



# SIERRA CLUB TAMPA BAY GROUP



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet November / December 2023

## NOVEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM VIA ZOOM

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 7:00pm

Executive Committee candidates will be introduced after the program.

Speaker: Kirsten Hines. Biologist, Conservationist, Photographer, and Author of several Florida nature books including...

“Wild Florida, An Animal Odyssey”

Special focus on wildlife in Tampa Bay!

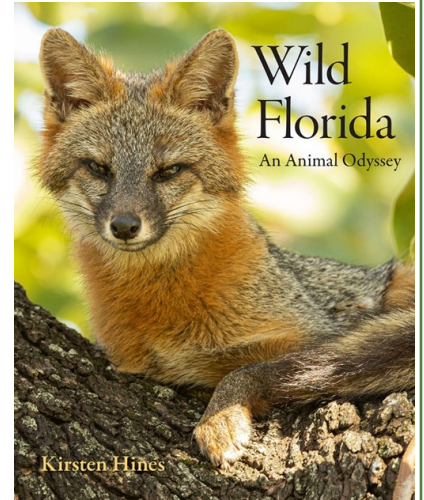
The “why” behind Florida’s animal diversity and the very uniqueness that makes our wildlife amazing, and vulnerable!

“It is rare to find a dedicated biologist and conservationist who also happens to be a passionate and accomplished photographer. Kirsten Hines is among the best in each of those arenas.” Ron Magill, Emmy Award-winning wildlife expert, communications director, Zoo Miami.

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNaUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 4926 1754 Passcode: 644046



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY !

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 - 6:30-9:30pm**

**Buffet Dinner \* Cash Bar \* Door Prizes**

**With live entertainment by the “Pamela Jo Band”**

Join us for a relaxing evening of fun and friends! An excellent opportunity to bring your friends and learn about Sierra Club. (And you’re invited to bring your favorite side dish or dessert, if you like!)



**Pamela Jo Band**



**New World Brewery**

**810 E. Skagway Ave., Tampa 33604**

Just east of Hwy 275, 1 block south of Busch Blvd.

Convenient free parking across the street from restaurant.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cost: \$15 per person. Payment by credit card is available online at:

<https://square.link/u/VikXZ3UF>

Or mail check payable to Tampa Bay Group Holiday Party.

Send to: Tampa Bay Sierra Club, PO Box 1596, Thonotosassa, FL 33592

For details contact Michael Newett, [michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org)



## 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)

Events/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)

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)

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

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

Membership Chair / Volunteer  
Coordinator: Dianne Skripek  
[@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:@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)



With the cooler weather, Tampa Bay Outings has 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/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/)  
All trips have experienced, trained, certified leaders.

### SAVE THE DATES:

Friday November 24 2023, Annual "Black Friday" Hike. Avoid the crowds and skip the Mall's, Hike Blackwater Creek Preserve.

Sunday December 17 2023, Join us for the 20th Annual Hillsborough River Holiday Night Boat Parade.



Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO)

**Attention Birders:** Do you have a pair of binoculars you no longer use? Did you have a good year and upgraded? The Lakeland ICO group would love to have more binoculars for the kids to use on hikes. **Future Birders!**



Please contact Emilie at [emiliejoyce17@gmail.com](mailto:emiliejoyce17@gmail.com) and I will arrange to have them picked up.

This year we are working with the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kress_loy@hotmail.com)

Academy Prep of St. Pete: Agency Lead, Rocky Milburn at [tbico@live.com](mailto:tbico@live.com)

Academy Prep of Lakeland: Agency Lead, Emilie Joyce at [emiliejoyce17@gmail.com](mailto:emiliejoyce17@gmail.com)



## Conservation Committee



Next meetings are Monday, November 13 and December 11 via zoom.

