

Take Action to Stop the Hunting of the Florida Black Bear

By: Brian Paradise

The State of Florida is moving to overturn a 20-year-old ban on the hunting of the Florida Black Bear. From a high population of 12,000 to a current 3,000 the State's largest mammal has been driven from most of its habitat. To protect the bear the State Legislature banned its hunting in 1994. However in 2012 the State cancelled the bears "Threatened" status to open the door to the hunting of the bear.

At its February 4 meeting in Jacksonville the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) strongly indicated that it would allow hunting at a future meeting. Their rationale appears to be that there have been bear-human encounters and conflicts in recent years which appear to have resulted, in large part, from bears being attracted to food being left out in the open by humans.

The Sierra Club opposes the hunting of black bears and continues to support the current FWC policy of capturing or euthanizing bears that pose a threat to human safety. The FWC Florida black bear management plan highlights the specific goal of reducing human-bear conflicts, which the Sierra Club supports. The Sierra Club believes that there are several ways that human-bear conflicts can be reduced without the need for the re-opening of the hunting. The Sierra Club also supports county-level ordinances to require bear proofing of waste, and recycling receptacles and waste disposal systems, and an increased enforcement of current laws which prohibit the feeding of black bears.

Actions that you can take:

Call the FWC Commissioners at 850-487-3796 and tell them not to allow hunting.

Send comments opposing hunting to FWC Commissioners on-line by clicking on ;

<http://myfwc.com/contact/fwc-staff/senior-staff/contact-commissioners/>

For further information email Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net



Florida Black Bear

Want to be a Sierra Club Outings Leader?

Brian Paradise, Outings Chair will be holding an hour-long class on becoming an Outings Leaders at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11 in the Clubhouse of the Ocean Grove Condominiums, 1 Arbor Club Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082. Please reserve your place in the class by e mailing Brian at bgparadise@comcast.net

NE Florida Sierra Club Website Redesign

Our Sierra Club Northeast Group website has recently undergone a redesign. With the redesign, we have a new web address: <http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida>. Our site is now compatible with all electronic devices - PC's, tablets, and phones. Our updated design is cleaner and easier to use to find the information you need. Links to our activity calendar, programs, outings, and newsletters are easy to find.

The Home page includes a "What's Happening" area that lists meetings, rallies, and events of immediate concern. You'll find an Action Alerts section listing actions you can take to help protect our environment. Under the "Keep Informed" section, you'll find information on our upcoming programs and links to recent environmental news. "Get Outdoors" contains information on our outings.

Throughout, there are links to our Facebook and Meetup sites and the Florida website and news blog. There are also news feeds on national issues from our national Sierra Club. Check us out at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/northeast-florida>.

Executive Committee

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Committee Chairs

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Environmental Education	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
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Membership	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
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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 outing can be found there with easy access to programs and interactions.
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.: Historic Walking Tour of St Augustine

This walking tour will take you on an approximately 3.5-mile journey and cover great deal of St Augustine's most important historic sites and dates. Everything from St Augustine's discovery by Ponce de Leon, to its first settlement by Don Pedro de Menendez, to the role Henry Flagler played in making it a tourist destination, to the significant role St. Augustine played in the Civil Rights movement will be covered. Don't miss this great—and free—opportunity to explore one of America's most unique destinations! The tour begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. from the gazebo in the middle of Plaza Constitution (<http://tinyurl.com/n9qed32>), and there is a limit of 20 people. RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with Outing Leader Ken Fisher at 904-210-7765 / kpf1965@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 7, 2015, 10:00 a.m.: Hike Stokes Landing

This three-mile easy hike through beautiful old oaks with several opportunities to view the marsh and Tolomato River. Stokes Landing is located just north of the St Augustine airport. Bring water, snacks, and bug-spray. Please arrive 15 minutes early so we can get started on time. There are no restrooms at the trailhead, so plan accordingly. Children capable of hiking 3 miles are welcome, but please no pets. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. See More/Files in Meetup for a trail map. After the hike, we could go to the King's Head Pub for some bangers and mash, fish and chips, Guinness beer, etc. You must RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.: Hike Ravine Gardens State Park

