



Sierra Sentry

florida.sierraclub.org/northeast

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Remember to Vote NO on Solar Amendment 1 in November

Adapted from original article by: George Cavros, Esq.

Floridians should Vote NO on Amendment 1 in November for three reasons:

FACT 1 – Amendment 1 is funded by Florida’s big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.

FACT 2 – Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.

FACT 3 – Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.

On August 30th, voters adopted Amendment 4 to provide solar investments Florida property tax exemptions for the next 20 years, 73% in favor. The legislature will consider enabling legislation in its upcoming 2017 session. Sierra Club Florida will lobby legislators in Tallahassee on those developments. Stay alert for details.

Sierra Club Florida Chapter, along with other organizations, is still working to put another solar proposition on the ballot that has not yet gained all signatures necessary to qualify for the Florida ballot-- the Solar Choice amendment. This would unleash options for solar investment and businesses that are already operating successfully in most other states. Visit www.flsolarchoice.org for more information and to sign the amendment (download, sign and send it in).

If you would like more information about Amendment 1, check out Melissa Ross’s First Coast Connect Program online at goo.gl/yCUNvI. We are also in need of Sierra Club volunteers to make calls to remind citizens to vote No on Amendment 1. If you would be willing to volunteer calling from home, please contact Janet Stanko @ (904) 208-1341

Urge EPA not to Approve Florida's Toxic Waters Rule

Despite heavy opposition from environmental and human health advocates, the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC) recently voted to approve the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) proposal to increase the levels of carcinogens that can be dumped into Florida’s rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. The vote proposed to raise the allowable limits of more than two dozen currently regulated chemicals including known carcinogens such as benzene, which is a byproduct of fracking. The 3-2 vote was made with the ERC missing two key, but unfilled gubernatorial appointments to the ERC who were supposed to represent the environmental community and local governments.



What You Can Do:

The rule now goes to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for final approval. **Please now contact the EPA at FloridaHHC@epa.gov and urge them not to approve the rule until:**

- 1) DEP addresses failures in its rulemaking process.** . Before issuing a revised rule, DEP must agree to hold multiple hearings and opportunities for public comment throughout the state, with the final rule to be approved by the full panel of the 7-member Environmental Regulatory Commission.
- 2) DEP revises its rule to adopt the most stringent criteria to protect Floridians' health and the environment.** DEP's rule should be at least as protective as the EPA's guidelines. It is unacceptable that Florida is reducing protections on over two dozen toxic contaminants. The final rule should also include standards for the 25 additional chemicals for which EPA has issued recommended criteria.
- 3) The revised rule reflects seafood consumption data that is specific to Florida.** Floridians eat large quantities of locally-caught seafood, and the revised rule should reflect that. The rule must also consider exposure to toxins through drinking water and seafood over the course of a lifetime. Currently, the rule only addresses adult exposure and does not consider the developmental or cumulative lifetime effects on Florida's children.

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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, October 30, 9:45 a.m.: Kayak & Kingsley

We'll kayak to Kingsley Plantation, visit the plantation, then return. When we reach Kingsley, we will have a little time to walk around before the 1 hour Ranger-led 11:00 a.m. tour of the house and grounds (for those who make reservations; others can tour on their own; limit 12 people). After the tour we can visit the rest of the grounds including the slave cabins. After we are done touring the plantation, we will paddle back to Ribault. Lunch is on your own at the Sand Dollar Restaurant.

You must make your own reservations with the park service for the house tour. Call 904-251-3537. Tours are limited to 12. Bring: Bug spray, sun screen, kayak cart (if you have one). **IMPORTANT:** Bring a rope RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Janet Stanko at janestan@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, November 5, 10:00 a.m.: Hike in Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

We will hike approximately 6.3 miles on a variety of terrains with some elevation changes. While not extreme, this is a moderately challenging trail. We will meet at the picnic area parking lot. Once you enter the park and pay (\$5.00 per car), drive to the parking lot located 1.8 miles from the ranger station. The picnic area is located at Little Lake Johnson. Look for the Sierra Club sign. The park is located at 6239 State Road 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656.

Please bring a picnic lunch, as there is a great picnic area in the shade where we can enjoy lunch together after the hike. Also, bring bug spray and plenty of water. Children capable of a long hike with hills are welcome. No pets, please. It's a bit of a drive and \$5 per car to get in, so please form carpools on Meetup. RSVP on Meetup or to Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak Trout Creek

We'll take a leisurely paddle up Trout Creek in St. Johns County, then go over to the Outback Crab House for some good food and refreshments. We'll put in at the boat ramp at Trout Creek Park, 6795 Collier Road, 32092. Please arrive in time to unload and be ready to put in at 10:00 a.m. Bring your own kayak or canoe. PFD and whistle are required. You must wear your PFD.

