

## Just say ‘No to plastic straws’ comes to Florida

*Editor’s note: This article was written by for the Winter Park Voice by Charley Williams and Leslie Pool. It is used by permission.*

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a plastic glob the size of Texas that’s drifting between California and Hawaii. It contains an estimated 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic. It’s the planet’s largest mass of plastic.

The crisis caused by all that plastic is reflected in the photos of dying marine life—birds, sea turtles, whales and sharks—trapped in a plastic grip of death. They ingest tiny pieces of plastic that interfere with their digestive systems.

Humans are not exempt. Scientists are finding plastic micro-fibers in the very water we drink.

What can we do about it? Think globally, act locally.

There are the usual things: bring your own bags when shopping and shun the plastic; *(continued on page 2)*



**Sierra Club members show their support at the Jacksonville Beach demonstration.** (photo by Erin Handy)

## Hands Across Sand shows support for environment

At a critical time for our oceans and environment, club members on May 19 joined in the Hands Across the Sand demonstration at Jacksonville Beach. Nearly 100 people participated.

The demonstration, part of a coastal network of demonstrators, came at a critical time for those who care about the environment.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has opened up the entire U.S. Coast to offshore oil drilling, with Florida still under threat, and EPA Secretary Scott Pruitt is focused on expanding fossil fuels and burying climate science.

Northeast Florida Sierrans joined with activists from Greenpeace Jacksonville, First Coast Surfrider, Sea Shepherd Jacksonville, Oceana Florida to show their support for the coastal environment and their discontent with state and federal environmental policy.

Among the largest demonstrations was one in Clearwater Beach where thousands protested the idea of offshore drilling.



## June outings: Paddle, hike

These events are free and open to all. Some require a greater level of fitness and skill than others. Details are on Meetup, [meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group/events/](https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group/events/)



Goodbye's Creek during a club paddle last winter (photo by Bill Armstrong)

### Saturday, June 10, 9 a.m.

Paddle Pellicer Creek, between Faver Dykes State Park and Princess Place Preserve. Pellicer Creek is one of the most pristine estuarine/riverine systems along Florida's east coast. Wading birds, such as egrets, wood storks, white ibis and herons, feed in the marshes and creeks.

The paddle is in open water with no shade upon a tidal creek subject to current and wind. Paddlers should be experienced enough to manage such an environment. The distance is a little over 3 miles each way. The trip is planned to take about 3 hours. Sunscreen, bug spray, hat and plenty of water are a must.

The park entrance fee is \$5 per vehicle. Restrooms are available at the boat ramp.

There are a few canoes

available for rental at the park for \$5 per hour; they must be reserved in advance by calling 904-794-0997.

Address: 1000 Faver-Dykes Road, St. Augustine, FL 32086. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Snow at [wbsnow@gmail.com](mailto:wbsnow@gmail.com).

### Sunday, June 24, 10 a.m.

Hike The Bluffs Scenic Shoreline at Big Talbot Island State Park where there's an amazing display of driftwood along the beachfront.

We begin from The Bluffs picnic area parking lot by taking a trail/boardwalk along Heckscher Drive to a beach entry point. From there we walk south to Boneyard Beach. To return, we reverse course. The hike is about 4 miles total.

The park entrance fee is \$3 per car. There is ample parking, picnic tables, and chemical toilets. Bring insect repellent, extra water, and sun screen.

Directions: From Jacksonville, take Florida 105 / Heckscher Drive off I-295 and follow it east and north for 14 miles to Little Talbot Island Park. Go about 3.5 miles until see a road sign for Big Talbot Island on the right. *Caution:* Do not use the online street address for Big Talbot Island; it will take you to the Ranger Station on Little Talbot Island. The location of the turn into The Bluffs parking area is at coordinates 30.50167, -81.45167.

RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Mike DiAngelo at [mfdiangelo@gmail.com](mailto:mfdiangelo@gmail.com).

## Master Naturalist course in August

A master naturalist coastal shoreline restoration course will be offered August 13, 14, and 15. Registration for the course closes August 8.

Classes will be at The Players Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra. This course is for adults who want to learn more about protecting Florida's coastal environment.

Topics include living shorelines, oyster reefs, mangroves and salt marsh.

Advance registration is required. Course fees begin at \$155. For full information go to [www.masternaturalist.org](http://www.masternaturalist.org).

For questions contact Carol Wyninger at (904) 220-0232, [wyninger@comcast.net](mailto:wyninger@comcast.net).



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## Remember the Sierra Club in your will

You don't have to be Rachel Carson or John Muir to help protect the natural world. As a Sierra Club member or supporter, you're already doing that. You can also ensure this work continues by remembering Sierra Club in your will or designate us as a beneficiary on a financial account.

It's a fairly straightforward process. In your will or trust, specifically mention Sierra Club Northeast Florida Group. For your financial account, designate us as a beneficiary. This will not limit your use of your money during your lifetime.

There is nothing wrong with doing both. And it's a good idea to discuss these changes with your financial advisor or lawyer.

In order to ensure your bequest goes to our local group, you must specify "Sierra Club Northeast Florida group."

Questions or concerns? Contact Ed Schlessinger at 904-733-3217 or [eds.greenmail@gmail.com](mailto:eds.greenmail@gmail.com).

## New meeting plan starts in September

Happy summer! There will be no club meetings for the months of June, July, and August.

In the fall, we begin a new schedule. We'll meet in Jacksonville on the second Monday of the month and in Ponte Vedra on the first Monday.

The September meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 10, in the Lakewood Presbyterian Church, on University Boulevard W. in Jacksonville.