

Honoring Brian Paradise: An Inspiring Outings Chair

This month, we would like to pay tribute to one of our most dedicated members who will be stepping down from his position as outings chair. Since 1962, Brian Paradise has been an active participant in our organization. His unyielding passion and enthusiasm is something that we can all learn from as we create our own personal story as Sierra Club members. After more than 20 years as outings chair, Brian will step down, while still remaining active in our chapter. Outings leader Bill Armstrong will be taking over as outings chair.

We have compiled a small interview to honor Mr. Paradise and recognize all of his hard work and dedication to our cause

Would you tell us a little bit about you and your family?

I've been married for 35 years to Lynne Paradise who I met through the Sierra Club. We have two children Neil, and Megan. Neil works for Housing and Urban Development in Philadelphia in the sustainable development area. Megan is a Foreign Service Officer with the State Department. Megan recently returned to the U.S. after spending a year in Pakistan. Lynne is a community activist who started and maintains an organic community garden in Arlington.

What inspired you to get involved with the Sierra Club?

After I moved from Canada in 1961 to take a job in San Francisco, I wanted very much to hike in the San Francisco Bay Area and to hike and backpack in the Sierra Nevada and other great areas of the West. At that time, the Sierra Club was the best fit for me as it had the best outdoors program with many outings in the West. I also was drawn to the Club because of its history of environmental accomplishments. After going on a lot of outings I then gradually moved into leading outings and I began to work on conservation issues after visiting great areas that needed protection.

How did you get involved in the Sierra Club and eventually its outings program?

I was initially drawn to the Sierra Club because I wanted to hike and backpack in the wonderful areas of the West and the Sierra Club knew just about all of these great areas. After exploring a lot of areas with the Club I started to lead outings and became involved in in conservation issues after visiting areas that needed protection.



What positions have you held in our organization?

Chair of the Northeast Florida Group, and Outings Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, Outings Leader, and member of the Conservation Committee, Political Committee and Nominating Committee of the Group.

Can you describe the outings program in a nutshell?

As the mission of the Sierra Club is to explore, enjoy and preserve the planet it is our mission in the outings program is to follow the overall mission of the Club. Our program tries to have a diversified set of outings for diversified groups of people. We want to expose members and other environmentally-inclined people to places that need protection and hopefully get them to take actions to protect our environment.

Why do you believe that the outings program is an important part of the Sierra Club?

Because it is in concert with the mission and get participants familiar with areas that we need to protect.

How has the outings program evolved over the years?

It has increased in terms of the number of outings offered and the number of participants who take part in the outings. Our participation in the Meetup program has resulted in a larger number of participants taking part in the outings program.

(continued on page 3)

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 outing can be found there with easy access to programs and interactions.
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.: Hike Cedar Point Preserve

Join us for a 5 - 6 mile hike through live oaks and pines with some great views of the beautiful Timucuan Preserve salt marsh. We'll meet in the parking lot of the preserve. Bring bug spray, sun block, and water. No pets, please. Older children capable of long hikes welcome. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com

Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m.: Kayak Peters Creek in Green Cove Springs

Let's take a beautiful, leisurely paddle up Peters Creek in Green Cove Springs to see swamp/wetland banks, birds, and other wildlife. We'll go to Ronnie's, a great fish camp restaurant in Green Cove Springs, after our paddle (232 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs). Park and put in at Camp Chowenwaw on Black Creek (1517 Ball Rd, Green Cove Springs, FL). Bring water, bug spray, and sun block. Bring your own kayak. You must have a personal flotation device and a whistle. You must WEAR your PFD. Bring your cart if you have one; it's a little way to the launch point. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com

Sunday, November 22, 10.00 a.m. Visit White Oak Plantation in Yulee. 14th Annual John Muir Family Walk

Come explore northern Nassau County and the remarkable White Oak Plantation! We'll meet on the Sunday before Thanksgiving at 10 a.m. in Yulee at the John Muir Ecological Park to see this lovely site visited by naturalist John Muir in 1867. Then we will take a pretty 20- minute drive to White Oak Plantation. We will be met by Lauren Watkins, a White Oak naturalist, who will tell us of White Oak's mission to protect some of the planet's most endangered species, including rhinoceros and cheetahs, some of which you will see. We will take a 3-mile walk on their River Trail and picnic together along the St Mary's River. You are welcome to return to the John Muir Park at 2.30 p.m. to join us for a 2:30 p.m. meeting of the Yulee Historic Council as we discuss plans for the 2017 celebration of the 150th Anniversary of John Muir's walk across Florida. **Difficulty:** Easy, flat but uneven, unpaved trail. **Fee:** None ("Thank you, White Oak"). All ages & dogs on leash welcome. Pack a bag lunch & beverage. RSVP: Todd Sack (Jacksonville) tsack8@gmail.com, 904-403-6446 or Carl Anderson (Fernandina) 904-753-2873.

The John Muir Family Walk is co-sponsored by the Yulee Historic Council, the Sierra Club of Northeast Florida, and the Sierra Club of Nassau County.

