

SANTA BARBARA SEASONS

GUIDES TO THE CULTURAL ARTS, LANDMARKS, RESTAURANTS AND WINERIES

SUMMER 2009

Santa Barbara SEASONS

CELEBRATING LOCAL LIFE & CULTURE

Summer Spectacular

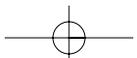


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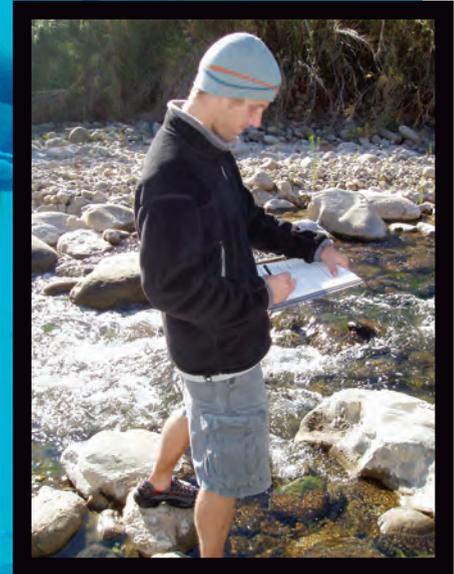
PLUS COASTAL COTTAGE P. 50 SUMMER SOLSTICE P. 64
SEAFOOD GOES SUSTAINABLE P. 58 AREA WINE MAP P. 92
SANTA BARBARA CITY MAP P. 76-77 GUIDE TO THE ARTS P. 34



Legacies | Santa Barbara's Nonprofits

Citizen Scientists

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper



"PEOPLE SAY WE'RE ONE OF THE best-kept secrets in town," says Kira Redmond, executive director of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. She may be right—but not for long.

Started as an Environmental Defense Center program in 1999, Channelkeeper is now an independent nonprofit, as well as part of one of the fastest growing grassroots environmental movements in the world: International Waterkeeper Alliance.

With just six and a half staff members, buttressed by an army of citizen scientist volunteers, Channelkeeper works to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and watersheds in a variety of ways, including water quality monitoring, education and community outreach, political advocacy and marine habitat restoration.

Perhaps what is most unique about Channelkeeper is that its volunteers work out in the field. "The field work is kind of

what sets us apart," says Redmond. "We work closely with groups like Environmental Defense Center, Surfrider and Heal the Ocean, but they are advocacy and public education focused. We work with them on a lot of issues, but as far as being out in the field and identifying pollution problems in the creeks or doing habitat monitoring in the channel, there really aren't other environmental nonprofits that do that."

Grassroots programs such as "Grunion Greeters" (where volunteers monitor grunion behavior on local beaches during spawning season) and "Stream Teams" (a volunteer-based water quality-monitoring program at the Goleta Slough watershed and the Ventura River) fall under the leadership of Ben Pitterle, watershed programs director. The grunion program, which is part of a larger study being conducted at Pepperdine University, "is one

of the best family-oriented volunteer opportunities I think we have," says Pitterle. "I did Carpinteria State Beach last summer, and it's really cool because of the campers. There are just all kinds of kids out playing. It's fun, a family fun event. I think this is going to be our fifth or sixth year coordinating for this region... We get a lot of people who don't otherwise participate in some of our water quality volunteer opportunities, so it's a good way to reach out to a broader group of people—especially kids."

The "Stream Team," operating since 2001, has a core group of volunteers. "We go out once a month to collect water samples," Pitterle explains. "We do that with a few different purposes. One is to collect a baseline of water data to monitor over time to see if things are getting better or worse. Another reason is it's a great way to reach out to the public, educate and

Above left–right: A diver maps eelgrass habitat as part of Channelkeeper's Marine Monitoring and Restoration Program. Watershed program director Ben Pitterle collects data on water pollution levels.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER

train them about watersheds, and help them to become environmental stewards themselves. The third is that looking at the data helps us identify actual problems, and then we can relay that information to different public agencies who are responsible for regulating water problems to try to get them fixed.”

Working with public agencies is a big part of what Channelkeeper does. When budget cuts forced the county to stop its marine monitoring program this past fall, Channelkeeper rallied its supporters and pitched in thousands of dollars to continue this important warning service system for surfers, swimmers and beachgoers at 12 county beaches. Santa Barbara city officials also helped pick up the slack by testing at four additional locations.

