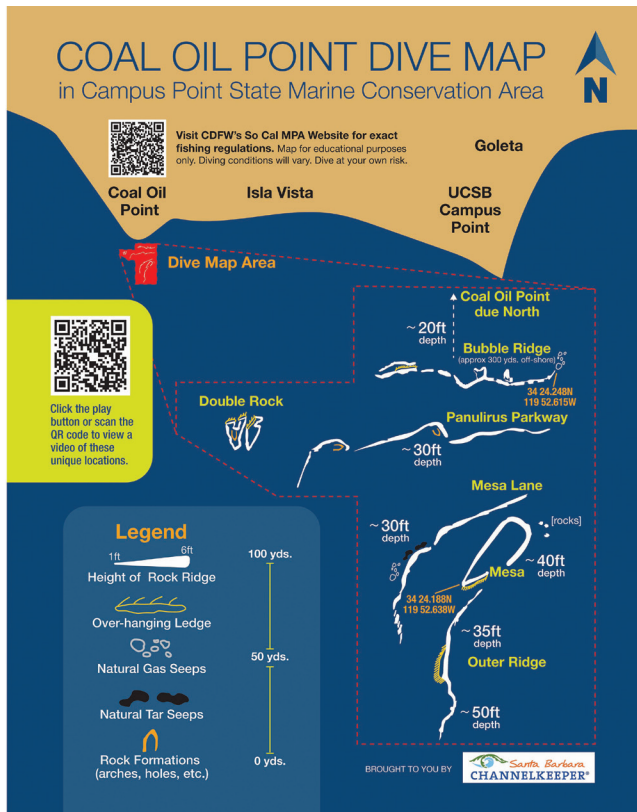
Interactive Dive Maps Showcase the Underwater Wonders of MPAs

As part of our work to support and promote marine protected areas (MPAs), Channelkeeper recently released a second MPA Dive Map. Our Coal Oil Point Dive Map was designed to help people access and enjoy a high quality SCUBA diving site located within the Campus Point MPA just offshore of UCSB. The map depicts the location of a series of rocky ridges,

overhangs, and other features, including natural gas and tar seeps. The online version has an interactive video link that provides stunning footage of the spectacular abundance and diversity of marine life the MPA supports.

MPAs were established by California lawmakers to protect and preserve our marine natural heritage for future generations. MPAs limit or prohibit fishing, but public access and non-consumptive recreation are fully allowed. We know that people are inspired to protect what they love, so Channelkeeper is working to raise community awareness and support for MPAs, in part by developing interactive materials like our Dive Maps to help people explore and enjoy the many benefits that MPAs provide.

Please visit www.sbck.org/mpa to download a free copy of the Coal Oil Point Dive Map and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter to learn about future opportunities to experience and support MPAs in the Santa Barbara Channel.



Channelkeeper Aids Research of Toxic Algae Bloom

A recent toxic algal bloom in the Santa Barbara Channel resulted in the death of over a dozen marine mammals and hundreds of birds, and Channelkeeper responded to help local, state, and federal entities research and monitor the bloom.

The wildlife mortality was caused by a burst in growth of naturally occurring phytoplankton called *Pseudo-nitzschia australis*, which produces a biotoxin called domoic acid. The bloom extended southward all the way to Baja California, and followed on the heels of a major toxic algal bloom that shut down the West coast commercial crab fishery last year.

Channelkeeper coordinated with US Fish and Wildlife officials in April to

aid in a coast-wide mortality snapshot survey for sick or deceased birds and mammals. We also conducted cross-Channel sampling activities from our boat to support the California Department of Public Health and researchers at UCSB, UCSC, and the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) in their work to monitor and model the extent of the bloom and toxicity event.

We are currently exploring ways to permanently augment our marine monitoring program to track and research toxic blooms as part of the Southern California Bight 2018 Regional Monitoring Program in order to help answer key questions about what is causing the increase in large-

scale toxic algae blooms as well as to develop modeling and prediction tools that can aid in assessing their impacts on public health and commercial fisheries.



