



# SIERRA CLUB TAMPA BAY GROUP



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet January / February 2023

## JANUARY MONTHLY PROGRAM – VIRTUAL

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 7:00pm

### TAMPA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

Major Successes, Challenges, and Project Highlights

#### Three priorities:

- \* Clean Water & Sediments
- \* Thriving Habitats & Abundant Wildlife
- \* An Informed, Engaged, Responsible, Community



**SPEAKER:** Sheila Scolaro, Community Programs Scientist, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

#### Learn about:

Projects that enhance water quality, reduce nutrient pollution, and improve tidal circulation.  
 Need to capitalize on restoration opportunities before they are lost to future development.  
 Increasing community attention to the health of Tampa Bay.

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Room opens at 6:45 and Program starts at 7:00pm

#### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNhUT09>



## **Save the Date! Don't miss the January 2023 Planning Meeting.**

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club is hosting its Annual Planning Meeting on **Saturday January 21, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**Location: Academy Prep Center of Tampa, 1407 E. Columbus Dr. Tampa, FL. 33605**

Every Sierra Club member is invited to attend and to bring your thoughts and ideas on how we can expand our plans on conservation issues, outings, events and more. The Executive Committee's new board will be seated and new officers elected. Chairs for existing committees will be selected and new committees formed.

Volunteers are encouraged to step forward in support of our critical environmental mission. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP. For more information or to RSVP please contact **Rocky Milburn Chair Tampa Bay Group** [rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org) or (813)-966-9785



FEBRUARY MONTHLY PROGRAM – VIRTUAL  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – 7:00pm

**HOW TO PLANT A  
VEGETABLE GARDEN**



Including...

- 🍷 Types of garden beds
- 🍷 Soil preparation
- 🍷 What to plant
- 🍷 When to plant it
- 🍷 and more...

Presented by the UF/IFAS Extension  
(University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences)

\*\*\*\*\*

Room opens at 6:45 and Program starts at 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNhUT09>

Executive Committee Election Results for 2023-2024

Each of the four candidates on the slate for the Tampa Bay Sierra Club ExCom (Executive Committee) 2023/2024 term has been elected.

Shirley Denton, Gary Gibbons, Don Kruse, and Michael Newett will join the continuing board members (Rocky Milburn, Robert Jordan, Jim Shirk, Nancy Stevens, and Janet Stanko) to carry out the business of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group.

The Sierra Club 2022 Black Bear Award and Outstanding Achievement Award's

The 2022 Black Bear was awarded to Nancy Stevens!

In recognition of her outstanding service to the Sierra Club, the Tampa Bay Group awarded the 2022 Black Bear Award to Nancy Stevens for her hard work in Leadership of the Conservation Group.

Outstanding Achievement Awards were given to the following people:

For Protection of Trees: Alison Date

For Stopping Sprawl and Bad Development: Sabine Prather

For the fighting the PURE project:

Gary Gibbons, Phil Compton, Willa Matz, Sid Flannery, and Caryle Cammisa.



## 2023 Executive Committee

**Group Chair / ICO:** Rocky Milburn  
(813) 966-9785  
[rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Vice-Chair / Parliamentarian**  
**Political Chair:** Gary Gibbons  
[gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Conservation:** Nancy Stevens  
813-380-1668  
[nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Outings Chair:** Shirley Denton  
[Shirley.denton@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Shirley.denton@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Recycling Chair:** Barbara Heineken  
[Barbara.heineken@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Barbara.heineken@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Tabling Chair:** Michael Newett  
[Michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Communication Chair:** Rob Jordan  
[robert.jordan@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:robert.jordan@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Plastics Chair/Media Contact:**  
Janet Stanko  
[janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Transportation Chair:** Jim Shirk  
[jim.shirk@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:jim.shirk@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Treasurer:** Andy Harris  
[andy.harris@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:andy.harris@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Co-Treasurer:** Don Kruse  
[don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org)

## Other Officers & Assignments

**Secretary:** Kathy Crosby  
[kathy.crosby@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:kathy.crosby@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Membership Chair / Volunteer Coordinator:** Linda Hugues  
[linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Program Chair:** Bonnie Newett  
[bonnie.newett@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bonnie.newett@florida.sierraclub.org)

