



Adventure Coast Group // Florida Chapter

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group June 2026 News, Events & Action Alerts

Check out all that's going on!

**Sierra Club Pasco Conservation
Committee Monthly Zoom June 3rd**

**Join us! Adventure Coast Executive
Committee Zoom Wednesday, June 10th**

**Adventure Coast Meetup June 17th with
Dr. Savanna Barry on Living Shorelines**

**Flood Risk to Resilience
Community Listening Sessions
June 11th, 18th & 24th**

**Citrus County Considers AI Data Center
at expanded Holder Industrial Park
First of three Hearings June 18th**

**Adventure Coast Meetup July 15th
with Beth Brady of Save the Manatees
on the Inside the World of Manatees**

**Jenkins Creek Dredging
and Stabilization Project**

**Floridians Rally to Save
our Shores & Species**

**Politics & Government
Federal and State Leaders Turn Their
Backs on Pollution Monitoring**

Outings Leader Training

**URGENT: Technical and Legal Assistance Needed
SWFWMD Approves 345-Acre Borrow Pit
in Sensitive Springs Recharge Area**

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA
PASCO
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE



1st Wed. @ 8pm on Zoom



Wednesday, June 3rd Zoom: Join our ZOOM meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7674695843> with the Zoom ID: 767 469 5843.

The Sierra Club Pasco Conservation Committee is dedicated to preserving, protecting, exploring and enjoying nature in areas of Pasco County. 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 way to educate and protect Pasco's natural open spaces, please email Sasha sashabuddha@gmail.com or call (727) 326-2646.

**Join us! Adventure Coast Executive
Committee Zoom Wednesday, June 10th**



Adventure Coast Spring College Intern Sofia Andreeva
at Citrus Expo with Citrus Conservation Co-Chair

Maxine Connor & event guests

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group is seeking members interested in getting involved. Please consider joining our team. If you're interested in protecting our environment, educating our community and advocating to defend it, get started by attending our monthly Executive Committee ZOOM meeting held the second Wednesday of each month. This is where we discuss and determine how to achieve our annual goals. We are all volunteers and you can choose how much or how little time to engage.

The next monthly Executive Committee meeting is June 10th via Zoom 5pm—6:30pm. It is open to the public and you are welcome to join us online at: <https://zoom.us/j/98626505635?pwd=4Aayd4E7vcTmXqtUKomYP33Ab5lJQ.1>

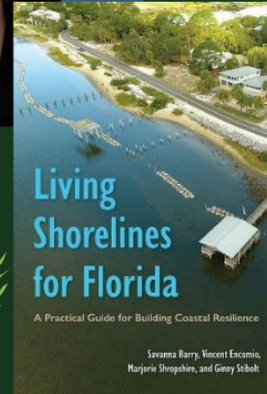
Meeting ID: 986 2650 5635 Passcode: 392529

Next year, we will have vacancies on the Executive Committee, so we are planning ahead and want to get others familiar with group activities. For more info, please reach out to DeeVon Quirolo at sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com or call 352-277-3330 (landline).

June 17th 2026

SIERRA CLUB ADVENTURE COAST MEET UP with Dr. Savanna Barry on Living Shorelines

*At the Historic Brooksville
Woman's Club, 131 S. Main
Street in Brooksville, FL.*



Dr. Barry is a Regional Specialized Extension Agent with UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant at their Nature Coast Biological Station in Cedar Key. She focuses on the intersection of environmental management and applied research and supporting community-driven coastal science. Savanna grew up on a small farm in central Virginia and discovered her interest in marine ecology during family vacations to small fishing towns along the Chesapeake Bay.

She will present on living shorelines and preview the new book *Living Shorelines for Florida: A Practical Guide to Building Coastal Resilience*. The talk will provide practical tips for identifying properties suitable for living shorelines and techniques for installing and monitoring shoreline projects and examples of successful living shorelines. Full-color, hardcover copies of *Living Shorelines for Florida* will be for sale at the event for \$65 (cash or check only).

Social at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7 PM. Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tf11LhzMRnOi_5B_x9MZiQ

Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tf11LhzMRnOi_5B_x9MZiQ#/registration

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Flood Risk to Resilience
Community Listening Sessions
June 11th, 18th & 24th**

Your Voice Matters!

LISTENING SESSION

Share your experiences and concerns about flooding in your area.

📅 Thursday, June 11, 2026 | 5:00 - 6:30 PM

📍 GW Carver Community Center
95 Three Sisters Springs Trail
Crystal River

🍷 Free food and drinks!

📄 Learn more at CoastalTampaBay.org/get-involved

REGISTER HERE: 



Your Voice Matters!

