



SIERRA CLUB TAMPA BAY GROUP



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet September / October 2023

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

We're back IN PERSON! (& VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – 7:00pm

Location: C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library
2607 E. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd, Tampa 33610



Program: Insects of Tampa Bay, Pest? or Beneficial?

SPEAKER: Nicole Pinson - Garden Manager for Tampa Family Health Centers, former Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator for UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County.

Nicole recently created a community garden at the Tampa Family Health Centers Osborne Ave. location, as well as planting fruit trees at all of their locations. The goal of these programs and gardens is to teach the community about gardening, how to eat healthy, and to supplement their food pantry. It is their hope that patients and the community improve health, wellness and/or fitness through participation in their programs.

Nicole's BS is in Environmental Science and Policy and her M.Ed. is in Secondary Education: Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Instructional Technology.

She is a Tampa native and enjoys gardening at home and spending time in Florida's parks.

You can also join via Zoom: Room opens at 6:45 and Program starts at 7:00pm

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



ANNOUNCEMENT! Call for Nominations! ExCom Election 2023

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group has 5 positions up for election for the 2024-2025 period. The Committee has a total of 9 members, each serving two-year terms. Candidates must be Sierra Club members, passionate about protecting our local environment, willing to help promote the Sierra Club mission and group goals, and attend monthly meetings. We are accepting nominations until **September 15**, and hope that you (or a friend) will step up to run in the election. A short biography telling other Sierra Club members about yourself and why you want to serve on the Executive Committee, with a limit of 200 words, should be submitted to the nominating committee at one of the following email addresses:

Gary Gibbons Gary.Gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org

Bonnie Newett Bonnie.Newett@florida.sierraclub.org



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

Events/Tabling Chair: Michael Newett
michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org

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

Plastics Chair/Media Contact:
Janet Stanko
janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org

Transportation Chair: Jim Shirk
jim.shirk@florida.sierraclub.org

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

Other Officers & Assignments

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

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

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

Membership Chair / Volunteer Coordinator: Dianne Skripek
@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



SIERRA CLUB
TAMPA BAY GROUP

OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

We're back **IN PERSON!** & VIRTUAL

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – 7:00pm

**Location: C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library
2607 E. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd, Tampa 33610**

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Does This Go In The Recycle Bin?

Hear from both

Hillsborough County and City of Tampa

Speakers: Experts from the recycling departments of both the county and the city will talk about their programs and the differences, what to recycle... and what should not go in the bin, depending on where you live.

You can also join via Zoom: Room opens at 6:45 and Program starts at 7:00pm

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNNaUT09)

[pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNNaUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNNaUT09)



Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO)

As we start another year of ICO and reflect on the 2022-23 session, we all are elated over last year's success and the last campout. We have many outings planned for ICO as we continue to expand and grow. We can't do this without all the dedicated leaders and volunteers.

This year we are working with the 5th grade students at **Academy Prep of Tampa, St Pete, Lakeland, Leto, and Riverview High Schools**, in addition to the **Young Men's Leadership Corp** from **Plant and Berkley High Schools**.

If you are interested in becoming a leader or volunteering, please contact one of the leaders.

Academy Prep of Tampa: Agency Lead, Karen Kress at kress_loy@hotmail.com

Academy Prep of St. Pete: Agency Lead, Rocky Milburn at tbico@live.com

Academy Prep of Lakeland: Agency Lead, Emilie Joyce at emiliejoyce17@gmail.com



Conservation Committee



Next meeting is Monday, September 11 at 6:30 via Zoom.

Our October meeting will be in person.

✦ **Comprehensive Plans:** “A Comprehensive Plan establishes a community’s policies and priorities regarding future development while aiming to preserve the area’s environmental features and community character. The purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to outline a long-term community vision for the future. A Comprehensive Plan acts as the guide by which a community’s development and preservation decisions are made, covering a wide range of topics, such as: land use, mobility, and public services, all intended to improve the quality of life for the community.” From planhillsborough.org.

Tampa and Hillsborough County are currently updating their Comprehensive Plans and we have been providing input to assure that environmental priorities are included. We have already provided input into Tampa’s Sections on One Water, Mobility and Environmental and Sustainability. The Future Land Use sections for both Tampa and Unincorporated Hillsborough County are currently being updated.

We will need to continue to review and provide input into the proposed sections. If you would like more info go to planhillsborough.com for Hillsborough County or

<https://planhillsborough.org/city-of-tampa-future-land-use-assessment/> for Tampa.

Or contact me to get more involved.

✦ **Trees:** The 2021 City of Tampa Tree Canopy and Urban Forest Analysis has been released, and the news is not good. South Tampa has had 18% tree canopy loss in just 5 years. The City of Tampa now has about 30% tree canopy, considered to be the minimum for a healthy canopy.

Tampa’s Natural Resources Advisory Committee is tasked with protecting the urban forest. When it meets, Alison Date will be a member and will be able to present input from Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group. Report: <https://www.tampa.gov/city-planning/natural-resource-planning/tree-canopy-analysis>

✦ **Water: Tampa PURE and SB 64 legislation:** We have been continuing to work to assure that any wastewater reuse projects proposed by Tampa are needed, safe, and a cost-effective option for water supply; and to communicate the citizen’s questions and concerns to city officials.

The state legislation based on SB 64 is a concern. As currently interpreted, it requires Tampa to use all 50 mgd of its wastewater for a “beneficial use,” other than putting it into the Tampa Bay estuary, whether it is needed or not. Sid Flannery has developed a proposal to FDEP that Tampa have flexibility to vary the amount of reclaimed water rerouted on a yearly and monthly basis, and, based on needs assessment, reroute less than an average of 50 mgd.

✦ **Tampa Bay Water** has updated its Long-Term Master Water Plan. Reclaimed water options are not on the list but will be proposed to be studied as a developmental alternative. The next meeting for Environmental Ad Hoc Committee will be on **Thursday, Sept. 28**.

✦ **Land Use:** We are concerned about proposals of dense townhouse developments next to environmental lands on the Hillsborough River and near the Alafia River.

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

Join the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative!

The Raymond James Stadium is gearing up for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL and the University of South Florida Bulls college football season

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative Program is the only volunteer recycling program in the National Football League. Join us in recycling at the stadium and educating the guests about the importance of recycling.

It's easy! email Dave Varrieur at 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.



TAMPA BAY



OUTINGS

SIERRA CLUB

Outings are Back!

Now that we will soon get cooler weather, Tampa Bay Outings will start to offer more opportunities to

get outdoors and to enjoy all the wonderful fun filled places that make Florida such a great place to live in.

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

September / October 2023



Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

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



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

E-mail: _____

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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Florida Birding & Nature Festival

October 12, 2023 – October 15, 2023

A four-day festival offering field and boat trips, presentations, keynotes, and a free nature expo of vendors and exhibits. Enjoy and learn from renowned professionals, experience peak migration, and shop unique products.

Tampa Bay Sierra Club is planning on having a table at this festival, if interested in volunteering please contact Michael Newett at

michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org

<https://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org/>

Location: Suncoast Youth Conservation Center

6650 Dickman Road

Apollo Beach, Florida 33572

Tampa Summer Fertilizer Ban ends September 30!

The summer rainy season washes away the lawn and landscape fertilizers right into the Tampa Bay, rivers, lakes and the Gulf. And fertilizer pollution can cause algae blooms that kill fish. For more information on the fertilizer ban go to www.BeFloridian.com

