



Sierra Sentry

florida.sierraclub.org/northeast

Vol. XVII, Issue 4

April 2018

You Are Invited Fun, Food and Fundraising for your Sierra Club



Ron Littlepage, outspoken supporter of North Florida's environment and 28 year *Florida Times Union* opinion columnist will headline this event.

**Mandarin Community Club
12447 Mandarin Road
Jacksonville, FL 32223**

Thursday, April 12th 5:30pm

Your donation of at least \$50 will help us continue to protect Florida's environment.

RSVP at 904 990 3191 or JStanko3@gmail.com
Any contributions are greatly appreciated

Go to our website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida/donate> or

Mail to: Sierra Club, 6028 Chester Ave., Suite 103, Jacksonville 32217

• **Not tax-deductible:** Make checks payable to : *Sierra Club, Northeast FL Group*; Supports advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Tax-deductible: Make checks payable to: *Sierra Club Foundation, Northeast Florida Group*; Charitable contributions support grants for public education, research and public interest litigation.

Sierra Club Outings - Something for Everybody

Want to hike through a lush Florida swamp and see some gators? How about a hike through an area rich in history, or a walk along a beach, or a long hike far from civilization through native longleaf pine forests or with views of the salt marsh?

Maybe you'd like to kayak? How about viewing reptiles and birds in their native habitat, or exploring many of our urban and remote waterways?

Our outings program offers something for everybody. There are over 50 different places here in our area where we hike, and over 30 beautiful waterways on which we paddle. Last year, we offered more than 50 outings for folks to get out and explore and enjoy our planet.

Each outing is different. There are hikes where we hike at a moderate pace and stop often to enjoy the views or explore an historical area. There are "fitness" hikes of six miles or more where the emphasis is on a faster pace (around 3 mph) with fewer stops.

Our paddles are on local waterways, protected from open water, and suitable for first-timers and experienced paddlers. We usually paddle a leisurely 6 miles so that we can enjoy the beauty of the water, forests, and wildlife.

Our outings are suitable for all ages. Children are usually welcome if they are old enough to maintain the pace.

You can find a listing of our outings

- in our monthly newsletter.
- on our web site at <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida>.
- on our Meetup site at <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group/>.

Our trained outing leaders are eager to help you get out and experience the wonders of the natural places around Jacksonville. Join us!

Executive Committee

Janet Stanko, Chair	208-1341 janestan@bellsouth.net
Cindy Baker	cindysbaker@gmail.com
Lisa Williams	388-6357 LisaOW@gmail.com
Ed Schlessinger, Treasurer	730-8148 eds.greenmail@gmail.com
Julianne Mammana	jmm094@bucknell.edu
Vijay Satoskar	satoskarvv@yahoo.com
Joel Roberts	JoelHRoberts@me.com
Pam Keramati	kermap@me.com

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Volunteer for this position! Call 990-3191
Environmental Education	Julianne Mammana jmm094@bucknell.edu
Publicity	Volunteer for this position! Call 990-3191
Outings	Bill Armstrong armsfam@yahoo.com
Legislative	Volunteer for this position! Call 990-3191
Legal	Ken Wright ken@jacobsonwright.com
Membership	Volunteer for this position! Call 990-3191
Newsletter	Julianne Mammana jmm094@bucknell.edu
Programs Ponte Vedra	Brian Paradise bgparadise@comcast.net
Website	Bill Armstrong armsfam@yahoo.com
Programs, Duval	Cindy Baker CindySBaker@gmail.com

Connect With Us Online

E-mail: ne-editor@florida.sierraclub.org
Web: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/northeast>
Meetup: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/29v9hsd>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/sierranefl>

Sierra Club Outings

No pets allowed on outing except where designated in the outings description. Outing participants are required to sign a waiver and release of liability at the start of the outing. The waiver can be found at: sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual_waiver.pdf

JOIN US ON MEETUP: OUTINGS HAVE BEEN FILLING UP FAST!

For the most up to date information and to ensure your spot, join our MeetUp site. Details of all outings can be found there with easy access to programs and interactions, or check our website.

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group

Saturday, April 7, 10:00 a.m.: Hike the Along Suwannee River at Big Shoals

Join us on a 6 mile hike "way down upon the Suwannee River".

