



From the Chair

We have a lot going on at the Morro Bay Open Space Alliance! I'm just calling your attention to a few of the stories in this edition where you'll learn more.

Coming soon is our Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 20. It's for Members only and it's a thank you, a celebration, and more in-depth information on what MBOSA is doing going forward. We'll have excellent food, wine and fellowship. I hope all our Members will join us.

Our biggest project is to finish raising the funds needed to purchase the Phase 2 parcel of the Toro Coast Preserve. As you know, the Phase 1 parcel between Morro Bay and Cayucos has already been purchased. Now we are close on Phase 2 as well – we have \$5 million toward Phase 2 but that money is conditional on our communities raising \$500k more.

On May 18 we'll co-sponsor an event with the Beaver Brigade of SLO County, It will be a hybrid meeting, so you can join in person or zoom from your favorite device. The agenda will feature the Morro Bay estuary watershed and talk about how re-introducing beavers there can have a big environmental benefits.

In this issue we are starting a series of articles that feature allied organizations that focus on various environmental issues that matter. This time we include an article about the Citizen Climate Education chapter in SLO County. CCE SLO will be at the Morro Bay library on April 6 to demonstrate some common sense ways you can help the climate.

Have you renewed your membership? There's a form for that attached. We love our Members.

Thanks for your interest in Open Space. It's what keeps us going.

Glenn Silloway

Chair, Morro Bay Open Space Alliance

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SAVE THE DATE APRIL 20, 2024 Annual Meeting

By Dianne Bianco

The MBOSA Annual Meeting (and Social!) for members only will return to the Community Center at 5 pm on Saturday April 20. We have sent a separate email to members where they can get a ticket for the event on Ticket Leap. If you did not receive that email, please get in touch with us: <mailto:info@mbopenspace.org>.

This year we are charging \$10 per member plus \$1.55 Ticket Leap fees because we have costs for this event and this helps to defray them a little. We hope this will not deter you from joining us! The Annual Meeting is our most important event of the year—it's where we re-connect, celebrate, and look at the next steps in our journey. You can reserve your spot for the Meeting at [TicketLeap](#), OR... If you prefer, mail us a check by April 13 for \$10 per person to MBOSA, PO Box 1029, Morro Bay 93443 (and save the \$1.55)

This year's event will be fun and informative. Here's the plan:

Members Only: This is a celebration (the party part) and information (the presentation part) for you, the people who support us most. **If you are not a current member of MBOSA** but want to attend, go to our [Support Us](#) page and sign up or renew—then you can attend the Annual Meeting.

A very special hors d'oeuvres table will be provided by everyone's favorite caterer, SLO Provisions. We'll serve wine and other beverages, too, with the first glass of wine included.

We will get an update on the Beaver Brigade's progress this past year. We recently joined their Beaver Festival in SLO City to support them and to promote the Toro Coast Preserve fundraising effort.

We'll hear from the Land Conservancy of SLO County about the funding status for the Toro Coast Preserve (it's a happy report!) and what the next steps are. Summary news: Phase 1 (of 3 phases) is fully funded and Phase 2 along Alva Paul Creek is over 90% complete. We are GOING to create a regional park right on the bluffs above North Morro Bay.

We hope every member will join us!

Toro Coast Preserve

By Glenn Silloway

The Toro Coast Preserve (TCP) is moving along nicely! This is just a really quick update and members will hear more at the Annual Meeting. The key thing is that we now understand the need to fundraise to be able to close the deal for Phase 2 along Alva Paul Creek: the big chunks of money (\$5 million of it) are conditional on the local community being able to raise the final \$500,000 needed. We have to get to work.

A quick background. The TCP started seven years ago when we learned that Chevron wanted to sell the large plot it owned along Toro Creek and up on top of the bluffs. They used a tank farm and pumping operation to support their on- and off-loading of oil and products to tankers in Estero Bay.

