

## Chapter Chair Chat

*By Carole Mintzer, Chair, Santa Lucia Chapter*

This is my first column in the Santa Lucian as Chapter Chair and I'm happy to share with you some of the things we are working on and how you can help.



As you'll see reading the newsletter, there are a number of conservation issues that have our attention. The State Parks effort to turn more of Oceano Dunes into a playground for off-highway vehicles must be stopped. The Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) is preparing to rescind the ban on polystyrene and extended polystyrene products (think foam cups, dinnerware, packaging, etc.) that it passed in 2019 and was scheduled to go into effect on April 9, 2021, a full year after its initial implementation date. We are awaiting publication of the Federal Register notice with the schedule for public comments and meetings that will constitute the process for designating the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Those are just a few of the things we are working on. We also have been updating our website to make it easier to navigate. New information is posted regularly, so check in often. We also are making greater use of email to inform our members and supporters about important local issues and how and when they can take action.

We are preparing for our annual fundraiser, coming March 17! We have a great lineup of speakers, including Mary Anne Hitt and Michael Brune. Plan to join us!

As a grassroots environmental organization, Sierra Club depends on its volunteers to stand up for the environment. That's where you come in. There are many ways you can help us make a difference right here in San Luis Obispo County. If you aren't already one, become a Sierra Club member. Participate on one of our committees, such as Conservation, Outings, Political, Fundraising, Environmental and Social Justice. Read our emails and submit comments or provide public testimony at public meetings to make our voice heard. Share our emails with your friends and encourage them to take action. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Come to our virtual fundraiser on March 17. Donate to the Chapter. Learn more about what we're doing by visiting our webpage regularly:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/santa-lucia>.

Until next time, stay safe, get outdoors, and advocate for a clean environment here on the Central Coast.

Carole