



## CHANNELKEEPER HONORS NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONTH

August is National Water Quality Month, an initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promote awareness around the value of our water resources and what we can do to protect them. Throughout the month, we are working to inspire conversations and learning around actions that our community can take to ensure that we all have access to safe, clean water for generations to come.

Protecting water quality in the Santa Barbara Channel is at the core of Channelkeeper's work to ensure that our community has access to clean, drinkable, swimmable, fishable water. To that effect, Channelkeeper monitors and advocates to protect water quality in the Santa Barbara Channel and surrounding watersheds.

Our team gathers and shares water quality data to help decision-makers protect and restore local waterways and to foster wider community awareness and involvement in protecting water quality. We collect plankton samples to monitor harmful algal blooms, we respond to community member reports of pollution, and take action to ensure enforcement of fundamental environmental laws.

And you can help us keep local waters clean! [Report](#) possible sources of

pollution or [volunteer](#) with the Watershed Brigade to remove trash from beaches, creeks, rivers, and urban areas.

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## INTRODUCING CHANNELKEEPER BOARD WALKS

Channelkeeper Board Walks are occasional walks and talks around town to explore water from different perspectives. They are designed for the whole community to understand our place in nature, especially with respect to life-giving water. Each will be led by a Channelkeeper Board member, drawing upon the expertises of naturalists, hydrologists, nature film producers, native plant gardeners, and more.

Please join our inaugural Channelkeeper Board Walk on Monday evening, **August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 at the Rattlesnake Canyon** trailhead. This nature walk will be led by Board Member Karen Telleen-Lawton, author of *Canyon Voices: the Nature of Rattlesnake Canyon*.

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



### ENJOY THE SPRING/SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER ONLINE

We're pleased to share that Channelkeeper's Spring/Summer 2023 newsletter is now available online. Dive in! Explore the underwater architecture of Naples Reef and the benefits of marine protected areas. Discover the fundamentals of Channelkeeper's recommendations for the City of Santa Barbara's cruise ship program. Join us in celebrating the success of the Blue Water Ball, our latest community cleanups, and our work to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders through educational experiences!

[Read](#)





**JOIN CHANNELKEEPER'S EMMA WOOD CLEANUP**  
**August 19**

This month, Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade will be cleaning up Emma Wood State Beach in Ventura. Emma Wood is a popular camping spot where trash left behind by visitors can easily enter the ocean and harm marine life.

On Saturday, August 19th, Watershed Brigade volunteers will meet at 9:00 am near the state park sign. Volunteers will spread out to pick up trash along the beach. Channelkeeper will provide buckets, trash grabbers, and gloves. We hope you'll join us!

[Sign Up!](#)

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**SANTA BARBARA HARBOR COMMISSION'S CRUISE SHIP SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING  
August 22**

The Harbor Commission's Cruise Ship Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, August 22nd to review and reconcile recommendations from the City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, and others. The public is welcome to attend.

Channelkeeper's recommendations for the cruise ship program involve reducing and capping the number of visiting ships, ensuring that ships that visit Santa Barbara have state-of-the-art technology and a record of environmental compliance, and maintaining community engagement in the program.

If you are interested in weighing in and receiving additional information on this issue, please email [cruiseship@sbck.org](mailto:cruiseship@sbck.org) with your name and contact info, and we will keep you informed about future opportunities to get involved.

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**MPA Watch**  
**Virtual Training**  
August 23rd



**BECOME AN MPA WATCH VOLUNTEER**  
**August 23**

Channelkeeper's MPA Watch program conducts surveys of human use activities in our local marine protected areas (MPAs) at Campus Point MPA (IV/Goleta), Naples MPA, and Kashtayit MPA (Gaviota State Beach). The data collected helps to inform MPA monitoring and enforcement efforts. Surveys involve walking a designated transect along the beach at the MPAs mentioned above and recording all human use activities observed on the beach or just offshore. Volunteers are asked to conduct just 3 surveys per month.

The summer volunteer training workshop will take place virtually on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Following the online workshop, there will be several opportunities to join a one-hour field training session at Campus Point in the Campus Point MPA. Click below to sign up for the volunteer training workshop.

[Sign Up!](#)

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## Microplastic Challenge

Coastal Cleanup Day

September 23

### SAVE THE DATE: WATERSHED BRIGADE'S MICROTRASH CHALLENGE ON COASTAL CLEANUP DAY - SEPTEMBER 23

We hope you'll join us for the Microtrash Challenge at West Beach on Saturday, September 23rd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm!

For this Coastal Cleanup Day event, we'll meet in person to collect litter, paying special attention to pieces of microtrash. Any litter smaller than a golf ball can be considered microtrash, from tiny wrappers to water bottle caps, styrofoam bits, and discarded pieces of packaging and plastic. These small pieces of litter can cause harm to wildlife and enter the food chain.

Using kitchen strainers, we will sift through the sand and remove microtrash from along West Beach. Volunteers of all ages can join in the fun! Participants are welcome to bring their own kitchen strainers for collecting microtrash, but we will also have cleanup supplies available at the event.

Parking will be free from 9:00 am -12:30 pm at any City of Santa Barbara lot when displaying a Coastal Cleanup Day voucher, which can be obtained from the site captain the morning of the event. Mark your calendars and sign up below!

[Sign Up](#)

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KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER  
SINCE 1999



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