

Our Young Leader in Conservation

Gianna Patchen, Sierra Club's Santa Lucia Chapter Coordinator, received the Young Leaders in Conservation Award from the Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA) at its October 12 Butterfly Ball.



Held at the Octagon Barn in San Luis Obispo, the annual event recognizes environmental leadership and raises funds for the CCSPA and Western Monarch Butterfly. The funds raised will support the restoration of essential fencing at Pismo State Beach Monarch Grove, a vital habitat for monarch butterflies, and will enhance CCSPA programs that connect people to State Parks.

Julie Packard received the John Laird Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding leadership at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, while Barbara Hagerty was honored with the Metamorphosis Award for her dedicated volunteer efforts in State Parks.

The Sierra Club's Chapter Coordinator was one of twelve young environmental leaders from ten San Luis Obispo environmental non-profits who were celebrated with CCSPA's newest award, the Young Leaders in Conservation Award. Created by CCSPA Executive Director Sierra Emrick, herself a young leader, the award recognizes the dedication of these changemakers under 30, who were nominated for their resilience, versatility and passion, and embody the future of conservation in our community.



Mike Baird/Highway One Road Trip

Third from left: Young Leader in Conservation Award winner and Sierra Club Chapter Coordinator Gianna Patchen.