RSVP on Meetup or to Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, November 19, 9:00 a.m.: Hike Julington-Durbin Preserve

Join me on a 5-6 mile hike in the beautiful Julington-Durbin Preserve. The Preserve is on a peninsula between Julington and Durbin Creeks and contains sandhill, flatwood, and floodplain swamp and marshes. The address is 13200 Bartram Park Blvd. Look for the Sierra Club sign. Bring bug spray, sun block, and water. No pets, please.

RSVP on Meetup or to Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com.

There Goes The Neighborhood

Victory... for Now

Thanks to critical thinking and questions raised by SJC Commissioner Jay Morris, the owners of Watermarke withdrew their land use change that would have permitted them to build a 120 room hotel in Vilano. Many citizens showed up at the September 20th the public hearing to oppose this inappropriate intrusion into a residential and small commercial area. The property owner/development speculator may return with another proposal, but for now the citizens and the SaveOur-Vilano.com group have protected their community. What great forward progress!

Hurricane Matthew: What can we Say?

We cancelled our October general meeting because of the hurricane. We would like to sincerely apologize for inconvenience to those of you who didn't get the word. The notice was posted on the website and on Sierra Club North East FL Group Meetup. If you aren't already on meetup.com, please sign up to receive up-to-date notices on our event online at: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group/>. Thanks to Bill Armstrong our Meetup coordinator for keeping us informed!

While we were fortunate to avoid loss of life, our hearts go out to those who sustained property damage. Even as far inland as Mandarin, it was shocking to see so many uprooted trees. We would also like to acknowledge the tragic casualties in Haiti and send positivity to those less fortunate than us who have been affected by this severe weather.

Keep Jacksonville Beautiful

Scenic Jacksonville aims to preserve, protect and enhance the scenic character and beauty of Jacksonville. If you support that mission and accept Scenic America's *Seven Principles of Scenic Conservation*, consider becoming a member of Scenic Jacksonville. There is no fee to join; it's free! Info: www.scenicjax.org/get-involved/membership.

Allen Tilley Receives Sierra 2016 Guardian and Defender of the Environment Award



We would like to congratulate long time Sierra Club member Allen Tilley for his tireless work over the years speaking publically about climate change. Allen has been a tremendous asset to our organization and is greatly deserving of this recognition.

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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, November 7 @ 6:00pm

Ponte Vedra Program: Bill Armstrong's Adventure

Ponte Vedra Library- Main Meeting Room

Monday, November 14 @ 6:45pm

Jacksonville Program: Citizens in the Age of Climate Change

Lynch's Irish Pub backroom, 514 1st St. N, Jacksonville Beach

Wednesday, November 16 @ 6:30pm

Combined ExCom and Conservation Committee Meeting

6850 Belfort Oaks Road, Jacksonville

"Conservation is the state of harmony between man and land"

-Aldo Leopold



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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

Ponte Vedra Program Monday, November 7th @ 6:00pm

Visiting Muir Woods, Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks

We will host a presentation by Bill Armstrong, a long time Sierra Club member, on his and his wife's trip to Muir Woods, Yosemite National Park, and Sequoia National Park. His presentation will include some basic geology and botany, John Muir biography, National Park history, great pictures and tourist advice.

Muir Woods National Monument is a unit of the National Park Service on Mount Tamalpais near the Pacific coast. It protects 554 acres, of which 240 acres are old growth coast redwood. Yosemite National Park is in California's Sierra Nevada mountains. It's famed for its giant, ancient sequoia trees, and for Tunnel View, the iconic vista of towering Bridalveil Fall and the granite cliffs of El Capitan and Half Dome. Sequoia National Park is in California's southern Sierra Nevada mountains. It's known for its huge sequoia trees, notably the General Sherman Tree dominating the Giant Forest, the underground Crystal Cave, and Moro Rock, a granite dome offering sweeping park views.

*All are welcome! For further information, contact Larry Lickenbrock at (904) 537-6047. The program will be held in the **PGA 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).*

Jacksonville Program Monday, November 14th @ 6:45pm

Citizens in the Age of Climate Change

Note: The location has changed for this meeting.

We are partnering with Oceana and Surfriders to discuss Citizenship in the Age of Climate Change. Bob Tancig of the Citizen's Climate Lobby Group will review current threats to our fragile planet and offer a model of how we can mount an effective response to protect it. Given the reality of a changing climate, a consensus of climate scientists are calling for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions being released into our atmosphere as a consequence of burning fossil fuels and other human activities.

Although recognizing that the full extent of the risks and tasks we face may provoke a sense of despair for some, the productive actions being taken by thousands of Citizen's Climate Lobby volunteers present a hopeful way forward. This presentation on our changing climate will offer encouragement and inspiration to engage our political leaders productively and act effectively to protect our beautiful planet for future generations.

*Please join us on November 14th, at **Lynch's Irish Pub backroom, 514 1st St. N, Jacksonville Beach**, 6:30-7:00. Enjoy a brew. 7:00 Program begins. Program is free. All welcome. For more information, feel free to contact Janet Larson at (904) 710-3800.*