

CHANNEL ISLANDS DIVERS

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

APRIL 17, 2024

6:00PM Dinner

6:30PM Meeting

Black Bear Diner

2401 E. Harbor Blvd.

Ventura, CA 93001

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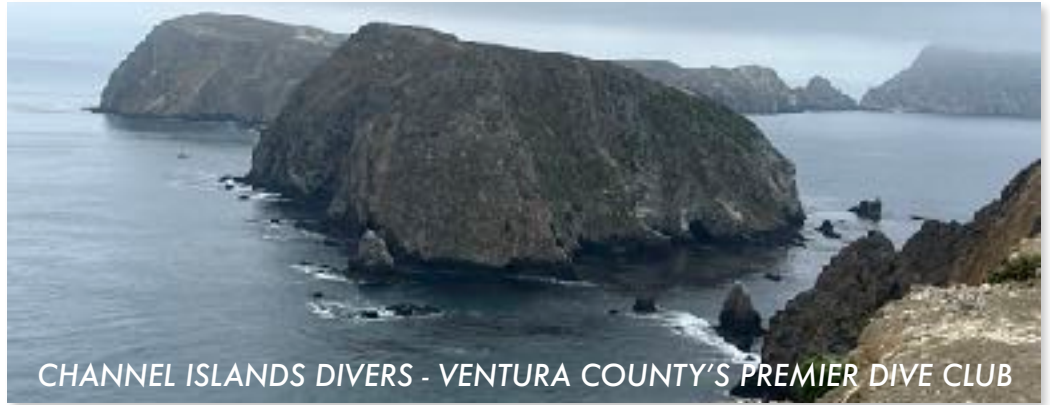
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Many Thanks to our Club Sponsors!

- ♦ **Channel Island Dive Adventures**
- ♦ **Maverick UnderSea Divers (MUD)**
- ♦ **Island Packers**
- ♦ **Black Bear Diner**
- ♦ **PCH Scuba**



BOTTOM TIMES

By Mike Cunningham

Club President

Well, it's April, for whatever that means. I was hoping it would warm up a bit but no, a few days of sun and

and we are back to real cold mornings and chilly afternoons and rain, again this Saturday. I am so looking forward to Summer.

But before Summer gets here, we have a few more meetings starting next Wednesday the 17th. That's right, the third Wednesday of the month is rapidly approaching. And that means dinner and drinks over at Black Bear Diner, all starting around 6 with the official meeting starting at 6:30. Now for the plot twist.

At 6:30 I start talking then the board does some more talking followed by the membership getting the mic for a bit. It's a routine repeated because it works. You all remember Channel Islands Scuba in Thousand Oaks? They used to be one of our sponsors. Then they closed, I think, and like that, they were no longer a sponsor. I thought they opened again and closed again, but I could be wrong.

continued on Page 2



SPONSOR'S CORNER

ISLAND PACKERS

Boat Transportation to the Channel Islands

Since 1968

Island Packers Cruises is the Official Boat Concessionaire for the Channel Islands National Park. We offer year round transportation to the "local islands" Santa Cruz and Anacapa. We offer trips to the "outer islands", Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara (NPS Closure) from March through November on a limited schedule.

Island Packers Cruises also offer trips that get close to the Channel Islands without going ashore. These trip are designed for you to view the abundant wildlife found in the waters of the Channel Islands National Park and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Seasonally, in Summer and Winter we offer Whale Watching trips.

islandpackers.com



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

BOTTOM TIMES continued from Page 1

Last week I called Channel Islands Scuba in Thousand Oaks and talked to Larry. I introduced myself as the President of the Channel Islands Divers and he seemed rather excited to take my call. I was both surprised and impressed by that. We talked for a bit and he says he will do what he needs to do to be at Black Bear Diner on the 17th. Now for the plot twist I mentioned. At the start of this Wednesday's meeting there will be a lot less talking by me and a few others. Worry not, we promise to make it up at a later date.

