

## Vote, get active: Our choices for great candidates

By Janet Stanko

The crucial midterm elections are nearing, we have endorsed well-qualified candidates, and we need your help with campaigning, donations, and spreading the word on social media.

Here are our endorsements. More will be announced on Facebook, Northeast Florida Sierra Club or at the Sierra Club Northeast Florida website (<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida/political-endorsements>)

### Federal

Bill Nelson: U.S. Senate  
Al Lawson: U.S. House Dist. 15  
Nancy Soderberg: U.S. House Dist. 6

### State

Andrew Gillum: governor  
Sean Shaw: attorney general  
Tracye Polson: state House Dist. 15  
Adam Morely: state House Dist. 24

### Duval County

Sandy Golding: Jacksonville Beach City Council Seat 3  
Jennifer Casey: Soil & Water Group 3

### St Johns County

Nancy Shaver: St. Augustine mayor.  
*See vote, page 2*



The Cowford Loop hikers; another photo on p. 3 (Photo by Logan Cross)

## First urban fitness hikers explore downtown resources—at a brisk pace

A group of Sierra hikers tried something new for our area on Saturday, Sept. 24: an urban fitness hike.

Club executive committee member Logan Cross organized the five-mile walk along what he called the Cowford Loop, using downtown streets, sidewalks, and urban park trails.

The hike began at the parking area underneath the Acosta Expressway at the intersection of Prudential Drive and San Marco Blvd.

The hikers visited Treaty Oak in DuPont Park, crossed the Main Street Bridge, headed east to Metropolitan Park, traced Hogan Creek northwest to Broad Street,

and then went across the Acosta Bridge to the hike starting point.

Fitness hikes are known for their fast pace, and this one was no exception, even on a hot Saturday morning. Everyone got a good workout.

In addition to fitness, though, the walk featured stops along the way to emphasize the natural resources of the urban area, the work being done to help protect and preserve them, and the long-term effort this work requires.

Logan said feedback from the hike was positive.

As a result, he's considering fitness hikes in the Riverside/Avondale park systems and in the Southbank park system.

## Who we are

### *Executive Committee*

**Chair** Janet Stanko  
janestan@bellsouth.net  
**Treasurer** Ed Schlessinger  
eds.greenmail@gmail.com

### **Members**

Cindy Baker  
cindysbaker@gmail.com  
Logan Cross  
jlogancross3@gmail.com  
Pam Keramati  
kermap@me.com  
Joel Roberts  
joelroberts@me.com  
Vijay Satoskar  
satoskarvv@yahoo.com  
Lisa Williams  
lisaow@gmail.com

### *Committee chairs*

**Conservation**  
*Volunteer! Call 904.990-3191*

**Environmental Education**  
Julianne Mammana  
jmm094@bucknell.edu

### **Outings**

Bill Armstrong  
armsfam@yahoo.com

### **Legislative**

*Volunteer. Call 904.990.3191*

### **Legal**

Ken Wright  
ken@jacobsonwright.com

### **Newsletter**

Robert Blade  
rblade@gmail.com

### **Website**

Bill Armstrong  
armsfam@yahoo.com

### **Beaches Programs**

Brian Paradise  
bgparadise@comcast.net

### **Jacksonville Programs**

Cindy Baker  
cindysbaker@gmail.com

### **Publicity**

*Volunteer! Call 904.990.3191*

## Group seeks four to serve on ExCom

Our group's executive committee, which is responsible for reviewing and planning our activities, is seeking nominations for four open slots on the eight-member committee.

Members serve two-year terms.

Any member may volunteer to serve; the deadline for nominations is Nov. 15. Members may nominate themselves. The election will be held in December.

The committee usually meets on the first Monday of the month at the Southeast Regional Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd. The meetings are open to all.

Those interested in serving or in getting more information should write to Brian Paradise, bgparadise@comcast.net or phone him at 904.710.0479.

The Sierra Club hierarchy includes the national organization, state chapters, and local groups within the state. The Florida Chapter has 17 groups; our group is the Sierra Club Northeast Florida group. All levels are steered by executive committees.

## Vote, give, get involved in this election

*Continued from page 1*

John (Jack) Gorman: Commissioner  
Dist. 4

We will announce our positions on the state constitutional amendments on our Facebook page and the Sierra website.

### **The important dates:**

- Oct. 9. Last date to register or change parties. (Libraries and supervisor of elections offices have the forms needed.)
- Oct. 31. Last date to request a vote by mail ballot. (We are encouraging everyone to take advantage of this option whether you need it or not; vote in person by bringing the absentee ballot to the polling site.)
- Oct. 24 to Nov. 3, Duval County and St. Johns County early voting.
- Nov. 6. Election Day.

### **Get involved**

Our club is trying to do a better job helping our endorsed candidates through traditional campaigning—calling, leafleting, and door to door canvassing. Please contact me if you can help—janestan@bellsouth.net or phone 904 208 1341.