Don't miss amazing Ravine Gardens State Park! This park is beautiful this time of year due to about 100,000 azalea plants in bloom; be sure to bring your camera. Our hiking distance will be approximately four miles over moderately challenging terrain, which winds around trees and curves and has elevation changes. There is a \$4.00 fee for single-occupant vehicles and \$5.00 for vehicles with two to eight people. We will meet in the parking lot and go from there. Please bring bug spray, sunglasses and water. Children are welcome, but please keep in mind this is a somewhat challenging hike. Finally, please bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the hike. There is a very nice picnic area adjacent to the parking lot where we can relax and discuss the hike, life or whatever you want! RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with Outing Leader Ken Fisher at 904-210-7765 / kpf1965@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 28, 10 .00 a.m.: Explore Tree Hill Nature Center

Explore this special nature preserve in the center of Jacksonville with its 50 acres, walking trails, nature exhibits and three ecosystems. Take a short walk on easy trails, then learn about the Center's varied natural history and ecology from Mark Mummaw, a naturalist who is also the Executive Director of the Preserve. Afterwards visit the wide variety of nature exhibits. Please bring insect repellent, sun tan lotion and water and lunch if you want to picnic. Children are very welcome. No pets please. Meet in the parking lot of the Center at 7152 Lone Star Road, Jacksonville 32211. Admission fees are \$4 for adults, \$3 for Seniors/College/Military and \$2 for children 3-17. There is no fee for children under 3. Sign up on Meetup or with Outing Leader Brian Paradise at bparadise@comcast.net. (904) 710-0479

" Your Time...To Conserve Water...is Now"

By: Ken Fisher, Sierra Club Outing Leader

Okay folks, last month I discussed ways to cut electricity use, so this month it only makes sense to focus on water conservation. Spring is upon us, meaning many of you will need water for your yards and gardens. I will focus on a couple outdoor areas to conserve water as well as several in the home. Let's start with outside:

Rain Barrel: Rather than always using the hose to water plant beds, flowers and your veggie garden, consider using a rain barrel. I hooked one up to our gutter, it holds about 60 gallons and there is almost always enough in for any watering task.

Sprinkler System: Make sure all your sprinklers heads are working correctly and only run the system on days you are permitted AND if it's needed: All too often I see sprinklers running either while it's raining or just after or before...pay attention!

Moving inside the home, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

Rinsing Dishes: This one is especially annoying when you are getting ready to put dishes into the dishwasher. I see people with the faucet on full speed, many times when they aren't even at the sink, just wasting water. I get it if you have to rinse a little off the dishes, but for the most part the dishwasher will do the job just fine.

Showers & Baths: We all love a long hot shower or bath from time to time...okay all the time...but it wastes a ton of precious water and electricity due to the water heater keeping your supply hot. Also, when the shower water is on, don't run it all full pressure.

Brushing Teeth & Shaving: Anything you do at the bathroom sink really doesn't require the sink to be running the whole time. Brushing teeth, shaving and pretty much anything else can each be done with about eight ounces of water; think about this the next time you are in the bathroom.

Toilet Bowl Valve: These get old and leak and sometimes the flapper gets stuck open. Sure it's only a little water, but boy does it add up quickly! I paid about \$100 when my toilet kept running while out of town for the weekend a while back...ugh! If you hear your toilet running for a few seconds every once in a while, get it fixed.

This is the third month for this column. Perhaps you have some feedback about the suggestions? I know you also have some great ideas of your own? Share your feedback! Please submit it, along with your first name and area of town you in to yourtimeisnow-jax@gmail.com, and I'll include as much as I can next month.

March for Ocean Justice in St. Augustine on Saturday, March 7

On March 7, the Environmental Youth Council will hold a "March for Ocean Justice" to march through the streets to urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and President Obama to reverse the decision to open the Atlantic Coast to seismic blasting and off shore drilling for oil and gas. The march will start on the East Side of the Bridge of Lions (not the downtown side) at noon and will go over the Bridge, through the downtown plaza to the area in front of the Lightner Museum and City Hall for a Press Conference.

St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver and the City of St. Augustine will host the Press Conference starting at 12.30 p.m.

All are welcome to join the march.

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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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Outing leader Brian Paradise presenting Ken Fisher with the prestigious Otter Award at Fort George Island on February 14.

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IF YOU WANT BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ELECT BETTER OFFICIALS

How many times have we heard that statement? Well it's true and we, and our candidates, need your help in a) getting the word out; b) campaigning; and c) contributions. Go to the candidate websites to contribute. Democracy is not a spectator sport. As in the November election, we will campaign at libraries during early voting. It is very effective to talk to people as they go in to vote and very gratifying to inform and interact with voters. These are manageable two hour time slots. You will be partnered with an experienced campaigner. Contact Janet Stanko to volunteer janestan@bellsouth.net or 904 208 1341.

