

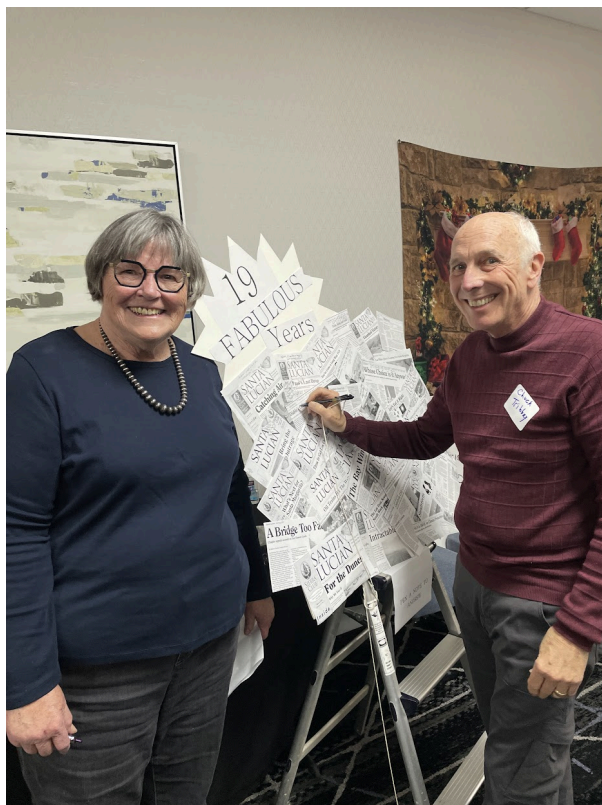
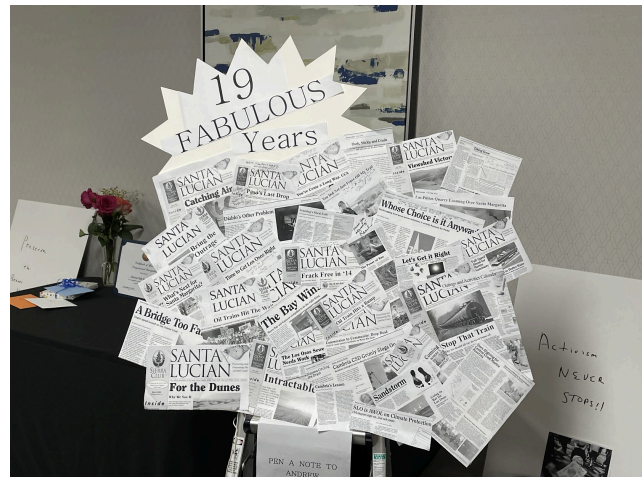
Congratulations to Andrew!

Written by Carole Mintzer

Photos by Jennifer Bauer

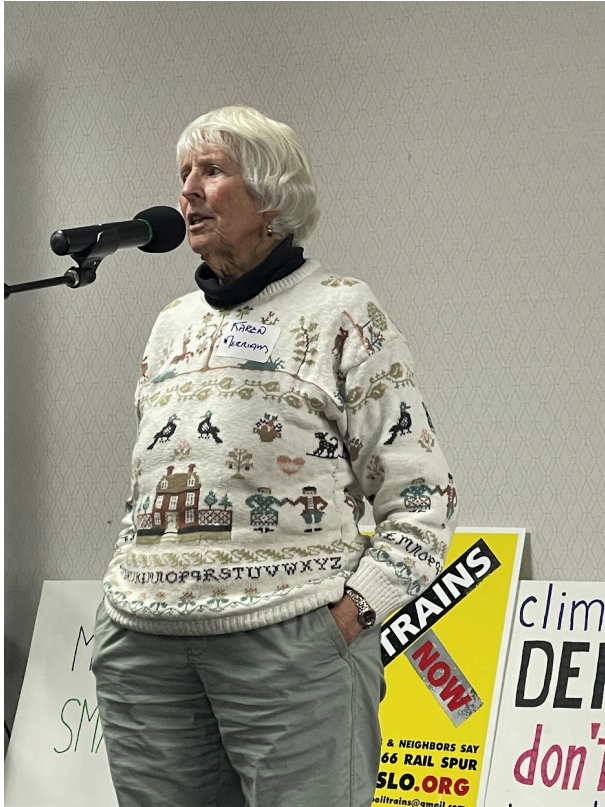
Since Andrew Christie retired as the Santa Lucia Chapter Director at the end of 2023, numerous friends and colleagues have taken the time to congratulate Andrew and thank him for his many contributions to protecting the San Luis Obispo County environment.

There have been hand-written signs, a poster highlighting his years as editor of the Santa Lucian, a commendation from Congressman Salud Carbajal, and a resolution from State Senator John Laird, and Assemblymembers Dawn Addis and Gregg Hart.



