

Fracking: A Serious Threat to our Health

Brian Paradise, Outings Leader

Hydraulic fracking is a process to extract oil and gas by fracturing rock with a hydraulically pressurized liquid or fluid which is usually comprised of chemicals, many of which are cancer-causing. This high-pressure fluid is then injected into a wellbore to create cracks in rock formations through which natural gas, petroleum and brine will flow more freely.

The States of New York and Vermont have banned fracking because of public health concerns and Florida also needs to ban the practice.

During the current Florida legislative session bills were introduced to ban fracking but these went nowhere and were not even heard in Committee hearings which would precede a full vote by the legislature. Instead bills were approved in Committee hearings which would create a less than desirable system of regulation but which would also allow fracking companies to keep confidential the composition of their fracking fluids.

We can help to try and stop fracking in Florida by requesting our local legislative representatives, County Commissioners and the Governor to immediately take steps to ban fracking.

Talking points in our communications can include the following:

According to Food & Water Watch more than 425 peer-reviewed scientific studies on the effects of shale gas development now exist, and 75 per cent of these have been published since January 2013. Of the 49 studies that investigated the health effects of fracking, 47-more than 96 percent, found risks of adverse health outcomes.

Fracking uses a lot of water, sometimes millions of gallons each time a well is fracked, and when the water is returned to the surface it cannot be used for anything else because it has so many contaminants in it, The only thing to do with it is to inject it deep into the ground where it will stay (hopefully) . In our State which is facing water shortages and water degradation this is not a good use of our water resources.

At least 29 dangerously toxic chemicals are used in 652 products for fracking. These include carcinogens, hazardous air pollutants, and substances regulated under the Safe Water Drinking Act. However, fracking chemicals are not regulated under the Act because the Energy Policy Act of 2005 exempted fracking from regulation of underground injection (the Halliburton loophole).

Because of the confidentiality of the fracking chemicals physicians and first responders have no way of getting information to save the lives of victims in the event of an accidents, nor can they protect themselves from exposure to toxins.



Flames shoot from a natural gas drilling well. Photo credit: Pittsburg Post Gazette

Executive Committee

Janet Stanko, Chair	208-1341 janestan@bellsouth.net
Gabe Hanson, Vice-Chair	992-9743 gabehanson@yahoo.com
Tom Larson	247-1876 TCLarson168@msn.com
Ed Schlessinger, Treasurer	730-8148 eds.greenmail@gmail.com
James Taylor	386-795-3670 tayj0016@gmail.com
Ken Wright	ken@jacobsonwright.com
Lisa Williams	388-6357 LisaOW@gmail.com
Carolyn Cooper	CKCooper52@gmail.com
Jake Fitzroy	Jake.fitzroy@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Environmental Education	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Publicity	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Outings	Brian Paradise BGPParadise@comcast.net
Legislative	Gabe Hanson gabehanson@yahoo.com
Legal	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Membership	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Newsletter	Julianne Mammana jmm094@bucknell.edu
Programs Ponte Vedra	Larry Lickenbrock larr2604@hotmail.com
Website	Bill Armstrong armstrongjax@att.net
Programs, Duval	Janet Larson & Pauline Berkeley JCLarson168@msn.com 247-1876

Connect With Us Online

E-mail: ne-editor@florida.sierraclub.org
Web: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/northeast>
Meetup: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/29v9hsd>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/sierranefl>

Sierra Club Outings

No pets allowed on outing except where designated in the outings description. Outing participants are required to sign a waiver and release of liability at the start of the outing. The waiver can be found at: sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual_waiver.pdf

JOIN US ON MEETUP: OUTINGS HAVE BEEN FILLING UP FAST!

For the most up to date information and to ensure your spot, join our MeetUp site. Details of all outing can be found there with easy access to programs and interactions.
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group

Saturday, May 2, 9.00 a.m.: John Muir belated birthday hike in Guana

Celebrate John Muir's birthday with a 4- mile hike. Bring along your favorite quotation or journal entry of John Muir and we'll read these aloud periodically. Sierra Club members only please with a 25-participant limit. Children welcome. No pets please. There is a \$3 entrance fee to Guana if you don't have a pass. Please reserve your place on Meetup or RSVP to Outings Leader Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net, 904-710-0479

Saturday, May 16, 10.00 a.m.: Hiking and exploring Princess Place Preserve

We'll hike for about 4 miles. There's usually a tour of the hunting lodge on Saturdays which usually starts at 2 p.m. Children are welcome. No pets please. We will meet at the Red/Orange trailhead parking lot at 10:00 a.m. The address of the Preserve is 2500 Princess Place Road, Palm Coast, 32137, Please bring lunch, water, sun tan lotion and insect repellent. Car poolers can meet at the Gate gas station at U.S. 1 and 210 at 8.45 a.m. in front of the main entrance to the station. There is no entrance fee to the Preserve or to the hunting lodge but modest donations are appreciated. Please RSVP on Meetup or to Outings Leader Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net

Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17. Hiking, Biking and Kayaking Weekend Getaway on Jekyll Island, GA

We'll bike 14 miles of the island's trail system on Saturday, kayak 4 miles on Clam Creek on Sunday, and hike 6 miles, on Sunday. Make your reservation promptly to ensure you can reserve a site! We are staying at site J-01 Fri-Sun nights. This link will take you to the campground's site map: <http://tinyurl.com/kal89a8> a specific site online. The fee for camping is \$35 per night, plus \$6 to enter the island; oversized vehicles are \$10. In addition to signing up on meetup.com, contact the campground for your actual reservation, Here is a link to the campground website: <http://tinyurl.com/lhgw7g9>. You MUST wear a life jacket/PFD on the kayak outing and a helmet on the bike outing. Bring a hat, bug spray, sunscreen and sunglasses. RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with Outing Leader Ken Fisher at 904-210-7765 or kpf1965@gmail.com.