LISTENING SESSION

Share your experiences and concerns about flooding in your area.

📅 Thursday, June 18, 2026 | 5:00 - 6:30 PM

📍 Weeki Wachee Area Club
7442 Shoal Line Blvd
Weeki Wachee

🍷 Free food and drinks!

📄 Learn more at CoastalTampaBay.org/get-involved

REGISTER HERE: 



Your Voice Matters!

LISTENING SESSION

Share your experiences and concerns about flooding in your area.

📅 Wednesday, June 24, 2026 | 5:00 - 6:30 PM

📍 Ridge Manor Community Center
34240 Cortez Blvd, Ridge Manor

🍷 Free food and drinks!

📄 Learn more at CoastalTampaBay.org/get-involved

REGISTER HERE: 



The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is developing the Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan—a comprehensive, four-year initiative in Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. It spans more than 2,200 square miles of coastal and inland communities, estuaries, rivers, wetlands, and barrier islands.

The Coastal Master Plan aims to strengthen regional flood resilience by addressing the impacts of sea-level rise, storm surge, extreme rainfall, and high-tide flooding through a coordinated, data-driven, and community-based process. The 2026 focus includes hosting public listening sessions to identify flood-vulnerable communities, prioritize restoration and flood-reduction projects, and guide long-term adaptation strategies with a strong emphasis on equity, innovation, and collaboration.

As partner/collaborators in this effort, Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group, Hernando Audubon and other community organizations will host three listening sessions as follows:

Thursday, June 11th, 5pm-6:30 pm at the George Washington Carver Community Center, [95 Three Sisters Springs Trail, Crystal River](#). The facilitators will be Sierra Club’s Robin Orlandi and Maxine Connor in cooperation with local representatives. Refreshments will be available.

Thursday, June 18th, 5pm-6:30pm at the Weeki Wachee Area Club, [7442 Shoal Line Boulevard, Hernando Beach](#). The facilitators will be Sierra Club’s Taylor Masnjak and Tom St Clair in cooperation with Hernando Audubon and the Weeki Wachee Area Club. Refreshments will be available.

Wednesday, June 24th, 5pm-6:30pm at the Ridge Manor Community Center, [34240 Cortez Boulevard, Ridge Manor](#). The facilitator will be Lynn Gruber-White, President of the Ridge Manor Property Owners Association in cooperation with Joe Murphy of Sierra Club and Hernando Audubon along with other stakeholders. Refreshments will be available.

These efforts ensure that local governments, community organizations, residents, and technical experts all contribute to shaping the plan. The results of the workshop will help shape development of a Regional Flood Risk Assessment for project recommendations.

What you can do now: Share the flyers below with others. Register to attend a workshop in your area. Contact us at sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com for more information.

Citrus County Considers AI Data Center at expanded Holder Industrial Park First of three Hearings June 18th



On March 5th, 2026, the Citrus County Planning and Development Commission (PDC) heard two applications from Deltona Corporation. One to amend the county's Comprehensive Land Development Code (LDC) to add the uses of Information Processing, Data Center Utilities and Data Storage, and other changes. The second application was to expand the original, planned Holder Industrial Park by 813 acres, potentially to accommodate a Data Center. Deltona failed to identify a data center client. The PDC recommended continuance due to insufficient application details. See <https://www.thecitrusinsider.com/clearing-up-data-center-confusion/>

On May 12th, a motion for a year-long moratorium on the construction of data centers was introduced and approved by Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to allow the county time to add restrictive language to the LDC for data centers. Final BOCC vote is May 26th during the regular BOCC meeting. The BOCC discussed holding a public workshop and seeking additional input. During public comments, Robin Orlandi, Co-chair of the Sierra Adventure Coast Citrus Conservation Committee, offered to provide qualified information and recommendations from Sierra Club experts. The county's current version of the amendment relies on the industry expertise of one individual; other expert peers and the public should be engaged in this critical process.

The BOCC has requested a Land Development Code amendment regarding data centers be considered at the July 18, 2026 meeting of the PDC and the BOCC August 25, 2026 meeting at 5pm.

Meanwhile, Deltona's request for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment was continued on March 5th and is on the agenda for the June 18th, 2026 meeting of the PDC and the July 14th, 2026 meeting of the BOCC at 5pm. Deltona has also requested placement for a companion application (CPA-2025-00012) on the June 18th agenda that would expand the Planned Service Area to accommodate this application, however no new information has been submitted. These existing applications may be heard by PDC PRIOR to the county having a completed development code section governing data centers that would apply to this site.

