



Sierra Sentry

florida.sierraclub.org/northeast

Vol. XV, Issue 1

January 2016

Executive Committee: Your Vote Needed

Each year half of our Excom members are up for renewal. If someone wishes to roll off Excom, our Nominating Committee proposes new members for the upcoming two year terms. Then you, our members, vote on the new and renewing Executive Committee members. Although we don't have more candidates than open positions, we still need your vote. So please take a minute to review the candidate bios and vote. We promise no debates-- just good enviro stewards on Excom.

Please see ballot on page three.



Ken Wright I am a Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer. I practice with the Jacksonville law firm of Bledsoe, Jacobson, Schmidt, Wright, & Sussman. Prior to law school, I obtained an accounting degree from the University of South Florida and was a Certified Public Accountant.

After law school, I worked for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, (now Earthjustice) litigating to protect and preserve Florida's environment. When I came to Jacksonville, I became the Legal Chair of the Sierra Club, Northeast Chapter, and served in that position from 1995-2001. I am currently on the Board of Directors of the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida and have continued to actively advocate on behalf of the environment in federal and state courts, representing the Club, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Public Trust, and other organizations.

My wife and I have two kids, one recent college graduate and one currently in college. We enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, and camping. I grew up in South Florida and saw too many of my favorite wild places get paved over. I would be proud to serve another term on the Executive Committee to lend my experience and perspective to assist the Club to advance its mission in Northeast Florida.



Ed Schlessinger A breath of fresh air: \$0. A walk on the beach: \$0. One mile in an electric car: \$0.03. The cost of voting for NE FL Executive Committee: \$0.44 postage. One bottle of clean drinking water: \$1. Admission to a state park: \$4. Canoe rental: \$27. Hiking boots: \$90. Budget for National Park maintenance: \$2.6 billion. Everglades restoration: \$10.9 billion. Gulf oil spill mitigation: \$20 billion and counting. Vigilant protection of our natural resources: Priceless.



Janet Stanko

As a resident of Jacksonville for 30 years, I raised my family here, working for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida in the new products arena for 22 years.

I have been active in: Sierra Club of Northeast Florida current chair since 2011, Vice Chair, Political (local and Sierra Florida) and Legislative Chair; Past chair of the WJCT Community Advisory Board, which provides input into program content and promotion; Southeast Visioning Steering Committee for COJ Comprehensive Plan development; Florida Hometown Democracy constitutional amendment campaign organizer.

My experience as a Sierra Political chair and as an Executive Committee member convinced me that we need to help Jacksonville residents get in touch with what they care about, to understand their volunteer action opportunities, and to make a difference for the environment.



Gabe Hanson It has been and is an honor to serve Sierra's Northeast Florida Chapter as its Vice Chair. I have good news. We are building momentum and strength. The bad news is, there's even more work ahead. Walt Whitman, an iconic American poet, observed that the more we accomplish, the less we can rest. Applying this to Sierra, I believe that as we grow our footprint in the community, our responsibilities multiply. We have taken on a number of environmental and political issues. We don't own them, but they do demand our ongoing attention and effort, that is to say, they require our stewardship. More challenges, more responsibilities: that's not bad news, it's our opportunity for service and growth.

Continued on page 3.

Executive Committee

Janet Stanko, Chair	208-1341 janestan@bellsouth.net
Gabe Hanson, Vice-Chair	992-9743 gabehanson@yahoo.com
Tom Larson	247-1876 TCLarson168@msn.com
Ed Schlessinger, Treasurer	730-8148 eds.greenmail@gmail.com
James Taylor	386-795-3670 tajj0016@gmail.com
Ken Wright	ken@jacobsonwright.com
Lisa Williams	388-6357 LisaOW@gmail.com
Carolyn Cooper	CKCooper51@gmail.com
Jake Fitzroy	Jake.fitzroy@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Environmental Education	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Publicity	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Outings	Bill Armstrong armsfam@yahoo.com
Legislative 992-9743	Gabe Hanson gabehanson@yahoo.com
Legal	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Membership	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Newsletter	Julianne Mammana jmm094@bucknell.edu
Programs Ponte Vedra	Larry Lickenbrock larr2604@hotmail.com
Website	Bill Armstrong armsfam@yahoo.com
Programs, Duval	Janet Larson & Pauline Berkeley JCLarson168@msn.com 247-1876

