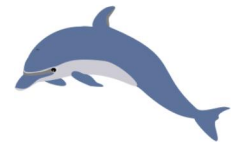




# SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet October / November 2016

## October & November Program & General Meeting:

**When:** Wednesday, October 12, & November 9

**6:30 pm:** Social Time

**7:00 pm:** General Membership Meeting and Program.

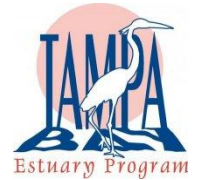
**Location:** Seminole Heights Public Library, 4711 Central Ave. Tampa (just south of Hillsborough Ave. and west of I-275, corner of W Osborne Ave.)

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](mailto:kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org)

Zoos and Aquariums, Species Survival Programs and more. Dr. Killmar oversees the daily management of nearly 1300 animals. During his career he has had the opportunity to participate in the reintroduction of the Arabian Oryx in Sultanate of Oman and helped to rescue and import eleven elephants from the Kingdom of Swaziland. This will be one of our most exciting programs of the year – you won't want to miss it!

## November 9 Program: Seagrass: Tampa Bay's Underwater Fish Factories.

**Speaker:** Nanette O'Hara, Tampa Bay Estuary Program.



Growing in shallow waters on the bottom of Tampa Bay, seagrass is a vegetative version of the canary in the coal mine. This sentinel plant species serves as a barometer of the overall health of Tampa Bay – one that has recovered dramatically as water clarity in the bay has improved. Come and learn about these fascinating, hardy underwater plants that are a favorite food of manatees; why seagrasses are so important to the bay; how we monitor their status; and why 2015 was a very special year for those working to restore Tampa Bay's seagrasses. Be sure to join us.

## October 12 Program: Conservation and Lowry Park Zoo's Living Collection.

**Speaker:** Dr. Larry Killmar

Dr. Larry Killmar, Conservation and Zoo Director for Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, will discuss the highlights of the Lowry Park Zoo's conservation efforts thru their living collection. He will focus on their conservation, rescue and rehabilitation of Florida Wildlife, their involvement in the Association of



## Sierra Club Endorses Candidates!

We are proud to announce the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club's endorsement of **Pat Kemp** for Hillsborough County Commissioner. Kemp won the Democratic Primary and faces Republican, Tim Schock in the General Election this November.

Many of you know Pat Kemp through her involvement with Tampa Bay Sierra Club. She has chaired the Group's Conservation Committee, served on the Executive Committee and Legal Chair. She has a long history of working to support smart growth, progressive transportation systems, clean energy and environmental protection.

Please cast your vote for Sierra Club endorsed candidate, Pat Kemp, Hillsborough County Commission (District 6 Countywide).



The Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club officially announced its endorsement of **Diane Rowden** (D-3) in her race for re-election to the Hernando County Commission.

Diane Rowden is the incumbent for Hernando County Commission District 3, (Countywide) for the central-western part of the County. Commissioner Rowden is often the lone vote in support of environmental issues. Her leadership led to denial of a proposed land use amendment that would have granted a 30-year permit for open pit lime rock mining She has been a champion for land use plan amendments in the county and led the effort to restore the Advisory Committee for Hernando's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program.

Please vote for Sierra Club endorsed candidate Diane Rowden Hernando County Commission District 3, (Countywide)



## 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**

(813) 966-9785

[rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Conservation / Membership**

**Chair: Paul Thibault**

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

**Treasurer: Don Kruse**

**Energy Chair: Bob Howell**

[bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org)

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

[michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Ex-Com Member:**

**Tamara Pearson** [tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto: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](mailto:pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Other Officers & Assignments**

**Secretary: Linda Hugues**

**Webmaster: Steve Tryon**

(813) 980-2079

[steve.tryon@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:steve.tryon@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Newsletter: Corky Crowley**

(813) 968-4110

[corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths**

(813) 210-4850

[bev.griffiths@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bev.griffiths@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Stadium Recycling Initiative:**

**Dave Varrieur (813) 503-6970**

[appraiserfl@outlook.com](mailto:appraiserfl@outlook.com)

**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



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/](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 no-

tices 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/)*

TAMPA BAY



ICO

**Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO)**

**Outings: Academy Prep Tampa Lead: Karen Kress**

**Oct 1 - Fort Desoto Amazing ICO Challenge**

**Oct 29 - Hike in Hillsborough River State Park**

**Outings: Boys & Girls Club Lead: Emilie Joyce**

**Oct 15 - Hike in Hillsborough River State Park**

**Nov 12 - McKay Bay Cleanup**



If you would like to help or learn about this growing program, please contact Rocky Milburn, [tbico@live.com](mailto:tbico@live.com) or Emilie Joyce, [emiliejoyce17@gmail.com](mailto:emiliejoyce17@gmail.com).

**The Sierra Club's Stadium Recycling Initiative:** Now seeking volunteers for the **2016-2017** season to help recycle bottles, cans and plastics for the Tampa Sports Authority at Raymond James Stadium! It is fun, easy and a great way to get into stadium events for free! This includes all Tampa Bay Buccaneer and USF Bulls home games and some special events during the year. In order to get involved, you only need a Sierra Club membership and a great attitude. **Please email coordinator Dave Varrieur at [appraiserfl@outlook.com](mailto:appraiserfl@outlook.com) to volunteer.**



**Support our Candidates and our Sierra PAC Fund**

You can show your support for Sierra Club endorsed candidates by contributing to or volunteering for their campaigns. Or by making a contribution to Sierra Club Florida's PAC which helps us elect environmental candidates.

