

Not a Small World After All: Disney World Expansion Larger than Proposed

By: Julianne Mammana

Last year, Walt Disney World bought Mira Lago, a 3,000-acre property located in the Southeast, with intent to restore it in exchange for the 350 acres of wetlands that they hoped to develop. As it turns out, 350 acres was just not enough for the long-term growth plan established by Disney's consultants. Developers are currently requesting 575 wetland acres to develop over the next 30 years.

In a document addressed to the South Florida Water Management District, Disney's representatives claim that "additional planning and a more comprehensive analysis" of their blueprints have influenced the need for more acreage. This plan includes all aspects of future expansion of the theme park for the next 30 years, including the development of the park attractions, service areas, and parking lots. Disney claims that these expansions are necessary due to increasing attendance growth and driving demand.



Over the past two decades, the Disney Corporation has increased development at its park with additions such as the town of Celebration and Disney's Animal Kingdom Park. These additions have destroyed the same amount of wetland acreage that the park is requesting for its future development projects. Although, the corporation claims that they will try to develop outside the wetlands as much as possible, it is clearly evident that many negative externalities will come with this project.

"Of the 575 acres that Disney now wants to add, 241 are currently under conservation easements. The district's governing board will vote on removing those easements next month." There have also been considerations to build up to 4,000 homes on Mira Lago despite Environmentalists' warnings that such development would hinder controlled burns and disrupt migration patterns for certain species.

Adapted from Orlando Sentinel article by Sandra Pedicini

Executive Committee Elections

The annual election for our Group's Executive Committee (ExCom) is coming. If you want to recommend a nominee (maybe yourself?), contact Ed Schlessinger (Phone 904 730 8148, email: Eds.greenmail@gmail.com) to submit a name for consideration by Nominating Committee

- or -

The bylaws provide that a nominee may be placed on the ballot if a willing group member is proposed in writing by at least 30 Group members prior to the submission deadline. If you would like to petition, please gather the signatures and submit them by November 30 to Ed Schlessinger at 6028 Chester Avenue, Suite 103, Jacksonville 32217.

Executive Committee

Janet Stanko, Chair	208-1341 janestan@bellsouth.net
Gabe Hanson, Vice-Chair	992-9743 gabehanson@yahoo.com
Tom Larson	247-1876 TCLarson168@msn.com
Ed Schlessinger, Treasurer	730-8148 eds.greenmail@gmail.com
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Ken Wright	ken@jacobsonwright.com
Lisa Williams	388-6357 LisaOW@gmail.com
Carolyn Cooper	CKCooper51@gmail.com
Jake Fitzroy	Jake.fitzroy@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Environmental Education	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Publicity	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Outings	Bill Armstrong armstrongjax@att.net
Legislative	Gabe Hanson gabehanson@yahoo.com
Legal	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Membership	Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876
Newsletter	Julianne Mammana jmm094@bucknell.edu
Programs Ponte Vedra	Larry Lickenbrock larr2604@hotmail.com
Website	Bill Armstrong armstrongjax@att.net
Programs, Duval	Janet Larson & Pauline Berkeley JCLarson168@msn.com 247-1876

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, November 7, 8:00 a.m.: Hike Crosby Sanctuary

Join us for a joint hike with the Duval Audubon Society to explore Crosby Sanctuary in Orange Park. Owned by Duval Audubon Society, this limited access 510 acre nature preserve is home to a full biodiversity of native plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. This special place, now included in conservation lands mapping by Clay County and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, provides respite amidst a busy, congested backdrop of human dominated landscapes. We'll hike for about two hours through the wetlands and oak hammock. It's a great time of year - not too extreme on the weather and right in the middle of bird migration, so there will be lots to see. Bring binoculars for some bird watching (some binoculars will be available if you don't have any). Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and bug spray. You must RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

Parking is VERY limited! Form carpools on Meetup.

Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak Beautiful Haw Creek

Haw Creek winds through a cypress wilderness. We'll put in at Russell's Landing in the Haw Creek Preserve and paddle east for 3-4 miles and return. Bring a picnic lunch. We'll eat lunch in the covered picnic area, then stroll down the one-mile boardwalk through the preserve after our paddle. Russell's Landing is located at the end of County Road 207 in Flagler County. Bring your own kayak or canoe. PFD and whistle are required. Bring bug repellent and water. You must RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, December 5, 9.00 a.m.: Learning to Track Wildlife at Guana Research Reserve (GTMNERR)

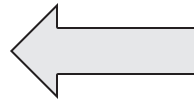
Learn to recognize wildlife tracks in Guana with Jake Fitzroy. Jake was a Park Ranger in Guana and is currently the Coordinator of Environmental Education at UNF. Jake also has a degree in wildlife ecology. We'll walk about 4 miles as we learn to identify tracks. Please meet at 9.00 a.m. at the trail head for the Guana trails which is about 200 yards beyond the dam. Address: 505 Guana River Rd., Ponte Vedra, FL 32082, Ponte Vedra, FL. Please bring lunch and water. Limit of 25 participants. Children welcome as long as they can walk 4 miles. No pets please. There is a \$3 entrance fee to Guana if you don't have a pass. RSVP on Meetup or to Outings Leader Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net.