All of that before our regularly scheduled guest speaker takes the mic. This month we have Reuven Bank, Channel Islands National Park Ranger. He'll be talking about the delicate ecological balance of the Channel Islands National Park amongst other topics I'm told.

So, there you have it. Everyone else will be speaking a whole lot and I won't be, or at least as much. You would think that should be enough to sell out the room. Two speakers and it only costs you one.

This upcoming Wednesday, the 17th, over at Black Bear Diner in Ventura off the 101 and Seaward, starting around 6 for some light socializing and the meeting getting underway at 6:30pm.

Hope to see you all there.



channelislandsdivers.org

April Speaker: Reuven Bank
Channel Islands National
Park Ranger
**Maintaining Biodiversity &
Preserving California's Kelp
Forests**



Join us April 17th to meet National Park Ranger and conservationist Reuven Bank as he shares his vast knowledge on the delicate ecological balance of the Channel Islands National Park. Learn how we can save the precious kelp forest habitat that we divers know and love.



Reuven is also the co-founder of a conservation aquaculture non-profit in Monterey, *The Sunflower Star Laboratory*. Their goal is to conserve and restore California's kelp forests by helping to recover sunflower stars, a keystone species that keeps urchin populations in check, preventing deforestation of kelp ecosystems.

Find out more about their important work and get involved

at:

sunflowerstarlab.org



Pacific kelp forests are far older than we thought

By [Robert Sanders](#)

Originally published in UC Berkeley News



Cindy Looy/UC Berkeley

A Pacific harbor seal swims through a kelp forest in Monterey Bay, California. Recently discovered fossils from Washington show that kelp forests flourished more than 32 million years ago along the Pacific Coast, long before seals and other animals appeared.



UC Berkeley graduate Rosemary Romero holding a fossil of a 14-million-year-old kelp collected near Monterey. To read the full article, click on this link:

[Kelp Forests](#) or scan the QR code



Fish Reef Project Drops ‘Sea Caves’ into Ocean Waters off Goleta Coast

The Nonprofit FISH REEF PROJECT Begins Its Five-Year Goleta Kelp Reef Restoration Project

By Callie Fausey



The first sea cave being lowered into the water. | Credit: Callie Fausey

Wednesday morning’s clear skies and smooth waters were perfect for ferrying 15 huge concrete domes, or “Sea Caves,” to the bay off Goleta Beach and then dumping them overboard.

These 500-pound structures acted as deck seats for our trip from Santa Barbara Harbor, but once we arrived at our destination, they were ready to settle on the seafloor and fulfill their true purpose: creating the foundation for a new kelp forest and artificial reef system.

The caves’ deployment was the realization of a long-held dream and 12 years of hard work on behalf of the Fish Reef Project, a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit aiming to replenish depleted underwater habitats on the Central Coast and around the world. It marked the official beginning of the nonprofit’s five-year Goleta Kelp Reef Restoration Project.

To make the project a reality, Chris Goldblatt, Fish Reef’s founder, had to secure a giant stack of permits from various state and federal departments (he showed me), get a lease from State Lands



Fish Reef Project founder Chris Goldblatt | Credit: Courtesy

FISH REEF PROJECT WORKS TO SAVE KELP FORESTS

for the deployment area, and put together roughly \$300,000 in funds.

There were a few hiccups getting the caves into California from their factory in Mexico and a few more getting them into a cluster on the bay's sandy bottom. However, they did eventually find their place. Goldblatt and the project's other pioneers looked on with pride as each cave was lowered 15 feet into the lapping blue waters.



Each of the caves are around 500 pounds, and had to be loaded and unloaded from the boat using a crane. | Credit: Courtesy

Designed with flat surfaces for kelp holdfasts and inner chambers for fish habitat, the concrete structures create a dynamic cave system for fish to populate and reproduce. After a few years, Goldblatt believes the caves will look and act entirely natural, with the potential to support giant kelp growth and their fishy residents for up to 500 years.