SIERRA CLUB ENDORSED CANDIDATES

We are proud to announce our endorsements for City Council. Please go to their websites to learn more and to donate. Absentee ballots are already out. Early voting starts March 9th-22nd. First Election is March 24th. This is NOT a primary, and many if not most elections will be determined during this first election. If no candidate gets 50% +1, then the top two vote getters go to the Second Election.



John Crescimbeni, At-Large, Group 2 Everyone in Jacksonville can vote for At-Large City Council elections candidates. John is running for a second full term on the City Council. (He also served from 1991-1999 and was reelected in 2008 to fill the unexpired term of former Council member Jay Jabour who resigned.) John has 14+ years of experience on the City Council spanning two separate stints in office. Website: <http://johnforcitycouncil.com/>

- After leaving the Council in 1999, John co-founded Citizens for Tree Preservation and led the petition drive to place the successful Tree Preservation Amendment on the November 2000 ballot and has worked to reduce litter and visual pollution in our community.
- As a member of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission and the St. Johns Riverkeeper, John is a long-standing opponent of the St. Johns Water management District's decisions to allow Central Florida to continue to siphon off millions of gallons of river water each day in order to validate more development.
- As a fiscal conservative who is known for always doing his homework and for his critical independent thinking, John understands the relationship between growth and development and higher costs to taxpayers. As such, he takes a pragmatic view of prospective development in Jacksonville and reflects that in his voting decisions.
- He supports the work being done by state leaders and the formation of the St. Johns River Caucus. He is also supportive of a dedicated funding source for an Everglades-style clean-up of the St. Johns River, and has pledged the support of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission to help.
- John has been instrumental in expanding Jacksonville's residential recycling to a single stream and is very enthusiastic about later stage enhancements to the program that could include multifamily and commercial customers.
- John was a major supporter of the 1987 charter amendment to ban billboards in Jacksonville and remains opposed to any further rollback of limits on billboards
- Regarding the Mobility Fee (which makes developers pay for development related road enhancements), he has stated that he will not favor any additional moratoria on the mobility fee.

Political Ad Paid for by Sierra Club Northeast Florida and Approved by John Crescimbeni for City Council At-Large, Group 2



Melody Shacter, District 1: Arlington including zip codes in 32211, 32277, & the 32207 area north of Atlantic Blvd from the Hart bridge to University Blvd. Melody is running for her first term with no incumbent. Website: VoteShacter.com

- As a residential builder of net-zero energy efficient homes in Springfield, Melody recognizes the value of urban infill and renewal to Arlington and is focused on re-development, rather than urban sprawl.
- She supports the Mobility Fee and would not support another moratorium.
- She does not support fracking and would vote against underwater oceanic oil testing.
- She believes climate change, clean food, clean water, preserving public land are all important.
- Melody supports funding for bike/ped initiatives. Her son left Jacksonville because of the lack of cycling capability for basic transportation. Part of her platform is more effective, efficient mass transportation. She has been participating in the "Renew Arlington" initiative for making University Boulevard and Merrill Road more walkable and bikeable including "softening" the landscape.
- She supports many civic organization, including City Beautiful Jax- Board member, and Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens- Development Committee member. She is well known in the community and her run for City Council is an extension and next step from actions she has already undertaken. You can read more about Melody Shacter at VoteShacter.com. If you would like to volunteer in her campaign please call her at 904-465-2104.

Political Ad Paid for by Sierra Club Northeast Florida and Approved by Melody Shacter for City Council District 1



Lisa King, District 2: Northeast Duval County, east of North Main Street: Zipcode 32218 (partial) and 32226 (all), also parts of East Arlington/Fort Caroline: Zipcode 32225 (partial). Lisa is running for her first term with no incumbent. Website: kingforcouncil2.com

- She has served as vice president of Friends of the St. Johns River Ferry for 15 years, and board member for the Timucuan Trail Parks Foundation. Through her involvement with Friends of the St Johns River Ferry and the Heckscher Drive Community Club, she wrote the successful grant applications that funded the ferry Pavilion building and Heckscher Drive town Center. She currently serves as: Vice Chair on the Jacksonville Planning Commission.
- Lisa differentiates between sustainable growth and short term profit growth. Lisa does not support growth in the sense of destroying land to build a strip mall that will create minimum wage jobs and bring profits to only a handful of people. Growth should be managed by revisiting the vision plans.
- She opposes moratoria on collecting the mobility fee on new development.
- Lisa supports legislation to fund sidewalks and street crossings throughout the city, especially on dangerous streets and near schools.
- She opposes seismic air gun testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. Lisa is very concerned about the harmful effects these activities will have on tourism.