Saturday and Sunday, December 19-20, Blue Spring State Park Hiking, Biking and Kayaking Tri-Sierra-Thon Weekend Getaway

Blue Spring SP is a Manatee Refuge from mid-November to mid-March. In addition to seeing manatee up close, we will hike 4-5 miles of the park's trail system at 1:00 pm Saturday, kayak a 4-5 mile portion of the St Johns River and Snake Creek at 10:00 am Sunday, and bike 15 miles roundtrip into Deland at 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Finally, Saturday night will be a great time for fellowship around a fire pit while eating, drinking, and making smores! Don't delay; make your reservation today, as the campground will sell out! You don't have to camp to enjoy these outings. Feel free to come for the day Saturday or Sunday, or stay the night at a nearby motel or B&B. Safety first: You MUST wear a life jacket/PFD and whistle on the kayak outing and a helmet on the bike trip. Suggest also bringing a hat, sunglasses, and water. Also, don't forget your camping supplies and food!! RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with outing leader Ken Fisher at 904-210-7765 or kpf1965@gmail.com.

Take Action to Stop the Hunting of the Florida Black Bear

The State of Florida has overturned a 20-year-old ban on the hunting of the Florida Black Bear and will allow the hunting starting this Fall. 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.

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.

You can take action to stop this hunting by requesting Governor Scott to halt the hunting. The Governor can be contacted by phone at (850) 488-7146 or by going to www.flgov.com then clicking on "e mail the Governor". For further information email Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net

Interview Continued

What was your most memorable moment on a Sierra Club outing?

Backpacking in Yosemite for the first time.

Why have you been involved in this cause for so long?

I have been an environmental advocate for many years because. I think that the protection of our environment and the preservation of the quality of our air and water, and the conservation of our natural areas are number one priorities. Sierra Club is a terrific organization. It has a great mission statement and its history of accomplishments as an environmental force is unsurpassed by any other environmental group. It has been a tremendous force for good in our country and I'm very happy to have played a very small part in the Club's success.

Please tell us about the history that you are compiling of our group.

In 1992, which was the centennial of the Sierra Club, it was decided that groups would compile their histories as part of the centennial celebration. I volunteered to work on the project and I'm now in the course of bringing it up to date. It will describe the principal activities of our Group on a year-by-year basis from the time of the founding of the Group.

How will you stay involved with the Sierra Club after stepping down as outings chair?

I hope to remain a member of the Conservation Committee, and the Political Committee. I hope to lead the occasional outing, and I'll also try and continue to assist planning general meetings in Ponte Vedra Beach. I'll also hope to remain as the historian of the Group.

Where do you see the program heading in the future?

If we can increase the number of active outings leaders, which presently number about two, then the program can thrive and we can continue to be a one of the leading groups in the State in terms of participants. If we don't get more leaders then the program will become dormant. It all depends on members stepping forward and leading outings. It would be good to have outings for families, seniors, and disabled folk but we need leaders to be able to lead outings for these constituencies.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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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 F94Q W 1

Meeting Calendar

Tuesday, September 8 @ 6pm

PV Program: Drill, Spill, Repeat
PV Beach Library

Monday, September 14 @ 6:30

JAX Program: Eco Friendly Feud
*Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001
University Blvd W.*

Wednesday, September 16 @ 6:30pm

Combined ExCom and Conservation
Committee Meeting
6850 Belfort Oaks Road, Jacksonville

*"There are some who can
live without wild things and
some who cannot" - Aldo
Leopold*



*6028 Chester Ave. Suite 103
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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

September 8, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Drill, Spill, Repeat (video & discussion)

The NE Florida Sierra Club in Ponte Vedra will present a 20-minute film named "Drill, Spill, Repeat" produced by Oceana about the dangerous impacts of oil spills. We've previously examined the dangers of seismic airgun testing (more than 730,000 jobs at risk, death of up to 138,500 whales and dolphins, and more), but now, more than four years after one of the worst maritime oil spills in history, it's important to remember that seismic airguns are only the first step in a series of potentially devastating moves. A spill in the Atlantic could be even bigger than the one in the Gulf. Now is the time to break the Drill, Spill, and Repeat cycle. We cannot continue to put our ocean environment, beaches, marine life, and coastal economies at risk.

Erin Handy from Oceana will discuss the latest developments in the fight against seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. And John Debus will give us an update on the anti-fracking campaign.

*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

September 14, @ 6:30pm

"Eco-Friendly Feud!" The "Greenest" Game Show Around!

How well do you know the environmental issues that we face and ways to live an eco-friendly 'green' lifestyle? Put your knowledge to the test with and against fellow Sierra Club members in a fun, environmentally-themed version of the hit TV game show, "Family Feud." Come on out to be part of the action! Put together your own 'team of green' or join with others and make some new friends!

*September 14th, Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd W. rear of education bldg
6:30-7:00 set up your teams. Program begins at 7:00
Bring your own cup to reduce waste in the landfill*