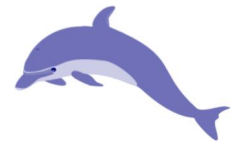




SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet January / February 2017

January & February Program & General Meeting:

When: Wednesday, January 11, & February 8

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

January 11 Program:

Conserving Marine Ecosystems in the Southeast

Speaker: **Cameron Jaggard** Senior Associate, US Oceans, Southeast at The Pew Charitable Trusts



Cameron Jaggard is based in North Palm Beach, Florida as Senior Associate at The Pew Charitable Trusts. He works with Pew's U.S. Oceans, Southeast team and stakeholders in support of efforts to conserve forage fish, reduce by-

A Brief Look Back and Ahead

Traditionally we reserve time at the end of each year to look backward, reflect and review; before looking forward to anticipate, plan and prepare.

In 2016 the fledgling Adventure Coast Committee gathered strength and grew. Sierra opposed TBX, a project which threatens neighborhoods, would increase exhaust related pollution and doom Tampa to endless construction congestion. TBX is now stalled while the Florida Department of Transportation re-evaluates their plans. A few months ago the bogus "Smart" Solar Amendment was polling 80% and backed with tens of millions of dollars from the investor owned utilities. But Sierra and others defeated the trick amendment. 2016 saw Tampa Bay Sierra politically successful raising significant funds and electing Pat Kemp to the County Commission

catch, protect special places where fish spawn, and otherwise advance ecosystem-based fishery management. Cameron will speak on the importance of our oceans, the challenges they face, and efforts to transition to a big picture approach to fisheries management that will help ensure healthy marine ecosystems, fisheries, and recreational opportunities into the future. Please plan to attend this great presentation from one of Florida's leading experts on fisheries management.

Feb 8 Program: **The Environment and Modern Agriculture**

Speaker: **Zavia Menning** Humane Educator



Ethical Choices Program

Please join us in February to learn more about the importance of our food choices on the environment. Industrial agriculture has made the price of meat lower than ever. But what is the real cost? How does America's meat intensive diet impact the planet's ecosystem. And what are the ethical implications? Please join Zavia Menning from the Ethical Choices Program to learn more about these and related topics. You are sure to find "food for thought".

2017 will be a year of challenges, commitment and fresh energy. We will not allow TBX to take us down the wrong road, farther from the only true solution: dramatically increased public transit. Following the defeat of Amendment One, Solar City will massively expand of their Florida operations. We now have a strong voice for positive change on Hillsborough County Commission. Ironically, dismal national election results have provided the catalyst to unite and energize America. Volunteers and donations are pouring in. Sierra is launching a new Ready for 100% Renewable Energy in Tampa and other cities in Florida. And we are part of a broad coalition promising to fill the streets of Washington DC on April 29 demanding action on climate change.

Stay tuned and hold onto your hats. It's going to be a wild ride. *Chair: Kent Bailey*

2017 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

Michael Newett (813) 381-2620

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Ex-Com Member:

Tamara Pearson tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org

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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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Newsletter: Corky Crowley

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Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths

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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



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/

Sunday Feb 5, Paddle

Join us for the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Super Bowl Paddle Sun, Feb 5, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will meet at Lowry Park, 7525 North Blvd, Tampa, FL. Paddle the Hillsborough River on Super Bowl Sunday. We will start at Lowry Park, lunch at Ricks on the River, paddle through downtown and take out at Davis Islands. We will enjoy and learn about the wading birds and wildlife found along the river. For more information and reserve email Leader Rocky Milburn at tbico@live.com or call (813) 966-9785

TAMPA BAY



ICO

SIERRA CLUB

Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO)

The trip to Boyd Hill Nature preserve started with a nature hike where the students learned the names of the trees. Baby alligators sunning themselves were a big hit! At a special display, the kids learned how well coyotes can hear. They were thrilled by the rescued raptors and will now be ready for camp this year when Rocky will take us on a night owl hike. The students showed their courage when the staff presented them with snakes and spiders for holding. At the closing circle, everyone talked about the opportunity to see animals up close. The next outings will be Jan. 7 at Nature's Classroom, Jan. 14 at Brooker Creek Preserve, and Jan. 21 canoeing on the Hillsborough River. We'd love to have you join us! Please let us know if you can. If you would like to help or learn about this growing program, please contact Rocky Milburn, tbico@live.com or Emilie Joyce, emiliejoyce17@gmail.com.



Marcia Biggs Honored with 2016 Black Bear Award

In recognition for her many years of service to Tampa Bay Sierra Club, we bestow our highest award: The Black Bear.

Marcia has served as Group Chair of the Executive Committee, Publicity Chair, Program Chair and Earth Day Co-Chair. She is the editor for Florida Chapter's newsletter, the Pelican, a Sierra publication distributed statewide to our more than 30,000 members.

A tireless worker, Marcia continues to contribute her talent and energy to the Tampa Bay Group even after moving to Pinellas County where she's a member and volunteer with the Club's Suncoast Group. Always available to lend a helping hand with her experience as writer, editor, photographer and event planner, Marcia has been inspirational as a volunteer leader for Sierra Club.