The Suwannee is one of North Florida's natural treasures. We will start along the Florida Trail which winds its way along the Suwannee about 30 feet above the river surface atop its limestone cliffs. We will continue to follow the river along a side trail to the Big Shoals, Florida's only Class III rapids.

In order to attempt this hike, you should be comfortable walking across open spaces at a moderate height on a narrow support, and in adequate physical condition to manage small changes of elevation atypical for Florida.

We will meet at the Bell Springs trailhead at parking area at GPS coordinates 30.329298, -82.689613, a little over an hour from downtown Jacksonville. You can use this address: 1245 NW Morrell Dr, White Springs, FL. Arrive by 9:30 a.m. to allow time for our pre-hike sign-in, introductions, and hike information. We will start the hike promptly at 10. Bring bug spray, sun block, and water. There is no potable water on the trail. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Snow at wbsnow@gmail.com

Sunday, April 8, 10:00 a.m.: Hike Stokes Landing

This three-mile easy hike through beautiful old oaks with several opportunities to view the marsh and Tolomato River. Stokes Landing is located just north of the St Augustine airport. Bring water, snacks, and bug-spray. Please arrive 15 minutes early so we can get started on time.

There are no restrooms at the trailhead, so plan accordingly. Children capable of hiking 3 miles are welcome, but please no pets. Bring bug spray and water.

Parking is VERY LIMITED, so carpooling is encouraged.

After the hike, we can go to the King's Head Pub (6460 US-1, St Augustine) for some bangers and mash, fish and chips, Guinness beer, etc.

RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak Lofton Creek

Join me for a leisurely paddle on Lofton Creek in Yulee Fl. If you are looking for a short easy paddle this is the one. This protected hardwood creek allows for a great paddle. Shaded and protected from the winds, the creek cuts through the forest and wanders back in time.

We will meet at Melton Nelson's boat ramp located at 463540 SR200 in Yulee. Take I-95 north to exit 373 and turn right(east) on SR200. Drive for about 4.8 miles. The boat ramp is on the right.

We will launch at 10:00 am so please be onsite no later than 9:30 am. Bring PFD, water, sunscreen and insect repellent. You must wear your PFD.

RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Richard Yelton at raptor43@juno.com.

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak Trout Creek

We'll take a leisurely paddle up Trout Creek in St. Johns County on this very calm waterway. We'll go about 5 miles round trip.

We'll put in at the boat ramp at Trout Creek Park, 6795 Collier Road, St. Augustine. After our paddle, we can go to nearby Woodpeckers BBQ (4930 FL-16A, St. Augustine, FL - at the corner of 16A and US13) for some great food.

Rentals are available through Trout Creek Marina, (904) 342-2471. Call to make a reservation. If you rent, you must come first to our put-in location at Trout Creek Park to check in, then you can drive over to the marina to rent your kayak.

Bring sunscreen and water. PFD and whistle are mandatory and you must wear your PFD. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

Florida Master Naturalist Program

REGISTRATION CLOSES April 30, 2018. The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Florida Master Naturalist Program Wildlife Monitoring Special Topics Course sponsored by Clay County Extension and Duval County Extension will be offered May 4-6, 2018 (day/evening classes). The course is a series of three 8 hour workshops that present the fundamental principles of mammal, herpetofauna, and bird surveying and monitoring through classroom presentations and field exercises. The course is open to everyone; environmental professionals, educators, and citizens who just want to learn more about wildlife monitoring. You do not need to be a graduate of a Florida Master Naturalist core module to participate. Classroom sessions will be held at the Clay County Extension Office 2463 FL-16, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Field activities will be at Jennings State Forest/Recreation Area and overnight camping will be available on 5-6-18.

Course instructors are Luke Harlow, Allan Hallman, Amy Morie, Beth Smith, Carol Wyninger, and Suzanne Tomlinson. Course fee begins at \$155 (see web site for full pricing). Student requirements include attendance, participation, and enthusiasm! Advance registration is required. For registration and program information contact the web site www.masternaturalist.org. For further questions contact Carol Wyninger at (904) 220-0232, wyninger@comcast.net; or Luke Harlow at (904) 284-6355, harlow1231@ufl.edu.

