



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

Channelkeeper works tirelessly to keep our creeks, beaches and ocean clean and safe because we love being in the water and because we believe that everyone has a fundamental right to clean water. We also do it because we know it's vitally important to you and our community, to wildlife, and to our local economy. But at the end of the day, we do what we do because we want to make the world a better place for future generations. Our kids and grandkids don't deserve to inherit beaches strewn with trash, rivers sucked dry or polluted by carelessness and greed, or oceans devoid of life and choked with plastic. They deserve to be able to swim, surf, dive, paddle, play and marvel at the breathtaking beauty of our waters like we and those before us have.

This really hit home for me last month when we were testifying before the Santa Barbara City Council in support of the plastic straw and Styrofoam bans, and my 9-year old daughter and several other kids bravely took the podium and asked the adults in charge to please help protect our oceans for marine life and future generations. My daughter had never testified before, but she absolutely loves the ocean and all the sea creatures that inhabit it, and she knows that speaking out for what you believe in makes a difference, so she pushed past her nerves and took the stand. Needless to say, it was a moving moment, not just for me as a proud parent, but also for the Councilmembers and the rest of the crowd in attendance, and I know those kids made an impact on the Council's decision to approve the bans.

With my background in environmental policy, I really enjoy and believe in the importance of Channelkeeper's hard-hitting advocacy to push for policies that drive necessary behavioral changes to lessen our environmental footprint. But I also believe in the vital importance of our work to educate young people about the impacts of human activities on the environment and how they are a critical part of the solution. By fostering an understanding and appreciation for our waterways in kids at a young age and building confidence in their ability to make a difference, we're sparking a lifetime of environmental stewardship - and, hopefully, activism - in the next generation, and that is one of the most important and rewarding things we do here at Channelkeeper. Thank you for supporting our efforts!



KIRA REDMOND | Executive Director



Huge Win in the Battle Against Agricultural Pollution!

In a monumental decision that will have far-reaching implications for waterways across California, a State Court of Appeals ruled in late September that the State Water Board has failed in its duty to protect public health and the environment from agricultural pollution on California's Central Coast.

Channelkeeper has been working tirelessly for the past 15 years to convince the State and Regional Water Boards to adopt regulations that effectively address the widespread and well-documented contamination of California's groundwater and surface waters by agriculture. We succeeded in securing a strong "Ag Order"

for agriculture in the Ventura/LA region in 2016, but the Water Board has consistently adopted weak and ineffectual rules that have utterly failed to address the problem in the Central Coast region. Channelkeeper and a coalition of conservation, environmental justice and fishing groups filed a lawsuit challenging the Central Coast Ag Order in 2013, and the State Superior Court ruled in our favor in 2015, validating our claims that the Order violates State law. The Water Board and ag industry groups appealed that ruling, but again the court sided with us, affirming that the Order is illegal and directing the Water Board to go back to the drawing board and develop a new Order that complies with the law.

This decision is a massive victory for waterways, coastlines and communities that are negatively impacted by chronic and severe agricultural pollution, and will set the precedent for how agriculture is regulated across the entire state. Visit www.sbck.org/media to learn more.



Santa Barbara Bans Styrofoam and Plastic Straws

Our waterways and oceans are literally choking in plastic pollution. It seems like every week there's another scientific study highlighting the relentless spread of plastic pollution in its various forms, including microplastics - tiny (<5 mm) pieces of plastic - and microfibers, which have been found in the deepest depths of our oceans, in the tissues of fish, and in drinking water supplies.

Earlier this year, National Geographic launched a campaign to raise awareness about the global plastic waste crisis, called "Plastic or Planet?" In a recent article, they noted that the amount of unrecycled plastic waste that ends up in the ocean is between 5.3 and 14 million tons every year – and that's just from coastal regions. That translates into

five plastic grocery bags stuffed with plastic trash, sitting on every foot of coastline around the world. They also estimate that roughly 40 percent of the more than 448 million tons of plastic produced every year is disposable, much of it used as packaging intended to be thrown away within minutes after use. Unfortunately, however, there is no "away."

