



MARCH MONTHLY PROGRAM – VIRTUAL

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 7:00pm

LIZARDS

Chat with a Herpetologist About the Lizards of Tampa Bay!

Learn about:

- 🦎 Herpetology Research (Reptiles & Amphibians)
- 🦎 What is herping & how to do it sustainably
- 🦎 Identifying local lizards and differentiating between native and invasive species



Native Green Anole
(*Anolis carolinensis*)

Introduced Brown Anole
(*Anolis sagrei*)

Speaker: Nicole Stevens Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Program PhD student at Texas A&M University Nicole earned her bachelor's degrees in Biology and Earth Science from Johns Hopkins University. She then went on to become the Science and Restoration Coordinator at the American Chestnut Land Trust, a 3400-acre preserve in Maryland, where she developed and led an amphibian conservation project. Growing up in Tampa, Nicole spent countless hours searching her backyard for fun critters, and volunteering with the Florida Aquarium and Mote Marine. Nicole's current research focuses on the potential for coexistence between native lizards and introduced mammalian predators in the Caribbean. She's excited to talk about the animals that got her started on her ecological journey the lizards of Tampa Bay!

Room opens at 6:45/Program starts at 7:00pm. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://u:s06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNNaUT09>

DRIVE ELECTRIC TAMPA BAY EARTH DAY

Brandon, Florida April 22, 2023

Saturday April 22, 2023 at 3:00 to 5:00pm

Ford's Garage of Brandon 11105 Causeway Blvd. Brandon, Florida 33511

Earth Day 2023 will be the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day. To celebrate, Tampa Bay Electric Vehicle owner will be meeting to share their love of EVs. We will be showing our cars to the public, offering rides and sharing our own experiences driving EVs. If you or someone you know is considering buying an EV for their next vehicle and have questions, please come over and see. You will have to opportunity to hear answers from real EV owners, not salespeople.

Sierra Club Board member Don Kruse will be there with his all Electric ⚡ Harley-Davidson Livewire motorcycle. <https://driveelectricearthday.org/event?eventid=3587>





The 13th Annual EcoFest Returns to Tampa Bay

Join us on Saturday, April 22nd from 10 AM to 3 PM

The EcoFest 2023 will be held at MOSI,
4801 East Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33617.

Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

The 13th Annual EcoFest is a popular family-friendly event organized by Learning Gate Community School and the Museum of Science and Industry to celebrate Earth Day.

Dedicated to the principles of Sustainability, Ecology, Equity, and Economy, the EcoFest event promises live music, demonstrations, informational booths, and green living products. Local vendors, food trucks, organic farms and gardens with fresh produce, alternative health practitioners, renewable energy specialists, and a variety of green businesses will be in attendance.

For more information or to sign up to be a sponsor of the event, contact Michele Northrop at ecofest@learninggate.org or call (813) 948-4190 extension 313



ECOFEST Bird Walk Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 9:00am to 1:00pm Lowry Park 1204 W Flora St, Tampa, FL 33604

Tampa Bay Sierra Group Ecofest Bird Hike at Lowry Park Come walk with us and look for birds. Migration is in full swing. We will look for migrants, warblers, tanagers and others. So come share this gem with us. Bring your binoculars.

Contact Rocky Milburn tbico@live.com



ECOFEST--Hillsborough River Cleanup Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 9:00am to 1:00pm. Boat Launch at 309 W Flora St, Tampa, FL 33604.

Tampa Bay Ecofest Paddle and Cleanup on the Hillsborough River.

Come paddle the beautiful Hillsborough River during Ecofest. Bring your own kayak or canoe. We will be cleaning, so plan to bring some trash back with you. We are fortunate to have the Hillsborough River in our backyard, so come share with this gem with us as we enjoy great wildlife while keeping our river clean.

Leaders Gary Gibbons at gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org and Barbara Heineken at Barbara.heineken@florida.sierraclub.org



STOP USING PLASTIC BAGS, PUBLIX

If you have not signed our petition to ask Publix to stop giving out plastic bags at the checkout, please do so. <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-using-plastic-bags-publix>.

It's extremely important now because in the near future we will be having a media event and sharing the numbers of petitions signers who want Publix to stop giving out plastic bags. If you have questions or would like to offer help on the media event, contact Janet Stanko at janestan@bellsouth.net.