They hope to see budding kelp by this July, Goldblatt said.

If all goes well, Fish Reef plans to try to expand to a 65-acre project – retaining the study reef as a starting point – to help replenish the Central Coast's now-depleted kelp forest that once extended from El Capitan to Rincon Point.



THIS SATURDAY JOIN US FOR A FUN MEETUP AT OUR MONTHLY BEACH DIVE!

WHEN: Each Saturday after the club's monthly meeting.

MEETING TIME: 8:00 AM

COST: Usually free, except for parking in some cases.

LOCATION(s): TBD, depending on ocean and weather conditions

LUNCH: Usually following the dive at an agreed-upon restaurant

DIVE LEADERS: Del Stewart and Mike Frabasilio

*Because this event is free, it is open to non-members!
Non-divers also welcome for land support and going out to lunch after our dive!*

The schedule for our regular monthly beach dives for the remainder of the year is as follows:

- * Saturday, April 20 - Leo Carillo State Beach
- * Saturday, May 18
- * Saturday, June 22
- * Saturday, July 20
- * Saturday, August 24
- * No beach dive in September due to the Annual Refugio BBQ & Beach Dive
- * Saturday, October 19
- * No beach dive in November due to the Annual Catalina Trip
- * Saturday, December 21

If you have any questions or suggestions for beach dive locations, please feel free to email Del at webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org or Mike at librarian@channelislandsdivers.org.

A sign-up sheet will be available at all monthly meetings so we can determine the interest in the club's monthly beach dive.



DIVE REPORT ON OUR MARCH BEACH DIVE FROM DIVE LEADER, DEL STEWART!

We woke up to rain coming down hard... Visibility was close to zero on the freeway as I made my way to the beach. I didn't pack my gear... figured, what for? Conditions had to be horrible, plus, it was raining. Well, I was wrong. The site was beautiful, and the rain stopped. We could have dived if I had brought my gear!!

Rob, Chris, Franklin, Mike, and I spent the morning at the beach, scoping out the landscape and planning our next month's dive, scheduled for April 20th. After careful consideration, we settled on an excellent spot near lifeguard tower #2 and marked it for April's dive.

The chosen location is an inviting sandy cove, perfect for the family to unwind while others dive or snorkel. It is accessible via a small flight of stairs leading down to the beach.

Our meeting time for April's dive is set for 8 am. Parking will be scarce so it is important to arrive early. Optimal parking can be found off PCH, noted in image, in the southbound lane before the bridge.

Also, please pack a lunch to pack a lunch so we can all enjoy the much needed sun rays after the dive.



NEW CLUB EVENT: WHALE WATCHING WITH ISLAND PACKERS

Sunday, June 23, 2024 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (6 hours)

Price for club members: \$75

Did you know gray whales were once common throughout the Northern Hemisphere, but they are now only regularly found in the North Pacific Ocean, off the coasts of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and eastern Asia? These large mammals can grow to approximately 49 feet long, weigh about 90,000 pounds, and they make a 12,000 mile roundtrip migration through our backyard (the Santa Barbara Channel) twice a year.

Island Packers reported an exceptional Winter migration of the gray whales. Along with the gray whales, passengers also saw numerous humpback whales, thousands-upon-thousands of common and bottlenose dolphins, and even a basking shark! Now that we are entering the gray whale's and BLUE WHALE'S northern migration season back to the Arctic, the club has booked a non-landing whale watching trip, which will be led by our own Bill Weinerth and Steve Peterson as Park Service Naturalists. Here are the specifics of the trip:

- * Price: \$75 for club members. (Non-member must book directly with Island Packers at the regular price of \$79.)
- * Club spots available: 10
- * Departure: Island Packers, Ventura Harbor, 1691 Spinnaker Drive, #105B, Ventura, CA 93001
- * Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (The Summer trips are longer than the Winter trips because Island Packers travels a greater distance to take advantage of the daylight hours and increase the chance for spectacular sightings.)
- * Food: Lunch can be ordered online at islandpackers.com, or we are also allowed to bring lunch with us. Snacks are available for purchase onboard. Bring cash! The credit card scanner doesn't always work.