### Water:

✦ **Forever Chemicals in Drinking Water:** Tampa and Tampa Bay Water are taking part in a study of PFAS chemicals in drinking water as part of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiative to set standards. So far, the results in Tampa show PFOS and PFOA slightly exceed the proposed standards. For Tampa Bay Water (TBW), 2 of the 15 sites show PFOS slightly exceeding standards. If the EPA proposed rule is enacted, Tampa and TBW will have to remove chemicals with levels above the standard or find out where the chemicals are coming from and stop them if possible. It should be noted that the EPA reviewed the evidence and determined that PFOA and PFOS are Likely to Be Carcinogenic to Humans. For PFOA, this determination is based on the statistically significant evidence of kidney cancer in humans and specific cell tumors. For PFOS, it is based on the statistically significant evidence of potentially human relevant tumors.

✦ **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. 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. We have been discussing legislation to provide flexibility for Tampa.

### Land Use:

✦ The requested rezoning of the driving range on Boyette Road next to the Gibbons Preserve was denied. The wanted a variance for more density to include townhouses and commercial on a property off the main intersection.

✦ **Building in the Flood Plain:** Another proposal for dense townhouses on the Hillsborough River built on a 100-year flood plain and requiring waivers for tree removals is also of great concern.

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).

## Biographies of the Six Candidates for the 2024-2025

### Nathan Gige:

I am honored for an opportunity to run for the Executive Committee for the Sierra Club of Tampa Bay.

My professional background spans across Sales, Operations, and Community Engagement. These personal and professional skills will enable me to be organized, effective, and engaged as a member of the ExCom. Over the past decade I have worked for Accenture, a Fortune 500 management and

technology consulting company. One of our corporate pillars is Sustainability. My professional goal is to become a visible and vocal advocate for the environment and sustainability practices locally here in Tampa Bay, and across all our Accenture Florida locations, which I help oversee. I am the co-lead for our Eco Group in Accenture Tampa Bay.

Personally, my wife and I are passionate about the environment and we

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have started to build a more sustainable home, with aspirations of becoming fully sustainable in the near future.

I have had little involvement with the Sierra Club to date. However, I believe that a fresh perspective, new set of eyes, and new energy would do well to serve on the ExCom. I am a quick learner and am confident I will be able to navigate the complexities and roadblocks that the Sierra Club may be running into across Tampa Bay, as well as use my fresh perspective to drive impact.

Thank you for your consideration. **Nathan Gige**

### **Andrew M Harris MBA MHA:**

Andy has been a member of the Sierra Club since the early 1980's when he assisted on service trips and trained as an Outings Leader. He was involved with the Tampa Club's successful ELAP project and other activities in the 80's and 90's. He is currently the Treasurer of the Tampa Bay Chapter. Andy was a "Scout Dad" - his son reached the rank of Eagle while in high school. Andy has been helping with ICO during the last year and recently earned his Outings Leader and First Aid Certifications. Andy is also a member of the Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers.

Andy retired from teaching high school at Tampa Bay Technical High in May 2022. He took this position in 2015 after helping the School District win a \$10,000,000 grant to begin a Health Administration Academy at TBT and then serving as that Academy's Community Board Chair for 7 years. The Academy provides 150 students/year insight into the business side of the healthcare industry, it is the first of its kind in the nation.

Before becoming an educator, Andy served as a Managing Director with GE Healthcare Financial Services for 20 years where he focused on funding the financial needs of healthcare systems utilizing thirty years of banking, financial planning, and operations expertise. Andy received his un-

dergraduate degree in accounting from the University of Florida, graduating in 1981 with high honors. He continued his education and earned a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Health Administration from the University of Florida and was awarded a Matherly Scholarship. Prior to joining GEHFS, he served as a healthcare investment banker with Raymond James Financial, served in the administration of a not-for-profit hospital, was a consultant for Voluntary Hospitals of America Management Services and was a Manager with Price Waterhouse Health Care Industry Services.

For over 10 years Andy served on the board of the Hillsborough County Education Foundation where he managed both HEF's mentoring program and its Investment Subcommittee. Andy has served on the Advisory Board for the UF MBA Association and Tampa Bay Watch. He was appointed to a Board Consultancy on the Florida PTA Board in 2022 and is currently serving in that position. Thank you for your vote, **Andy Harris**.