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

Sunday, January 3, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak the Ocklawaha River at Rodman Reservoir

Let's paddle the Ocklawaha River during the drawdown of the Rodman Reservoir. Meet at the Temporary Kenwood Boat ramp in Interlachen at 9:30 am to unload kayaks and get ready for a 10 am launch. We'll paddle for a couple hours, looking at the cypress tree stumps that are normally under water. This is an easy roundtrip paddle, no shuttle is necessary. Bring water and PFD. You must wear your PFD. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Andrea Conover at andrea_conover@live.com.

Thursday, January 14, 10:00 a.m.: Weekday Hike at Cedar Point Preserve

Join us for a 5 - 6 mile hike through live oaks and pines with some great views of the beautiful Timucuan Preserve salt marsh.

We'll meet in the parking lot of the preserve, located at 7116 Cedar Point Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218.

Bring bug spray, sun block, and water. No pets, please. Older children capable of long hikes welcome. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10:00 am: Hike Fort Clinch State Park

Start off the new year with a beautiful outdoor adventure! The Fort Clinch State Park hiking trail is a 6-mile loop trail that offers the chance to see wildlife, such as deer. Parts of the trail are heavily forested and traverse ancient dunes that are steep, offering a unique challenge to northeast Florida hikers!

Please join the outing for fellowship and walk with nature on **Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 10:00 am**. The park's address is 2601 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach, Florida. Please note the park's entrance fees of \$6.00 per vehicle (2-8 people) or \$4.00 for single occupant vehicles. I suggest bringing water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat; please, no children or pets. For lunch, please bring a picnic, as there is a beautiful picnic area adjacent to the fort parking lot. RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with outing leader Ken Fisher at [904-210-7765](tel:904-210-7765) / kpfl1965@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 30, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak the Ichetucknee River

The Ichetucknee River is famous for summer tubing, but it is a beautiful winter paddle. We'll start at the tubers take out location and paddle upstream (not difficult), then float/paddle back down. Along the way, we'll see beautiful scenery, turtles, other wildlife and, very possibly, some manatee. This is a Florida gem!

We'll meet at the lower takeout which is at a small park on US 27, just before the Ichetucknee River bridge. The approximate address is 100 SW Riverside Ave. Fort White, FL 32038. The entry is on your right, just before the bridge over the Ichetucknee. Look for my Sierra Club sign. Driving time is about two hours. Unloading will take some time, so be there no later than 9:30.

Dress for the weather. You must wear your PFD. We'll make plans for lunch later. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com.

ExCom Ballot- Please Vote!

Take advantage of this opportunity to vote for your own local Executive Committee (ExCom) members. Five positions are open this year. Households with a single membership, use box #1. Households with joint membership, use box #1 and box #2. Cut out this section on the dotted line, vote, put your ballot in an envelope, and mail it to: **ExCom Election, Carolyn Cooper, 2239 St. Johns Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32204**. Ensure your member number is attached on the reverse side so that we know you are a Sierra Club member with the right to vote in this election. **Ballots must be received by January 31, 2016. Thank you!**

Vote for Five

Gabe Hanson	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Janet Stanko	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Schlessinger	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Wright	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maria Andal	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>