2023 Executive Committee

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

Vice-Chair / Parliamentarian
Political Chair: Gary Gibbons
gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org

Conservation: Nancy Stevens
813-380-1668
nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair: Shirley Denton
Shirley.denton@florida.sierraclub.org

Recycling Chair: Barbara Heineken
Barbara.heineken@florida.sierraclub.org

Tabling Chair: Michael Newett
Michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org

Communication Chair: Rob Jordan
robert.jordan@florida.sierraclub.org

Plastics Chair/Media Contact:
Janet Stanko
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Transportation Chair: Jim Shirk
jim.shirk@florida.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Andy Harris
andy.harris@florida.sierraclub.org

Co-Treasurer: Don Kruse
don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org

Other Officers & Assignments

Secretary: Kathy Crosby
kathy.crosby@florida.sierraclub.org

Membership Chair / Volunteer
Coordinator: Linda Hugues
linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org

Program Chair: Bonnie Newett
bonnie.newett@florida.sierraclub.org

ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice
bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org

Newsletter: Corky Crowley
corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org

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

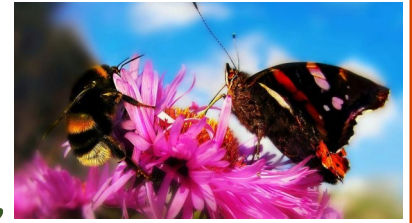
Media Contact: Cheryl Van Beek
cheryl.vambeek@florida.sierraclub.org

Outings Leader/Trainer: Ed Shindle
Ed.Shindle@florida.sierraclub.org

APRIL MONTHLY PROGRAM - VIRTUAL

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 - 7:00pm

Conservation is Everybody's Business and Operation Pollination



Learn about exciting programs, projects, and activities of the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District for inner city, urban, suburban, and rural communities

Speaker: Betty Jo Tompkins, Executive Director Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD)

As a native Floridian whose grandparents were dairy farmers, Betty Jo has always had a passion for agriculture. She studied public relations, agriculture, and sociology at the University of Florida. Her career includes serving as Executive Director of Hillsborough County Farm Bureau and the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, publishing, government representation, lobbying, and her current position as Executive Director of HSWCD. She has also served as an elected Supervisor and Chair of HSWCD.

She has been named to the NACD Southeast Hall of Fame, Florida 4-H Hall of Fame, and a Lifetime Achievement winner for both the Harvest Awards and Florida 4-H. In February 2023 she was named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Riverview Chamber and was a presenter at both the Florida and National Association of Conservation Districts annual meetings.

Room opens at 6:45 and Program starts at 7:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNnUT09A>

2023 Legislative Session: Uh-Oh!

The 2023 legislative session, which starts on **March 7**, promises to be very rough in terms of our environmental priorities. We're digging in a little deeper and there is a way that you can stay on top of legislative updates and requested actions on bills. You can subscribe to the Florida report for weekly updates on what's happening and actions you can take.
<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/optin>



Conservation Committee

The next meetings will be **Monday, March 13, and Monday, April 10** at 6:30 via Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82573973582?pwd=ZDFFNVorYXVCcTBVbk1RdXg3Qjh3UT09>

Water:

Tampa PURE: Tampa City Council held a Workshop to get information on what would happen if the current sources of water were continued without reusing wastewater. The City staff asked for a continuance to May, but Council asked our group of Citizen Stakeholders to discuss the issues. Sid Flannery provided technical information describing that Hillsborough River minimum flows can be met with existing water sources, and recommendations on the state law. Nancy Stevens contrasted the PURE and TAP projects to reuse wastewater with other solutions to meet Tampa's water needs – such as more reclaimed water for lawns and conservation – that citizens have been asking for. Gary Gibbons asked pointed questions about the current PURE project, and Caryle Camissa raised concerns about transparency. Phil Compton concluded with issues on safety and cost. This team, along with Willa Matz from Sierra and Carroll Ann Bennett from THAN, has been fighting this project for over 2 years, and providing citizen education, which the City has not done. As a result of the workshop, Council asked the Council Attorney to investigate ending the PURE contract and specified follow up answers to the 17 questions on March 16.

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. We are seeking legislation give Tampa the ability to not reroute all its wastewater at an enormous cost, but have the flexibility to reuse only what is needed.

Land:

FLU Tampa is updating the Future Land Use (FLU) categories in the comprehensive plan. You can find the document and submit suggestions at <https://planhillsborough.org/city-of-tampa-future-land-use-assessment/>, if you would like us to include your comments in the Sierra Club response, please send them to me.

