



# SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet November / December 2018

## Program & General Meeting:

**When:** Wednesday, November. 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)

From the earliest days of the Sierra Club, outings have been at the very core of our Sierra mission. By providing opportunities for first hand experiences in the natural world, our founder John Muir inspired thousands to join together to protect some of America's most precious natural spaces. This month Gary Gibbons and Rocky Milburn will review the history of Sierra Club outings and share some of the most outstanding highlights of our Outings Program here in Tampa Bay.



They will also share insights into our Inspiring Connections Outdoors program for urban youth, which has touched thousands of lives in our community by taking young people out of the city into nearby will places.

## November Program: The History of Tampa Bay Sierra Outings & Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO) by Rocky Milburn and Gary Gibbons

## Sierra Club Annual Holiday Party December 12

**When:** Wednesday December 12, 2018 at 6:30 – 10pm

Social Hour (cash bar) Dinner and Awards

**Where:** Creative Loafing Place 1911 N 13<sup>th</sup> Street, w200, Ybor City

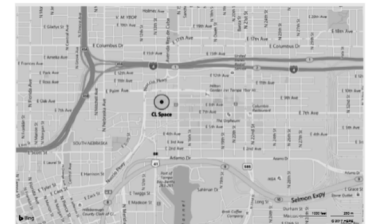
**Cost:** Cost is \$15.00 cash or check. *This event is sure to sell out so please*

**RSVP** on our Meetup page from >Florida.Sierraclub.org/TampaBay< I'll reply with payment options.

**Parking:** Palm [Fernando Norie] garage

Our annual Holiday Party will be in historic, heart of Ybor City. Join your Sierra Club friends for a relaxing evening of celebration while Gary Gibbons presents a slide show. There will be a short awards ceremony to recognize Sierra Club volunteers. Buffet Dinner with refreshments and full cash bar available. Reservations and prepayment required. **Space is limited.** Tickets will not be available at the door.

**Event Organizer:** Karen Michalski [karenkaymichalski@gmail.com](mailto:karenkaymichalski@gmail.com).



## Save the Date! Don't miss the January 2019 Planning Meeting

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club is hosting its Annual Planning Meeting on January 12, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

**Location:** Academy Prep Center of Tampa, 1407 E. Columbus Dr. Tampa, FL 33605

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, events and more. Officers of the new Executive Committee will be elected, standing committees will be formed and committee chairs named. We will be defining our areas of interest with ample opportunities for new volunteers to take on responsibilities for the new year. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP so we can get an accurate count for lunch. For more information or to RSVP please contact Kent Bailey at [kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org) or call 813-727-1202



## 2018 Executive Committee

**Group Chairperson: 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)

**Co-Treasurer: Don Kruse**

[Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Conservation: Nancy Stevens**

813-380-1668

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

**Membership Chair: Gary Gibbons**

[gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Energy Chair: Bob Howell**

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

**Transportation Chair:**

**Christopher Gleason**

**Co-Treasurer: Karen Michalski**

[karenkaymichalski@gmail.com](mailto:karenkaymichalski@gmail.com)

**Ex-Com: Pat Kemp**

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

### Other Officers & Assignments

**Secretary: Linda Hugues**

[linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Webmaster: Marcia Biggs**

[marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths**

(813) 210-4850

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

**Newsletter: Corky Crowley**

(813) 968-4110

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

**Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave**

**Varrieur** (813) 503-6970

[dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org)

**ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice**

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

**Volunteer Coordinator: (TBG & ICO) Sandra Duenas.**

**Social Media Coordinator:**

**Rob Jordan.**

**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](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/)

**Sat. November 10, Historic Ybor City Hike:** Rocky Milburn.

**Sun. November 23, Black Friday Hike:** Gary Gibbons and Rocky Milburn.

**Thurs. December 15, Hillsborough River paddle:** Sergeant Park to Trout Creek, Shirley Denton

**February 5, 2019, Super Bowl Sunday Paddle, Hillsborough River,** Gary Gibbons and Rocky Milburn

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

**Congratulations!** to our newest Certified Outings Leader. **Eugene Kelly** of the Adventure Coast Committee has completed his requirements to become a Certified Outings Leader. Once the Adventure Coast becomes a group, he will be their Outings Chair.