2017 Blue Water Ball Topped The Charts!

Channelkeeper and our friends celebrated Earth Day 2017 with our most successful fundraising gala ever, raising \$160,000 for our work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds!

Our 17th Annual Blue Water Ball took place on April 22nd at Deckers' LEED-certified headquarters in Goleta, where 250 guests shopped at our extensive silent auction, savored delicious local food and wine, and kicked up their heels to the beats of DJ Mike Ober, all while celebrating Channelkeeper's recent victories for clean water. Our masterful Masters of Ceremonies were Jon Macks, a top political consultant and award-winning TV writer, and Ryland King, a Forbes Top 12 Do-Good Entrepreneur Under 25 and founder of the youth environmental education group Sprout Up.

Sara Aminzadeh, Executive Director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance, gave a stirring keynote address about the unprecedented threats to our environment being mounted by the new Administration in Washington DC and the impact Channelkeeper is making by being on the front lines fighting back to protect our communities and waterways.

Channelkeeper would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Deckers for providing such a beautiful location, to Village Gardner for their gorgeous centerpieces and orchid arrangements, to our entertaining Masters of Ceremonies and rousing keynote speaker, and to all our gracious guests, sponsors, auction donors, and volunteers who made this a magical night to remember. We hope to see you at next year's Blue Water Ball on April 21, 2018!



Keynote speaker, Sara Aminzadeh

THREE CHEERS FOR OUR EVENT COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS!

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Clockwise from top left: Brett & Deanna Williams, Randy Solakian and Kira Redmond; Jack Stapelmann and Barrett Reed; Peter Schuyler, Das & Jonnie Williams, and Mike Wondolowski; Valerie & David Powdrell.

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Daniel Gibbings	& Bakery	Old Yacht Club Inn	Savoy Café & Deli	
David Anderson	Jenny Schatzle	O'Neill	Sea Center	

2nd Annual AQUATHON Brought the Stoke!

On September 30th, ocean lovers of all ages came together to dive in and enjoy the water we work so hard to protect. As part of the Waterkeeper Alliance/ Toyota SPLASH Event Series, Channelkeeper's second annual AQUATHON brought scores of swimmers, SUPers and surfers out to Leadbetter Beach for some friendly competition and a salty good time.

Guided by experts from Paddle Sports Center and our friends at Reef & Run, AQUATHON participants had the chance to swim 500m or 1K courses or stand-up paddle a 1.5K course to win prizes of gorgeous Turkish towels donated by Riviera Towel Company. Surf Happens led a surf camp just for groms and every kid took

home a trophy. On shore, folks enjoyed games and ocean-themed activities, live music, Hawaiian shave ice, and an awesome raffle. Many thanks to our sponsors - Toyota, HG Data, Paul Mitchell and McVeigh Massage, our underwriters and partners, and all who dove in to support clean water!



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Cy & Laura Lyon
Cecile Lyons
Samantha Macks
Craig & Sherry Madsen
Jim Hodgson & Sharyn Main
Patrick Marr & Michelle Rainville
Sean & Frances McCarthy
Cass McCune
Kevin Miller
Randall Moon
Dave Moore
Mitchell Morehart
Kerry Mormann
Bernice James & Glen Mowrer
Catherine Mullin
Amy Musson
John Neth
Lee Neuenschwander
Brad Newton
Valerie & Donley Olson
Bill Owens
Paul Petrich, Jr.
Christine & Richard Philbrick
Julien Phillips & Susan
Stoddard-Phillips
Valerie & David Powdrell
Max Pritt
David Robinson, Jr.
Peter Robinson
Katrina Rogers & William Cherry
Sylvia Schnopp
Jean Schuyler
Ralph Zitnik & Mary-Louise Scully
Shellbrook Foundation
Austyn Shepard
Alec Sherwin
Evelyn Laser Shlensky & Rabbi Ira
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Kernowski
Lynne Sprecher
Frank Stapelmann
Carl & Nola Stucky
The Refill Shoppe
Shaun & Carla Tomson
Elizabeth Toro
David & Marta Turpin
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
Ronie Vandergrift
Cristi Walden
Sharon Keigher & Libe Washburn
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Tracey Wilfong
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Hilary Dessouky
Tracy & Spencer Duffey
Susan Epstein
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Gail Fairburn
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Geoff Gaggis
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Betty Chackel
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Wiseman
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Linda Kay Fisher
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Jeffrey & Caroline Grange
Katharyn & Sven Hagen
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George Eskin
Humble Bumble
Ian Jackson
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Ann Kidson
Robert & Claudia Kirby
Phillip & Eva Kirkpatrick
Caroline Koch
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Theresa Lujan
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Margerum Wine Company
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Penelope Tinker
Penny Tranovich
Mark Srednicki & Eloise
Uraga
Lisa Walker
Owen Wallace
Scott Waters
Robert Weissglass
Lornie White
Kevin Young
Allison Zeager