**ICO Webmaster:** Bob Rice  
[bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Newsletter:** Corky Crowley  
[corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative:** Dave Varrieur  
(813) 503-6970  
[dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Media Contact:** Cheryl Van Beek  
[cheryl.vambeek@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:cheryl.vambeek@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Outings Leader/Trainer:** Ed Shindle  
[Ed.Shindle@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Ed.Shindle@florida.sierraclub.org)

## TAMPA BAY



## Outings are Back!

For updated outings please go to our schedule, which we will publish on [MeetUp](#) page online [Up-](#)

[coming events](#) | [Sierra Club Groups of the Greater Tampa Bay Florida Area \(Saint Petersburg, FL\)](#) | [Meetup](#) and our website <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay>.

**Florida Seller of Travel Reference No. ST37115**

Participant Agreement Waivers will be required for all participants through advance registration, call: (415) 977-5630 or [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/)

All trips have experienced, trained, certified leaders.

**Sunday Feb. 12, Paddle:** Join us for the Annual Tampa Bay Super Bowl Paddle, 9:00 am to 1 pm.

Come Paddle with us on the beautiful Hillsborough River and have lunch at Rick's on the River.

If you have any questions, call Rocky at 813-966-9785 or Gary at 813-785-2028



## Join the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative!

Happy New Year to you from the volunteers of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative Program. We are proud to be Sierra Club's longest running volunteer team anywhere in America, and the National Football League's only volunteer recycling program.



33 years ago, Barbara Heineken, then the City of Tampa's first recycling coordinator, joined forces with the Tampa Sports Authority and the "Stash Your Cans" program was born. Phil Compton and I (Pirates pictured) immediately joined and still love recycling at the stadium and educating the guests about the importance of recycling.

The 2023 season continues with two Monster Jams, a Supercross, three Taylor Swift concerts and even more concerts from Ed Sheeran, Luke Combs and Chris Stapleton! Wow! So, how do you get involved and attend these awesome events for free?

It's easy! email Dave Varrieur at [dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org) to receive an email with the welcome letter package. You only need to volunteer for two events annually. Then, you can be added to the list of volunteers for the concerts! The minimum age is 18, and we are currently recruiting a young demographic. Yes, a bunch of us are well seasoned with years of incredible experiences at the stadium.



## Conservation Committee

The next meetings will be **Monday, January 9 and Monday, and February 13** at 6:30 via Zoom.  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82573973582?pwd=ZDFFNVorYXVCcTBVbk1RdXg3Qjh3UT09>

**January 9 Conservation Committee meeting will focus on infill and preventing sprawl.**

**Stephen Benson** from City of Tampa and **Melissa Dickens** from Hillsborough County will discuss Comprehensive Plan updates, including infill and environment issues:

<https://planhillsborough.org/livegrowthrive2045/> **Nathan Hagan** will summarize the Sierra Club infill policy at <https://www.sierraclub.org/smart-growth-urban-infill>

## Water:

- ✦ Tampa “PURE” this project name seems to be retired. City Council voted to have staff refer to **WASTEWATER REUSE** in all correspondence so that the public can be aware of everything the city is doing.
- ✦ SB64 legislation proposal: SB 64 has been used as an excuse to implement PURE – which would cost Tampa water users Billions of dollars over 30 years
- ✦ The request to FDEP to have the current wastewater discharge into Tampa Bay be ruled a beneficial reuse was denied. We are now seeking to get legislation to add language to the bill to give Tampa relief from rerouting all its wastewater at an enormous cost. **Sid Flannery** drafted language based on his document describing the benefits of the current wastewater discharge into Tampa Bay by adding fresh water into the estuary. We presented the proposal to city council, and plan to contact legislators.
- ✦ Conservation – **Caryle Cammisa** has started up a group to advocate for water friendly yards. Any who would like to join should contact Caryle. [ccammisa@gmail.com](mailto:ccammisa@gmail.com)

## Land:

- ✦ Bay Shore next to Tampa Garden Club: TA/CPA 22-13 requests a change in future land use from Residential-35 to Residential-83 to accommodate a 26 story tower and retain the Synagogue on the 2.1 acre site. The Planning Commission voted it inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and it will go to Tampa City Council. Opposition includes Tampa Garden Club, Altura Towers, THAN, and T-TAG.
- ✦ Ace Golf Development on Boyette: Development proposed next to Gibbons Preserve. We approved a letter developed by a land use attorney opposing it.