### Sierra Supports the One Cent Transit Tax

Virtually every incumbent candidate for the Hillsborough County Commission claims they want to fight sprawl, make development "pay its own way" and improve transportation. Which begs the question, if the commissioners we elected yesterday to fix transportation for tomorrow why are we in this mess today?

Tampa Bay pays a high price to remain the only major metropolitan area in America without a viable public transportation system. We lose opportunities for economic growth. The "best and brightest" look for walkable, bicycle friendly communities with a modern public transit system. Our pedestrian and cyclist fatality rates are shameful. Traffic is the largest single source of carbon pollution in the Bay area. And bad air is literally making us sick.

After repeated failures by elected officials to fund public transportation, the citizens themselves had to put it on the ballot. The one cent sales tax will improve safety, reduce congestion and double the budget of HART. Solving our transportation problems is going to require new revenue. Providing that revenue is going to require your vote.

#### **Distribution of Transit Tax Proceeds**

<b>General Purpose</b>	<b>54%</b>	
Maintenance and Vulnerability Reduction	20%	min
Congestion Reduction	26%	min
Transportation Safety Improvements	27%	min
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	12%	min
New Lane Miles	15%	max
	100%	
<b>HART</b>	<b>45%</b>	
Exclusive right-of-way Transit Services	35%	min
Other public transportation projects	65%	max
	100%	
<b>Planning and Development</b>	<b>1%</b>	

**The Conservation Committee Report:** The Conservation Committee and Transportation Sub-Committee will meet on Monday, November 12, and December 10, 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.

**Upper Tampa Bay Trail:** A developer has asked Hillsborough County to swap the tree-shaded trail for land right next to Gunn Highway. Please let your Hillsborough County Commissioners you are opposed to this swap and stay tuned for further action.

**Phosphate:** Hillsborough Phosphate Hearing Master will issue a recommendation on a request from Mosaic to remove a restriction from dumping clay from operations in other counties into Hillsborough County. This was opposed by many neighbors and the Sierra Club. It will go to BOCC in November.

**Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition:** Thanks to everyone who contacted the Hillsborough County Commissioners! They agreed 7-0 to join this coalition that will work to reduce our vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

**Land Use:** With continued growth in Hillsborough County, there are frequent requests to change the Land Use Plan to allow increased density or build on sensitive lands. We are constantly having to push back to keep the planned balance between conservation and development. Let us know if you see a request that impacts our environment. We are currently opposing:

✓ **Seffner Land Fill in a Flood Plain. RZ 18-0670** An RV Park owner has asked for rezoning to accommodate 245 RV spaces plus a pool and clubhouse. They have not addressed EPC concerns about negative effects on the wetlands. Sierra Club has submitted a letter of opposition.

The Zoning Hearing Meeting has been moved to **November 19** when anyone can speak to become a party of record and then be able to speak at the BOCC meeting in January. County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 2nd Floor Boardroom.

**Please submit comments to: [MonsantoI@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:MonsantoI@hillsboroughcounty.org)**

✓ **Balm Riverview:** Another plan to convert Rural Land to a denser Urban, affecting 4,413 acres. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) 17-21 and companion Land Development Code (LDC) 18-0370 Text Amendment to LDC PART 5.04.00 PLANNED VILLAGE.

Please submit comments to: [Hearings@HillsboroughCounty.org](mailto:Hearings@HillsboroughCounty.org)

★ **Silver Dollar Shooting Range:** We continue to monitor.

★ **Trees:** The City of Tampa is updating its tree ordinance. There is a group continuing to work to protect the trees. The Final Draft will be presented **November 29** at Tampa City Hall.