We divided the project into 3 phases, as shown in the map. The reddish-tan parcel north of Toro Creek is fully funded. Now we are working to finish getting the money needed to purchase the lime green parcel along Alva Paul Creek in Phase 2. The blue parcel will be done by 2030 if all goes well.

The future of these 3 parcels could be a new regional park operated by the SLO County parks department—they have agreed to this plan if we can buy the land. Imagine trails, camping, safer access to dog beach and more in this public park. And the land would be part of a permanent land conservation so it would always be there as a park, nothing else.



Please give generously as you can. Our lead agency, the Land Conservancy of SLO County, is aiming to close in summer 2024 so we have very little time. MBOSA is a 501 c 3 non profit so your gift is normally tax deductible. You can [donate online](#) or send us a check with Toro Coast in the memo line: MBOSA, Toro Coast Preserve, PO Box 1029, Morro Bay, CA 93443.

Thank you.

Bringing Beavers Back to Morro Bay Watershed?

By Cooper Lienhart, Beaver Brigade of SLO



Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:30am-2:30pm

In-person & on-line seminar

Where: Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Baker Science Building

Hosted by: Cal Poly Initiative for Climate Leadership and Resilience

Co-hosts: SLO Beaver Brigade and Morro Bay Open Space Alliance

You're invited to join us on May 18 for an interactive program on bringing beavers back to the Morro Bay watershed! You can attend this hybrid event either in person at Cal Poly campus or by viewing virtually.

Watch for an agenda and event details including in-person and virtual registration links coming soon. This free event will give you the detail on why beavers' environmental services are so important for the Morro Bay watershed and how we can live side-by-side with them to our mutual benefit.

The next day, May 19, the Beaver Brigade will be leading tours out to the beaver habitat on the Salinas River in Atascadero so you can see with your own eyes the habitat that the beavers can create.

SLO Beaver Brigade, MBOSA and the Cal Poly Initiative for Climate Leadership and Resilience have a vested interest in the health and longevity of the Morro Bay watershed. Morro Bay estuary is a unique and beautiful center for biodiversity where we have the opportunity to feel the peace and balance of the natural world.

There are objective environmental benefits too. Healthy estuary and watershed ecosystems facilitate more carbon sequestration and resilience to climate change.

A thriving beaver population will expand wetlands along creeks to promote amazing diversity of plants and animals as well as begin to recharge groundwater. These benefits have been demonstrated in many places where beavers have been reintroduced—it is not a pipe dream.

Beavers are native to the creeks that flow into Morro Bay, but they were hunted completely out of the area well over 100 years ago. The Bringing Back Beavers program will show how re-introducing beavers can begin to undo the environmental damage done by this hunting.

This program is part of a broader effort led by the Beaver Brigade and its supporters to make people aware of what benefits beavers can bring and how we can go about bringing them back to the creeks. The program will include presentations, small group breakout sessions and interactive discussions where people who live near the estuary and Cal Poly students as well can get realistic answers on what it looks like to coexist with beavers and how to facilitate restoration projects.

We feel honored to have Cal Poly officially hosting this event, and if you'd like to learn more about the Initiative for Climate Leadership and Resilience you can check out this link: <https://climate.calpoly.edu/>

Stay tuned for more updates, details and the registration links!



Field Trip Summary, May 2023-April 2024

By Faylla Chapman

MBOSA members took advantage of 3 different field trips within the last year. In June and July Mimi Kimball led trips at Estero Bluffs from the Fig Tree parking lot to the grinding stones to the south. Mimi gave a history of the area, showed many artifacts, identified many of the plant species along the path and talked about the geology of the bluffs as well as showed us the rocks with their grinding holes from Native American use in the past. Both trips were well received and the weather was beautiful!



In November members went to view the beaver dams on the Salinas River in Atascadero. Cooper Lienhart led the walk and discussed history of the beavers in the area, what they eat and how they work to make the ponds behind the dams. We saw 2 newly finished dams and lots of evidence of beavers working along the riverbanks, but no beavers. Seems they like to work in private!

