



SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet

July/ August 2016



JULY 13 Program & General Meeting: **Please note Location of July's Meeting.**

July 13 Program: Joint Tampa Bay Sierra Club, Audubon, and Suncoast Native Plant Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Phillip Motta talks about feeding behavior in bony fishes, sharks, and rays.

When: Wednesday July 13

4:30 pm Nature Walk

5:30 pm Social Time

6:00 pm Potluck Supper

7:00 pm Program



Where: Nature's Classroom, 13100 Verges Rd. Thonotosassa, FL 33592

How to get there: Verges Road is on the north side of Morris Bridge Road a few miles east of I-75 just past the Circle K convenience store. Look for the Sierra Club signs at the entrance. Follow the dirt road (Verges is unpaved) to the end. Plenty of parking.

Nature's Classroom is a 365-acre environmental studies program and learning laboratory that is used by students of the Hillsborough County Public Schools. It houses an abundance of natural Florida plants, birds and animals which is why you may choose to come early for a guided Nature Walk. Please arrive at 4:15 pm if you would like to join the 4:30 pm Nature Walk (bug spray, hat and sturdy walking shoes recommended).

Potluck Dinner: At 6 pm a pot luck dinner will begin in the beautiful air conditioned comfort of the TECO Center for Environmental Studies. Please bring a dish of your choice to share (appetizer, salad, entrée or dessert); plates, utensils, coffee and cold beverages will be supplied.

July 13 Program: Our program for July will feature Dr. Phillip Motta from USF who specializes in the study of the feeding activity of bony fishes, sharks,

and rays. Most of his past research has been on tropical reef fishes and sharks, as the evolution of feeding mechanisms in sharks and rays presents a unique opportunity to investigate the function of feeding systems in fishes and other aquatic vertebrates. He is certain to have many interesting observations regarding the threats to marine ecology stemming from human activities both on the water and on land.

AUGUST 10 Program & General Meeting:

When: Wednesday, August 10, 2016

6:30 pm: Social Time

7:00 pm: General Membership Meeting and Program.

Location: Seminole Heights Public Library, 4711 Central Ave. Tampa (just south of Hillsborough Ave. and west of I-275, corner of W Osborne Ave.)

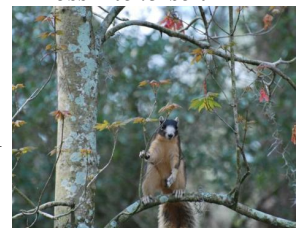
All Tampa Bay Sierra Club meetings are free and open to the public. If the Library parking lot is full, park in the fenced lot next door on the south side. For more information, contact Kent Bailey kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

August 10 Program: Current State of Public Lands

Speaker: Ross Dickerson

Ross Dickerson, Environmental Lands Manager for Hillsborough County's Department of Conservation and Environmental Lands will update us on the current state of Hillsborough County's parks, recreational lands and ELAPP. Ross will also provide an overview on the future of our shared natural resources. Hillsborough County is fortunate to have a strong history of protecting and preserving natural spaces for future generations to enjoy. He will share information regarding the financial value of our protected areas as they relate to tourism and as reservoirs to contain, purify and slowly release stormwater runoff. The better informed we are about our public lands, the better we as citizens can protect them.

*Fox squirrel photo:
Ross Dickerson*



2016 Executive Committee

Chair: Kent Bailey

(813)-986-7819

kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

Vice-Chair / ICO Chair / Outings

Chair: Rocky Milburn

(813) 966-9785

rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org

Conservation / Membership

Chair: Paul Thibault

paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Don Kruse

Energy Chair: Bob Howell

bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org

Tabling Chair: Michael Newett

(813) 381-2620

michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org

Ex-Com Member:

Tamara Pearson tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org

[@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org)

Ex-Com Member: Gary Gibbons

Ex-Com Member: Pat Kemp

pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org

Other Officers & Assignments

Secretary: Linda Hugues

Webmaster: Steve Tryon

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steve.tryon@florida.sierraclub.org

Newsletter: Corky Crowley

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Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths

(813) 210-4850

bev.griffiths@florida.sierraclub.org

Stadium Recycling Initiative:

Dave Varrieur (813) 503-6970

appraiserfl@outlook.com

Student Liaison Chair / Publicity

/ Outreach Chair: Lauren Jones

laurenjones1209@gmail.com

Sierra Florida Office:

727 824-8813

Tampa Bay Group web site:

