



INVESTING IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

As students throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties return to school this fall, Channelkeeper's education staff is back out on the Ventura River evaluating water quality with students from Ventura High School's Field Studies class and in classrooms presenting hands-on watershed education lessons.

By providing young people with knowledge about water quality and environmental systems, Channelkeeper hopes to empower them to become responsible stewards, innovative thinkers, and passionate advocates. We equip them to make choices that support long-term ecological balance, advance environmental protection, and contribute to a healthier planet.

Click below to learn more about why we believe that educating young people about water quality and the environment is crucial for a bright future.

[Read Blog](#)



ASK CONGRESS TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS FROM 6PPD

Vehicle tires contain a chemical called 6PPD, a stabilizing additive that prevents rubber from breaking down. But, when 6PPD reacts with ozone in the air, it forms 6PPD-quinone, a chemical that has been found to have ecotoxic effects on aquatic species, especially fish populations.

As tires wear down through contact with roads, they release particles into the environment, which wash into creeks and streams. Scientists have discovered that very low concentrations of 6PPD can be lethal to aquatic species such as rainbow trout, coho salmon, and chinook salmon within only a few hours of contact.

Our partners at the Waterkeeper Alliance are inviting people to call on Congress to invest in exploring safer chemical alternatives, take stronger regulatory action, and improve stormwater management practices to stop the flow of these dangerous chemicals.

[Take Action](#)



TGIF HAPPY HOUR AT EDC
September 6

Join us on September 6, from 5:30 to 7:30, for the Environmental Defense Center's TGIF Happy Hour. Enjoy live music, drinks, tacos from Pancho's Taco Truck, a raffle, and good company! Channelkeeper will be there as an event sponsor along with the Central Coast Green Business Council and League of Women Voters.

The celebration takes place at the EDC's Courtyard, 906 Garden Street, in Santa Barbara. Tickets cost \$20 and include two drinks. Sliding scale tickets are also available by calling 805.963.1622x104.

Click below to purchase your tickets.

[Tickets](#)



The UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County in collaboration
with Santa Barbara Channelkeeper present:

FREE MONTHLY ZOOM GARDEN TALK

Reducing Water Runoff and Runoff Impact



September 9, 2024

7:00 – 8:00PM

Registration Required

www.ucanr.edu/sbmg



GARDEN TALK WITH KEN FALSTROM **September 9**

Capturing rainwater that drains off rooftops, patios, driveways, and directing it into rain barrels, cisterns, mulched or planted areas, and permeable surfaces can help reduce water runoff, stop the spread of potential pollutants, sediments, and more, while capturing water to help vitalize landscaping and garden areas.

On September 9, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Master Gardener and former Channelkeeper Board Member Ken Falstrom will offer a research-based presentation outlining ways to reduce water runoff from landscaping and providing practical tips for gardeners to implement in their own projects. Click below to register in advance for this online presentation.

Register



Coastal Cleanup Day Microtrash Challenge
West Beach
September 21 @ 9:00 am

MICROTRASH CHALLENGE ON COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2023 September 21

We hope you'll join us for the Microtrash Challenge at West Beach on Saturday, September 21 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm! Channelkeeper is proud to be the site captain at the West Beach cleanup location.

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 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 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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. Sign up below!

[Sign Up](#)



CELEBRATE CREEK WEEK 2024
September 21 to 28

Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks and ocean, with many groups sponsoring events throughout the week to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural riparian treasures of the South Coast. Creek Week is hosted by the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, Project Clean Water, and the cities of Carpinteria and Goleta.

The fun begins on Saturday, September 21 with Coastal Cleanup Day and there are opportunities throughout the week to join in restoration project tours, beach and creek cleanups, and much more! With a week of outdoor events and virtual talks, there is something for everyone!

[View Schedule](#)



Rewilding Mesa Creek

Channelkeeper Board Walk
September 24 @ 5:00 pm

REWILDING MESA CREEK

Channelkeeper Board Walk

September 24

Join us for a Creek Week event on September 24 to explore one of Santa Barbara's finest examples of creek restoration—a project that transformed Mesa Creek from a concrete channelized stream back to its natural creek bed.

Mesa Creek flows from the Mesa area near the Douglas Family Preserve, along Cliff Drive, to Hendry's Lagoon at Arroyo Burro Beach. Previously, the lower section of the creek was routed through a buried concrete pipe. This exemplary project led by the City of Santa Barbara's Creeks Division returned Mesa Creek to its natural state by removing the concrete structure, replacing invasive plants with native vegetation, and making improvements to the upper lagoon.

This fascinating Board Walk and discussion will be led by Channelkeeper Board member Jeff Phillips, a senior fish and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, along with Dr. Jill Murray, Creeks Research Analyst and Erin Markey, Project Planner, both from the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division.

Participants will meet at 5:00 pm in the Arroyo Burro Beach near the Lifeguard stand. We will walk along Mesa Creek, up the bike path, across to the Arroyo Burro Open Space, and back down Alan Road to Hendry's Beach to observe rewilding in action.

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 expertise of naturalists, hydrologists, nature film producers, native plant gardeners, and more.



HONORING WORLD RIVERS DAY **September 22**

World Rivers Day provides an opportunity to celebrate our beloved waterways, recognize their value, and advance our stewardship. Rivers everywhere face an array of threats today, including the Ventura River.

For twenty years, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper has led several programs to protect the Ventura River. In recent years, we have worked to stop the City of Ventura from pumping it dry and establish thresholds to restore flows and ensure the river's health and ecological richness, particularly during the summer. We're pleased to report that the City has taken some steps to commit to shutting pumps down when flows reach very low levels. This is helping maintain important fish and wildlife habitats and allowing local community members to enjoy the restorative power of the river.

Through membership in the California Coastkeeper Alliance, we are also advocating for the State of California to improve equitable access to inland waterways.

California has a coastal access program that prevents private development from blocking public access to the ocean and beaches. However, no such

program exists for inland waterways. This discrepancy creates an equity issue in that affluent coastal communities have access to beaches while inland communities that are often home to lower-income individuals or communities of color have limited access points to their local freshwater systems. We are recommending that the state develop a public access program for freshwater beaches and recreation areas.

In honor of **World Rivers Day, September 22**, we invite you to spend time in or near a river and take a moment to reflect on the value of our beloved waterways.



GIRLS IN OCEAN SCIENCE SEPTEMBER 28 and SEPTEMBER 29

There's a saying that if you see it, you can be it. That's the power of representation to expand young people's perceptions of what they can achieve. Channelkeeper is honored to participate this month in the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Girls in Ocean Science Conference.

The conference connects female ocean experts and scientists with young women interested in ocean science-based fields of study and careers. Open to both middle school and high school students on two different days, the conference brings together learning and mentorship as participants spend the day conducting research in labs and at sea aboard a local vessel.

Channelkeeper staff will share their experiences with marine science and technology while helping young women explore their own career paths in

ocean science. We believe that connecting students with powerful women in this field will inspire the next generation of female scientists and empower them to solve some of the environment's most pressing issues.

Conference Dates:

- Saturday, September 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Middle School students (6th-8th grades).
- Sunday, September 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for High School (9th-12th grades).

The conference fee is \$30. Conference scholarships are also available. Advance registration is recommended as space is limited.

[Learn More](#)



SUPPORT CLEAN WATER

Want to make a difference for the environment and your community? Making a tax-deductible contribution to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today is an investment in clean beaches, healthy watersheds, and a more sustainable future. Thank you for your support!

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