

## Club hosts concert, raffle; good times for all on Oct. 16

Our club is hosting a fundraiser and social on Wednesday, Oct. 16, featuring Jacksonville singer, songwriter, and Sierra Club activist Madison Carr.

We're also going to raffle off some top-quality outdoor gear, including a tent and a Coleman stove.

But you have to be there to win.

The venue is Mudville Grille, 3105 Beach Blvd., near the intersection of Beach and Atlantic boulevards. doors open at 6 p.m., with a happy hour until 7 p.m. when the music starts.

Come early to see old friends and meet new ones. Everyone is welcome.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Reserve your ticket by sending a check for \$12 per person, payable to Northeast Florida Group, Sierra Club. Send your check to Brian Paradise at 13 Arbor Club Drive, # 315, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

Madison Carr grew up in a small town atmosphere. Her music—she accompanies herself on the guitar and harmonica—reflects that idyllic setting.

Mudville Grille offers a nice selection of food and drinks (including vegetarian choices) at modest prices. Proceeds from the concert will go to environmental projects of our local Sierra Club, including the Sierra Student Coalition.



*YUCK! Some of the beach trash collected in the service project (Photos by Sharon Sherkin)*

## Beach trash makes eco point

More than 50 people gathered at the Jacksonville Beach pier on a bright Saturday morning to help clean up the beach.

They didn't have much trouble finding a bunch of stuff left by the beach-goers—including plastics of all kinds and lots of cigarette butts.

The event was sponsored by the Northeast Florida Sierra group and by Sea

Shepherd. The group plans to send photos of the trash to state and local officials along with a letter urging them to support a bill in the next session of the state legislature to ban plastic straws, a main source of the litter that appears on the beach.

Candy Rue, a local Sierra board member and one of the organizers, said she hopes this service project and similar ones will become monthly events.

## Gate withdraws Outpost housing plan

A Gate Corp. subsidiary seeking to develop about 90 acres of land that had been designated for conservation abruptly pulled out of a scheduled Sept. 17 St. Johns County hearing on the project and announced it was withdrawing its application.

The development's opponents, led by a group called Save Guana Now, said it was a tentative victory. An earlier hearing drew an overflow crowd of opponents, and the cancelled hearing promised to be even more crowded as thousands of emails,

(See GATE UNIT on page 2)

# Who we are

## Executive Committee

(This group meets at 6:30 pm on the third Monday of the month at the Southside regional library, off Gate Parkway. Meetings are open to all.)

### Chair

Janet Stanko  
janestan@bellsouth.net

**Treasurer** Lucille Pendleton  
LucillePen@yahoo.com

### Members

Cindy Baker  
cindysbaker@gmail.com

Robert Blade  
rmlblade@gmail.com

Logan Cross  
jlogancross3@gmail.com

Barbara Gubbin  
gubbin01@gmail.com

John Pilecki  
johnpilecki@gmail.com

Joel Roberts  
joelroberts@me.com

Lisa Williams  
lisaow@gmail.com

### Committee chairs

### Conservation

Volunteer! Call 904.990-3191

### Environmental Education

Julianne Mammana  
jmm094@bucknell.edu

### Outings

Bill Armstrong  
armstrongjax@att.net

**Legislative.** Volunteer! Call 904.990.3191

### Legal

Ken Wright  
ken@jacobsonwright.com

### Newsletter

Robert Blade  
rmlblade@gmail.com

### Website

Bill Armstrong  
armstrongjax@att.net

### Beaches Programs

Brian Paradise  
bgparadise@comcast.net

### Jacksonville Programs

Cindy Baker  
cindysbaker@gmail.com



Outpost land, the light gray area near the bottom, bordered by water and the Guana preserve (Google maps)

## Gate unit withdraws Outpost development; but vigilance needed

(Continued from first page)

letters-to-the-editor, and full-page ads appeared opposing it. “We won the battle,” Nicole Crosby and Gary Coulliette, the co-founders of Save Guana Now, said in a statement. But, they added, vigilance is needed because the Ponte Vedra Corp. reserved the right to reapply.