In addition to partnering with county and city officials, Channelkeeper works closely with researchers at UCSB and Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary, and is collaborating with the state to implement a Marine Life Protection Act that will create a network of marine protected areas or underwater parks along the entire California coast.

“In the work that we do in the field, we work with agencies that don’t have the resources to be everywhere themselves,” says Redmond. “For instance, the city of Santa Barbara has two code enforcement staff. So they’re out there like we are, looking at businesses that might have a high potential to pollute and checking up on them. But they can’t be everywhere at once, so with budget cuts our role is becoming increasingly important. We have really good relationships with people at these agencies. Basically, they’re grateful to us for helping them do their jobs.”

For more information about Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, call 805/563-3377 or visit www.sbck.org.

—Leslie Dinaberg

CURRENT AFFAIRES

LOCAL FUNDRAISERS FOR JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

June

6.1 UNITED BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Bill Oliver
Memorial Golf Tournament
June 1, 1:30 p.m.

Held at the Sandpiper Golf Course, this shotgun start tournament is one of the United Boys and Girls Club’s signature events. The two best balls of the foursome win the day, which concludes with a raffle, awards and a tasty barbecue dinner. For information, call 805/681-1315 or visit www.unitedbg.org.

6.4 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF SANTA BARBARA

South Coast Business and Technology Awards Dinner
June 4, 5 p.m.

This sit-down dinner and awards ceremony recognizes and honors the achievements of the best in business and technology on the South Coast while benefiting Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. This year’s honorees are Sara Miller McCune of SAGE Publications, Inc. (Entrepreneur of the Year) and Hutton Foundation (Excellence in Service), among others. Fess Parker’s DoubleTree Resort. 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd. For information about sponsoring or attending this event, call 805/687-6065 or visit www.sbscholarship.org.

6.6 THE ARTS FUND 20/20

June 6–October 1

Seize the opportunity to view private collections and interact with artists from every walk of creative life in a string of special events throughout the summer. Marking the 20th anniversary of The Arts Fund’s Individual Artist Award, the series puts a spotlight on award winners with 20 dazzling events. Fine wine and fantastic fare is served at each celebration. For information, call 805/965-7321 or visit www.artsfundsb.org.

6.7 THE RHYTHMIC ARTS PROJECT TRAP Annual Benefit

June 7, 1–5:30 p.m.

Fill your ears with booming beats at The Rhythmic Arts Project’s annual benefit featuring a rollicking crew of percussionists, musicians and vocalists as well as a live auction and bake sale. For information, call 805/745-8280 or visit www.traponline.com.

6.7 OPERA SANTA BARBARA A Night at the Paris Opera

June 7, 5:30 p.m.

Inspired by an elegant evening at the glittering Paris Opera, this black-tie affair features a gourmet dinner of French cuisine, performances by world-renowned opera singers and a live and silent auction with a chance to win a trip to the City of Lights itself. Coral Casino, 1260 Channel Dr. For tickets and information, call 805/898-3890 or visit www.operasb.com.

6.14 ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

Benefit Auction and Environmental Hero Awards
June 14, 2–5 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon filled to the brim with wine, live and silent auctions, hors d’oeuvres and live music—all in the lush surroundings of the historic Stow House. EDC’s biggest fundraising event of the year honors our environmental heroes. 304 N. Los Carneros Rd. For tickets and information, call Deb Lott at 805/963-1622 or visit www.edcnet.org.

6.21 GOLETA VALLEY BEAUTIFUL Heritage Tree Bus Tour

June 21, 1–5 p.m.

Spend an afternoon getting to know Goleta Valley’s natural beauty on a tour of the area’s arboreal attributes, with proceeds supplementing efforts to maintain and further beautify the region. 5555 Hollister Ave. For information, call 805/685-7910 or visit www.goletavalleybeautiful.org.

6.22 GIRLS INC. OF GREATER SANTA BARBARA Annual Golf Tournament

June 22, 10:30 a.m.

Sign up as a single, double or foursome for this annual event raising scholarship funds for girls to attend educational after-school and summer programs. Enjoy a golf-filled day supplemented by a silent auction, awards ceremony and light buffet luncheon following the tournament. La Cumbre Country Club, 4015 Via Laguna. For tickets and information, call 805/963-4757 or visit www.girlsincsb.org.