



Support Clean Water Today

Last Chance to RSVP for the Blue Water Ball!



It's just around the corner and we're almost SOLD OUT! Please join us and hundreds of other ocean lovers on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Deckers' Headquarters in Goleta for Channelkeeper's 19th Annual Blue Water Ball. Help Channelkeeper raise critical funds to carry out our important work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel while enjoying live music by the Santa Barbara Ukulele Club and DJ Darla Bea, fine local wine and beer, a gourmet three-course dinner, and an AWESOME silent auction - click [here](#) for a preview of some of the premium items on offer. The evening will be orchestrated by Andrew Firestone as Master of Ceremonies and will feature an inspiring keynote address by Rick Ridgeway, Vice President of Public Engagement for Patagonia. You won't want to miss the opportunity to be part of one of the most celebrated and fun events of the year! **Visit our [Blue Water Ball website](#) to buy your tickets today before we sell out!** If you'd like to become a sponsor, auction donor or volunteer, [email](#) or call us at 805.563.3377 ext. 2. We look forward to seeing you there!



Channelkeeper Student Art Show March 7

Please join us for the opening exhibit, public reception and awards ceremony for Channelkeeper's 16th annual

ocean-inspired Student Art Show, "What the Channel Means to Me" on Thursday, March 7th (1st Thursday) from 5-8 pm at the Jodi House Gallery at 625 Chapala Street in Santa Barbara. The awards ceremony, where the winners will be announced and receive their cash awards, will take place at

6:30 pm. Many thanks to this year's student art show juror, fine artist [Nicole Strasburg](#), and sponsors [Trillium Enterprises](#) and the [City of Goleta Grant Program](#). 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 inspire others in our community. We hope to see you there - you won't want to miss this fun opportunity to check out some incredible ocean-inspired art created by talented local teens!

Mud on the Beach - Again

SB County Flood Control is again dredging its debris basins to reduce the risk of flooding in areas impacted by the Thomas Fire and disposing it on Carpinteria and Goleta Beaches under



emergency permits from state and federal agencies. The County's network of debris basins in the hillsides above Montecito and Carpinteria are many decades old and require ongoing clearing to function properly. While flood control is the primary purpose, the County has repeatedly stated that "nourishment" of beaches with local sand and cobble is a secondary benefit and argues that the beach is the appropriate place to dispose of the material. While debris basins block the natural transport of sediment from headwaters to the ocean and beaches during storms, the artificial transport of excavated material from basins, channels, and wetlands over a period of weeks or months can impact beaches and coastal ecosystems in significantly different ways.

In February, Channelkeeper testified before the County Board of Supervisors, submitted written comments, and met with Flood Control officials to urge them to further examine the potential environmental impacts and to obtain programmatic (rather than emergency) permits for this activity, which could include enhanced monitoring requirements, mitigation measures to minimize impacts, and prohibitions on certain disposal activities that might be impactful.

Channelkeeper has resumed monitoring fecal indicator bacteria levels at Carpinteria and Goleta beaches given the lengthy period of elevated bacteria levels resulting from this activity last year. Our results can be viewed [here](#).

Channelkeeper Conducts Post-Fire and Debris Flow Monitoring of Montecito Streams



Upper San Ysidro Creek Lower San Ysidro Creek

Channelkeeper recently began monitoring water quality in Montecito Creek, San Ysidro Creek, and Romero Creek to document conditions in creeks impacted by the Thomas Fire and Montecito debris flows. Our initial round of sampling indicated elevated turbidity levels (murky water) at sites below Montecito's debris basins, whereas sampling sites above debris basins exhibited low turbidity levels. We will continue to share our findings with the community, governmental agencies, restoration groups, and others working to assess and restore impacts from the fire and debris flows.

Save the Clean Water Act

President Trump's Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers have proposed [a new definition of the Waters of the United States](#) that would drastically



reduce the types and number of waters protected by the Clean Water Act, allowing untreated pollution to be discharged into waters across the United States without meeting any of the Act's permitting and treatment standards. This includes rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and other waters around the nation. The impacts will be even more severe here in the West due to new, complex and unscientific requirements. For example, the rule explicitly excludes all "ephemeral streams," which flow only in response to rain or snow, but provide many essential ecological functions and flow into downstream waters and drinking water supplies. The proposal undermines the most fundamental premise of the Clean Water Act - to protect clean water for all Americans. Join Waterkeepers around the US in saying "NO" to this dirty proposal by submitting your comments [here](#).



Tidepool Monitoring Opportunity!

Do you like tidepooling? Channelkeeper is looking for several volunteers to join our Citizen Scientists for Tidepool Assemblage Research (CSTAR) program on April 15th at Coal Oil Point! We launched our CSTAR program in

2017 in partnership with the federal

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network ([MARINE](#)). CSTAR supplements more than 20 years of data collected by marine scientists across the West Coast by training and utilizing volunteers to monitor the health of the rocky intertidal habitat. Rocky intertidal ecosystems are one of the most heavily impacted ecosystems on the California coast, and the data collected through MARINE has been essential in many applications, including planning recovery efforts following natural disturbances like the 1997/98 El Niño, informing the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and assessing damages caused by oil spills. Data collected by Channelkeeper's CSTAR program will be used by BOEM and their 45+ research partners to continue to evaluate the health of the rocky intertidal ecosystems, inform important coastal resource management decisions and climate change adaptation strategies, and to help assess impacts from future oil spills. Check out our [website](#) for more information on the program, and [email](#) us if you're interested in volunteering!

Goleta Stream Team March 3

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 stream sites across the South Coast. Come join us to help monitor and protect our local waterways. Goleta Stream Team will meet on Sunday, March 3rd at 10 am, RAIN OR SHINE!! Please RSVP via [email](#). For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 3.



Become a member!

Your support for Channelkeeper's efforts is needed now more than ever. [Become a member](#) of the Channelkeeper crew today with your [tax-deductible donation](#). You'll be investing in clean water and healthy communities along the Santa Barbara Channel today and for future generations. With

your membership, you will receive our regular newsletters, news updates and action alerts, invitations to special Channelkeeper events and fun volunteer opportunities, and a free Channelkeeper sticker. All new donors contributing \$50 or more can also receive a Channelkeeper t-shirt, and for donations of \$250 or more, bi-annual issues of [Waterkeeper magazine](#). Sign up today by calling 805.563.3377 ext.1, [emailing](#) us, or clicking [here](#).

STAY CONNECTED