The Gate-owned land, known as the Outpost, is next to the state-owned Guana Preserve. It has been used as a retreat area for Gate officials and their friends, but the conservation restriction in place since 1990, has kept it from being developed.

When Gate announced that its subsidiary Ponte Vedra Corp. was planning to develop the area by building 66 high-end homes, the opposition organized: the land was part of a fragile ecosystem that demanded protection; Gate was trying to change the rules by changing the conservation designation; St. Johns County was already awash in high-end houses.

More details and updates are available at the website [saveguananow.org](http://saveguananow.org).

## UNF meeting features film on ocean trash

Our club has a great lineup of meetings ahead, featuring this month a documentary and commentary at UNF. All are welcome.

Here’s the listing:

**Oct. 14, Monday,** 7 p.m., at UNF’s University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive, room 1088. Free parking at the center. This is a special Sierra meeting exploring plastic hazards with a marine biologist and featuring a documentary film, *The Smog of the Sea*.

Go here for a preview: [youtube.com/watch?v=jXURG3meS-Q](https://youtube.com/watch?v=jXURG3meS-Q).

The meeting is a joint meeting of our club’s two program groups, the Beaches and Lakewood. Everyone is welcome. University of Florida marine biologist Maia McGuire will lead the discussion after the film and will return for our January meeting.

**Dec. 2,** at the Ponte Vedra library, a fascinating program on sea level rise. Details will be announced.

**Jan. 13, 2020,** Monday, at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd W, Jacksonville, in the rear of the education building. Dr. McGuire, who was featured at the October meeting, returns to lead a full discussion on microplastics in the ocean. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.; the program starts at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**May 11,** Monday, at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd W in Jacksonville, in the rear of the education building. Josh Gellers, a UNF associate professor of political science, will speak on “Human Rights and the Environment: Origins, Impacts, and New Directions.” He will explore different human rights approaches to environmental protection. Social time starts at 6:30 p.m. The program starts at 7 p.m. All are welcome.





## Save on taxes, help our group with IRA gift

By LUCILLE PENDLETON

With the new higher Standard Deduction on the 1040 tax return, many seniors are not itemizing deductions anymore and contributions to charitable organizations are forgotten.

But many seniors want to support conservation programs like Sierra's. What's the solution? Your IRA!

After age 70½, you are required to withdraw some of your IRA savings each year—the Required Minimum Distribution. You can pay taxes on this money if you want—it may even push you into a higher tax bracket.

OR you can contribute all or part of the minimum distribution to a 501(c)(3) charity like the Sierra Club Foundation.

It's called a Qualified Charitable Distribution. It means you won't be taxed on the donated amount and you can still claim the Standard Deduction. Best of all, you will be supporting the important activities of the Sierra Club Foundation.

It's easy: just tell your IRA custodian or financial trustee to send the QCD funds directly to the Sierra Club Foundation, 2101 Webster St., Ste 1300, Oakland, CA 94612.

If you note that the contribution should benefit the NE Florida Club, then the funds will be directed to local conservation efforts.

*(Lucille Pendleton is a Certified Public Accountant and the Northeast Florida group's treasurer.)*

## October outings offer fun for all

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

- Website:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeastflorida/get-outdoors>

- Meetup:

<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.

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>

**Sunday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.** Explore the New Bogey Creek Preserve; Continue with an Optional Cedar Point Preserve Hike, We'll explore the new Bogey Creek Preserve, acquired through donations from the community and developed into a preserve by the North Florida Land Trust (NFLT). NFLT will give us a briefing on the project and take us on a short, one mile hike. This is an excellent opportunity for those who only want to do a short hike to get out into this beautiful area. For those who want to take a longer hike, after our Bogey Creek experience, we will drive down to nearby Cedar Point Preserve for about a 5 mile hike.

**Tuesday, Oct. 8, Saturday, Oct. 12, 9:15 a.m.** Kayak Trout Creek. We will paddle up Trout Creek about 3 miles and back.

**Saturday, Oct. 12, 9 a.m.:** Fitness hike, Jennings State Forest Pioneer Trail, part 2. This outing will take place in Jennings State Forest. It will be a 5 to 8 mile hike. We will hike at a very brisk pace, so this is best suited to seasoned hikers who prefer a faster pace and longer distance.