Trees: We expect the Tampa tree report to come out in February

- ✦ **Tampa Natural Resources Advisory Council**: We sent a letter to **Brian Knox**, head of Natural Resources, asking about the tree fund of over \$2.5M and the plans on spending it to plant more trees. We will be meeting to discuss.
- ✦ **Tampa Infill Land Use: Lafayette Towers**: **Alison Date** is reviewing a large development near Kennedy Blvd on an empty lot next to the Hillsborough River that currently contains a retention pond. Concern is the environmental impacts. Alison wrote a letter requesting the street trees be saved.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved with a project, contact **Nancy Stevens** at [Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org](mailto:Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org).





## Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO)

Join us on one of our outings and witness these young students and their own excitement of seeing the outdoors. Please contact the agency lead if you are interested in volunteering.



The 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Academy Prep Center of Tampa were introduced to a new park not far from their school. Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) partnered with Community Stepping Stones and the Sulphur Springs Museum for the December trip. Both non-profits are small but mighty and are a great resource for the neighborhood. The location was Mann-Wagon Memorial Park, which has a brand-new canoe launch.

The kids were divided into groups and funneled through the following activities: butterfly garden planting, holiday craft, museum visit, invasive plant removal and yard games. At closing circle, the kids shared how thrilled they were to learn how to plant a plant, identify Caesar weed and were excited to gift their craft to a loved one.

It takes a village to pull off these outings so thank you again to all our regular volunteers. Special shout out to Chris Loy for designing the native plant butterfly garden, Bob Rice for taking photographs and Rocky Milburn for his continued leadership as our ICO Group Chairperson.

Submitted by Karen Kress (20+ year ICO volunteer veteran and still having fun!).

PS - We are always looking for more enthusiast helpers – come check us out some month! If you are interested in volunteering contact Rocky Milburn, at [tbico@live.com](mailto:tbico@live.com)

## City of Tampa Municipal Elections -Renew your Vote by Mail request NOW

Once every 4 years, the City of Tampa holds its municipal elections, in March. This year, election day is March 7, but actually, that is the last day that you can vote in the election. But, first, you must be registered, so if you have not registered to vote, please contact the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections office and register no later than February 6, 2023.

Early voting starts on February 27 and runs until March 5. Hours for the polls during early voting are from 10 AM to 6 PM. During Early Voting, you can vote at any early voting site.

On March 7 (Election Day), the hours that the polls are open are 7 AM to 7 PM. You must vote in your assigned Precinct on Election Day.

You also have the option to vote by mail, but if you do so, you must request a vote by mail ballot no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> day before the election. To request a ballot call (813) 744-5900. You may receive a post card notice which gives an easy QR code to renew your vote by mail, or go to <http://votehillsborough.gov/votebymail> and select the "Vote By Mail" button.

Remember that vote by mail ballots must be received in the Supervisor of Elections office no later than election day. If in doubt as to whether it will be delivered in time, you can drop off your completed ballot at the Supervisor of Elections office.

All 7 of the City Council races are on the ballot, and the Mayoral election is happening once again. It is a non-partisan election. If there are multiple candidates in a race, and if the winning candidate does not receive more than 50% of the votes, there is a one-day run-off election on Tuesday, April 23, 2023.

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club's Political Committee will be busy evaluating the candidates' positions on environmental issues that are important to Sierra Club, and we will be issuing some endorsements of candidates as Election Day approaches. Our endorsement process is detailed and involves multiple levels of approval by the Committee, the Executive Committee and by a regional committee of political groups in neighboring counties. If you would like to join this committee, please email Gary Gibbons ([ggibbons@gibblaw.com](mailto:ggibbons@gibblaw.com)).



**SIERRA CLUB**

TAMPA BAY GROUP

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

January February 2023



Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

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Permit No. **2834**

### Address Changes:

Please call (415) 977-5653 or email

[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

Tampa Bay Group

P.O. Box 1596

Thonotosassa, Florida 33592

Web:



**Membership:** Join today for just \$15.00 and receive a FREE Sierra Club 1892 style Trail Cooler Tote at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



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### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES INDIVIDUAL JOINT

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CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
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STUDENT	\$25	\$35
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Staging Starts At 9:00 A.M.

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