This is a global crisis of epic proportions. But we can turn the tide, and every single person and city can make a difference. And Channelkeeper is working on several fronts to help move the needle. Through our youth education programs, we're educating the next generation about the importance of clean and healthy creeks and oceans

and how we can all take simple actions in our daily lives to reduce our use of single-use plastic. This past year we worked with a group of students from Adams Elementary School to launch a "Skip the Straw" campaign, asking local businesses to provide straws only upon request and to consider switching to more environmentally friendly options like paper straws.

With the help of hundreds of volunteers, Channelkeeper also hosts frequent beach clean-ups to prevent plastic and other trash from getting into the ocean, while also educating our volunteers about the impacts of plastic pollution.

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CA Trumps Trump's Oil Expansion Plans

In a power move to protect California's resources from the Trump Administration's plan to expand oil development off our coast, the California Legislature voted to enact Senate Bill 834 and Assembly Bill 1775, and Governor Brown signed the bills into law on September 8th. The bills prohibit the State Lands Commission from permitting any new leases or infrastructure that would support new or expanded oil development in Federal waters (greater than three miles from shore).

Thanks to our members, Channelkeeper sent hundreds of support letters to legislators and the Governor to ensure the bill's passage. Channelkeeper sincerely thanks our local representatives, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Monique Limón, who authored and championed the bills throughout the legislative session, for their leadership on this important issue.

While this is a significant step forward in protecting our coast, Trump's proposed Federal Oil and Gas Leasing



Program currently recommends potential lease sales in the entire Pacific region, including the Santa Barbara Channel. The updated proposed Program and associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement are expected to be released after the November 2018 elections.

In addition, the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to open new leases for oil development and fracking on federal land and mineral

estates in our area, including in the upper Carpinteria Creek watershed, the foothills above Solimar and Faria beaches, and upper Thatcher Creek in the Ventura River watershed. Channelkeeper will continue to weigh in on these proposals to ensure the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds are protected from new and expanded oil development. Stay tuned for your opportunity to take action!

Oil Spill Resource Guide Now Available



After the Refugio Oil Spill in 2015, many people in our community were hungry for information and eager to get involved but didn't know where to start or how to help without getting in the way of the official response. Thanks to funding from the Fund for Santa Barbara, the James S. Bower Foundation, Patagonia and the Crawford Idema Family Foundation, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper developed an Oil Spill Resource Guide that provides useful information and resources to help concerned citizens understand the threats posed by oil spills, the mechanics of oil spill response, what to do (and not do) to get involved, and more.

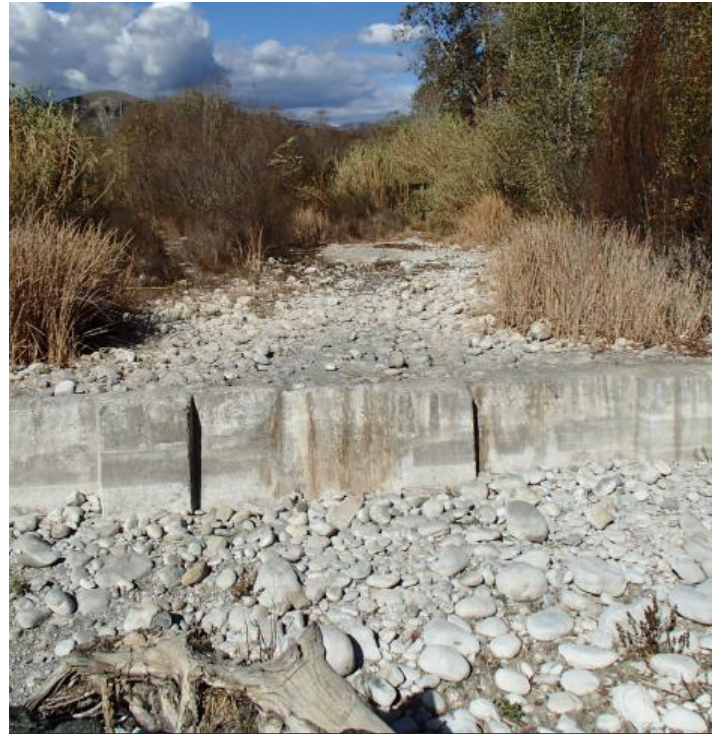
The Guide is available online at www.sbck.org/oilspill and, in the event of a future spill, will be updated with pertinent spill-specific details. We hope this resource will help empower our community to engage in oil spill planning and response and facilitate improved public access to information about oil spills moving forward.

