

Hurricane Irma causes Massive Sewage Overflows

Pollution reports submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection show that human waste has been spilling into streets, residences and waterways across the entire State as a result of power outages and flooding stemming from Irma.

These reports show that 28 million gallons of treated and untreated sewage has been released in 22 counties. Reportedly 130,000 gallons of sewage was released into tributaries of the St. Johns River in Jacksonville.

Sewage spills pose a major threat to public health and the spills are likely to become more common due to an aging infrastructure and sea level rise.



Sierra Club Fundraiser/Social on November 9

Please mark your calendars for a Sierra Club fundraiser and social on November 9 with Madison Carr, a Jacksonville singer and songwriter who is also a Sierra Club member and activist. The event will be held at the **Mudville Grille, 3105 Beach Boulevard, at intersection with Atlantic Boulevard**. Advance tickets for the fundraiser are \$10. per person. \$11. per person is payable at the door on the night of the performance subject to seating availability. The concert **starts at 7.00 p.m** with doors opening at 6 p.m. and happy hour until 7 p.m. Food and drinks can be ordered at reasonable prices at the Mudville Grille. If you want to eat before the concert then we suggest that you arrive when the doors open or shortly thereafter.

You can reserve your place for the concert through PAYPAL-send to flamusic@bellsouth.net (add \$1 per ticket) or by a \$10. check, payable to Ray Lewis to Ray at 2657 Kersey Ct, Jacksonville. FL. 32216. The price at the door is \$11.

Proceeds from the concert will go towards specific environmental programs of the Sierra Club including the Sierra Student Coalition, a new organization of high school and college students.

We'll look forward to seeing a lot of Sierra Club members and friends at the concert to hear the great talent and voice of Madison

Scenic Jacksonville aims to preserve, protect and enhance the scenic character and beauty of Jacksonville. If you support that mission and would 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.

Follow what Scenic Jacksonville is up to on Facebook: [@scenicjacksonville](https://www.facebook.com/scenicjacksonville), Twitter: [@scenicjax](https://twitter.com/scenicjax) or Instagram: [#JaxDigsTrees](https://www.instagram.com/scenicjax)

Executive Committee

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Committee Chairs

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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, October 8, 10:00 a.m.: Paddle Wekiwa Springs and Rock Springs Run

Wekiwa & Rock Springs are beautiful runs that combine to make the Wekiwa River. Wekiwa Spring is a magnitude 2 spring releasing 40 million gallons of water from the Floridian aquifer daily. Most sections remain wild. We'll make a full day of it starting with a paddle from Wekiwa Springs State Park up the one mile Wekiwa spring run to Rock Springs run where we will be paddling north and west against the current for a few miles. We'll turn around at Indian Mound or Big Buck and paddle back down the spring to Wekiwa island where we can take a break for some refreshments at the cafe. After about an hour we will head back down the Wekiwa to our put in where you are free to enjoy the designated swimming area (the water is 72 degrees) or hike or bike one of the park's trails. Count on the paddle being a total of 7-8 miles in length.

There are bathrooms and kayak rentals at the put In location. Call this Wekiwa Springs State Park to reserve a kayak: 407-884-2009. Cost to enter the park is \$5.00 in addition to kayak rental. You must have a PFD and wear it at all times. You'll also need a whistle, sunscreen, water, a hat, and cash for refreshments at the island. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Carla Carpenter at drifterkayaker@mac.com.

Saturday, October 14, 9:00 a.m.: Hike Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park

Beautiful trails, a nature tower, varied terrain, remnants of a WWI camp - what more could you ask for! We'll meet at the Nature Center, at the far (north) end of the park, and hike about 3½ miles on two different trails. We'll go 1/2 mile up the road to beautiful downtown Yukon for lunch at Trent's afterwards (across from NAS Jax; 4553 120th St Jacksonville).

Bring sunscreen, repellent, snack, and water. No pets, please. Kids capable of an adult pace are welcome. Some parts of the trail may be damp, so bring appropriate footwear. The park is located at 7000 Roosevelt Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32244. From Roosevelt Blvd. near the Yorktown Gate of NAS Jax, go west at Yorktown Rd. Drive north to the end of the road to the Nature Center. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m.: Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of John Muir's Walk in NE Florida