Changes to Our Team



Betty Noling



James Studarus



Kendall Shinn



Sophia Mock

Channelkeeper bids a fond farewell to Betty Noling, who recently stepped down from our Board of Directors after four years of service. We greatly appreciate all that Betty contributed to our organization, from serving for several years on our Blue Water Ball committee and as Co-Chair of our Development Committee, spearheading our Coffee With The Crew speaker series, hosting our major donor appreciation party and strategic planning retreat, and walked the water conservation talk with her gorgeous drought-tolerant garden and rain barrel. Many thanks Betty, you will be missed!

This fall we also bid adieu to our bookkeeper of four years, James Studarus. James will continue to work as a CPA with environmental and social organizations in the Santa Barbara area while also honing his photography and journalism skills on his numerous traveling adventures around the world.

Fortunately, we recently hired a great new bookkeeper to fill James' shoes – Kendall Shinn. Kendall has lived in Santa Barbara since 1987. She served as the operations manager at a local weekly publication for ten years and as a bookkeeper for Service Objects for six years, and she continues to work at Blue Isle Bookkeeping. She enjoys spending time with her husband and teenage kids and being involved in a local women's philanthropic education organization and a book club.

We are also thrilled to have Sophia Mock on board as our new Stream Team intern. Sophia is a sophomore Chemistry major in the UCSB honors program who also works for UCSB's Adventure Program and volunteers for Hearts Therapeutic Equestrian Center. A San Diego native, Sophia enjoys horseback riding and has a lifelong passion for environmental conservation.

Honor Roll



Channelkeeper is thrilled to announce that our friend and colleague Sara Aminzadeh, Executive Director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance (and the keynote speaker at Channelkeeper's Blue Water Ball earlier this year) has been appointed to the California Coastal Commission!

We're also very proud of Ben Pitterle, our Watershed and Marine Program Director, who was recently honored, out of 75 scientists, lawyers, educators, policy advocates, communications specialists, and fundraisers working for Waterkeeper organizations across California, with the "Waterkeeper Innovator" award for his creative use of technology, video storytelling and collaborative advocacy strategies to track and halt pollution and to inspire people to care about and protect local waterways. Ben was also re-appointed to serve another two-year term as

the Non-consumptive Recreation representative on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. Go Ben!





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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. Upcoming Goleta Stream Team events will take place at 10 am on November 5th, December 3rd, January 7th, and February 11th. Upcoming Ventura Stream Team events will take place at 9 am on November 4th and February 10th. Email jennad@sbck.org or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5 for more information.



Cheers to Fig Mtn Brew's New Channelkeeper Beer

What is the number one ingredient in good beer? Clean, pure water! That's why Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. has crafted "Channelkeeper," a piña colada-inspired wheat pale ale to benefit Channelkeeper! So grab some friends and head over to Fig in the Funk Zone and drink a pint (or two!) of Channelkeeper while this delicious, limited edition brew lasts and support Channelkeeper's clean water work at the same time!

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 in mid-January at UCSB. Email penny@sbck.org for more information and future training opportunities.



SAVE THE DATE for our 18th Annual Blue Water Ball on Saturday, April 21, 2018!