A SIGNUP SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR APRIL 17 AND MAY 15 CLUB MEETINGS.



or email Sandy, our Dive Coordinator, at
dive@channelislandsdivers.org



NEW EVENT:

VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS HIKE

WHEN: Saturday, May 11, 2024

9:00 AM - Noon

WHERE: Behind Ventura City Hall, 501/567 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001

COST: \$7

This event is open to non-members!

Biologist and club member Jackie Worden has agreed to lead this hike. Jackie is an expert on native and invasive species in Ventura County, so don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the flora in our area!

The Ventura Botanical Gardens are truly a community-based effort, with a group of citizens coming together in 2005 to formulate plans for a world-class botanical garden that would display and preserve native plants. After seven years of development, the first trail of the Gardens opened in 2012 and continued to grow and improve since that time. Unfortunately, the December 2017 Thomas Fire caused severe damage, and the Gardens were closed for almost a year for repairs. The 107 acres Ventura Botanical Gardens re-opened on November 3, 2018, with many improvements, which included the Merewether Welcome Center at the entrance to the trails.

The club previously hike the Ventura Botanical Gardens about 15 years ago. Although the layout and the plantings were beautiful, there was an absence of facilities, such as the Welcome Center, at that time. Since then, the Gardens have grown to include a collection of approximately 100,000 plants. The collection strives to replicate plant communities from five different climate zone throughout the world. The climate zone gardens include:

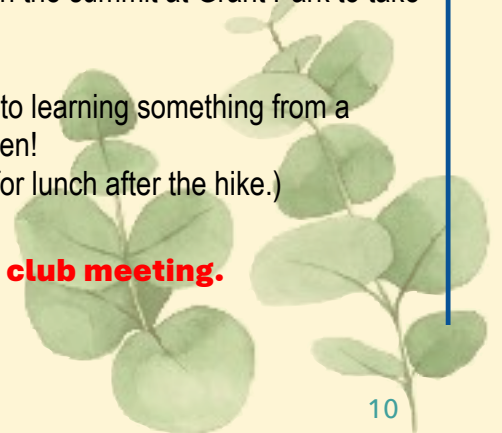
- Chile
- South Africa
- California
- The Mediterranean Basin
- The Ramble (The largest garden on-site, and it is populated by plants native to Southern California.)

Our plan is to meet at the Welcome Center at 9:00 AM and begin the easy-to-moderate 2.1-mile hike, which has 370 feet of elevation gain. There are many places along the hike to stop for a rest and take photos. It takes about two hours to complete the loop, but we will take our time when we reach the summit at Grant Park to take advantage of the magnificent 360-degree view!

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the beauty of our area, in addition to learning something from a REAL EXPERT, the club's own Jackie Worden!

(NOTE: Depending on the wishes of the group, we might meet for lunch after the hike.)

A signup sheet will be available at our April 17 club meeting.





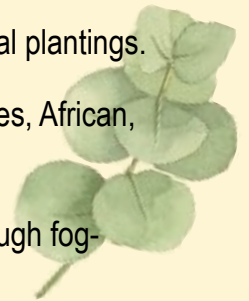
Spread out over 107 acres, the Ventura Botanical Gardens collection consists of over 100,000 plants from the mediterranean climate regions of the world. Completion of development for the full 107 acres is slated for the 2040s. The current gardens replicate plant communities and associations as they occur in nature; some areas focus on ornamental displays or annual plantings.

Plantings represent everything from native California vegetation to Mediterranean species, African, and Australian plants.

See how the Ventura Botanical Gardens are also committed to water conservation through fog-moisture capturing for irrigation.

Come on out and join us at our day hike of the Ventura Botanical Gardens on May 11, 2024 9am-Noon and lunch afterwards if we want!