In December, taking advantage of the very low tides, members visited the beaches and rocks in Cayucos, looking for live organisms as well as beach debris full of shells and dried materials. Again the day was very nice, the tide very low and the company very interesting. The walk culminated with kelp cake as a treat.

More trips are being planned for this year, so stay tuned!

Morro Bay Celebrates Generations

By Joe Ingraffia

Sean Green, long-time Morro Bay resident and local activist, has initiated and organized a very special event to recognize and celebrate the contributions of generations of Morro Bay residents and numerous Morro Bay non-profit organizations. We're happy to report that MBOSA is included among the honored organizations.

The event, entitled MB Celebrates Generations will be held at the historic Bay Theatre and will present a special showing of the 1963 movie, **It's A Mad Mad Mad Mad World**, directed by Stanley Kramer. Doors open at 4:45 pm on Monday, April 8, 2024 with a silent auction and the film begins at 5:15 pm. There's a limited number of tickets left at \$15 per person. Nonprofit organizations are sharing ticket sales and \$10 of each sale will go to the non-profit organization and \$5 will compensate the theater for operation expenses.

Tickets may be sold out when you receive this, but [Email Us](#) if you want confirmation of that.

The movie recalls a bygone era of grand filmmaking and was an atypical choice for Kramer, famous for much more serious fare. The movie, which centers on a madcap treasure hunt, can best be described as grand, harebrained, slapstick humor with a nonpareil cast of entertainment legends that include Spencer Tracy, Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Buddy Hackett, Phil Silvers, Ethel Merman, Mickey Rooney, Jonathan Winters, Jim Backus, Dick Shawn and Jack Benny.

What is SLO County Citizens' Climate Education?

By Sandy Simon, SLO County Chapter Director

Citizens' Climate Education (CCE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. It is a nonpartisan grassroots advocacy organization which empowers people from diverse backgrounds to educate key stakeholders, policymakers and the public to work for effective solutions to the climate emergency.

Our powerful corps of citizen advocates build political will for long-lasting climate solutions at the federal, state and local levels. CCE is a sister organization of national Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a 501(c)(4) nonprofit.

SLO County CCE is a chapter of its national organization and consists entirely of volunteer citizens. We educate SLO County residents about the climate emergency and how they can help.

Our projects include the following areas:

- Electrification of homes and vehicles
- Presentations about climate to service organizations, religious groups and others
- Tabling at local events
- Planting trees to sequester carbon emissions
- Publishing letters to the editor and op-eds
- Educating the public about the importance of offshore wind projects
- Lobbying the California State Legislature to pass climate-related bills
- Lobbying our national leaders to pass carbon fee and dividend legislation

We need your help! If you have time to help educate the public about climate change, please email us at sloclimate@gmail.com and let us know how you would like to help.

Membership News

By Dianne Bianco

We have just finished our Annual Membership Renewal and New Member Drive. However, we've extended our perks for new members for another month. We believe in MBOSA and hope you will invite more friends and family to join our ranks. In an effort to swell our membership list, we are offering two rewards for new members:

1. An invitation to a homemade gelato party in a private home. This invitation is for both the new member and the current member who referred them to us.

2. A copy of Ben Goldfarb's book, *Eager, The Surprising Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*. Ben did a webinar about beavers for MBOSA recently and we all found his topic fascinating.

So, please recommend us to others. It's only through membership that you get the latest updates on conservation efforts in our area, through webinars, zoom meetings, in person meetings, and newsletters. You also get invitations to participate in docent led walks with interesting topics and information.

You can join or [renew online](#), or tear off the form and mail it to us. Thank you!

new member renewing member NAME _____

\$25 Individual STREET _____

\$50 Family/household CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

\$100 Contributor or business PHONE _____

\$250 Advocate EMAIL _____

\$500 Patron (We promise not to share this with anyone)

\$1000 Steward (lifetime member after 3 years) Make checks payable to MBOSA

\$2500 Guardian of the Land (lifetime member) Mail to: Morro Bay Open Space Alliance PO Box 1029, Morro Bay, CA 93443