We Need Your Help to Resurrect the Ventura River

The City of Ventura pumps hundreds of millions of gallons of water from the Ventura River every year, often completely drying up parts of the river. The City is the biggest pumper in the watershed, and it has the most direct impact on flows in the “live reach” of the river, which historically flowed year-round from Casitas Springs to the ocean. The City’s unmitigated pumping at Foster Park is destroying endangered species habitat, degrading downstream water quality and ruining public trust resources.

In an attempt to restore flows to the Ventura River, Channelkeeper filed a groundbreaking lawsuit in 2015 that challenges the City’s over-pumping as well as the State Water Board’s failure to do anything about it, despite the Board’s mandate to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of the state’s waters and to protect those waters as public trust resources. The goal of our lawsuit is to convince the State Water Board to undertake a process that analyzes the City’s pumping through the lens of the reasonable use doctrine and, if found to be necessary through that analysis, to condition the amount of water the City is allowed to pump in order to leave enough water in the river for fish, wildlife and recreation.

Channelkeeper successfully overcame the City and Water Board’s attempt to have our case dismissed, then prevailed again when the City tried to bog down our case by filing cross-complaints against all 400 other water right holders



The Ventura River historically flowed year-round to the ocean

in the watershed, arguing that everyone else’s use of the river’s water must be analyzed together. The Court ruled in our favor and directed the City to drop its cross-complaints, but the City appealed that ruling and unfortunately, the Appellate Court sided with the City and allowed them to lump its lawsuits against

Visit www.sbck.org/rtr to learn how you can help by telling the Ventura City Council to stop pumping the Ventura River dry.

the other water right holders into our case against the City and the State Water Board. Channelkeeper is undeterred and is continuing our legal action to challenge the City’s irresponsible water management, but we urgently need the community’s help to increase the pressure on the City to stop sucking the Ventura River dry. Please visit www.sbck.org/rtr and follow our #ResurrectTheRiver campaign on social media to learn more about this important issue and how you can help by telling the Ventura City Council to stop pumping the Ventura River dry. The fate of the river and all that depends on it is at stake! Thank you!



Connecting the Community to Marine Protected Areas



This summer, more than 80 SCUBA divers joined us in taking the plunge to explore the Naples and Campus Point State Marine Conservation Areas, two of the Santa Barbara Channel's most stunning coastal Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). MPAs are proven, effective tools for restoring and protecting valuable habitat for marine life, but they're also good for eco-tourism and the local economy because they give people a chance to experience pristine ocean ecosystems firsthand and present a premier marketing opportunity for local ocean recreation outfitters.

Channelkeeper has worked for years to help connect our community and

local businesses to the Santa Barbara Channel's MPA network, both to raise awareness about these spectacular underwater parks and to help build support for the critical protections that MPAs offer for marine life. Our interactive Naples and Campus Point MPA Dive maps help divers and the broader community access and view these stunning underwater parks. Each summer, we offer discounted SCUBA diving trips in partnership with Truth Aquatics to bring divers to these unique locations along our coastline. Visit www.sbck.org/mpa to download our MPA dive maps, to view underwater footage of local MPAs, and to learn about future opportunities to EXPLORE YOUR MPA!

Santa Barbara Bans Styrofoam and Plastic Straws

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Channelkeeper is also advocating for local and statewide policies to address plastic pollution. As a result of our advocacy, earlier this summer the Santa Barbara City Council adopted an ordinance banning Styrofoam food and drink containers, joining 119 other California municipalities who have taken similar action. Santa Barbara also moved to ban plastic straws and stirrers (with a medical exemption for those who need a straw) and to require that plastic cutlery be provided only upon request. When City Council finalizes the straw ban ordinance this fall, Santa Barbara will be leading the charge on straws, going where less than 10 other California cities have gone before!