Political Ad Paid for by Sierra Club Northeast Florida and Approved by Lisa King for City Council District 2



Lori Boyer, District 5: San Marco including zipcodes in 32217, 32216, 32211, 32207, 32257

Lori is the incumbent running for her second term. She sought our endorsement prior to the end of qualifying but was unopposed and will thus not appear on the ballot. Having received our endorsement, we provide the following for informational purposes. She has a reputation for doing her homework for city Council, and as a result she has the respect of her fellow council members. She reports that it is not a part-time job and she spends innumerable hours reading documentation and positions, which reflects her preparedness and critical thinking.

- She feels growth doesn't pay for itself because of the infrastructure required. Infill development and reinvigoration of old shopping centers and apartment complexes within the already developed infrastructure instead of new development in sprawl areas is important to reduce added infrastructure costs.
- Lori supports restricting septic tanks near waterways.
- She opposes another mobility fee moratorium and other concessions or incentives for development.
- She supports pedestrian and bike friendly features must be improved in existing neighborhoods.
- Lori advocated for use of storm water fee to improve water quality, not just purchase credits

Political Ad Paid for by Sierra Club Northeast Florida and Approved by Lori Boyer for City Council District 5



Connie Benham, District 6: Mandarin 32223, 32257, 32258. Connie is challenging Matt Schellenberg who is running for his second term. Facebook Connie Benham for Mandarin

- Connie regularly attends City Council meetings and is profoundly knowledgeable about the issues affecting the city of Jacksonville, FL.
- She opposes any Mobility Fee moratorium.
- She understands the comprehensive planning process and the relationship between sprawl development and costs to taxpayers. She wants to make growth pay for itself.
- She has lead opposition to inappropriate development in Mandarin.
- Connie supports funding for parks and recreation, as well as bike and pedestrian walkway linkages in Mandarin.

Political Ad Paid for by Sierra Club Northeast Florida and Approved by Connie Benham for City Council District 6

Jim Love, District 14: Riverside, Ortega, Avondale, stretching all the way to Argyle area bordering Clay county, running for his 2nd term



- Jim supports funding for bike-ped walkways, and requiring new neighborhoods to complete internal sidewalks and where practical, connect sidewalks and walkways where gaps exist.
- He opposes any extension of the Mobility Fee moratorium.
- One of his campaign platforms is to protect the St. Johns River. He thinks we should continue working to reduce pollution including septic tanks, through education and enforcement of current laws.
- He wants to fight efforts in counties south of us to siphon off millions of gallons of river water.
- Jim is open to learning about and working with Sierra Club on issues like climate change and seismic airgun blasting. Through his business in property insurance, he is sensitive to impacts of sea level rise on buildings and infrastructure in Jacksonville.
- As chair of the Waterways Commission, he is open to bring discussion of related issues to that body.
- He introduced a resolution opposing the issuance of the Georgia-Pacific (GP) wastewater discharge permit until all outstanding questions have been answered, including those regarding dioxin.

Political Ad Paid for by Sierra Club Northeast Florida and Approved by Jim Love for City Council District 14

Meeting Calendar

Monday, March 2 @ 6pm

PV Program

PV Beach Library

Monday, March 9 @ 6:30pm

JAX Program

Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001

University Blvd W

Wednesday March 18- 6:30pm

Combined ExCom and Conservation
Committee Meeting

6850 Belfort Oaks Road, Jacksonville

*"But in every walk with
Nature one receives far
more than he seeks."
-John Muir*



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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

March 2, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Cycling & Camping in Iceland

We will host a presentation by Melody Shacter on her family of five's adventure in Iceland during the summer of 2013. She will show digital photos from the trip and share their experiences while biking and camping around the island of Iceland for a month. Their objective was to bike and camp about 400 miles of the ring road in Iceland, which would include taking a bus and renting a car for part of the trip. Melody spent about 5 months dehydrating meals. They purchased gear and supplies, and planned each leg in as much detail as they could. It really was the trip of a lifetime. They even set up a blog to share the experience, where you can read and see some of the pictures at bikingiceland.tumblr.com

*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).*

Jacksonville Program

March 9, 2015 @ 6:30pm

We will host Lassie Lee, Master Gardener. Lassie will speak about gardening with native plants that benefit wildlife.

March 9th, Lakewood Presbyterian Church @ 6:30pm