Bay Shore next to Tampa Garden Club: The developer has dropped the land use changes, and will submit any zoning variances before the Tampa City Council in May.

Ace Golf Development on Boyette: Development proposed next to Gibbons Preserve. We oppose and land use changes or variances. Will go to BOCC on March 7.

Trees: We expect the Tampa tree report to come out in soon. Alison Date reports on tree activities:

Grand Tree Contest: Alison met with Brian Knox, Natural Resource Coordinator and arborist Dave Riley, who was involved in the 2002 Grand Tree Contest. They started planning for another Grand Tree contest. The goals:

1. Increase awareness about the importance of preserving the larger healthy trees.
2. Enter lots of Live Grand Oaks on the city tree map.
3. Have a Grand Tree workshop for citizens from different Neighborhoods who are interested in becoming Tree Stewards. They would learn how to measure and record trees and maintain newly planted trees on city land in their neighborhood.

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Trees:

- 4. Shared Tampa tree canopy information with sustainability Bloomberg consultant, Jacob Koch.
- 5. Met with City of Tampa's Natural Resources Director and other city Departments to discuss tree fund, urban tree canopy report and how to plant more trees in Tampa
- 6. Replanted a live oak at Fire station #3 for Joe Chillura, who is advocating for a live oak to be planted at every Tampa Fire Station.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved with a project, contact Nancy Stevens at Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org.



TAMPA BAY



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.

 **Lakeland Academy Prep ICO Outing:** Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 9:00 to 12:00pm.

Organized By Tampa Bay ICO. Location - Lakeland, FL. Leader: Emilie Joyce emiliejoyce17@gmail.com



Tampa Bay ICO Overnight Camping Trip: Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 9:00am through Sunday, April 16, to 2:00pm.

Organized By Tampa Bay ICO. Location Tampa, FL.

Event Organizers: Karen Kress at kress_loy@hotmail.com

Emilie Joyce at emiliejoyce17@gmail.com

Rocky Milburn at tbico@live.com

Overnight camping happens once each year, complete with tents, cook-outs, campfires, night hikes, and (of course) s'mores. If you want to join us please contact Rocky Milburn at tbico@gmail.com



It takes a village to pull off these outings so thank you again to all our regular volunteers. 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

TAMPA BAY



Outings are Back!

For updated outings please go to our schedule, which we will publish on

[MeetUp](#) page online [Upcoming 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/

All trips have experienced, trained, certified leaders.



SIERRA CLUB

TAMPA BAY GROUP

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

March / April 2023



Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

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TAMPA, FL

Permit No.

Address Changes:

Please call (415) 977-5653 or email

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

Tampa Bay Group

P.O. Box 1596

Thonotosassa, Florida 33592

Web:

florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay



Membership: Join today for just \$15.00 and receive a FREE Sierra Club 1892 style Trail Cooler Tote at www.sierraclub.org



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Check enclosed, made payable to *Sierra Club*

Please charge my: MasterCard Visa

Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY	\$15	\$20
REGULAR	\$39	\$49
SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
SENIOR	\$25	\$35
STUDENT	\$25	\$35
LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

SIERRA CLUB
P.O. BOX 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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City of Tampa Municipal Election is Happening Now!

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club has conducted extensive research into the candidates, and after reviewing their answers to our extensive Questionnaire, and after interviewing them, we have made the following Endorsements:

ENDORSEMENT ALERT



Alan Clendinin
For City Council, Dist. 1



Guido Maniscalco
For City Council, Dist. 2



Lynn Hurtak
For City Council, Dist. 3



Bill Carlson
For City Council, Dist. 4



Orlando Guides
For City Council, Dist. 5



Hoyt Prindle
For City Council, Dist. 6

District 1 (City wide): ALAN CLENDININ

District 2 (City wide): GUIDO MANISCALCO

District 3 (City wide): LYNN HURTAK

District 4 (South Tampa): BILL CARLSON

District 5: (East Tampa): ORLANDO GUIDES

District 6: (West Tampa and Seminole Heights): HOYT PRINDLE, III

PLEASE VOTE! THE FUTURE OF OUR DRINKING WATER IS ON THE BALLOT!

If a candidate does not receive more than 50% of the votes, there will be a runoff on April 25.

