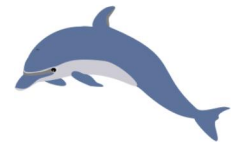




# SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet January / February 2018

## January & February Program & General Meeting:

**When:** Wednesday, Jan. 10 & Feb. 14, 2018

**6:30 pm:** Social Time

**7:00 pm:** General 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 at [kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org)



## January 10 Program “Specialty Birds of Florida”

**Speaker:** Rocky Milburn

After first being canceled by Hurricane Irma and postponed again due to illness, please plan to join nationally recognized birder Rocky Milburn as he presents “Specialty Birds of Florida” highlighting several of the species that are primarily found online in the Sunshine State such as the Scrub Jay, the Burrowing Owl, Roseate Spoonbill, American Oyster Catcher, Reddish Egret and more. If you’ve ever been on an outing or nature hike with Rocky, you know what a

treat this will be. Rocky has a long history surveying birds for the USGS and ELAPP. And he has been the winner of the June Challenge 2 of the last 4 years, spotting more birds than anyone in the entire state. He spent 10 years working as Audubon national staff on the Roseate Spoonbill Alafia Banks project. Experience birders and novices alike are sure to learn more about Florida’s birds from this expert presentation.

And a special thanks goes out to **Jim Gray** who stepped up in November to share his wildlife photography stories and incredible nature shots. The photos were great as were Jim’s technical advice on nature photography.



## February 14 Program: “Climate change health effects now visible, deadly”

**Speaker:** Dr. Lynn Ringenberg

Our February program features Dr. Lynn Ringenberg: health policy activist and immediate past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Dr. Lynn Ringenberg will talk about the connection between our health and the environment. The warming climate is making us sicker, as are fracking, coal fired power plants, phosphate mining and other environmental toxics. Dr. Ringenberg is a nationally recognized authority on pediatric health and the environment. This is sure to be an enlightening and informative evening.

## SAVE THE DATE! Don’t miss the January 2018 Planning Meeting

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club is hosting its Annual Planning Meeting on Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 9 AM to 2PM.

**Location:** Academy Prep Center of Tampa, 1407 E. Columbus Dr. Tampa, FL

All members are invited to attend Tampa Bay Group’s Annual Planning Meeting.

Please reserve this date to come help us set out a plan for the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group on conservation issues, outings, and events. The Executive Committee’s new board will be seated. New committees are forming and re-grouping in a wide areas of interests, and will be looking for volunteers to come forward for support. This is a great opportunity to take an active role in helping us set our goals and priorities for the year ahead. **Please RSVP so that we can get an accurate count for lunch. For more information contact Kent Bailey at [kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org) or call 813-727-1202.**



The Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group thanks Michal Newett and Tamara Pearson for their hard work and important contributions on the Executive Committee.



## 2018 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: Nancy Stevens**

813-380-1668

[nancy.stevens@sierraclub.org](mailto:nancy.stevens@sierraclub.org)

**Treasurer: Don Kruse**

**Energy Chair: Bob Howell**

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

**Membership Chair: Gary**

**Gibbons** [ggibbons@gibblaw.com](mailto:ggibbons@gibblaw.com)

**Ex-Com: Paul Thibault**

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

**Ex-Com: Karen Michalski**

**Ex-Com: Pat Kemp**

[pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Other Officers & Assignments**

**Tabling Chair: Kaitlin Connolly**

**Secretary: Linda Hugues**

**Webmaster: Marcia Biggs**

**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)

**Recycling Chair: Barbara**

**Heineken** [bheineken@recycle.com](mailto:bheineken@recycle.com)

**Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813**

**Tampa Bay Group web site:**

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

## A Brief Look Back and Ahead

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

This past year as seen unprecedented growth in the Sierra Club at all levels. Contributions have soared. The Florida Chapter has added new staff. Our group has benefited from new, highly engaged volunteers. The two newest members to be to our Executive Committee election are also the youngest members, an encouraging sign. We have led the opposition to dangerous mines, a road thru the Serenova Preserve and sprawl. There were successful court challenges to the Sabal Trail Pipeline and litigation related to the Land and Water Legacy amendment. We have added new outings leaders. Member Paul Thibault organized a Climate Summit and celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Muir's trek across Florida in Cedar Key.

We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to hold public officials accountable in the 2018 election cycle. Our Florida Chapter is expected to hire a full time Political Director very soon. Our Tampa Bay Group will work vigorously to elect environmental candidates. Expect our Group to redouble our opposition to the proposed road thru Serenova. We will continue to expand our Outings Program and work even harder to commit our communities to 100% Renewable Energy. Most importantly, the Tampa Bay Sierra Club will work even harder to provide opportunities for members to become personally engaged and involved. Our greatest strength is the energy and enthusiasm of our volunteers.

*Thank You!*

### 2017 Holiday Party at CL Place

The 2017 Holiday Party organized by the newest member of our Executive Committee, Karen Michalski, was a tremendous success. Located in Ybor City, CL Space had provided plenty of room and a great party atmosphere. Catering from Olympia was superb. CL Space provided a sound system and projector for Gary Gibbon's great slideshow. A brief awards ceremony recognized some of our great volunteers, including Bob Howell who received our Black Bear Award. Several attendees commented that this was our best holiday party to date. But it couldn't have happened without the work of our great volunteers including, Karen Michalski, Chris Gleason, Gary and Jane Gibbons, Paul and Michelle Thibault, Nancy Stevens, Robert Jordan, Rocky Milburn and several others who helped with decorations, check-in and clean up.