Channelkeeper is now lobbying other South Coast municipalities to follow suit with their own foam and straw reduction policies. Please join us in the movement for plastic-free seas by supporting local foam and straw bans and pledging to skip the straw (or bring your own reusable one) and to reduce your use of other single-use plastics.

A Day at the Beach Shouldn't Make You Sick

Needless to say, the tragic debris flows that raged through Montecito early this year had devastating consequences for our community. The subsequent disposal of mud onto Goleta and Carpinteria beaches was also difficult to bear and had a significant impact on water quality, causing the beaches to be closed for several weeks or months due to the risk to public health. In response to community concerns about the safety of recreating at these and neighboring beaches, Channelkeeper initiated daily sampling of fecal bacteria levels in the surf zone and shared our results with the public as soon as they were available. We received such positive feedback from the community for providing this service that we continued to test water quality at Rincon Beach every other day through the summer.



Most locals know that swimming, surfing or doing other types of water-contact recreation in polluted water can make you sick. Common ailments include ear, nose and throat infections, gastroenteritis, and respiratory illness. Channelkeeper believes that ocean users have a right to know when water quality standards are exceeded so they can make informed decisions about recreating in the water and avoid putting their health at risk.

The Santa Barbara and Ventura county public health departments conduct sampling for fecal indicator bacteria at most large beaches in their jurisdictions once a week during the summer (and some less often during the winter), but their results aren't posted until at least three days later, when conditions may have changed. Channelkeeper aims to continue testing water quality at our most popular recreation beaches at least three times a week and sharing our results with the public via our website and social media

as soon as they are available (24 hours later). However, we don't yet have the funding to keep it going, so we need your support to make it happen!

Please help Channelkeeper be your go-to source for current, reliable beach water quality information by making a donation to support our beach monitoring project today. Your support will ensure that you, your family and your neighbors will know when it's safe to surf, swim and play at the beach – and when it's not, because a day at the beach shouldn't make you sick!

Keeping Our Waterways Clean!

Every year, Channelkeeper rallies hundreds of volunteers to help us remove trash from local beaches and creeks. Over the past five years, we've hosted 58 clean-ups, engaging 1,468 volunteers to remove 3,050 pounds of trash from local waterways! To date in 2018 alone, we've hosted 11 clean-ups, with 425 volunteers helping us pick up nearly 900 pounds of trash from West Beach (our adopted beach), East Beach, Butterfly Beach and Leadbetter Beach.

Many environmentally-minded local businesses are chipping in by rallying their employees to participate in clean-ups, and Channelkeeper sincerely thanks Acme Hospitality, AppFolio, Fielding Graduate University, Hospitality Santa Barbara, Procore, SeaVeas, and Toad&Co., as well as several local youth groups, for getting their hands dirty to help us keep our waterways clean this past year. If you, your company or group would like to participate in a clean-up, please contact us at penny@sbck.org or 805.563.3377.



18th Annual Blue Water Ball Tops the Charts!

Channelkeeper's 18th Annual Blue Water Ball was a magical, inspiring night full of fun and friendship. It was also our most successful fundraiser ever, raising more than \$190,000 for Channelkeeper's work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds!

The event was held on April 21st (Earth Day) 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 Darla Bea, all while celebrating Channelkeeper's recent victories for clean water.

Actor, activist, and surfer Gregory Harrison gracefully orchestrated the evening's events as our Master of Ceremonies, while our keynote speaker, filmmaker and environmentalist Mimi Armstrong deGruy, entertained and inspired our rapt audience with clips from her film *Diving Deep*, a deeply moving documentary which celebrates her late husband, the irrepressibly curious and enthusiastic underwater filmmaker Mike DeGruy.

We are so grateful to everyone who made our 18th annual Blue Water Ball such a delightful, successful, enchanted evening. We hope you will join us at our 19th annual Blue Water Ball on March 16, 2019!



THREE CHEERS FOR OUR EVENT COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS!

