



From the Chair

By: James Scott, Executive Committee, Sierra Club Florida

Hello, Florida! As the new chair of Sierra Florida Chapter, I am excited to be working with our executive committee, to serve and support you and meet the challenges that lie ahead. In December, I was elected to my second and final two-year term on the Florida Chapter Executive Committee.

Read more [here](#).



VICTORY: Phosphate Mining Dead in Union and Bradford Counties



By: Jane Blais, Executive Committee, Suwannee/St. Johns Group, Sierra Club Florida

Anti-mining activists had a big win last month when HPSII withdrew their application to mine phosphate on both sides of the New River, the largest tributary to the Santa Fe. Local citizens opposed the proposed phosphate mine as it threatened thousands of acres of wetlands, several endangered species, and would have further reduced the already diminished stream flow. This struggle represents an epic seven-year battle with David vs. Goliath dynamics to maintain the integrity of our outstanding waters, and indeed our quality of life.

Read more [here](#).

Historic Legal Victory for Florida's Springs!



**By: Cris Costello, Senior Organizing Manager, Sierra Club Florida
Michael McGrath, Lead Organizer, Sierra Club Florida**

On February 15, 2023, [Florida's 1st District Court of Appeal](#) ruled in our favor forcing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to go back to the drawing board to remake the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) for the springs of the Suwannee, Santa Fe, and Ichetucknee rivers: Rainbow Springs; Silver Springs; and Volusia Blue Springs. The icing on the cake is that the ruling forces DEP to comply with this ruling when updating the BMAPs for the remaining [Outstanding Florida Springs \(OFS\)](#).

Read more [here](#).

Help Protect Our Freedom This Session!



By: Luigi Guadarrama, Political Director, Sierra Club Florida

Before this year's legislative session started, Ron DeSantis and his cronies were already hard at work forcing their views down our throats at the cost of our freedom, economy, and environment. Instead of addressing skyrocketing utility rates and insurance premiums, algal blooms that poison our water and hurt our economy, or the ongoing climate crisis, Tallahassee politicians have unleashed a barrage of bills to attack Floridians and distract from the crises hurting our state.

Read more [here](#).



2022 Award Winners Announced

Volunteers are essential to Sierra Club Florida, and each year, we are proud to recognize their incredible work that makes our success possible.

For the list of 2022 award winners, click [here](#).

Support the Sierra Club's Work for the Environment in Florida

We are working tirelessly to protect wildlife and wild places, ensure clean air and water for all, and fight for environmental justice here in Florida. 100% of your gift stays local and will be applied where it is most urgently needed.

[Donate Now](#)



Clean Energy Toolkit Now Available!

Let's take our power back. City by city, town by town, we won't stop until we reach 100% clean energy for all. Our new Clean Energy Toolkit is designed to help you navigate the phases of running a campaign in your community, from getting started with research, all the way to implementing 100% clean energy. Click [here](#) to learn more and get started!

Remembering Linda Demler

A plaque in remembrance of Linda Demler has recently been installed to recognize her longtime devotion to Florida Sierra Club, and her kindness and compassion to all. The plaque, commissioned by the Suncoast Group, has been positioned overlooking a serene tree and garden area at the Suncoast Hospice Community Service Center at 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL. Linda was a beloved administrative assistant in the St. Petersburg, FL office; she passed in April 2022.

Donations may be made in Linda's memory to the Suncoast Hospice Foundation [here](#).



Be a Changemaker. Join Sierra Club.



When you join Sierra Club, you automatically become a member of your [local group](#). Become a Sierra Club member today and help us defend Florida's communities and environment!

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