



SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet

March / April 2016



MARCH & APRIL PROGRAM & GENERAL MEETING:

When: Wednesday March 9/ April 13, 2016

7:00 pm: General Membership Meeting and Program.

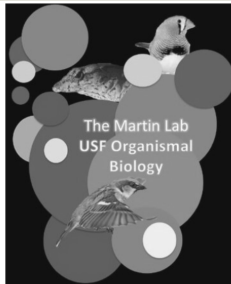
Location: Seminole Heights Public Library, 4711 Central Ave. Tampa (just south of Hillsborough Ave. and west of I-275, corner of W Osborne Ave.)

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

March 9 Program: Stress and Immunity in Wild Vertebrates: Timing is Everything

Speaker: Dr. Lynn Martin

We are pleased to present Dr. Lynn Martin, researcher from the University of South Florida who is investigating how stress affects aging, immune systems and reproduction in



wild animals and potentially invasive species. What factors affect how new species will interact with established ecologies? Don't miss this opportunity to hear from a leading expert in the field of ecological physiology and immunology in wildlife.

April 13 Program: Creating Florida-Friendly Landscapes

Speaker: Devon Higginbotham from the Suncoast Native Plant Society

Devon Higginbotham from the Suncoast Native Plant Society will speak about the importance of using and conserving Florida's native plants. Learn how to create Florida Friendly landscapes at your home that provide homes for native Florida birds, butterflies and more. When you plant with native Florida species you can use less water, less fertilizer and not run the risk of introducing invasives into your neighborhood's ecology.



IMPORTANT NOTICE: This newsletter is delivered bi-monthly in print to your mailbox. For updated news and information go to www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay or go on Facebook by searching for Tampa Bay Sierra Club



Celebrates Earth Day Tampa Bay 2016

Ecofest Saturday April 23 at Lowry Park

Ecofest 2016 will take place Saturday April 23 at the Lowry Park Band Shell area, 7525 N. Boulevard, Tampa. This is a free event, open to the public, 10am – 3pm. This year's theme is Ecology, Equity, and Economy.

EcoFest 2016 is a community event organized by Learning Gate Community School the City of Tampa and the USF Patel Col-

lege of Global Sustainability to celebrate the those who are dedicated to the principles of sustainability. There will be live music, workshops, demonstrations, informational booths, green living products and services. Some local artists, green businesses, environmental organizations, alternative health practitioners, renewable energy specialists, organic farms and gardens with produce will be in attendance. For additional information, please visit www.learninggate.org/ecofest.

We're looking for volunteers to help at our booth. Please call Michael Newett, 813-381-2620 or Paul Thibault, 777-7198 for more information or if you are interested in volunteering. And please come and enjoy this fun and informative event.



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 Co-Chair / Program

Chair: Pat Kemp (813) 508-0965

pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org

Bylaws Chair / Publicity Chair /

Energy Chair: Bob Howell

bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org

Treasurer, / Tabling Chair / Energy

Chair:

Michael Newett (813) 381-2620

michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org

Ex-Com Member: Tamara Pearson

tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org

Membership / Conservation Co-

Chair: Paul Thibault

paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org

Ex-Com Member: Gary Gibbons

Ex-Com Member: Don Kruse

Other Officers & Assignments

Secretary: Linda Hugues

Webmaster: Steve Tryon

(813) 980-2079

steve.tryon@florida.sierraclub.org

Newsletter: Corky Crowley

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corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org

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

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



OUTINGS

SIERRA CLUB

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

Florida Seller of Travel Reference No. ST37115

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/

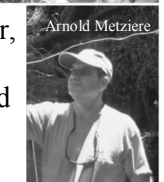
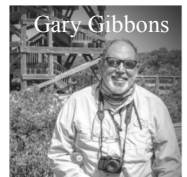
Lauren Jones New Student Outreach Chair: We're very excited to welcome Lauren Jones who is a student at USF, as our new Student Outreach Chair. Lauren recently started Environmental Policy Advocates, a student organization at USF, and is the Chair of that group. She brings with her an enthusiasm for learning from our experiences, and we are looking forward to having such a wonderful liaison to connect us with young people who are eager to protect our environment. Lauren has setup Twitter and Instagram accounts for the Tampa Bay Group and will be helping with Facebook. Please forward news worth sharing to Lauren's email - laurenjones1209@gmail.com.

New Certified Outings Congratulations to our new Certified Leaders, **Gary Gibbons** and **Arnold Metzire**. They have completed their certified training of the Sierra Clubs Outings program: Outdoor Leader Training 101, Basic First Aid/CPR, Water Safety and Canoe Safety.

Gary Gibbons is a member of the Tampa Bay Ex-Com, paddler, avid photography who loves sharing the outdoors with everyone.

Arnold Metzire is an avid hiker, mountain biker, paddler and always outside exploring the outdoors.

We are excited about these two new certified leaders and looking forward to their exciting outings. Be on the lookout for these 2 new leaders to take you to EXPLORE and ENJOY our beautiful state We now have 6 Certified Outings Leaders in the Tampa Bay Group: **Michelle Carroll, Gary Gibbons, Rocky Milburn, Arnold Metzire, Ed Shindle and Anthony Sousa. Rocky Milburn, Outings Chair, tbico@live.com**



TAMPA BAY



ICO

SIERRA CLUB

ICO is the youth outreach of the Sierra Club. Our purpose is to teach our inner city youth about the outdoors. We take them camping, kayaking, have outdoor education and hiking. We are working with 3 agencies and have outings planned every month. If you would like to help please contact the following:

1st Sat: Tampa Academy Prep, Karen Kress-Loy, kress_loy@hotmail.com.