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Clockwise from top left: Gregory Harrison, Yvon & Malinda Chouinard, Carla & Shaun Tomson; Abe Powell and Theresa Borgatello Carlson; Chris Costello bidding at the silent auction; Channelkeeper Board President Mike Wondolowski, Executive Director Kira Redmond and Santa Barbara County Supervisor Das Williams; Channelkeeper Board member Julie Ringler, Kate Larramendy and Joel Orr; Jason Baffa, Rich & Krista Coffin.

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Channelkeeper Featured in Vanity Fair

We are thrilled that Channelkeeper and our sister Waterkeepers across California were featured in an article in the Summer 2018 issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine! The piece explores our fight to protect our most important resource - water - and dubs the Waterkeepers "the closest thing to aquatic superheroes the Golden State's got." It describes the range of threats that our waters face, including the full-frontal attack by the Trump Administration to dismantle bedrock environmental protections, and highlights several strategies and solutions that Waterkeepers have championed, including storm water capture, water conservation, wastewater recycling, and stronger rules and enforcement to keep agricultural and industrial runoff out our rivers, drinking water, and coastal waters. The article is available on our website at www.sbck.org/media.



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October 2017 - September 2018

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Catherine McCabe
Sean & Frances McCarthy
David McVeigh
Patricia Mitchell
Mitchell Morehart
Catherine Mullin
Lee Neuenschwander
Fallis Oliver
Valerie & Donley Olson
Joel Orr
Gary Paine
PayPal Giving Fund
Adam Pearlman &
Patricia Malone
Lindsay Phillips
Diana Platt
Virginia Pollack
Valerie & David Powdrell
John Rivard
Riviera Towel Company
Thelma Schmidhauser
Michael Sheehy
Genevieve Shershun-Varner
Evely Laser Shlensky &
Rabbi Ira Youdovin
Debra & Adam Silbar

Anne Sprecher
David & Karen
Telleen-Lawton
Elizabeth Toro &
Mark Hauser
Unitarian Society
of Santa Barbara
US EPA
Laura Von Daniel &
Paula Waldman
Lee Waldron
Richard Wallach
Steve & Robin Ward
William Wellman
John Wingate

SNOWY PLOVER \$50-\$99

Stuart Allen
Anonymous
Bruce & Judy Anticouni
Ronald Bakus II
Cynthia Brock
Roland & Joyce Bryan
Steven & Laura Burge
Kristin Clark
Robert Denholtz
Donald & Linda Denton
Laura Drammer
Gail Fairburn
Jack & Jackie Finnegan
Jodi Fishman-Osti
Robert & Elene Franco
Carla Frisk & Jeff Newton
Thomas Fusek
Andrew & Konnie Gault
Philip & Cassandra Grant
Cora & Ben Griffin
Sue Irwin
Sharon Kantanen
Wendie & Jeff Kruthers
James Little
Megan & Kevin Marble
Paul Margolis
John Maulhardt
John & Carolyn McCoy
Marc McGinnis
Barbara Menne
Cal & Peggy Meuser
Jeff Miner
Tom & Kim Modugno
Cindy Moore &
Scott Spaulding
Judith Muller
Brad & Jeanne Nelson
Steve Nelson
James & Marilyn Nollan
Jeff Overeem
R.F. & Ann Paloutzian
William Paxson &
Lynne Sherman
Amy Peterson
Paul Phillips &
Judy Hawkins
Gail Reynolds
Anne Rochman
Clifford Rodrigues
Karen Seade
Lucinda Setnicka

The Shopkeepers
Joseph & Susan
Skenderian
Mark Srednicki &
Eloise Uranga
Linda Suri
Ted Tedesco
Tom & Deb Trautvein
Wendy Varnals

