



SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet

March / April 2018



March & April Program & General Meeting:

When: Wednesday, Mar. 14 & Apr. 11, 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

March 14 Program “Anna Maria Turtle Watch and Shorebird Monitoring”

Speaker: Suzi Fox Executive Director

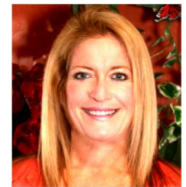
After surviving for millions of years, sea turtles found themselves threatened by development on the coast of west central Florida. Sea turtle eggs were being destroyed by the thousands and the hatchlings that survived weren't finding their way to the sea. Today the Turtle Watch program marks and protects the highly vulnerable sea turtle nests and hatchlings. Suzi also works to protect Florida's shorebirds with public edu-



cation and monitoring. Her team of highly motivated volunteers works daily to protect Florida's natural heritage. Suzi Fox will share her successes and leave you with a renewed appreciation for the turtles and birds that share our shoreline.



April 11 Program: Legislative and Solar Energy Update **Speaker:** Susan Glickman



Frequent radio and TV commentator, Susan will give us an update on the environmental and energy legislation from the 2018 session. As a long time advocate for health, environmental and energy issues Susan knows her way around Tallahassee. Join us to hear the inside story of what did and didn't get done this session and why. Susan has served as Florida Director for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy since 2013 having worked for them since 2001. A Tampa native, she has worked with national organizations such as Natural Resources Defense Council, the Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility and many, many more.



Ecofest 9th Annual Earth Day Tampa Bay 2018

WHEN: Sunday, April 22nd from 11:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M

LOCATION: Lowry Park bandshell area – 7525 N. Boulevard, Tampa, Fl.

The event will be open to the public and is family & dog friendly.

Admission to the event is free. Free Parking.

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.

Join us for an exciting eco-event! EcoFest - Celebrates Earth Day Tampa Bay 2018 is a community event organized by Learning Gate Community School, the City of Tampa and the USF Office of Admissions to celebrate the many businesses, organizations, and individuals in the Tampa Bay area dedicated to the principles of sustainability – Ecology, Equity and Economy. For additional information on EcoFest 2018, please email ecofest@learninggate.org or call (813) 948-4190 ext. 313.

2018 Executive Committee

Group Chairperson: 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

Treasurer: Don Kruse
Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org

Conservation: Nancy Stevens
813-380-1668
nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org

Membership Chair: Gary Gibbons
gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org

Energy Chair: Bob Howell
bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org

Ex-Com: Pat Kemp
pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org

Ex-Com: Paul Thibault
paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org

Ex-Com: Karen Michalski
karenkaymichalski@gmail.com

Other Officers & Assignments

Secretary: Linda Hugues
linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org

Webmaster: Marcia Biggs
marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org

Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths
(813) 210-4850
bev.griffiths@florida.sierraclub.org

Newsletter: Corky Crowley
(813) 968-4110
corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org

Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave Varrieur (813) 503-6970
dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org

ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice
bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org

Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813
Tampa Bay Group web site:
<http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay>

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 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/

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

March 11, Sunday, 9 am - Withlacoochee State Trail Bicycle Ride:

South Section from Floral City to Croom Road. This is the second of four rides that will give the participant the opportunity to see and ride the entire 46 mile length of this fabulous rail-to-trail park. Enjoy riding through the Withlacoochee State Forest, and enjoying nature with the gopher tortoises and blue birds. On this ride we will ride the section between Floral City and Croom Road. Rest stops will be available as needed, and we will eat at River Ratz on the Withlacoochee River for lunch. Approximate distance: 24 miles, and we will be riding for about 3 hours. Pace: 8 to 12 mph (easy to moderate). Bicycle helmets are required by all riders.

Signup Instructions: Please phone, email, or text leader, to RSVP.

Bring: Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, water, and snack

Cancellation Policy: Participants will receive RSVP confirmation and any cancellation notice via message, email and/or phone.

Leader: Ben Berauer, 352-610-6704, (c)727-217-5971, or bfberauer@suncoastsierra.org (Suncoast)

SAVE THE SERENOVA COMMITTEE UPDATES:

On February 8th the Sierra Club sent out a press release to over 40 contacts announcing the sign-on letter to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) opposing the Ridge Road extension through the Serenova Preserve.

The Ridge Road extension project is one of the longest pending permit applications in ACOE history. The 6,500-acre Serenova Tract was purchased in the late 1990s as mitigation for construction of the Suncoast Parkway. The Pasco Board of County Commissions has advocated for the extension of Ridge Road through the preserve, ostensibly for an evacuation route from US 41 to the Suncoast Parkway. But with Hurricane Irma recently prompting thousands of residents to evacuate to shelters, opponents of the road argue that there was no impediment to residents' ability to evacuate with existing road options, and that the road construction is a tax-payer funded boondoggle.