Come explore a bit of "untouched Florida" with an expert historian! We'll meet on Saturday, October 21 at 9:30 am in Yulee at the John Muir Ecological Park to see this lovely site visited by naturalist John Muir in 1867 (463039 SR200, Yulee 32297; from Jacksonville take I95 north to Exit 373, go East on SR200/A1A towards Fernandina for 2.4 miles), park at the Park or at the post office next door. We will talk about John Muir's and David Yulee's legacies. At 10:15am, we will drive 15 minutes to the Seaton Creek Historic Preserve (2145 Arnold Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32218-1201). This lovely site played a role in the American Revolution. We will hear the story from expert volunteer historian, Mr. David Ramseur, who is Past President of the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution and its Jacksonville Chapter. Next, we will walk 4.6 miles (2.3 miles in each direction, total of 2 hour of walking). We will picnic together at the half-way point aside a lovely creek. Difficulty: Easy, on a flat, uneven, unpaved trail (could be wet). Fee: None. All ages & dogs on leash welcome. Pack a bag lunch, beverage, hat, bug spray (essential) & sunscreen.

Executive Committee Elections

The annual election for our Group's Executive Committee (ExCom) is coming.

Critical dates are:

11/15 - Candidates identified to Nominating Committee. If you want to recommend a nominee (maybe yourself?), contact Brian Paradise, Phone 904710 0479, email BGPParadise@comcast.net

-OR -

The bylaws provide that "The name of any Group member proposed in writing by at least 30 Group members prior to the submission deadline, who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot.."

Please gather the signatures and submit them by **November 15** to Brian Paradise.

Outings Continued

This trip is limited to 60 walkers. Register please using Meetup.com (look for events for "Sierra Club Northeast Florida Group") or email trip leader, Todd Sack (tsack8@gmail.com, or 904-403-6446).

Sunday, October 22, 10:00 a.m.: Hike in Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

We will hike approximately 6.3 miles on a variety of terrain 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. Take Blanding Blvd 30 miles south from exit 12 off of I-295 West Beltway. You will go through Orange Park and Middleburg heading towards Keystone Heights. The entrance to the park is on the left. If you get to the town of Keystone Heights, you've gone too far. Park web site: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Mike-Roess>.

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 Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 28, 9:00 a.m.: Hike the Jacksonville Arboretum

Join me in hiking the beautiful trails at the Jacksonville Arboretum. We will hike all of the trails, about 3.5 easy miles, through various ecosystems.

The Arboretum is close to I-295/Monument Road. When you exit I-295 at Monument Road go east for one block and turn left on Millcoe Road. The Arboretum entrance is on the right approximately 1/4 mile. The address is 1445 Millcoe Rd, 32225. We will meet in the parking lot for a short briefing and sign the appropriate forms.

Bring insect repellent and water. No pets please. Children capable of long hikes are welcome. Restrooms are available.

After our hike we can have lunch, if you like, at the Mudville Grill.

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



Join the Sierra Club

Name _____
 Address _____
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 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

Join today and receive
 a FREE Sierra Club
 Weekender Bag!



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Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

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, October 16 @ 6:30pm
Combined Executive Committee and Conservation Committee Meeting
South East Branch Public Library Meeting Room
10599 Deerwood Park Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Monday, October 9 @ 6:45pm
Jacksonville Program
Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Monday, October 2 @ 6pm
Ponte Vedra Program
Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library

*"Optimism is the faith
that leads to achievement"*

-Helen Keller



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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

Jacksonville Program Monday, Oct 9 6:45pm

"Sunken Conservation" - Underwater Conservation in Jacksonville

Our program will be presented by Joe Kistel. Joe is the creator of "Sunken Conservation," an award-winning television documentary featuring underwater conservation efforts in Jacksonville. A portion of the documentary follows an offshore habitat creation project from its deployment in 2009 to its current condition. "Sunken Conservation" continues to spread the importance of underwater conservation.

Joe is the Founder and Director of TISIRI, an organization focused on marine conservation, awareness, and education. He has authored two books - "North Florida Reefs" and "Spike the Tugboat" - along with several media publications regarding underwater Jacksonville habitats and conservation efforts.

Joe is passionate and determined to spread awareness of the importance of the underwater habitats of our region. He has been a leading figure in Jacksonville offshore conservation endeavors including habitat creation and habitat preservation.

Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd. W., rear of educational building. Social time is from 6:30-7:00 with the program starting at 7:00. All are welcome. Free.

Ponte Vedra Program Monday, Oct 2 @ 6pm

Climate Change- Economic and health opportunities for Northeast Florida

Dr. Todd Sack, a physician and Sierra Club outings leader, will discuss how residents of Northeast Florida can benefit from climate change to become healthier and economically stronger.

The program will be held in the main meeting room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library at 101 Library Boulevard (at intersection of A1A) in Ponte Vedra Beach.

For further information please call Brian Paradise at (904) 710-0479.