Outings Continued

Sunday, April 21, 9.30 a.m.: John Muir Birthday Hike in Guana

Celebrate John Muir's birthdate on April 21, 1838 by hiking about 5 miles on trails in Guana that John would have loved to hike.

Please bring along your favorite quotations or journal entries of John to share with your fellow hikers. Brian will have extra quotations and journal entries if you don't have any. Please meet at the trail head for the Guana trails which is about 200 yards beyond the dam. The address is 505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra FL. 32082.

Please bring lunch, water and insect repellent. Entrance fee of \$3.00 if you don't have a pass. No pets please. Children are welcome if they are capable of hiking 5 miles. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net.

Sunday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.: Hike Nocatee Preserve

This is an easy 5-mile hike. The trail is well-maintained, running from the northern trailhead just past Ponte Vedra High School to the Intracoastal. It is multi-use trail. The scenery changes along the way and is both beautiful and interesting.

Bring sufficient water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Dress for the season. Sturdy hiking boots are advised as the trail is subject to flooding near the eastern end.

We will meet at the trailhead parking lot located to the left and behind Ponte Vedra Beach High School. The address for the school is 460 Davis Park Rd, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32081. Go around the school to the LEFT, pass the football field and tennis courts to get to the trail parking lot.

From A1A: Turn onto Mickler Road. Proceed 1.5 miles to traffic circle and take second exit onto Palm Valley Road (210). Proceed 2.2 miles west on Palm Valley Road to Davis Park Road. Turn left onto Davis Park Road, proceed as above.

RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Mike DiAngelo at mfdiangelo@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m.: Betz-Tiger Point Fitness Hike

This is an outing for those who enjoy hiking at a brisk pace while enjoying the outdoors. The hike will take place in the Betz-Tiger Point (BTP) Preserve and will use its trail system to create a 6 mile hike. The route is picturesque and exposes you to an important part of the NE Florida ecosystem.

Though efforts will be made to maintain a 2.5 to 3 mph pace, there will be periodic stops to refresh. Participants should be capable of hiking at a brisk pace for an extended period.

The hike will begin at the parking area at the entrance of the Pumpkin Hill Preserve parking area at 13802 Pumpkin Hill Rd.

Bring water, insect repellent, and sun screen. No pets are allowed.

RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Logan Cross at jlogancross3@gmail.com

Join the Sierra Club

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

**Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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Card Number _____

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Meeting Calendar

Monday, April 16 @ 6:30pm
Combined Executive Committee and Conservation Committee Meeting
The Southeast Branch Library
10955 Deerwood Park Blvd

Thursday, May 31st @ 6:45 pm
Sierra Club Program
Southeast Regional Library
10599 Deerwood Park Blvd, Jax,
FL 32256

*"Spring won't let me stay in
this house any longer! I must
get out and breathe the air
deeply again"*
-Gustav Mahler



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General Programs

Visit our websites for maps to all meeting locations:
florida.sierraclub.org/northeast
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group

Sierra Club Program
Thursday, May 31st 2018 @ 6:45pm

The Conservation Movement in Florida

Jonathan Webber, Deputy Director: Jonathan Webber is the Deputy Director of Florida Conservation Voters and has worked in electoral campaigns and conservation communications/politics for nearly a decade. He attended The Florida State University for graduate school where he attained his master's degree in Applied American Politics and Policy.

In his presentation, The Conservation Movement in Florida, Jonathan Webber details the collaborative and successful effort to pass the Water and Land Conservation Amendment in 2014, followed shortly thereafter by the Legislator's misappropriation of LATF funds. Jon discusses some of the successes and setbacks the conservation community has experienced in the years since then and some of the ongoing efforts to restore funding to Florida Forever. He will also be talking about wins from the most recent Legislative Session and how the conservation community can begin to prepare for the upcoming 2018 Elections.



Please join us for our May Sierra Club meeting to be held Thursday, May 31, 2018 in the Southeast Regional Library at 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd, Jax, FL 32256. We will be in room B. Social time is from 6:30-7:00 with the program starting at 7:00pm. All are welcome. Free