Sunday, December 6, 2015, 10:00 am: Hike Little Talbot Island State Park

The Little Talbot Island State Park hiking trail is a 4-mile loop trail that offers the chance to see wildlife and sea life and is good for all skill levels. The first half of the hike is on a beautifully wooded trail with some minor elevation changes. Soon you will see sand dunes, then you'll hear the roar of the ocean, and finally we will be on the beach! The second part of the hike consists of walking on the beach back to the starting point. Bring a picnic lunch for after the hike, or we can go eat lunch at the Sandollar Restaurant near the Mayport Ferry. Please join the outing for fellowship and walk with nature. The park's address is 12157 Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32226. We will meet in the parking lot just past the ranger station, around the bend, on the left. Please note the park's entrance fees of \$5.00 per multi-occupant vehicle and \$4.00 single occupant vehicle. Suggest bringing water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat; kids are welcome, but please no pets. RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with outing leader Ken Fisher at [904-210-7765](tel:904-210-7765) / kpf1965@gmail.com.



An adventurous Sierra Club Member pauses to capture the remarkable scenery on our recent kayak trip down Peters Creek in Green Cove Springs.



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Pope Francis Urges Peaceful Dialogue for Positive Change

By: Julianne Mammana

Pope Francis urges world leaders to partake in a dialogue to “avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity” as he appeared before congress this past September. At the United Nations General Assembly, Pope Francis said, “the ecological crisis, and the large-scale destruction of biodiversity, can threaten the very existence of the human species.” Francis attributes this “mismanagement of the global economy” to the imprudent ambition for wealth and power that overwhelmingly consumes our global society. The Pope emphasized humanity’s place within the environment, rather than our perceived dominance over it. He noted that “any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity.”



Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club commented that “Pope Francis’s emphasis on the fact that the climate crisis and the crisis of biodiversity ‘can threaten the very existence of the human species’ ought to serve as a wake up call to those around the world who are standing in the way of action.” Francis spoke before the UN to encourage peaceful action as the organization attempted to uphold an inspirational set of new sustainable development goals. These 17 separate and detailed goals include powerful plans to end poverty and hunger, improve cities, increase renewable energy, and improve access to education in addition to addressing climate change.

Pope Francis’s moving speech emphasized the morality of actions regardless of religious, personal, or economic gain. This is the type of change that we as a society need to create in order to preserve the environment for future generations to enjoy. If we can learn to overcome our differences and work towards a common goal, we will begin see improvements politically, environmentally, and globally.

Adapted from Chris Mooney’s article in the Washington Post

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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 2 @ 6pm

PV Program: Why Right Whales Must be Saved

PV Beach Library

Wednesday November 11 @ 6pm

JAX Program: Right Whale "Celebrewtion"

Green Room Brewery- 228 3rd St. N. JAX Beach

Wednesday, November 18 @ 6:30pm

Combined ExCom and Conservation Committee Meeting

6850 Belfort Oaks Road, Jacksonville

Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.



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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

November 2, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Why Right Whales Must be Saved

We will host a presentation by local publisher and art gallery owner Frank Gromling about the conservation efforts to save the Northern Right Whales, which visit the east coast of Florida each winter to calve. Frank has been researching Right Whales for more than 15 years and has presented informative talks across the country about this highly endangered large mammal. His agenda will include amusing anecdotes, color photography and personal videos. This subject ties directly to our recent efforts to ban seismic airgun blasting to search for oil deposits in the Atlantic Ocean. Every citizen can help save the whales, by knowing the toll-free number to call when sighting whales during the season. Frank Gromling's Ocean Publishing focuses on nonfiction books about nature, marine life and conservation.

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

November 11, @ 6:00pm

Right Whale "Celebrewtion" at Green Room Brewery

Join Sierra Club and Oceana in celebrating the coming of Right Whales to our area! Each winter, North American Right Whales migrate south to Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia to calve near our shores. They are the most endangered great whales on earth, and less than 500 exist today.

Festivities start at 6:00 PM, where Green Room will be releasing a new beer- Save the Whale Imperial Stout. Erin Handy with Oceana will do a presentation on threats to Right Whales at 7PM. Attendees will learn about the Whales and how to spot one off our beaches this winter. Come learn what you can do to help these endangered mammals and be eligible to win door prizes. A portion of the Stout will benefit Sierra Club, Northeast group. Everyone is welcome. Be one of the first to enjoy Green Room's newest brew!

228 3rd St. N. Jacksonville Beach. For more information contact Janet Larson 247-1876 or Erin Handy: ehandy@Oceana.org or 904-885-1348.