



# SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet



May/ June 2016

## MAY & JUNE PROGRAM & GENERAL MEETING:

**When:** Wednesday May 11/ June 8, 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](mailto:kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org)

### May 11 Program: Life of the Gopher Tortoise

**Speaker:** Dr. Henry R. Mushinsky, Ph.D

Dr Mushinsky from the University of South Florida and past President of the three North American Herpetological societies will talk about the life history of the Gopher Tortoise. He will briefly trace the history of its decline, talk a bit about the Upper Respiratory



Track Disease and relate how the tortoise has been dealt with by the Florida Wildlife Commission. You don't want to miss this informative and provocative presentation.

### June 8 Program: Before its to Late

**Speaker:** Cora Berchem of the Save the Manatee Club

June 8 Program: Cora Berchem of the Save the Manatee Club is coming to Tampa to educate and inform our members about the manatee's anatomy, behavior and current threats, which includes consideration by the federal Fish and Wildlife Service to take manatees off the Endangered Species list. Cora is a multimedia specialist with a Master's Degree in Film/Media from the J.W. Goethe University Frankfurt Germany. Come early to get a good seat for her fantastic manatee images and learn from an expert about these amazing gentle giants.



**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](http://www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay) or go on Facebook by searching for Tampa Bay Sierra Club

**Phosphate Mining:** The Tampa Bay Sierra Club is indebted to member Ed Golly who took several fellow members on an aerial tour of environmental sites in and around Hillsborough County. Conservation Co-Chair Pat Kemp, Group Chair Kent Bailey and Andy Mele from the Florida Chapter Phosphate Committee were joined by Gina LaBruno and her son Robbie for an airborne tour of phosphate mining sites, gypsum stacks and TECO coal ash ponds with Ed at the controls. Gina is working to resolve water and air pollution issues in the Riverview area near the Mosaic gypsum stacks.

Only from the air can one appreciate the full impact and ecological damage that is hidden from ground level behind massive berms. Mosaic has recently agreed to pay nearly \$2 billion in a settlement over the mishandling of hazardous wastes.



## 2016 Executive Committee

**Chair: Kent Bailey** (813)-986-7819  
[kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Vice-Chair / ICO Chair / Outings**

**Chair: Rocky Milburn**

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**Conservation Co-Chair / Program**

**Chair: Pat Kemp** (813) 508-0965

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**Bylaws Chair / Publicity Chair /**

**Energy Chair: Bob Howell**

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**Treasurer, / Tabling Chair / Energy**

**Chair:**

**Michael Newett (813) 381-2620**

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**Ex-Com Member: Tamara Pearson**

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**Membership / Conservation Co-**

**Chair: Paul Thibault**

[paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Ex-Com Member: Gary Gibbons**

**Ex-Com Member: Don Kruse**

### Other Officers & Assignments

**Secretary: Linda Hugues**

**Webmaster: Steve Tryon**

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**Newsletter: Corky Crowley**

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**Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths**

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**Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave**

**Varrieur** (813) 503-6970

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**Student Liaison Chair / Publicity /**

**Outreach Chair: Lauren Jones**

[laurenjones1209@gmail.com](mailto: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/](http://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](http://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/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/)*



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:

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



## USF SOLAR ENERGY FAIR 2016

The March 26<sup>th</sup> USF Solar Energy Fair sponsored by the Sierra Club in conjunction with the student chapter of the International Solar Energy Society and the Clean Energy Research Center was well attended with an estimate of over 300 people.

The vendors were kept busy with homeowners' questions. Several electric cars were displayed thanks to Tom Krumreich. We had a variety of good speakers in the morning, including the world renowned energy researcher Dr. Yogi Goswami, our Sierra Club chair Kent Bailey, Sierra Club staff Phil Compton and several experts in the field of clean energy. The afternoon panelists included FL Representative Dwight Dudley, Shelly Whitworth (TECO Renewables Manager), Tab Brown (May Electric), and Susan Glickman (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy).