### **Rocky Milburn:**

Chair of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club in addition to the Chair of the Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO) for the past 8 years, serving over 150 inner city kids monthly on outings and teaching outdoors skills. Active in ICO since 1999, working with Academy Prep Schools in Tampa, St Petersburg, Lakeland and the Leto and Riverview High Schools in Tampa.

Past awards include the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Black Bear Award and The Florida Sierra Club Chapters "Pine Tree", "Turtle" and the "Otter" Award's as well as Sierra Club's "2022 Outings for Action" National Award.

Boy Scouts of America "Silver Beaver" and "James West" Awards.

Hobbies include Volunteering, Birding, Gardening, Kayaking, Nature

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## Biographies of the Six Candidates for the 2024-2025 Executive Committee - "ExCom"

Photography, Hiking and Camping.

Current Executive Board member of the Hillsborough County Conservation Committee. Also currently volunteer steward for Hillsborough County ELAPP program for the Wolf Branch Creek site, conducting nesting and breeding surveys on fragile habitats and management of new nesting box program and shorebird improvement program.

Past Roseate Spoonbill Biologist for the National Audubon Society, Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries in Tampa Bay. Former Biologist Extension Agent with University of Tennessee. Thank you for your vote **Rocky Milburn**

### Jim Shirk:

I am the current Tampa Bay Sierra Club Transportation Chair, and continuing membership on the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and active with the Tampa Downtown Partnership and City of Tampa Transportation and Planning departments.

I joined the Sierra Club because of their support for climate science, their support for environmental justice, and their support for good local land use and development policies.

I am a Civil Engineer specializing in soil and groundwater remediation, wastewater and solid waste management, and environmental impact analysis. As a consulting engineer, I have worked on Brownfields issues in Hernando County, focusing on impacts of former County facilities on local soil and water quality, and on health impacts on local communities, based on my 40 years' experience with toxic and hazardous materials management both in industry and as a government contractor.

For several years I was part of the Sierra Club Environmental Justice outreach, joining the NAACP and learning about environmental justice issues.

I have been involved in alternate transportation for the last 20 years, including as President of the Tampa Bay Freewheelers bicycle club, and 20 years on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee of the Hillsborough County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), with 10 years as Chair.

For the last seven years I have been part of Sunshine Citizens, fighting the Florida DOT and their ill planned TBX, and working for a sustainable transportation future for Tampa and Hillsborough County. I'm focusing on the air and noise impacts in the I275 corridor, with potential adverse impacts to children, particularly children of color, in trying to get elected officials to see the long term impacts.

As a member of the board, I will continue to support good land use, good transportation, and good environmental investment, including such issues as Gopher Resources lead and other metal impacts, and solid waste management policies at the City and County level. Thank you for your support. **Jim Shirk**

### Janet Stanko:

After I graduated from the University of Akron, I moved to Cleveland, Ohio where I married and had children. After receiving my Master of Business Administration degree from Cleveland State University, my family and I moved to Jacksonville Florida in 1983, and to Tampa in 2021.

While in Jacksonville, I was employed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida for 22 years and had retired. I have now transitioned into environmental advocacy.

Sierra Club of Northeast Florida since 1992 as chair, Political chair, air quality chair and clean energy chair.

- Tampa Bay ExCom
- Single use plastics chapter and local group chair

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## Biographies of the Six Candidates for the 2024-2025 Executive Committee, "ExCom"

·Florida Hometown Democracy constitutional amendment campaign organizer

·PriceOfSprawl.com project manager, web administrator and community outreach organizer  
I would like to continue my environmental advocacy with participation on the Tampa Bay ExCom.  
Thank you for your support **Janet Stanko**

**Nancy Stevens:** I joined the Sierra Club because of my love of nature and the outdoors, I became active in the Sierra Club because I realized that our natural areas, our environment, and the wildlife that we share this planet with, need protection. I am excited to once again ask you to vote for me to return to the Sierra Club executive committee and help continue our work saving the natural

places that we love.