<http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay>

National Office: 415-977-5500

Washington D.C. 202-547-1141

TAMPA BAY



Join our **MEETUP PAGE** online where all outings are posted. Go to www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Groups-of-the-Greater-Tampa-Bay-Florida-Area/ and click on Join Us! Anyone can join the Meetup page to get regular notices when new outings are added. Or for outings throughout the state go to florida.sierraclub.org/outings_browse.asp

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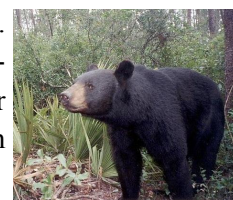
To participate in the Sierra Club's Outings, you need to sign a liability waiver, call: (415) 977-5630 or www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/

Hillsborough County Says NO to Bear Hunt

Hillsborough County Commission has passed a resolution opposing the state's plans for another bear hunt this fall at their June 2 meeting. Commissioner Stacy White introduced the motion citing the lack of science supporting the Fish and Wildlife Commissioner (FWC) claim of an excess bear population. As self-described outdoorsman White stated that he enjoys hunting and does understand the role of hunting in some wildlife management plans. But, he cited scientific evidence that the Florida Black Bear is threatened by habitat loss. In response to a description of the Florida Black Bear as an "apex predator", he read from an FWC report saying that 80% of the bear's diet is plant based, 15% is insects and only 5% is animal based (animals that are either dead or play dead, such as possums and armadillos).

During the public comment portion of this meeting several citizens spoke in opposition of the bear hunt while a few spoke in support of it, including a representative from the FWC. Commissioner White had reached out to environmentalists for support of his resolution, including the Sierra Club. Tampa Bay Group Chair Kent Bailey spoke against the bear hunt saying "Either we must learn how to live with wild Florida or we will surely have to live without it. And we would be the poorer for that."

After a brief discussion by the BOCC, the non-binding resolution stating Hillsborough County's opposition to the hunting of bears until such time as their recovery is more secure passed by a unanimous vote. Tampa Bay Sierra wishes to express our thanks to Commissioner White and the entire board of commissioners for standing up for the Florida Black Bear and calling for an end to the Florida Black Bear hunt.



Please Contribute to the Tampa Bay Group's Political Action Committee Fund



We need to raise \$5000 for this fall's campaign to pay for printed material and to buy time on the "Call Fire" phone bank hotline. "Call Fire" was the secret weapon we used to turn back the Fracking Bill during the last legislative session. It allows Sierra Club members to make calls from their own home thru Sierra's computer to other Sierra Club members. But everything costs money.

If you can support our PAC fund in any amount please send a check payable to the Sierra Club Florida Political Committee. Be sure to write Tampa Bay Group PAC, your occupation and employer in the memo area and mail c/o David Harbeitner, 225 9th Ave N, St Petersburg, FL 33701. Thank you!

Contributions to Sierra Club Florida PAC are not tax-deductible.

The Conservation Committee:

Join us for the Conservation Committee Meeting at **St. Paul Lutheran Church at 5103 North Central Ave., Tampa, FL.** We meet in the **Snyder Building** directly behind the church. Follow the Tampa Bay Sierra Club signs. Join us every second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Hillsborough transportation: At the June 9 Public Hearing of the BOCC the vote was 4-3 opposing placing a referendum for the ½ cent sales tax for 15 years on the November ballot. Following the defeat, the BOCC voted 4-3 in favor of researching using a Tax Incentive Finance (TIF) plan, which will use new revenue above a base line collected in the future from property taxes and sales taxes.

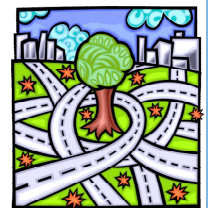
There are serious limitations on this approach: **1)** Federal matching grants will not be available, as it is a new source of revenue without a performance history; and, **2)** it will be a slow growing funding source and likely quite volatile with the dependency on property taxes (i.e. recessions). Also, press reporting indicates there may an effort by the BOCC to make changes in the previously passed Mobility Fee structure, because of the loss of sales tax revenue causes an increase in developer/builder costs under the Mobility Fees. We will be opposing any downward fee modifications, and will insist the fees be raised given an opportunity.

Tampa Bay Express (TBX): We continue to oppose the planning and construction of the TBX project as wasteful, an increased source of pollution, destructive to the nearby communities, and a throwback idea of a bygone era of bisecting urban communities with pavement. We have noted our opposition to the BOCC, the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

We stand firm on the need for public transit over grand highway development projects. At this point; Les Miller Chair of both the MPO and BOCC stated he will vote "no" on TBX. The Tampa City Council voted 5-1 against TBX. The MPO will vote on the initial stage funding for TBX on June 22.