**Nancy Stevens, Conservation Chair / Christopher Gleason, Transportation Chair / Tampa Bay Sierra Club**

### **Local Action Alert: The time has come for clean energy in the Tampa Bay area.**

TECO is proposing the largest fossil fuel expansion in Hillsborough County's history. We need your help to stop the expansion and get clean energy now.

We all know that fracking causes environmental destruction. The destruction is not limited to the communities where the gas is fracked and the communities through which massive pipelines are sited. The destruction ultimately reaches us here in Florida where fracked gas is burned for power, exacerbating climate damages: This year, we saw intense and wide-ranging damages from red tide to stronger hurricanes, to unprecedented, long mosquito seasons. The fracked gas expansion proposed by TECO make all these damages worse, without TECO even considering solar and other clean energy options as they are required to do under Florida law..

Meanwhile, utilities that actually do test the market, such as Xcel Energy Colorado, find that solar beats gas as a cheaper reliable energy resource. Florida ranks third in the nation for rooftop solar potential but stalls at 12<sup>th</sup> for cumulative solar capacity actually installed. TECO would keep our state on a path to being over 90% reliant on fracked gas through 2030.

We need real CLEAN ENERGY solutions, The Sunshine State should have energy companies that embrace the clean energy solutions like solar. It's time the needs of the people are put ahead of profits. Floridians deserve better.

There will be a local hearing between Jan. 7-9 regarding this proposed gas expansion. All Sierra Club members and supporters should receive an invite to the hearing shortly. Make sure to RSVP. If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, please contact your local Beyond Coal Organizer **Gonzalo Valdes** via email: [gonzalo.valdes@sierraclub.org](mailto:gonzalo.valdes@sierraclub.org) or phone/text: 813.334.5588



## **Red Tide, Green Slime and Rick Scott**

When naturally occurring red tide and algae blooms are amplified by denial and neglect, Florida suffers. Rick Scott's environmental legacy is simply toxic.

As governor, he waged a war of attrition against environmental regulations and those who enforce them, cutting Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff by 600. DEP enforcement actions fell from almost 2300 in 2010 to fewer than 800 in 2012. Fines were reduced by 85%. In his first year, Scott completely defunded the Florida Springs Initiative and slashed the budgets of water management districts by \$700 million, while using his powers as governor to fill district boards with developers and their sycophants.

In 2012, Scott vetoed the septic tank bill that might have reduced Okeechobee's pollution by a third. Agricultural runoff is responsible for about two-thirds of lake's pollution. But in 2016 Rick Scott agreed to allow agriculture to "self-police" pollution.

In 2014, Rick Scott allowed the Kissimmee River restoration to stall over a \$25 million dispute. As a result, completion of the restoration of the Kissimmee River has been pushed back to at least 2020.

And lastly, this governor's tenure has seen the number of water quality monitoring stations dwindle from 350 to 115, dramatically impacting our ability to detect red tide. Policies have consequences. And the consequences of Governor Rick Scott's policies are covering our beaches with rotting fish and toxic slime.

<https://www.nrdactionfund.org/news/rick-scott-brings-abysmal-environmental-record-to-senate-race-in-florida/>

"Scott ignored the role of the sugar industry in causing a massive algal bloom in St. Lucie estuary. Scott blamed the federal government for inadequate water infrastructure, though a year earlier, his administration rejected moving forward with plans to buy thousands of acres of sugar farm land to build reservoirs that could store the nutrient-rich water that causes algal blooms."

Contributions from sugar to Scott's Let's Get to Work political committee by that point were \$1 million."

"In 2014, Florida voters approve Amendment 1, the Water and Land Conservation Amendment by 75 percent of the vote requiring that more than \$700 million a year to pay for land acquisition to "restore, improve and manage conservation lands including the Everglades." But the Legislature refused to use any Amendment 1 money for land acquisition, including the purchase of sugar land to restore the water flow to the south of Lake Okeechobee. In 2016, lawmakers passed the Legacy Florida Act, which dedicates up to \$200 million a year from Amendment 1 to finance Everglades clean-up projects, though not necessarily land acquisition."