### Bob Howell Honored with Black Bear Award

In recognition of his efforts to develop and strengthen the Sierra Club, especially in Pasco and Hernando Counties, the Tampa Bay Group awarded our highest honor, the Black Bear Award, to Bob Howell. Bob Howell led vigorous opposition to dangerous limerock mines that threatened communities and our aquifer. He has also fought to stop a proposed roadway thru the pristine Serenova Preserve. Bob intervened to refute Mosaic's assertion that their failed gypstack had released pollution underground. And was instrumental in the effort to have the Floridan Aquifer designated a federal Sole Source Aquifer which would convey additional protections for this all important water resource.



**The Conservation Committee Report:** The Conservation Committee will meet on Monday January 8, and Monday February 12, 2018, at 6:30pm. Join us 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.

**Some of the currently pressing items are:**

\***The Hillsborough County Rooftop Solar Buyer's Co-op** has officially launched! If you are interested in learning more about purchasing solar, there is no obligation or fee to join. Go to [flsun.org](http://flsun.org).

\***Say NO to sewage-effluent dumping:**

**Success:** Chris's Plumbing Hearing withdrew their application.

**Success:** Hillsborough County passed Land Development code amendment LDC 17-0874 to prohibit land application of septage.

**Future to watch:** Hillsborough County will develop a Land Development code amendment to control sewage-effluent dumping.

\***Push for Transit for Hillsborough County**

Hillsborough County has the worst funded transit in the country. We need to tell FDOT that we need transit and encourage Hillsborough County to increase funding for Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) and plan for additional transit services beyond buses.

**Attend a HART Meeting, or FDOT Tampa Bay NEXT Community Working Group: new meetings being scheduled. Call (813) 975-NEXT for more information.**

\***Help prevent urban sprawl**

The Future of Hillsborough Comprehensive Plan for Unincorporated Hillsborough County provides land use criteria for rural and urban areas. Developers often request changing designations from rural to residential, increasing sprawl.

**ACTION: Join us to understand the plan and defend rural areas from development encroachment.**

**2018 State Legislature Bills:** We will monitor state legislature for bills that would impact the environment of Tampa Bay, and provide support or opposition. Right now we are in support of an Anti-Fracking Bill (HB 237) and in opposition to a bill that will do away with local tree ordinances (SB 574A and HB 521).

**Nancy Stevens: Conservation Chair, Tampa Bay Sierra Club, 813-380-1668 [nancy.stevens@sierraclub.org](mailto:nancy.stevens@sierraclub.org)**


**Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful** and the **City of Tampa** partnered in January 2016 to implement a recycling initiative along the Riverwalk. In May 2017, they installed an additional 25 recycle bins on the 3 mile Riverwalk along the Hillsborough River. These bins were purchased with a grant from Zephyrhills 100% Natural Spring Water. Since the recycling project began in January 2016, over 10,000 lbs. of recyclables have been diverted from the waste stream and have been recycled.

Recycling in public spaces and at public events is probably the most challenging type of recycling to be successful. Yet events and outdoor venues also produce lots of waste and recyclables. Please look for recycling containers at events and outdoor venues and only put recyclables in them. Too often, well intended event goers put garbage in the recycling bins, and the whole container ends up in the trash.

If you participate in the Gasparilla Parade along Bayshore, you know there are lots of recyclables everywhere. KTBB oversees recycling at that event. If you want to volunteer to help, you can contact KTBB at [info@ktbb.org](mailto:info@ktbb.org)

The picture is of Debbie Evenson, Executive Director KTBB, and Brad Suder, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department



TAMPA BAY Join our  
 **OUTINGS** **Meetup Page**  
SIERRA CLUB 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! Receive notices when new outings are added.

**Florida Seller of Travel**  
**Reference No. ST37115**

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

Please check details on these outings as well as others at the Tampa Sierra Club website.





**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

January / February 2018



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**Address Changes:**

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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 Check enclosed, made payable to *Sierra Club*  
Please charge my: MasterCard  Visa   
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Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**  
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INTRODUCTORY	\$15	
REGULAR	\$39	\$49
SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
SENIOR	\$25	\$35
STUDENT	\$25	\$35
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**SIERRA CLUB**  
P.O. BOX 421041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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## Making a New Year's Resolution That You'll Keep

Ever since the day after November 8, 2016, Sierra Club has experienced dramatic increases in new Members, and with good reason. Every day there is news of yet another reckless environmental policy change.

Pledges to recommit to coal, denouncing the Paris Accord, approving the Keystone XL pipeline, appointing as Secretary of EPA a person who wants to dismantle the EPA, cutting back environmental protections, severely attacking our National Monuments and National Parks, the list of horrible environmental news has been non-stop. The news is not any better on the State level either.

That's why environmental protection will occur at the local level, with all of us working first locally to elect good environmental stewards to public office, and then spreading our influence to the State and National levels.

Increasing Membership in the Sierra Club, to increase our political clout with decision makers, and, more importantly, stepping up to become an Active Volunteer to help carry out the Sierra Club's mission is more important than at any time in our lives.

Please consider giving Sierra Club Memberships as gifts, especially to young people. Even though the holidays have passed, it's never too late to give a gift of Sierra Club Membership to someone you love. At a time when we often make New Year's Resolutions, we hope that you will become an Active Volunteer in 2018, and for many years to come. Together, we can do great things!

## Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group Membership Numbers:

This report includes the data through October, 2017 (most recent available data per report from Sierra Club dated 11/15/17).

We added 7 members from the previous month's total. We now have 2,704 Members in the Tampa Bay Group.