**Saturday, Oct. 19, 3:15 p.m.** Osceola Sunset Hike. Hike the Florida National Scenic Trail through Osceola Forest from OluStee Battleground to Ocean Pond, where we will have dinner and watch the sunset. Bring your own food for dinner—coolers can be kept in the cars we stage at Ocean Pond. Grills and picnic tables are available at Ocean Pond.

**Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 a.m.:** Hike the Florida Trail in the Ocala National Forest. We'll hike about 7.5 miles from Rodman Dam to Lake Delancy. [Floridahikes.com](http://Floridahikes.com) describes this hike: "One of the most awe-inspiring sections of the Florida Trail ... (it) immerses you into longleaf pine forests that seem to go on forever ... the Florida Trail through this area is simply superb." I agree; it's beautiful!

—BILL ARMSTRONG, outings director

## Group vote moves to electronic format

Our annual election for members of the Executive Committee is coming up, and we're going to make electronic voting an option we hope you will find convenient.

In the past, our club voted for new

excom members mailing in a paper ballot from the December newsletter. The process was marked by low participation.

While mail-in ballots will still be available to those who want to vote that way, this year we are including electronic voting where members will receive an

email enabling them to vote online. There will be a process to identify the unlikely situation where a member votes both ways.

The excom is a nine-member panel that serves as the governing board of our group. Members serve for two years and are eligible for re-election.

# Sierra Club, Northeast Florida Group



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

## Website

sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida

## Facebook

facebook.com/NEFLSierraClub/

## Twitter

twitter.com/NEFLSierraClub

**Note:** To change your mailing address or to change from paper to email, write to sierrasentry@gmail.com. Please include your membership number found on the mailing label.

**Your essays,** opinions, poetry, and photos are welcome as long as they relate to our mantra of enjoy, explore, and protect the environment. Send submissions, queries, and ideas to rmlblade@gmail.com.



## Join the Sierra Club and receive a free Insulated Cooler Tote!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership level

Individual	Joint
___ Introductory \$15	___ \$49
___ Regular \$39	___ \$100
___ Supporting \$75	___ \$1,250
___ Life \$1000	___ \$35
___ Student \$25	___ \$35
___ Senior \$25	___ \$35
___ Limited Income \$25	___ \$175
___ Contributing \$150	

**Pay:** AMEX: \_\_\_ MasterCard: \_\_\_  
 Visa: \_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form to:** Sierra Club  
 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.

## Hurricane prep: Bottle your own water

Sierra Club activist Linda Bremer had just read about Nestlé's huge water grab at Ginnie Springs, not far from Gainesville, when the warning signs for Hurricane Dorian had folks running to their grocery stores to stock up.

Linda was among them. But at the store where she shopped, and presumably at stores everywhere, they were pushing the sales of hundreds of plastic bottles of water.

In her local store, Linda said, they parked the bottles in a giant stack by the

store entrance with staff standing there to promote the sales.

"They seemed insulted when I thanked them but told them I would bottle my own water using tap water and a clean gallon milk jug," she said.

"Lesson learned: looming disasters cause people to react mindlessly and to fall back on wasteful old habits or to listen to trusted sources telling them what to do." We in the Sierra Club can't overlook educating those "trusted sources."

## Notes from the chair: the political process needs you

By JANET STANKO

This is a scary and an exciting time! I am so gratified with the coverage the environment is getting in the media.

From climate change rallies to Nestlé's water supply suck at Ginnie Springs to all kinds of single use plastics issues, we have never had a better time to make our voices and environmental protection demands heard.

But democracy is work. And we need your help. As attention is turning to the actions of state and local legislators, we need to bolster our relationships with these people. We started this process last winter

with training for meetings with legislators and for lobby day.

Now we want to use the off session time to continue that relationship and further educate our legislators.

In August, we did a webinar session to prepare our volunteers to meet with our Florida senators and representatives.

We will also look at working with federal and local officials.

If you missed the training and are interested in finding out more, contact me at [janestan@bellsouth.net](mailto:janestan@bellsouth.net) for the details.

*(Janet Stanko is the chair of the Northeast Florida Sierra group.)*