The Conservation Committee Report:

In January the Conservation Committee will meet on **Monday January 9 2017, at 6:30pm**. 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.

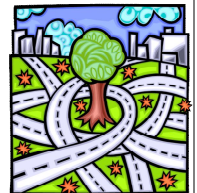
As we begin the New Year facing continued threats to the environment in Florida, now we can expect little or no support from the Federal Government with the new administration appointments lining up as pro-fossil fuel and anti-EPA. So in the face of the odds we must continue the work that the majority of the citizenry wants us to do, that is, fight as hard and as often as we can to protect the environment.

The Temple Terrace Fertilizer Ordinance may well be decided by the time you receive this, and forces that are pro-growth and pro-lawn services have begun to try to modify the Ordinance. We'll see what happens.

We have plenty of other issues:

- ★ Fracking and sinkholes. Address the phosphate mining issues and the short and long term issues with the gypsum stacks. Clean Water. Protect Tampa Bay from nitrogen loading from lawn fertilizing in the rainy season. Climate Change with the sea level rise threat to Tampa Bay and Florida.
- ★ Immigration actions may threaten communities we work with. Continue our Environmental Justice efforts and Outreach programs to minority children and students and Latinas for improved employment training.
- ★ The Florida Black Bear needs our help. The Florida Panther situation is pending on possible takings (killings). Land changes at the US Fish & Wildlife Service.
- ★ Anti-TBX actions to protect the air and threatened communities. Continuing the fight on transportation issues to increase funding for transit.
- ★ We will witness the implementation of the new the Mobility Fee structure on developers (who get a discount on fees for five years) and the impact of \$100 million in credits with developers to offset the new fees.
- ★ Ready for 100% Clean Energy Campaign in Tampa. Continue to advocate for renewable energy and support our programs promoting Solar Energy at USF with the Solar Fair/Solar Tour events (25 March at USF). Support the national campaigns: Beyond Coal, Beyond Oil and Beyond Natural Gas.

2017 will bring events celebrating John Muir's birthday in April (come to EcoFest at Lowry Park on 22 April) and in October we will have events in Fernandina and Cedar Key, and elsewhere, to commemorate Muir's travels across Florida in 1867; also his visit to Florida in 1898. If your organization wants a talk on John Muir we can provide one.



Paul Thibault: Executive Committee & Conservation Chair, Tampa Bay Sierra Club

paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org 813-777-7198

2016 Holiday Party at Bahama Breeze: Our 2016 Holiday Party was well attended and a great success thanks to the terrific job done by organizers Rocky Milburn, Don Kruse, Gary Gibbons, Paul Thibault and volunteers including Teresa Rodriguez, Karen Michalski and Chris Gleason. We had a bit of last minute scrambling when the venue that we had reserved months ago suddenly closed, leaving us searching for a substitute at the last minute. But the kind folks at Bahama Breeze squeezed us in at the last minute. The food was great and the program recognizing volunteers benefited from the house audio system. Gary Gibbon's slide show was terrific – thanks Gary! Committee chairs and volunteers were given Sierra Club coffee mugs as a token of our appreciation for their efforts over the year and Marcia Biggs was awarded the Black Bear Award for 2106. Your Sierra Club is only possible because of the personal commitment of our many great volunteers. If you missed this year's event, we hope to see you in 2017!



Membership Report The Tampa Bay Group now has 2,270 members (Nov). There are 20 Groups in the Florida Chapter with a total of 32,326 members. We have in process 12 new members from the International Solar Energy Society at USF. Join us in protecting the environment. Contact Paul at **paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org**



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

January / February 2017



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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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Exp. Date _____ / _____

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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

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Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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Adventure Coast Action Committee Report:

The Adventure Coast Action Committee (Hernando County) was formed in 2015 as a result of actions taken by the Suncoast and Tampa Bay Sierra Clubs. While the Nature Coast Sierra Club was once quite active in Hernando County activity waned and the club, dissolved. A great deal of participation by Suncoast and Tampa Bay against expansion of limerock mining in Hernando County reignited interest in Sierra Club and the new Committee was formed.

The Committee has been active this past year focused on issues in Hernando, growing membership, supporting political candidates and assisting other conservation groups. Notably:

- © Instrumental in re-establishing Hernando County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and Committee.
- © Instrumental in assisting with adoption of a half cent sales tax increase in Hernando to support the schools (manpower only).
- © Identified 2 candidates for Sierra Club endorsement and achieved same. Diane Rowden for Hernando County Commissioner and Dave Koller for District 11 US House of Representatives.
- © Action against the 7 Diamonds Mine in Pasco County which potentially can (will) affect Weeki Wachee Springs in Hernando County.
- © Currently we are reviewing the proposed Hernando County Comprehensive Plan Update.

We continue our search for additional members and an Outings Chair – any volunteers. Vice Chair Bob Howell, at bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org