



## 2023 Blue Water Ball

### FUNDRAISING AND FUN AT THE BLUE WATER BALL!

We are grateful for the generous support of our community. This year's Blue Water Ball, held at the Cabrillo Pavilion, was an elegant and engaging event celebrating Channelkeeper's clean water accomplishments and plans for the future.

Guests enjoyed sweeping views of the Santa Barbara Channel while connecting with longtime friends and making new ones. During the evening, emcee Geoff Green entertained with lively auction commentary, while Catering Connection served a sumptuous multicourse dinner. Highlights were Branden Aroyan's large-scale art installations, a blessing by Chumash Elder Art Cisneros, executive director Ted Morton's welcome, a thought-provoking keynote address by UCSB Bren School's Dr. Benjamin Halpern about healthy oceans in a changing climate; and raffle wins by Dr. Lexine Yurcho, Trey Myklebust, and Roger Himovitz.

All in all, we had fun while raising critical funds that make it possible for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper to protect local beaches, creeks, and coast, and defend your right to clean water and healthy habitats. The event raised more than \$130,000.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Ad Hoc Committee Volunteers: Terry Kleid,

Holly Sherwin, and Mimi deGruy; to our Event Business Sponsors Montecito Bank & Trust, MarBorg Industries, Dolphin Consulting, and HG Insights; and to our many event underwriters, including Riviera Towel Company, Patagonia, the Santa Barbara Company, and Sunstone and Sweetzer wineries. We would also like to thank the many individual sponsors, guests, and honorary committee members who made the evening so special and successful.

View our album of photos from the event to relive the night's magic!

### Event Photo Album



## CHANNELKEEPER CELEBRATES THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STUDENT ART SHOW

Our hearts are overflowing with admiration for all of the local high school student artists whose work was featured in Channelkeeper's Student Art Show.

Every year we are astounded by the caliber of the student artwork, and we are inspired by the personal stories behind each piece.

This year's entries were lovingly crafted from ceramics, watercolor, scratchboard, and photography. Thematically, they address important issues such as the effects of pollution on wildlife, protecting the biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, and the ocean's natural beauty.

Congratulations to the award winners!

- First place: Lucy London for *The Diversity of Fishes*
- Second place: Alexis Botella for *What Lurks at the Bottom*
- Third place: Elina Lopez Garza for *Hidden in the Fronds*

- Environmental Ethic Award: Julia Medina for *Under the Collage*
- Juror's Choice Awards: Sofia Sasseen for *Chords out of the Caws* and Noelle Gerthoffer for *Sharp Thorns*
- Honorable mentions were given to Aislinn Kisner, Lucia Wolf, and Anneliese Oprea

We would like to thank artists and former art teachers Michael Irwin and Judith Raimondi for jurying the show and selecting the fifty-four pieces to be displayed from 300 entries.

We'd also like to thank all the art teachers for their support, the Jodi House for hosting the show, County Supervisor Laura Capps for presenting the awards. Finally, we are grateful to the show's sponsors, Trillium Enterprises and the City of Goleta grant program.



### THIRD ANNUAL LOBSTER TRAP CLEANUP COLLABORATION A SUCCESS

On Saturday, April 22nd, twenty-three Watershed Brigade volunteers and members of the commercial fishing community worked together to remove more than thirty lobster traps that had washed ashore between Leadbetter Point and Mesa Lane!

Volunteers pulled traps from the rocks along the shore and carried them to collection points on the beach. The traps were clipped onto a buoyed rope and winched through the surf to the Bella B, a commercial fishing vessel owned by fisherman, Chris Voss.

We'd like to thank Nick Tharp from First Light Fishing Co. and Henry Hepp for ferrying the buoy line back and forth from boat to shore by kayak and to Kim Selkoe, Executive Director of Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, and colleagues Ava Schulenberg and Chris Voss for loading the traps onboard the Bella B and transporting them to Santa Barbara Harbor for disposal.

This is our third year of collaborative shoreline cleanups and we're super grateful for this great community effort!



## STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT WATER QUALITY TESTING

This spring, we are happy to be back out at the Ventura River estuary providing outdoor education and experiences for students from the Ventura River watershed with our partners at Once Upon a Watershed.

On these field trips, students learn about water quality testing and use their skills to test the water themselves at the estuary to see if conditions can support the endangered southern California Steelhead trout. We love engaging with students and providing them with firsthand experiences in the Ventura River that bring environmental science to life.



## EXPLORE LOCAL WETLANDS THIS MONTH

May is American Wetlands Month and a perfect time to take a moment to appreciate these beautiful habitats and all that they offer to wildlife and our communities.

From providing habitat for forty percent of the Earth's plant and animal species to helping clean water, and storing carbon, wetlands are vital ecosystems. This month we invite you to explore a wetland near you. Observe the incredible biodiversity, enjoy the natural tranquility, and reflect upon the importance of preserving and restoring our remaining wetland habitats for the species that rely on them and the communities that they enrich. Read more on our blog.

[Read Blog](#)

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### HELP KEEP BALLOONS OUT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

With graduation season upon us, Channelkeeper would like to remind the community to please use balloons responsibly. Each year, thousands of Mylar balloons blow from the mainland and litter our ocean, where they can be mistaken as food by sea creatures or entangle wildlife. We encourage our community to avoid using balloons. Instead, choose ecofriendly alternatives and take the pledge to be Mylar-free at [MylarMistake.com](http://MylarMistake.com). However, if you decide to use balloons, please be sure to secure them well and toss the deflated remnants in the trash. Deflated Mylar balloons can also be dropped off at Channelkeeper's office to be recycled.

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER  
SINCE 1999



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