Over the last few years as Conservation Committee Chair, I have enjoyed working with all of you to defend the environment and protect Florida's beautiful places and standard of living. Together, we have enjoyed success in many areas. We have stopped the Tampa PURE project and I continue to work with a dedicated group of volunteers to make sure the water in Tampa and Hillsborough County is safe for the environment and to drink.

I have been honored to receive the 2023 Sierra Club Volunteer Achievement Award and the 2022 Black Bear Award from the Tampa Bay Group. I look forward to working with you all and with our Sierra Club colleagues across the country to continue our advocacy with the City, County, State and Industry to protect our environment.

Thank you for supporting me, **Nancy Stevens**



### "Open Spaces, Vibrant Places"

This is the motto of Pasco and it is more important than ever to remember as it has become one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Florida. The balance between Open Spaces and Vibrant Places needs to be done in a way that **preserves our beautiful natural habitats** and minimizes development in coastal high hazard areas which are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change (increased hurricanes and flooding).

The Pasco County Conservation team takes on the challenge! The team works to educate the public, and identify and protect the many natural beauties that are Pasco. In 2023, we hosted two out of a five-part series "**The Cotee River: Understanding the Jewel of Pasco County, Headwaters to the Gulf**" with Linda Blake, MS Ed. You can see it on YouTube - Sierra Club Pasco Conservation Committee Channel. We are working with other local organizations to protect Anclote River State Beach Park from a huge restaurant development on Pasco County-owned property. against the development of a 400+ unit apartment complex on the "Anclote 74 Ecosystem" in Tarpon Springs and in support of upholding the Northeast Pasco Rural Area Protections.

The Pasco Conservation team is working towards spinning off into its own Nature Coast Sierra Club Group - if you would like to join us in leading the efforts to educate and protect Pasco's natural open spaces, please [emailsashabuddha@gmail.com](mailto:emailsashabuddha@gmail.com).



Join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month via Zoom ID: 767. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7674695843#>



The Nominating Committee of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group presents the 2024-2025 Executive Committee (ExCom) Candidates for election.

MAIL IN BALLOT VOTE (PRINT AND CUT - BY NOVEMBER 30, 2023)



I am a member of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. I vote for the following Five candidates for the 2024 / 25 term on the Executive Committee.

Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_



- |                          | INDIVIDUAL               | JOINT                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <u>Nathan Gige</u> :   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 <u>Andy Harris</u> :   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 <u>Rocky Milburn</u> : | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 <u>Jim Shirk</u> :     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 <u>Janet Stanko</u> :  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 <u>Nancy Stevens</u> : | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

One vote for an individual member, two votes for joint members only. Please include your 8 digit membership number or ID number on membership card. PLEASE VOTE for Five of the Candidates For on line Electronic VOTING GO TO: "Salesforce" Located on our WEB PAGE

Mail your ballots to:  
Sierra Club Election  
PO Box 1596  
Thonotosassa, FL 33592



**DEC 9 2023**

**The CARYLE CAMMISA Environmental Justice Think Tank: The State of the Black & Brown Communities**

**ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Mark your Calendars for Tampa Bay Sierra Club's Annual Planning Meeting on January 20, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Details coming soon.

**11:00am - 2:00pm**  
The Reed Apartments  
1240 Ray Charles Blvd  
Tampa, Florida 33602

**Register: [tinyurl.com/ejusticethinktank](https://tinyurl.com/ejusticethinktank)**



**SIERRA CLUB**

TAMPA BAY GROUP

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

November / December 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](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:

[florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay](http://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](http://www.sierraclub.org)



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Check enclosed, made payable to *Sierra Club*

Please charge my: MasterCard  Visa

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### 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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# TOXIC

## BUS TOUR 5

### Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Brings:



- Clean Energy
- Better Health
- Better Jobs

### Tour includes lunch!



Urban League of Hillsborough County



88.5 WMNF Community Conscious Radio



**NOV. 11, 2023**  
**9 AM - 3 PM**

Dr Walter L. Smith Library  
905 N. Albany Ave

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/ToxicBusTour5>