Signup at our April 17 club meeting, or email Sandy at dive@channelislandsdivers.org





Channel Islands Divers MARCH MEETING RAFFLE WINNERS!

GENERAL PRIZE DRAWING:

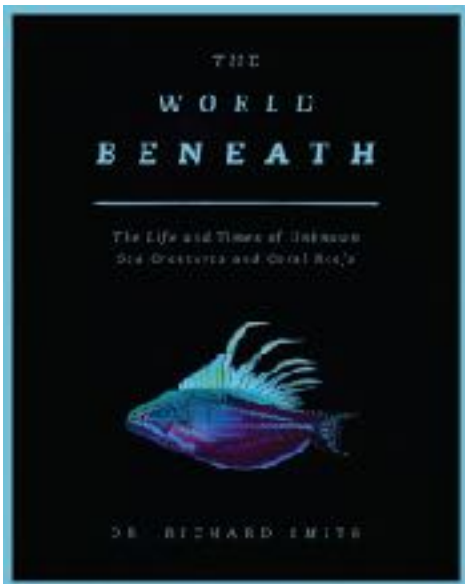
- ◆ Bill Weinerth - \$25 Gift Card from Black Bear Diner
- ◆ Ken Kollwitz - Foldable day pack
- ◆ Delbert Stewart - Camera light
- ◆ Mike Cunningham - Book: *The World Beneath*
- ◆ Diane Stevenson - Starbucks Gift Card
- ◆ Ann Hoagland - Seascape print

DOOR PRIZE:

- ◆ Pattis Thompson - \$25 Maverick UnderSea Divers Gift Card

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION:

- ◆ Bill Weinerth - \$15 Gift Card from PCH Scuba



C A L E N D A R

<p>APRIL 2024</p> <p>17 General Meeting Reuven Bank Channel Islands Park Ranger 20 Club Beach Dive 22 Board Meeting</p>	<p>MAY 2024</p> <p>15 General Meeting Aubrey Fowler Marine Protected Areas 18 Club Beach Dive 20 Board Meeting</p>	<p>JUNE 2024</p> <p>19 General Meeting Jimmy Harvey Navy Diving 22 Club Beach Dive 24 Board Meeting</p>
<p>JULY 2024</p> <p>17 General Meeting Speaker TBD 20 Club Beach Dive 22 Board Meeting</p>	<p>AUGUST 2024</p> <p>21 General Meeting Speaker TBD 24 Club Beach Dive 26 Board Meeting</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2024</p> <p>18 General Meeting Speaker TBD 21 Club Beach Dive 23 Board Meeting</p>

Board of Directors

Mike Cunningham, President
president@channelislandsdivers.org

Bill Weinerth, VP/Speaker Seeker
vicepresident@channelislandsdivers.org

Rob Marion, Secretary
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Ann Hoagland, Treasurer
treasurer@channelislandsdivers.org

Sandy Bickford, Dive Coordinator
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Stella Vaccaro, Newsletter Editor
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Del Stewart
webmaster@channelislandsdivers.org

Teresa Ray, Raffle Coordinator
raffle@channelislandsdivers.org

Laura Forsyth, Membership Coordinator
membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Mike Frabasilio, Club Librarian
library@channelislandsdivers.org

Current Membership: 100

Membership Policy:
Club policy is to drop members from the roster **THREE MONTHS AFTER MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION.**

Renewing Members:
Single - \$30 Family - \$45

New Membership:
Single - \$40 Family - \$55

Welcome new members!
Josh McGowan, Micah Overmon, and Greg Wood

membership@channelislandsdivers.org

Please mail renewals to:
CID Membership
P.O. Box 5801
Ventura, CA 93005



Or renew via Zelle from your app/website.
Send payment to: cidtreasurer92@gmail.com
Add message with description, e.g., "shirt", "trip deposit", "membership renewal", etc. *Thanks!*