- ★ We previously reported on TECO degradation of ELAPP lands with the new high-tension line construction. The ELAPP staff negotiated with TECO, who agreed to hire a remediation firm acceptable to the staff to fix the problem.
- ★ Please be alert to the promised online survey for Hillsborough Parks and Preserves and it is crucial that you take the time to complete the survey as it will impact on the new Master Plan being discussed in public hearings. Also, your views supporting the parks and preserves will have a bearing when the BOCC reviews the Master Plan and the suitability of funding the Department.
- ★ We met with the HCEPC staff for information on the gypsum stack near Progress Village and the possible air and water environmental issues. It appears we must pivot to an approach about epidemiological investigations either by the Florida Department of Health, or Federal authorities, in order to reach a conclusion as to the source and hazards being experienced. This is an environmental justice issue.
- ★ In addition, we have committee members working on the Florida Panther and Florida Black Bear issues. Also, fertilizer run-off problems and outreach to the Wimauma community.

If you see something among these issues, or another issue that sparks your interest please contact us; then join with us. **Paul Thibault: Co-Chair Conservation Committee**



Tampa Bay Sierra Club is Mobilizing for Election Season



Sierra Club volunteers will be working to elect environmental candidates this fall. You can make a difference with only a few hours in the evening or on a weekend either on the phone or handing out literature to voters. Stop yelling at the TV and do something! Sign up for the Political Action Team with our Political Chair **Bev Griffiths** by calling **813-210-4850** or with an email to **bev.griffiths@florida.sierraclub.org**

Get the Tampa Bay Sierra Club newsletter online and in color!

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club's newsletter is available online and in color from the Tampa Bay Group's web page. If you would prefer to not receive the newsletter on paper, please let us know and we'll take you off the mailing list for the paper newsletter. That saves trees for the planet!





SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

July / August 2016



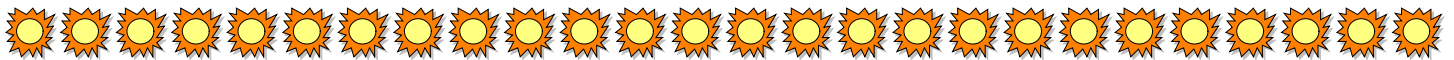
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Address Changes:

Please call (415) 977-5653 or email address.changes@sierraclub.org
Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

Tampa Bay Group
P.O. Box 1596
Thonotosassa, Florida 33592

Web:
florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay



Membership: Join today for just \$15.00 and receive a FREE Sierra Club 1892 style Rucksack at www.sierraclub.org



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Check enclosed, made payable to *Sierra Club*

Please charge my: MasterCard Visa

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY	\$15	
REGULAR	\$39	\$49
SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
SENIOR	\$25	\$35
STUDENT	\$25	\$35
LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

SIERRA CLUB
P.O. BOX 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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Sierra Pursues Amendment One Lawsuit



The Sierra Club has joined the Florida Wildlife Federation, the St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Environmental Confederation of South-west Florida in filing a “**motion for summary judgment**” in a lawsuit aimed at stopping state officials from using Amendment One money for purposes not intended by Florida’s voters.

Land and Water Conservation Amendment raised \$750 million in its first year. But instead of buying conservation land the Legislature allocated the money to existing employee salaries and other agency expenses at the Departments of Environmental Protection, State, Agriculture and Consumer Services, and at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

"It's the case of The Will of the People vs. The Greed of the Legislature," said Frank Jackalone Senior Organizing Director of the Sierra Club's Florida Chapter. "We hope Florida's courts will reject the Legislature's power grab and uphold the voters' decision to spend their tax dollars to protect and conserve Florida's land and water forever."

Environmental groups argue that as no facts are in dispute the judge should declare the Legislature in violation of the constitution and order that money intended for the Land Acquisition Trust Fund be replaced.

Membership Report The Tampa Bay Group now has 2,142 members (May). There are 18 Groups in the Florida Chapter with a total of 30,853 members. Join us in protecting the environment.

Contact Paul at paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org



ICO is the youth outreach of the Sierra Club. For more information on ICO contact Rocky Milburn, tbico@live.com. If you would like to volunteer, contact Emilie Joyce, emiliejoyce17@gmail.com