It is safe to say that consideration of a Holder AI Data Center should be denied outright, given risks to the surrounding residents, water resources, and environment, or continued until the county has adopted restrictive language in the LDC specific to data centers. Please plan to join us at these hearings and speak out if you are concerned. Sierra Club is developing a position on AI Data Centers nationally that includes mitigation for potential impacts that will inform our comments and recommendations. More info at: https://www.citruscounty.gov/departments/growth_management/land_development/development_applications_submitted.php

July 15th 2026

**SIERRA CLUB
ADVENTURE
COAST MEET UP**
*with Dr. Beth Brady
on the Inside World
of Florida Manatees*



*At the Historic Brooksville
Woman's Club, 131 S. Main
Street in Brooksville, FL.*

Beth was born and raised in Pennsylvania and originally went to school to become a registered nurse. After a few years of nursing, she realized her passion was marine mammals. She moved to Florida and did a nine-month photo ID internship with Florida Fish and Wildlife. She then went to Nova Southeastern University for her Master's and Florida Atlantic University for her PhD, focusing her research on the vocalizations of Florida manatees. She has multiple peer-reviewed publications on the vocalizations of all manatee species. Currently, she uses drones for a variety of applications, including to assess the body condition of manatees. Beth's journey reflects her dedication to understanding and contributing to the well-being of manatees. This talk will take you inside the world of Florida manatees and the challenges they face from human impacts.

Social at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7 PM. Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/7W-dxK4FTKqyrmvTt6VS7Q>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Jenkins Creek Dredging and Stabilization Project



Image of Jenkins Creek by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Jenkins Creek is a brackish stream system that includes a spring boil located in Spring Hill, Hernando County, adjacent to Linda Pederson Park. This spring system is south of the Weeki Wachee springs complex and provides important warm-water habitat for the Florida manatee in the cold season.

The FWC [Manatee Warm-Water Habitat Action Plan](#) lists Jenkins Creek Spring as a secondary refuge for manatees. FWC staff are conducting ongoing monitoring of manatee use to better evaluate seasonal trends and accessibility. This warm-water site has a narrow spring run that may limit manatee access, further exacerbated by woody debris and actively eroding stream banks. There are currently no state-managed protection zones at this location.

FWC staff are collaborating with Hernando County on monitoring and restoration efforts for manatee habitat assessments, spring run enhancement, and evaluation of potential disturbance by recreational activities. Ongoing and future proposed work is intended to restore this natural habitat and offer appropriate protection measures for manatees utilizing the system.

The Jenkins Creek Dredging and Shoreline Stabilization Project will remove shoals, debris, and wood material that currently restrict manatees' access to warm-water springheads during winter months and, where necessary, stabilize the shoreline to eliminate bank erosion and sedimentation to promote site restoration and resiliency. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) conducted a public meeting on the project design plans and restoration goals for the project in Hernando County on March 25. Associated permits are currently being reviewed. The project is probably a year from implementation.

Floridians Rally to Save Our Shores and Species



STATEWIDE, Fla. - On Saturday, May 16, Sierra Club Florida and [environmental partners, allies, and advocates](#) gathered across the state to defend Florida’s wildlife, coastal ecosystems, and communities from federal rollbacks of endangered species protections tied to oil industry interests in the Gulf of Mexico.

Saturday’s “SOS: Save Our Shores / Save Our Species” events, held in eight cities across Florida (Brooksville, Dania Beach, Melrose, New Smyrna Beach, Osprey, Sanibel, St. Petersburg, and West Palm Beach) were organized in response to recent federal efforts to weaken the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the expansion of offshore oil drilling in the Gulf. For more than 50 years, this landmark conservation law has helped preserve, protect, and recover the nation’s most vulnerable wildlife and habitats, including those critical to Florida’s environment and economy.

Sierra Club Florida and its partners have continuously warned that weakening ESA protections and allowing more offshore drilling would further imperil Florida marine life - including the critically endangered Rice’s whale - while also threatening the state’s clean water, beaches, tourism economy, and way of life.

Signs reading “Don’t Fail Our Qhales,” “Drilling is Killing,” “Save the Endangered Species Act,” and “Don’t Frack with Our Gulf” were waved along busy roadways and intersections, outside farmer’s markets, and on beaches on Saturday, where passersby joined in, honked, and signed postcards to be delivered to members of Congress. At Dania Beach, snorkelers even carried banners reading “Defend Wildlife” and “Save Our Shores” underwater to underscore the importance of clean, protected coastal waters to Florida’s future.

Kristine Cunningham, Sierra Club Florida Executive Committee Chair, said, “Florida’s wildlife and coastal ecosystems are part of who we are. From the Gulf to the Atlantic, Floridians from all walks of life are standing together to protect the places and species that make our state so unique. We will continue fighting back against the reckless attacks on the Endangered Species Act and efforts to put corporate polluters ahead of our wildlife and people.”