2nd Sat: St Pete Academy Prep, Anthony Sousa, anthony.g.sousa@gmail.com

3rd Sat: Boys and Girls Club of Riverview, Emilie Joyce, emiliejoyce17@gmail.com

If you would like more information on ICO or wish to donate, contact Rocky Milburn, tbico@live.com. If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer. Contact Emilie Joyce, emiliejoyce17@gmail.com

The end of the year campout this year will be held at the Ruskin Masonic Lodge Campsite on the beautiful Little Manatee River. If you would like to help with the campout, please contact Rocky Milburn, tbico@live.com

The Conservation Committee:

Please join our Conservation Committee Chair Pat Kemp at 6:30 pm on the second Monday of each month in the Seminole Heights Library, 4711 Central Ave. south of Hillsborough Ave in Tampa.

Conservation Committee continues to offer input to Hillsborough transportation planning process, especially in the Mobility Fee Focus Groups conducted by the Planning Commission staff. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will hold several workshop meetings on transportation, which may well culminate on 6 April for decisions on ordinances for mobility fee implementation and/or for a Go Hillsborough referendum on the sales tax. We stand ready to comment publicly as the issues are conceived in ordinances and/or in positions taken by county staff and the commissioners. The Sierra Club has driven much of the discussion thus far and expects to continue to do so.

We have supported anti-Fracking initiatives by calling Florida senators, especially Sen. Tom Lee whose office received more than 2000 calls! Also anti-Fracking petitions have been offered at Sierra Club functions to members and visitors for signature. The signed petitions are to be delivered to Senator Lee at his Brandon office on February 16th.

Other issues under discussion and monitoring include: The FDOT plan for TBX monster highway thru Tampa that will increase pollution and bring neighborhood destruction, implementation of a summer-time fertilizer ban, Climate Change impacts on weather, salt-water intrusion and flooding in Tampa Bay area, support for renewable energy vehicles & energy sources (note the Sierra's support of the USF Solar Fair on March) and promoting LED lighting for energy conservation.

Please attend the meetings of the Conservation Committee where issues of your interest can be covered and you will keep abreast of the latest state of these important environmental issues affecting our community and what you can do to make a difference.

Pat Kemp, Co-Conservation Chair



Sierra Tabling Report

Recently graduate student interns from France helped us with tabling at USF for several weeks. They passed out Sierra Club literature and collected many, many signatures on petitions for Ban Coal, Ban Fracking, and the Solar initiative.

We are looking forward to working with the Student Green Energy Fund (SGEF) at USF, along with their advisors, to guide students with their proposals to spend the almost \$3M in the fund on green energy or other sustainable projects at USF.

Forty-five people came to the Coal Ash screening at the Seminole Heights Library on January 29. Four short films were shown which informed us of the devastating consequences of coal ash. A discussion followed with experts from the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Waterkeeper Alliance, Suncoast Waterkeepers, and the filmmaker, focusing on the Big Bend Coal Plant in Apollo Beach.



Great Turnout for Save Our State Parks

More than 65 Sierra Club members turned out for the February 13 “**Have a Heart, Save Our State Parks**” pot luck picnic and rally at the Hillsborough State Park one of eleven similar events were held at various locations throughout the state. The purpose of this statewide initiative was to call attention to legislation proposed by the Scott administration to generate profits by allowing timbering, hunting, cattle grazing, oil drilling, in our beautiful state parks. Speakers at the rally included Frank Jackalone, Director of Florida Sierra Club Chapter, and Ed Narain, Florida House Representative for District 61.

Thanks goes out to those of our Tampa Bay group who organized this event, including Rocky Milburn, state coordinator for “Save Our Parks”, and event chair Bev Griffiths who planned the day and put together a tasty lunch and to our Outings leaders Gary Gibbons and Michelle Carroll who led two hikes.





SIERRA CLUB
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Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

March / April 2016



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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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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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USF Annual Solar Fair Saturday March 26

Join us for The Annual Solar Fair. Free Admission - Food - Prizes!
This event will take place on Saturday, March 26 2016 from 10-AM to 2:45 at the USF Engineering Building II on the USF campus.

Share the day with guest speakers who are experts in the field of clean energy, locally active vendors with solar and other sustainable energy products, organizations focused on sustainability, a panel discussion, an opportunity to visit some solar installations on campus, and a wide variety of electric vehicles.

Tampa Bay Sierra Club will sponsor the annual Solar Fair in conjunction with the Clean Energy Research Center and students from the International Solar Energy Society, as well as other student environmental groups at USF. Everyone is invited.



Membership Report Membership Chair Paul Thibault reports that the Tampa Bay Group now has 2,183 members. Our Florida Chapter ranks third in the nation with 31,028 members while Sierra Club has more than 2.4 million members in America. Please join us now for 2016! Contact Paul at paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org

Fracking Bill: Tampa Bay Sierra Club volunteers Lois Kershner and Kathy Spaulding, Michelle Allen delivered the Fracking petitions to Senator Tom Lee's office in Brandon. - Florida House approves the bill to authorize and regulate fracking.