The USF Environmental Policy Advocates and Student Environmental Association had tables with information on sustainability issues. The "Flex House" tour drew great interest, and encouraged students to join their organizations.

The complimentary lunch was extremely popular, thank you Don for making that happen. Many thanks to Paul Thibault for managing the two Sierra Club tables and to Daniel Iglesias, President, and Kim Ebener, Vice President of the USF student chapter of the International Solar Energy Society. We also want to thank Alan Cohn of ABC 7 News, for arranging to send his producer to report on the event. Organizing for Sierra for this event would not have been possible without the help of Tabling Chair Michael Newett and his wife Bonnie, who worked tirelessly to pull everything together.

## 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!



## **The Conservation Committee: NEW MEETING SITE!**

A new meeting site for Conservation Committee is 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.

- ★ The Conservation Committee is meeting with county planning staff and providing public comments to the County Commissioners about Tampa Bay Sierra Club's positions on the transportation issues. Mainly, we are disappointed that the commissioners have taken the five cent a gallon tax off the table and they continue to wrestle with implementation of the level of mobility fees, including how to manage about \$100 million in builder/developer credits that can be applied to offset new mobility fees. As a reminder our positions are:
  - 1) 5 cent/gallon gas tax (or better termed, a user fee) will provide about \$23 million/year in revenue.
  - 2) A fair application of Mobility Fee rates must be set to make up for lost revenue from impact fee changes by the State legislature.
  - 3) The boundaries of the Urban Service Area must remain intact to ensure development takes place in areas where public services are now generally available.
  - 4) A significant portion of unanticipated revenues must be applied to public transit.

The commissioners will make decisions on all the issues at two public hearings on 26 & 27 April.

- ★ In addition, we are monitoring the Tampa Bay Express (TBX) and the impacts on the residential and health issues with this vast expansion of I-275 and I-4 through the heart of Tampa. Also, the possible acquisition in the future of 96 miles of CSX track through Tampa from Brooksville, Hernando County to downtown St. Petersburg, Pinellas County to create a Tampa Bay commuter rail system.

- ★ Other issues: Joining with other organizations to support an ordinance by the commissioners to forbid fracking in Hillsborough County, similar to actions to be taken in all counties in Florida. We continue to have concerns about fertilizer runoff impacts on county and Tampa Bay water systems.

- ★ We have raised issues with the county about TECO's failure to protect ELAPP property in the construction of the high tension lines in the East County. The county is negotiating terms for the land restoration.

- ★ The new Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department will soon have online an important survey about the parks and preserves, and your use of them. The survey will have an impact on the new Master Plan for the parks and preserves, so your environmental views will be important. We have pressed them on this issue in order for you to have the opportunity speak out.

***Paul Thibault Co- Chair Conservation Committee***



### **Tampa Bay Fertilizer Ban Kicks in June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>**

The City of Tampa Fertilizer Ordinance regulates the use and sale of lawn and landscape fertilizers containing nitrogen and or phosphorous. The summer rainy season is coming - remember to use a fertilizer with a 50% of nitrogen that is a slow release form and to stop using this product after May.

Fertilizer that is used or applied at the wrong time can wash off of the landscape

and flow untreated into bays and streams. Once in the water the fertilizer runoff will pollute our county waterways, feeding harmful algal blooms that kill fish and wildlife and impair our rivers, lakes, canals and the Gulf.





**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

May / June 2016



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Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

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

**Web:**  
[florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay](http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay)



**Membership:** Join today for just \$15.00 and receive a FREE Sierra Club 1892 style Rucksack at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



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**SIERRA CLUB**  
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Tampa Bay Sierra Club thanks all the students for their hard work in The Outdoor Classroom project. The seventh graders are busy planting bald cypress trees, creating trails and learning about the different species of plants, birds and animals just behind their school along the banks of Hillsborough River Bypass Canal.



**Membership Report** Membership Chair Paul Thibault reports that the Tampa Bay Group now has 2,157 members. Our Florida Chapter ranks third in the nation with 30,851 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](mailto:paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org)