GARIBALDI \$49 & UNDER

Barbara Bonadeo
Sharon & John Broberg
Ann Bromfield &
Lyndal Laughrin
Tom & Laura Brooks
Sarah Carr
Scott Carrington
Pam Caswell
Betty Chackel
Sarah Clabeaux
Morgan Coffey
Jackson Cook
Martha Degasis
Joe Doyle
Sharon Engel
Craig Farnham
Elizabeth Graham
Erin Griffin
John & Christina
Hammond
Rick Hibbs &
Karin Nelson
Barbara Janelle
Kelly Knowles
Samantha Macks
Liza Jane MacNaughton
Monika McCoy
Lara Meeker
Linda Melser
Merkadi Chocolate
Mary Moore
Sally Mott
Susan Neufeldt
Newf Surfboard Net
Carl Nielsen
Gary Paine
Everett Lee Patterson
Susan Powers
Ralphs Grocery
Company
Gilbert Robledo, PhD
Frank Schmidt
Kelly Schon
Tamara Sherman
Diane Siegel
Donald & Maida Smith
Reilly Stark
Joshua Stewart
Sarah Tannenbaum
Mindy Thomas
Scott Waters
Roberta Weissglass
Lornie White
Kevin Young
Nicole Young
Larry Yuva &
Carol Smith

Changes to Our Team



Laura Moreno



Morgan Coffey



Debra McCarty



Amanda Kelley

This past spring, Channelkeeper bid a fond farewell to Laura Moreno, our Communications Manager for the past three years, and wished her “boa viagem” as she moved to Portugal to pursue new adventures. Laura took our social media activity to new heights, engaged new audiences through creative storytelling, and spread her infectious enthusiasm for our mission across the community.

We also said goodbye to Morgan Coffey, our Development Director for the past five years. Morgan helped advance our fundraising success, forge fruitful new partnerships, develop attractive outreach and cultivation

materials, and elevate our fundraising events. We appreciate all that Laura and Morgan contributed to our organization and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

With Laura and Morgan moving on, we are thrilled to have two new staff members join our team. Debra McCarty recently signed on as our Development Director and brings a wealth of experience from her prior posts as Development Director of the Carpinteria Education Foundation and Executive Officer of the California Avocado Festival and her background in ocean science with a BS in Marine Biology from San Diego State University.

Debra lives in Goleta with her husband and two sons and is an avid runner and surfer.

Amanda Kelley, our new Communications Coordinator, comes to us from the National Center of Ecological Analysis and Synthesis where she worked as a Communications Fellow since 2017. She recently earned her Master’s from UCSB’s Bren School of Environmental Science and Management and has a BS in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Amanda enjoys surfing, swimming, and playing music in her free time.

Intern Spotlight

Channelkeeper provides valuable work environmental experience and mentorship to college students through our internship program, and we are extremely grateful for the assistance and support they provide for our programs. Check out some of their reflections on their work with us.

What made you want to work for Channelkeeper? - “The entire Channelkeeper staff works immensely hard to address a multitude of environmental issues and protect the Santa Barbara Channel, and it shows in their efforts and accomplishments. Since joining the Channelkeeper team, I have learned a lot about the importance of educating the public on practices that may harm our ecosystem and ensuring a positive relationship between humans and the environment.”

- Elizabeth Pagano, Beach Monitoring and Stream Team Intern

What has been an impactful lesson from your internship? - “I enjoyed learning about the different techniques and strategies utilized by non-profit organizations to enact change within the community as well as the government.”

– Sean Goral, Data Visualization and Analysis Intern

How has your internship helped shape your career path? - “I am currently working on a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry at UCSB. Before working with Channelkeeper, I was unsure on where I wanted that degree to take me. Now, I have a greater passion for saving the environment and an understanding of how I can apply my degree to climate science.”

– Sophia Mock, Stream Team Intern





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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 October 7th, November 4th, December 3rd, January 6th, and February 3rd. Upcoming Ventura Stream Team events will take place at 9 am on November 3rd and February 2nd. Email ben@sbck.org or call 805.563.3377 ext. 3 for more information.



Art & Ocean

Please join us on Thursday, November 8th for our third Art & Ocean event at the Gilded Table in The Waterline! Ocean-inspired works of art created by local artists Emilie Lee, Kevin Gleason and Kelly Clause will be displayed and available for sale, with the artists donating proceeds from each piece sold to support Channelkeeper's mission to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. There will also be live music, raffle prizes, snacks, and good company with like-minded ocean lovers! For more information, visit www.sbck.org.

Volunteer with 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-October at UCSB. Email penny@sbck.org for more information and future training opportunities.



SAVE THE DATE for our 19th Annual Blue Water Ball on Saturday, March 16, 2019!