Sierra Club Members Kayak Deep Creek on April 11, 2015 Photo Credit: Joyce Peterson

" Your Time...For Green Driving...is Now"

Ken Fisher, Sierra Club Outing Leader

The National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) has put together a new initiative to raise public awareness of some simple ways to save money on gas and, at the same time, cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The initiative is called the Green Checkup, and nearly 1,000 dealers in all 50 states and Canada are offering this service at their dealerships for free.

Auto dealers already routinely conduct vehicle safety inspections. However, the Green Checkup will focus on those things that have the most impact on fuel economy, such as oil and air filters, engine performance, tire pressure and emission controls.

Even the most fuel-efficient cars can get poor gas mileage if they're not properly driven or maintained. For example:

Tires that are not inflated properly can reduce fuel economy by 3 percent.

A single misfiring spark plug can cut fuel economy by 4 percent.

Additionally, here are 'Six Ways to Save Gas' – green driving tips to help you increase your fuel economy!

1. Avoid quick starts and aggressive driving. This is the single most significant factor on your gas mileage: A smooth, steady speed saves gasoline and reduces wear and tear on the engine, tires, transmission and brakes.

2. Slow down! Fuel economy decreases about 1% for each mph over 55. Driving 65 mph vs. 75 miles mph, for example, increases fuel economy by about 10%.

3. Use overdrive and cruise control. Overdrive gears slow engine speeds, saving gasoline and reducing wear. By helping to maintain a constant speed, cruise control reduces gasoline consumption. Use both features only when safe and appropriate.

4. Combine trips when possible. Your engine runs more efficiently once it's warmed up, so avoid making multiple short trips. Stop-and-go driving also burns more gasoline. Avoid driving during rush hour whenever you can.

5. Reduce drag. Remove roof racks, tow-hook carriers, and other items from your vehicle that cause wind resistance. Get rid of excess weight in your vehicle too: stuff in your back seat, trunk, truck bed, etc.

6. Avoid unnecessary idling. In addition to contributing to engine wear and tear and air pollution, consider that when your vehicle is idling, you are getting 0 miles per gallon of gasoline you use.

Your time...For Green Driving...is now!

Source: www.greendrivingusa.com



Consider bike riding as a healthy alternative to traveling by car!

Join the Sierra Club

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 1

Meeting Calendar

Monday, May 4 @ 6pm

PV Program

PV Beach Library

Monday, May 11 @ 6:30pm

JAX Program

Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001

University Blvd W

Wednesday May 20- 6:30pm

Combined ExCom and Conservation
Committee Meeting

6850 Belfort Oaks Road, Jacksonville

*"In our every deliberation we
must consider the impact of our
decisions on the next seven gen-
erations"*

-Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy



*6028 Chester Ave. Suite 103
Jacksonville, FL 32217*

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 1638



Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based ink

General Programs

Visit our websites for maps to all meeting locations:

florida.sierraclub.org/northeast

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group

Ponte Vedra Program

May 4, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Visiting Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks

The NE FL Sierra Club in Ponte Vedra will host a presentation by Bill Armstrong, a long time Sierra Club member, on his and his wife's trip to Idaho, Yellowstone National Park, and Glacier National Park. He'll talk about their adventure, and show many photos of these beautiful areas.

Yellowstone National Park is located in the northwest corner of Wyoming, and includes small areas of Montana and Idaho as well. Yellowstone is also the oldest national park in the country, and the site of America's greatest concentration of geysers and hot springs, which form a visible and spectacular link with the primeval forces of the Earth's creation. Glacier National Park, encompassing more than a million acres in northwest Montana, preserves some of the most beautiful alpine meadows, lakes, pristine forests, rugged peaks and glacially-carved valleys in the world.

*All are welcome! For further information, contact Larry Lickenbrock at (904) 537-6047. The program will be held in the **PGA meeting room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library** on Library Road at A1A (blinking light south of the intersection of A1A and Solana Road, on A1A about two miles south of Butler Boulevard).*

Jacksonville Program

May 11, 2015 @ 6:30pm

Pete Johnson is the Conservation and Sanctuaries Director for Duval Audubon Society. He has held this volunteer position for many years. He is an avid conservationist with a Biology degree from the University of Central Florida. He works as a Senior Environmental Scientist/Biologist for TetraTech, an environmental consulting firm. Over the years, Pete has been responsible for the properties owned by the local Audubon Society, including over 500 acres of mostly bottom land swamp nestled in the heart of suburban Orange Park called Crosby Sanctuary. This limited access nature preserve is home to a full biodiversity of native plants, mammals, birds, and reptiles. This special place, now included in conservation land mapping by Clay County and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, provides respite amidst a busy, congested backdrop of human development. Crosby's swamp area is dominated by bald cypress, black gum, Carolina ash, American elm, swamp laurel oak and red maple trees. The property perimeters contain transitional areas of wetlands and uplands such as herbaceous marsh, pine flatwoods and several impressive live oak hammocks. Crosby's important wildlife habitats are connected to many thousands of acres of regionally significant conservation lands, including Jennings State Forest, Cecil Habitat Preserve, Cary State Forest, and Camp Blanding, through riparian habitat corridors.