"Finally, the sugar industry has persuaded legislators to allow it to rely on "best management practices," industry-set water quality and land management standards that are often not subjected to state verification and monitoring. Cuts to district budgets, imposed by Scott's cap on property tax collections at water management districts reduced industry oversight.

At the SFWMD, budget and staff were cut by more than \$140 million - 30 percent, further delaying monitoring, oversight and development of Everglades clean-up. The district was forced to spend down its reserve funds, further reducing the likelihood it will have the money to buy agriculture land for restoration efforts.

By 2013, with the economy rebounding, Scott and the Legislature approved a \$880 million water pollution cleanup plan known as "restorations strategies." The measure capped the Agriculture Privilege Tax for another 10 years and required that \$32 million in clean-up funds come from SFWMD reserves. As property values rose another \$21 million in 2015, the former head of the SFWMD, Blake Guillory, proposed the practice of cutting back taxes and suggested leaving the tax rate alone to keep the district from dipping into reserves. Scott was not happy. Within two weeks, the board of governors reversed the decision and Guillory was forced to resign, to be replaced by Scott's general counsel."

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article86989367.html>

"The Scott administration and the SFWMD last year [2015] rejected pursuing a \$700 million option to 46,800 acres of farmland south of the lake, which could be used to build reservoirs that could store water."

Jan 16 2018 <https://www.tallahassee.com/story/opinion/2018/01/16/samples-greenwashing-gov-rick-scott/1036741001/>

Last fall, during a visit to Naples, Scott touted his proposed \$1.7 billion environmental spending plan as making "historic investments." It included \$50 million for the land-buying program Florida Forever. That's in stark contrast to 2011, when he vetoed all \$305 million for Florida Forever. The same year, Scott took secret trips to U.S. Sugar's private hunting lodge at King Ranch in Texas. After the trip, Scott appointed a King Ranch executive, Mitch Hutchcraft, to the governing board of the SFWMD.

<http://www.theledger.com/news/20140301/kissimmee-river-project-delayed-by-dispute> March 1 2014

The Kissimmee River restoration project is stalled over a land dispute between the Corps and the West Palm Beach based water district that officials say they thought was resolved years ago. The dispute centers on the cost of dealing with flooding threats to private property along the lower portion of the river. The SFWMD had proposed a flood control levee and deed restrictions which they say the Corps agreed to. However Corps officials want SFWMD to purchase a flowage easement on the property. Until the dispute is resolved the important environmental objective of fully restoring this complex Florida wetlands is on hold.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article215993665.html>

Over the last decade, as the state fought federal efforts to protect water, shrunk its own environmental and water-management agencies, and cut funding to an algae task force, monitoring for water quality has plummeted. While one crisis after another hit Florida, state and federal funding that paid for a massive coastal network with nearly three decades of information dwindled from about 350 stations to 115, according to Florida International University's Southeast Environmental Research Center.

# The Nominating Committee of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group presents the 2019-2020 Executive Committee (Ex-Com) Candidates for election.

## MAIL IN BALLOT VOTE - BY December 1, 2018

I am a member of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. I vote for the following **Four** candidates for the 2019 / 2020 term on the Executive Committee.

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
1 Gary Gibbons:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Christopher Gleason:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Pat Kemp:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Don Kruse:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE VOTE for only **Four** of the Candidates

One ballot for individual members, two for family members. Deadline for all voting is **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please include your 8 digit membership number located to the left of the printed address on the newsletter back page when voting.

Mail vote to:  
**Karen Michalski, Nominating Committee Chair**  
 c/o Kent Bailey  
 PO Box 1596 Thonotosassa FL 33592

## Biographies of the Candidates for the Executive Committee

**Gary A. Gibbons**, I am presently serving as the **Membership Chair** and I am also serving on the **Ex-Com** of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club and want to continue the good work that we are doing. I am a member of the **Political Committee** and have been active in fundraising for our Political Action Committee. I'm also a certified **Outings Leader for Sierra Club** and love leading Outings to explore the beautiful area that we live in and to inspire others to get active in advocating for protection of our fragile ecosystem.