SERENOVA MONTHLY MEETING:

Monthly meetings are held the first Monday. Next meeting on March 5, 2018, from 7 - 8:30 pm at the Energy and Marine Center located at 9130 Old Post Rd., Port Richey. Together we are making an impact in the community.



The Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee will meet on Monday March 12, and Monday April 9, 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:

HILLSBOROUGH FUTURE LAND USE. Your Help is needed to STOP A Proposal to Convert Rural Land to Dense Housing. Let your County Commissioners know that you care about the environment and expect them to protect Hillsborough County's Natural Places!

Write or call your Hillsborough County Commissioners. Urge them to vote against Item 17-04, 167 acres on Lithia-Pinecrest Rd

Or **speak against it** on **March 1** at 6 PM at the County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 2nd Floor Boardroom, Tampa FL, 33602

On March 1 the BOCC votes on 17-04, a proposal to change an area that is "Agricultural Rural" to "RES-1 County Staff has found 17-04 **INCONSISTENT WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN** because:

“The site is located within a Significant Wildlife Area”

“The site contains wetlands”, and is “adjacent to environmentally sensitive resources, i.e. the Alafia River Basin”.

The proposed change requires Hillsborough County "to provide greater public services in a portion of the county that is not already planned for”.

In 2013 it was found to be inconsistent and withdrawn. Conditions have not changed, and staff still finds it “inconsistent” *Note: Quotes are taken directly from staff report.*

Let your County Commissioners know that you care about the environment and expect them to protect Hillsborough County's Natural Places! Contact info is at:

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/board-of-county-commissioners/contact-your-commissioner#/>

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: A New committee focusing on transportation is being formed. Contact **Christopher Gleason** for more information.

2018 STATE LEGISLATURE BILLS: Anti-fracking bill SR 462 has passed through committee, but the House Bill HB 237 has not come up for vote. All Floridians who care about the future of Florida's waters are being asked to contact Speaker Corcoran about HB 237 and let him know that we want this bill passed and fracking banned. Also, contact your state representations to oppose to bills that will do away with local tree ordinances (SB 574A and HB 521).

The **HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SOLAR 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.

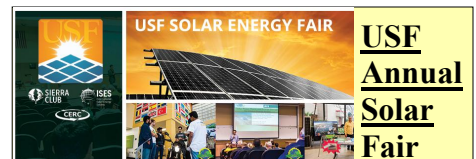
Nancy Stevens: Conservation Chair, Tampa Bay Sierra Club, nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org 813-380-1668

The Transportation Committee Report:

The Transportation Committee will meet on Monday, March 12th and Monday, April 9th at 6:30-7pm, 5103 N. Central Ave. Tampa, FL 33603 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Snyder Building at back.

We cover all aspects of transportation in our region and beyond. MPO, HART, FDOT (TBNNext), Regional Transit Feasibility Study (RTFS), county, cities, pedestrian & cyclist safety, corridor studies, & community outreach. Regional Transit Feasibility Study (RTFS) presented to TBARTA, HART Board, and MPO Board. HART is not backing the plan, but contractually it is moving forward with community outreach & feedback. <http://tbregionaltransit.org>, to get your voice heard with comment and survey on their website, with additional information available.

Christopher Gleason: Chair Transportation Committee,
hondaman842000@yahoo.com



Join us on **Saturday April 7**, at Engineering Building II at USF Tampa. **FREE Admission.** Share the day with speakers who are experts in the field of clean energy, vendors with solar and other sustainable energy products, organizations focused on sustainability, a wide variety of electric vehicles, and more TBA.

The event will take place at the USF Engineering Building II in the Hall of Flags, on the USF campus, 4202 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa, FL 33620.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

March / April 2018



Nonprofit Org.
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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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Address _____
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State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____
 Check enclosed, made payable to *Sierra Club*
Please charge my: MasterCard Visa
Exp. Date _____ / _____
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY	\$15	\$20
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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We Gain Strength With More Members

Sierra Club’s motto is to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect” the wild places of the earth. The Protection part involves being politically engaged on the local, state and national levels. When Sierra Club members meet with local officials or stand to address a County Commission meeting, we speak as one club, one voice. But, let’s not kid ourselves, the number of members that we represent matters to those officials. Elected officials often think - How many voters care about this issue?

That’s why we simply must grow our numbers, substantially, in order to expand our influence on decision-makers. You are a loyal Sierra Club member, and you know the great work that Sierra Club does, but many of your friends, family members and co-workers might not know anything about Sierra Club. We need you to help educate them and to recruit new members for Sierra Club. The daily news about the continuing assault on the environment and relaxing of safety standards in air quality and water quality are becoming an intolerable health issue that everyone you know should be concerned about. \$15 for an Individual Membership or \$20 for a Joint Membership is a wonderful way for someone to show that they care about our Planet, and expand Sierra Club’s influence. Together, we can do great things!

Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group Membership Numbers:

This report includes the data through December, 2017.
We added 32 members from the previous month’s total.
We now have 2,736 Members in the Tampa Bay Group.