ExCom Bios Continued



Maria Andal is an IT Professional who graduated summa cum laude from Florida State College at Jacksonville with a degree in Computer Networking. In 2013, she became involved with the Amendment 1 effort to collect signatures and place it on the election ballot. In 2014, Maria met Janet Stanko, and the two campaigned together to educate voters and pass Amendment 1. Maria Andal also campaigned for the election of Charlie Christ as governor of Florida. At the beginning of 2015, Maria became a Sierra Club member. For the 2015 city council and mayoral elections, she interviewed and wrote the documentation for Jacksonville and Atlantic Beach city council candidates to determine the best candidate worthy of Sierra Club’s endorsement. Since April 2015, she’s been writing the Action Alerts for the NE FL Sierra Club chapter. In June 2015, she wrote an article for the Sierra Sentry about the destructive impacts of Seismic Airgun Testing. Maria has regularly attended Sierra Club’s ExComm/Conservation meetings throughout 2015, and was elected a member of the Conservation Committee. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with her husband and fur babies, King Geoffrey The First - a rescued yorkie-poo - and Empress Jamie, a cat adopted from the shelter.

Climate Reality and the Road from Paris: Jacksonville’s January Program

At the COP 21 Paris climate negotiations in December, almost 200 countries signed onto a global climate deal. For the first time, nearly every country committed to lowering greenhouse gas emissions, to set their own path to limit global warming to 1.5-2°C.

Learn more about this bold and historic agreement, why it’s so critically important for us all and what comes next, when local Sierra Club member Tom Larson, a trained Climate Reality Leader, presents a review of Climate Change, plus Perspectives and Outcomes from Paris.

Since 2000, Tom Larson has been active with the Sierra Club, focusing on energy & climate issues. For six years, he worked with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy on energy policy research. In 2007-08, Tom served on the Climate Change Advisory Group of the Florida Energy Commission. For over nine years, Tom has conferred with the Jacksonville municipal utility, JEA, in its Clean Power Stakeholder Group.

This will be a chance to run thru the basics of climate science, risks to global ecosystems, governance& the economy—and what we can do about it to assure a good future for all.

Monday, January 11, 2016—presentation & Sierra Club NE Florida Group meeting—social gathering starts at 6:30; meeting at 7pm. Open to the public. Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd. West, Jacksonville. Enter at the back of the social hall, parking behind and east of the main building.

Meeting Calendar

Monday, January 4 @ 6pm

PV Program: Hiking the Camino de Santiago in Spain
PV Beach Library

Monday, January 11 @ 6:30pm

JAX Program: Climate Reality and the Road From Paris
Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd

Wednesday, January 20 @ 6:30pm

Combined ExCom and Conservation Committee Meeting
6850 Belfort Oaks Road, Jacksonville

"Every problem can be solved with a shovel and a seed"

-Wangari Maathai



*6028 Chester Ave. Suite 103
Jacksonville, FL 32217*

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 1638



Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper with soy-based ink

General Programs

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

Ponte Vedra Program

January 4, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Hiking the Camino de Santiago in Spain

The NE FL Sierra Club in Ponte Vedra will host a presentation by Miriam Gallet, Co-Coordinator for the St. Augustine Chapter of the American Pilgrims, about their trips to Europe to Hike the Camino de Santiago – which stretches across Spain. She'll talk about their adventures, and show many photos of the diverse scenery and historic landmarks. El Camino de Santiago, in English “The Way of Saint James,” is the pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain, where legend has it that the remains of Jesus’ apostle Saint James the Elder lie. The Camino has existed as a Christian pilgrimage for well over 1,000 years, and there is evidence of a pre-Christian route as well. Throughout the medieval period it was one of the three most important Christian pilgrimages undertaken - to Jerusalem, to Rome, and to Santiago de Compostela. All kinds of people walk the Camino de Santiago. According to the records, 237,886 people completed the pilgrimage in 2014. While many will walk the Camino for religious reasons, others will look on it from a more secular viewpoint. A pilgrimage, after all, is not necessarily religious. There are many routes, many Caminos, to Santiago de Compostela. The best known route today, is the Camino francés, which crosses the north of Spain from the French border through Pamplona, Burgos and León all the way to Santiago. So come and learn more about this historical hike.

All are welcome! For further information, contact Larry Lickenbrock at (904) 537-6047. The program will be held in the main meeting room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library on Library Road at A1A (blinking light south of the intersection of A1A and Solana Road, on A1A about two miles south of Butler Boulevard).