Above: Sue Harvey, Chair of the Chapter Conservation Committee and former Chapter Chair created this poster celebrating Andrew's 19 years of editing the Santa Lucian.

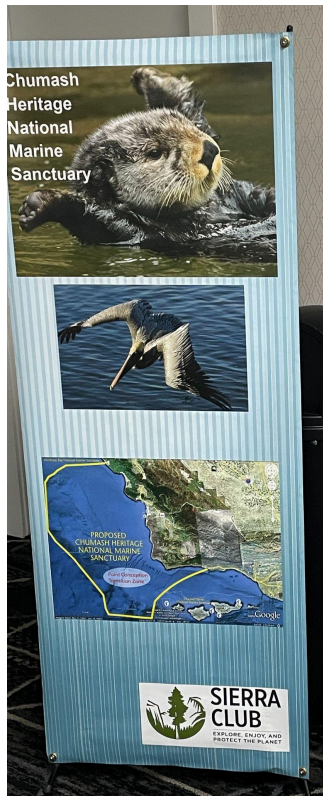
Left: Sue Harvey and Chuck Tribbey, Co-Chair of the Chapter Outings Committee wrote notes to Andrew congratulating him on his retirement.



Left: Karen Merriam, former Chapter Chair and Andrew's "manager" for many years, recognized Andrew for his many contributions to the Santa Lucia Chapter.

On Feb. 28, international marine conservation non-profit, Mission Blue, named the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary a Hope Spot and Andrew, along with Violet Sage Walker, Chair of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, were named Hope Spot Champions. [Read all about it!](#)

Below: PJ Webb, Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Advisor thanked Andrew for his years-long support of sanctuary designation.





Left: Greg Haas, Senior District Representative for Congressman Salud Carbajal, presented Andrew with a commendation from the Congressman.

Right: Kara Woodruff, District Director for State Senator John Laird, presented Andrew with a resolution signed by Senator Laird and Assemblymembers Addis and Hart. See the full text of the resolution at the end of this article to read more about the many contributions Andrew made to SLO County and the Santa Lucia Chapter.





Above: Chapter Chair Mila Vujovich-LaBarre presented Andrew with the Kathleen Goddard Jones Award in recognition of the countless hours he volunteered with the Santa Lucia Chapter - going above and beyond his work hours..

The Kathleen Goddard Jones award was established by the Chapter in 2002 in honor of its founder, who was an effective and outstanding activist. It is given to Chapter volunteers who have maintained a long-time commitment to Sierra Club service and/or conservation activism.

The Chapter is planning to plant a tree at Santa Margarita County Park on April 13 as one more way to celebrate Andrew and his contributions to our environment. Details will be shared once they are final.

In addition to the accolades, a number of our members made a donation to the Chapter to commemorate Andrew - thank you to everyone who honored Andrew in this way.

We are glad that Andrew's future includes more volunteering with the Santa Lucia Chapter. He can't escape that easily.



Celebrating with Andrew were his sister, Sarah Christie, and former Chapter Chair, Carole Mintzer.

State Senate Resolution Recognizing Andrew Christie for His Service to San Luis Obispo County

Whereas Andrew Christie first became involved with resource protection efforts in San Luis Obispo County in 1998 as a volunteer on the campaign to save the Hearst Ranch; and,

Whereas Andrew Christie subsequently served 20 years as the Director of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club, guiding emerging activists, neighborhood groups, and community coalitions to protect San Luis Obispo County's environment; and,

Whereas Andrew Christie has been a prolific and erudite editor of the Santa Lucian and writer of a monthly column for New Times, educating San Luis Obispo residents on all types of threats to the local environment; and,

Whereas Andrew Christie has been a quiet, consistent force for sound land use policies as the building blocks for environmental protections throughout San Luis Obispo County; and,

Whereas Andrew Christie's collaborative work with other environmental, labor and business organizations around the county, state and country to accomplish shared objectives have earned him the status of Senior Environmental Statesman; and,

Whereas Andrew Christie has been a tireless partner, providing expertise, encouragement and engagement for environmental justice; and

Whereas Andrew Christie collaborated with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council to support designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and protect Mother Earth and Grandmother Ocean; and,

Whereas Andrew Christie's quiet, focused, unflappable advocacy on behalf of wildlife, habitat and community health has contributed immeasurably to the efforts to preserve the fragile ecosystems of the Carrizo Plains and the Oceano Dunes; permanently protect the Diablo Canyon Lands; and bring Community Choice Energy to San Luis Obispo County,

Therefore, may it be resolved that the California State Senate does hereby declare Andrew Christie to be a San Luis Obispo County Treasure. Be it further resolved that the community of San Luis Obispo extends its gratitude, respect and appreciation for the myriad contributions made by Andrew Christie over the last two decades to preserve the environments and habitats that are necessary for all species, including ours, to survive in the face of climate change.

Signed by Senator Laird and Assemblymembers Addis and Hart.