**Christopher Gleason**, I currently am the **Transportation Chair** and serving on the **Ex-Com**. I have taken part in almost every aspect of the Tampa Bay Group; tabling, outings, chapter meetings, stadium recycling at USF games, and ICO.

### **Pat Kemp**

I am a lawyer and I currently on the Hillsborough County Commission. I have been on the Sierra Club Executive Committee for two terms. I have been an environmental and community advocate for decades. I've been an advocate for transit and smart growth for decades and have worked to bring the Cross-Bay Ferry Project to Tampa Bay. I've been a strong advocate for renewable energy and recycling.

**Don Kruse**, I presently serve as **Co-Treasurer** and on the **Ex-Com**. I joined the Sierra Club Growth Management team in 2012 to stay abreast on growth in our community, and do what I can to help guide it in the right direction.

### **We Need Your Help!**

Tampa Bay has experienced a frightening and unprecedented number of roll-backs in environmental protections (many of which we have enjoyed for decades). Needless to say, this onslaught has kept Sierra Club volunteers extremely busy. Although we have more than 2,600 local members of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club, only a fraction of our members actually volunteer to help with essential work that we need to do in order to fulfill our mission.

We are making a big push to increase volunteer engagement, because frankly, we need your help! Make a pledge to volunteer your time each month to help the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. Here are some volunteer activities that we encourage you to consider:

- Sign up to table for a few hours at an upcoming event. We'll easily teach you all that you need to know. It's fun and a great way to meet nice people.
- Attend a Conservation Committee Meeting and learn about the local issues that we are working on in our own backyard, and how you can help.
- Bring a friend to a monthly meeting AND an Outing. Experiencing the natural beauty around us often motivates people to get involved in protecting the undeveloped land that we have left.

Continue to tell people about the Sierra Club. When people find out that we are the nation's oldest grassroots environmental protection organization, whose motto is to Explore, Enjoy & Protect the environment, most people find that to be a worthy cause. Help us by becoming a regular Tampa Bay Sierra Club Volunteer. Together, we can do great things!





**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

November / December 2018



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TAMPA, FL  
Permit No. **2834**

**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)



## The Sierra Club Endorses These Local Candidates

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



My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
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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### **Mariella Smith, Hillsborough County Commission District 5**

For decades Mariella Smith has advocated for smart growth policies that include public transportation and environmental protection. The challenges facing Hillsborough County demand the fresh ideas, honest debate and unwavering courage Sierra has come to expect from Mariella Smith.

### **Kimberly Overman, Hillsborough County Commission District 7**

Kimberly Overman has worked for years to improve Hillsborough County as a citizen activist and local government volunteer. She understands the issues and is dedicated to improving transportation and sustainable growth management.

### **Kelly Smith, Pasco County District 2**

Kelly Smith is an environmental advocate with extensive management experience in both the public and private sectors. She brings practical solutions to accommodate the rapid growth of Pasco County in ways that support the well-being of both the environment and the economy.

### **Nancy Makar, Hernando County Commission District 4**

Nancy Makar has been active in many community organizations in Hernando County since the early 1980s. She's a supporter of the arts and garden club. And she's supported Neighbors Against Mining's efforts to stop the new Cemex mine.

### **Fentrice Driskell, Florida House District 63**

Fentrice Driskell exhibits leadership qualities with a deep understanding of environmental and transportation issues. We are confident that she will work to protect Florida's environment for our families and our future. The Sierra Club believes that Floridians will fare better with Driskell in Tallahassee.

### **Debra Bellanti, Florida House District 60**

Debra Bellanti has an impressive knowledge of a wide range of environmental issues. In particular, she understands the issue of nutrient pollution in our water and its link to the red tide that is killing marine life and hurting tourism. She will stand up for Florida's environment as well as our families.