You can support our PAC fund in any amount by sending 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! Please note, contributions to Sierra Club Florida PAC are not tax-deductible.

**Seeking 2017 Executive Committee Candidates!** The Nominating Committee is now seeking candidates for election to Tampa Bay Group's Executive Committee. Willing candidates not selected by the Nominating Committee may qualify by petition prior to November 1. Ballots will be sent out with our December newsletter and must be returned by January 2. For details, contact Nominating Committee Chair Mariella Smith at 813-601-2963 or [public@mariellasmith.com](mailto:public@mariellasmith.com)

## **The Conservation Committee Report:**

In October the Conservation Committee will meet on the **1st Monday, October 3**, so committee members can appear on **October 10** to make public comments at a hearing on a Sierra Club change to the fertilizer ordinance in Temple Terrace. The November meeting will revert to the **2nd Monday, November 14**. 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** at 6:30 pm directly behind the church. Follow the Tampa Bay Sierra Club signs.

★ We made public comments for the Conservation Committee at the BOCC transportation meeting on September 8 about our concerns about TIF as a transportation funding mechanism. We spoke at the FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission hearing on Critical Wildlife Areas to voice our concerns about the proposed buffer zones as being “experimental” given that studies have shown greater distances are needed to avoid human disturbance to roosting and nesting birds.

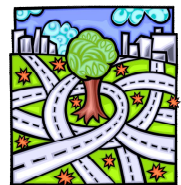
★ We are working on drafts of various environmentally focused bookmarks to be used as handouts covering: Tampa Bay Sierra Club, John Muir in Florida, Florida Black Bear, Florida Panther, TBX, Florida Aquifer, and others. These are intended for use at club tabling events at the Florida Birding and Nature Festival at Hillsborough Community College – Southshore on October 14 & 15 and the Ruskin Seafood Festival at E.G. Simmons Park on November 5 & 6 where last year there were 25,000 visitors. We need some help at the tabling events.

★ Do attend the FDOT In The Community: Tampa Bay Express Library Tour which is being held in neighborhood libraries until November 8. For the schedule and sites see: [www.tampabayexpress.com](http://www.tampabayexpress.com) <<http://www.tampabayexpress.com/>>

★ We have provided the following two Small Grants to projects in Wimauma: 1) An intergenerational garden planned by the Hispanic Services Council at the Wimauma Senior Center, and 2) A Women’s Opportunity Center computer lab furniture for enhancing employment skills among women in Wimauma. Hispanic women are among the most entrepreneurial business owners in the country.

These are some of the issues, and members of the committee continue to work on issues that percolate from time to time. There are plenty of actionable issues to fit your interests. Come join our meeting and see the full agenda each month, with factoids.

**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. 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](mailto:bev.griffiths@florida.sierraclub.org)



### **Vote NO in November on Amendment One!**

It’s been called a wolf in sheep’s clothing for good reason. **Don’t be fooled.**

**Amendment 1** could potentially get rid of net metering, the practice that requires electric companies to purchase excess electricity from solar homes. Amendment 1 states that state and local governments would have the authority to “ensure that consumers who do not chose to install solar are not required to subsidize the costs of backup power and electric grid access to those who do.” The amendment could allow utilities to argue that net metering is a “subsidy” for solar, and lawmakers could prohibit the use of net metering.

**Bottom line, Vote NO on Amendment 1**







**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

October / November 2016



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Please call (415) 977-5653 or email [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto: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](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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INTRODUCTORY	\$15	
REGULAR	\$39	\$49
SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
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STUDENT	\$25	\$35
LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

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

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**USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA. The Student Green Energy Fund (SGEF)** at the University of South

Florida came into existence through participation in a national initiative for colleges and universities to embrace sustainability principles and for faculty, staff and students to work together to reduce their university's carbon footprint. Students at USF approved a Green Fee that supports the SGEF. Students, faculty and staff work together as the SGEF Council to identify and finance green sustainability projects on campus. We at Sierra Club have felt very supportive towards this effort.

Recently one of the funded projects involved replacing current lighting with LED lighting in an entire building. This project accomplished its goals of improved aesthetics, lower costs, and reduced the carbon footprint over an extended time period. Initial costs were rebid using some in-house staff labor to stay within budget, and over time, actual savings went from the projected \$12,349 per year (28kW electrical load) to \$18,084 per year (41kW). Payback period for the project went from 6.3 years to 4.3 years. Lighting and building safety were greatly improved and maintenance costs reduced.

Congrats to the students and their faculty advisors for their use of technology and their exemplary work with this and many other projects!

**Membership Report** The Tampa Bay Group now has 2,181 members (July). There are 18 Groups in the Florida Chapter with a total of 30,724 members in July. We processed 21 new free memberships under a Sierra Club incentive program as part of our Outreach Program in Wimauma. Join us in protecting the environment. Contact Paul at [paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org)