We are also asking members to use Facebook and Twitter to promote these fine candidates. And we are sharing our endorsements with the League of Conservation Voters, League of Women Voters and Riverkeeper to help you be a more informed voter.

Please "like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter. Then share our posts with your friends to expand our reach to other undecided voters.

Contributions to our Political Action Committee (PAC): These donations pay for communicating our endorsements to the public and possible candidate donations.

There are two ways to donate:

- Go to the "donate" button on our website, <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida/donate>. In the "notes," specify POLITICAL DONATION, and include your name, address, and occupation—we need this to comply with election law.
- Mail a check payable to Sierra Club Florida PAC; Address: Sierra Club; 6028 Chester Ave, Suite 103; Jacksonville Florida 32217. Include your name, address and occupation.

## Great meetings in the months ahead

The club has a fascinating set of meetings set for the fall and winter. They are free and open to all.

- **Wednesday, Oct. 3**, in Ponte Vedra. Erin Handy, an Oceana activist, discusses the threats to Florida's coastlines, marine wildlife, tourism and fishing industries posed by of seismic testing and offshore drilling near our coasts. She will outline the actions we can take to negate these threats. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. in the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library, 101 Library Blvd.

- **Monday, Nov. 19**, at UNF, the woes of green slime and red tide top the discussion. Cris Costello, a Sierra Club staffer, will present the facts about the problem and what can be done about it. Meet in room 1088 at the The Adam Herbert University Center, UNF. A social time starts at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting starts at 7 p.m. The address is 12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville.

- **Monday, Dec. 3**, in Ponte Vedra, Bill Armstrong, our club's outings chair, will speak on his eight-day hiking trip this summer along the Hadrian's Wall Path in England. Hadrian's Wall was a defensive fortification in the Roman province of Britannia. It was started in A.D. 122 in the reign of Emperor Hadrian and was the northern limit of the Roman Empire. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The program will be held in the Clubhouse of the Ocean Grove Condominiums at 1, Arbor Club Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 32082. For information, write to Brian Paradise at [bgparadise@comcast.net](mailto:bgparadise@comcast.net).



City sights at a brisk pace. See the article on page 1. (Photo by Logan Cross)

## Outings: Paddling, hiking in September

Note: To see a full outing description and to RSVP see our website or our Meetup site:

- <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida/get-outdoors>
- <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group>

Outings are free (except for any park fees) and open to all. Some outings require a greater level of fitness and skill than others. No pets or firearms allowed on outings. Outing participants are required to sign a waiver and release of liability at the start of the outing. A link to the waiver can be found at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida/get-outdoors>

**Saturday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m.** Kayak Thomas Creek. We'll paddle for a total of about six miles on the beautiful Thomas Creek on the northside.

**Saturday, Oct. 20, 9 a.m.** Hike the Florida Trail in the Ocala National Forest. We'll hike for about 7.5 miles from Rodman Dam to Lake Delancy.

**Tuesday, Oct. 23, 8 a.m.** Hike North Fork Black Creek Loop at Jennings State Forest. Join us for this weekday hike exploring the hills, woods, and streams of Jennings State Forest.

**Saturday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m.** Hike Etoniah Creek State Forest. Come hike with us through the beautiful Etoniah Creek State Forest west of Palatka.

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**Land trust protects huge tract in Clay County**

North Florida Land Trust has acquired two conservation easements in Clay County, the group said in an announcement. The two properties totaling 2,551 acres will now be protected from high intensity development and will serve as a buffer for the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The Army National Guard funded the \$8 million purchase.



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 Member Services, 2101 Webster St.,  
 Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612 or go  
 to [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our advocacy and lobbying efforts. Contributions to The Sierra Club Foundation and Environmental Law Program are tax-deductible.

**Group’s fund raiser/social set for Oct. 16**

Time is running out to get your tickets for the Sierra Club fundraiser and social on Tuesday, Oct. 16, featuring Madison Carr, a Jacksonville singer and songwriter who is also a Sierra Club member and activist.

It will be held at the Mudville Grille, 3105 Beach Blvd, at the intersection of Beach and Atlantic boulevards.

The doors open at 6 p.m. for happy hour. The concert starts at 7 p.m. Advance tickets for the fundraiser are \$10 per person; the price is \$12 per person payable at the door on the night of the performance, subject to seating availability.

Mudville offers food and drinks at reasonable prices. If you want to eat before the concert, arrive when the doors open or shortly thereafter.

To buy advance tickets, send your check for \$10 per person to Brian Paradise, 13 Arbor Club Drive, # 315, Ponte Vedra Beach. FL. 32082.

Make your check payable to Brian Paradise, a Sierra Club executive committee member and organizer of the event.

The ticket price at the door is \$12. The concert last year was well attended and early reservations are recommended.

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