



SIERRA CLUB

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Northeast Florida Group — Duval, St. Johns and northeast Clay counties

2019 Accomplishments Summary

Nature Outings to parks and creeks in NE Florida

- Leading wide ranging, active Sierra Club Outings program (see details on Meetup.com). Recognized for serving the most outing participants in Florida Chapter. In 2018 conducted 62 outings 884 participants; 2017 55 outings including 1008 attendees. We conduct ½ day hikes and paddles, backpacking trips, fitness hikes, and service projects.

Fighting Inappropriate Development

- Providing guidance and support to activists opposing development: County Dock Road, the Outpost in Vilano Beach, Fish Island in St Augustine.
- Cumberland Island: Engaging in public education and civic dialog opposing residential development proposals in National Seashore lands and abutting designated wilderness areas, in cooperation with Sierra Club Georgia.

Legislative/Political

- Supporting solar energy legislation and successful ballot initiatives.
- Opposing fracking in Florida, offshore oil & gas, seismic blasting, and well drilling.
- Opposing Sabal Trail fracked-gas pipeline. Sierra Club won a legal challenge to inadequate FERC environmental assessment.
- Endorsing and campaigning for public office candidates committed to environmental advocacy.
- Building on-going relationships with lawmakers through legislative advocacy.

Fighting the Good Fight

- Advocating for protections of endangered N. Atlantic Right whales by opposing seismic blasting offshore of our Beaches communities.
- Launching single use plastics petition drive to get Publix to stop using plastic bags at the checkouts.
- Lobbying to secure and use state funds allocated in Florida Constitution for land and water conservation.
- Opposing Florida bear hunts and supporting protection of their habitat.
- Supporting local home rule over state legislative pre-emptions.
- Opposed the Jaxport dredging project to deepen the St. Johns River.

Advocacy

- Negotiated and obtained a major tree mitigation fund settlement agreement with City of Jacksonville— county-wide tree canopy survey and online website. Secured accurate funds balance & processes, City hired additional people to plant trees.
- Supporting formation of a local unit of the Sierra Student Coalition.
- JEA clean power stakeholder committee participation and Jax Solar Team leadership to incent solar PV system investment.
- Supported bike/ped initiatives in NE Florida.

Climate Change Initiatives

- Hands Across the Sand participation for public education about perils of offshore oil & gas developments, 2010-2019.
- Moderate and help host a public Climate Change news listserve, with international participation.
- Support of Solar Coop organizing by Solar United Neighborhoods of Florida, in St Johns and Duval Counties.
- Negotiated Duke Energy commitment to install 500 electric vehicle charging stations across Florida.
- Leadership for North Florida Clean Fuels Coalition (a US DOE-recognized Clean Cities Coalition, hosted by NFTPO).

Education/Communication

- “Trees in Our Community” presentations offered and delivered to community groups (now booking 2019 dates).
- Monthly programs on environmental topics open to the public, since 1970.
- Monthly Northeast Florida Group *Sierra Sentry* newsletter sent to members and posted for the public on the Sierra website.
- Participate in social media channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Meetup, and email.