Susannah Randolph, Sierra Club Florida Chapter Director, said, “The Endangered Species Act has been one of the most pivotal, successful laws in our nation’s history, and Floridians understand what’s at stake if those protections are dismantled. Saturday’s rallies demonstrated the growing movement of people ready to save our shores, our species, and our future from offshore drilling and environmental destruction.”

Cris Costello, Sierra Club Florida State Campaign Director, stated, “Protecting Florida’s coasts from offshore drilling is of the highest priority for all Floridians, no matter their party or affiliation. It is the responsibility of our elected leaders, at both the state and federal level, to put an end to this attack on our state by the Trump Administration. The people of this state will accept no excuse for failure.”

Sierra Club Florida’s Save Our Shores (SOS) campaign is a statewide movement working to protect Florida’s coasts, communities, and wildlife from offshore drilling, pollution, and attacks on critical environmental protections. For more information, click [here](#). For photos and videos of the May 16 SOS events, click [here](#).

Politics and Government

Federal and State Leaders Turn Their Backs on Pollution Monitoring

Local community members are stepping in to fill the void left by federal and state governments

By Tabby Kibugi; May 11, 2026



The Marathon Petroleum Refinery in Reserve, Louisiana. | Photo courtesy of AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File

Long before Diamond Spratling became an environmental advocate, she had witnessed the harmful effects of prolonged exposure to industrial pollution. She was raised in Detroit, the heart of the automotive industry, where factories and incinerators surrounded communities. For her family, that proximity came at a cost. Several of her relatives, including uncles who worked in automotive plants, passed away as a result of years of exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and fine particulate matter, otherwise known as PM2.5.

She told *Sierra* that there were limited protections in place to shield residents and workers from harm. In the years that followed, the US government stepped in to create federal regulations, such as the Clean Air Act, to curb the worst impacts of polluting facilities. Now, these safeguards are at risk.

This past February, the Environmental Protection Agency, which has long regulated air pollutants, [rescinded its 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding](#) and certain parts of the Clean Air Act. As a result, the EPA has started to relax enforcement on some pollutants, including carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide. Research has shown that these toxins can lead to asthma attacks, hospitalizations, and premature deaths.

“It made sure industries were abiding by permits designed to protect human health,” Spratling, a climate activist and founder of [Girl Plus Environment](#), said. “It’s also giving the green light to other local policies to feel like, ‘[I]f our federal government isn’t going to set a good example, why do we have to care about the health of community members?’”

For those already living on the front lines of industrial pollution, the implications are stark. Decades of discriminatory zoning have concentrated polluting facilities in the most vulnerable neighborhoods, where residents already face higher exposure to harmful pollutants. For example, in Louisiana, a heavily industrialized corridor is widely known as Cancer Alley. Over 150 petrochemical plants and refineries operate along this toxic swath of the Gulf of Mexico.

Read the full article at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/federal-and-state-leaders-turn-their-backs-pollution-monitoring>

Outings Leader Training

Saturday, June 13

9am-5pm

Kelly Park-Rock Springs

register at:

bit.ly/SummerOLT



SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER



Learn More and RSVP!

**URGENT: Technical and Legal Assistance Needed
SWFWMD Approves 345-Acre Borrow Pit
in Sensitive Springs Recharge Area**



The Southwest Florida Water Management District has approved an Environmental Resource Permit authorizing a 345-acre borrow pit excavation for the Florida Department of Transportation's Suncoast Parkway Phase 3A project in Citrus County. The approved project involves more than 5.1 million cubic yards of excavation within an Outstanding Florida Springs Priority Focus Area connected to the Kings Bay / Crystal River springshed. The permit record itself acknowledges direct infiltration into groundwater, shallow groundwater and karst conditions, hydraulic communication between groundwater systems, and approximately 894 acres of combined roadway and excavation disturbance within this highly sensitive recharge area. Citizens remain deeply concerned that the record reflects substantial unresolved procedural, hydrologic, and groundwater issues that warrant additional independent environmental and hydrogeologic review before irreversible excavation begins. Community members are currently exploring technical expert review and administrative challenge options.

If you are a hydrogeologist, groundwater scientist, environmental professional, attorney, conservation organization, or individual willing to assist, please contact the Stop the Sand Mine Committee.

Stopthesandmine.com

Stopthesandmineecc@gmail.com



The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.5 million members and supporters. In addition to protecting every person's right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit sierraclub.org.

For more information about Sierra Club Adventure

Coast Group, visit our website:

www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast, send an email to sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com, or call 352 277-3330.

