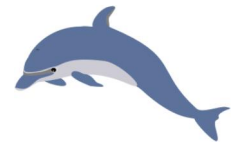




SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet



May / June 2018

May & June Program & General Meeting:

When: Wednesday, May 9 & June 13, 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

May 9 Program “Big Sugar & You”

Speaker: Cris Costello

After a decade of working for Sierra Club, Cris is now leading the fight to protect the Everglades from Big Sugar, one of the most powerful lobbying forces in Florida. In addition to standing in the way of Everglades restoration, the industry is polluting our water and air,



making people sick, and owns way too many Florida politicians. Big Sugar rules Florida for now, but that is going to change. We will pull the curtain back on the sugar industry and dig into the Big Sugar world with one goal in mind: cutting Big Sugar down to size.



June 13 Program: Raptor Rescue



Speaker: Nancy Murrah, Vice President Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue

The staff and volunteers of Raptor Rescue are working everyday to rescue, rehabilitate and release Florida’s birds of prey, from majestic bald eagles to burrowing owls. Their dedicated team collectively has over 25 years experience and has rescued more than 2000 birds of various species. In addition to working directly with the birds, Raptor Rescue also seeks to reduce as much as possible the human threats by educating the public and being mentors to people of all ages on ways they can help save birds and their habitats. We are looking forward to a fascinating program about the preservation of our native birds and raptor related conservation education.



You Can Help End Plastic Pollution! (2018’s Earth Day theme).

Plastics have come to clutter almost every landscape, but they are so useful and have made our lives much easier. What can you do all year long to stop plastic pollution? Check out the Earth Day Network's Plastics Pollution Primer at www.earthday.org for lots of great information and ideas. Here are a few ideas for you to get started...

Much of the most frequently discarded plastic items are those given to us for free. Plastic straws, grocery bags, utensils, and cups are all frequently given away with other purchases. All you have to do to eliminate this source of plastic pollution is to simply refuse to accept these items which will have a large impact on your overall plastic pollution footprint.

- ★ When you order a drink at a restaurant, you can tell the waiter that you don’t want a straw. If you know you need a straw, you can purchase a metal or wood/paper based straw and bring that with you.
- ★ You could also go a step further and ask the restaurant to stop providing plastic straws or to only provide straws to customers when requested.
- ★ Plastic bags are one of the biggest sources of plastic pollution.
- ★ Refusing the plastic shopping bags given away at retailers and grocery stores is easy. If you need a bag to carry your purchases, bring reusable canvas bags instead. And buy cloth or mesh bags to carry fresh produce to the cashier.

Take a little extra time while doing your shopping, select products without plastic packaging and always be sure to avoid or even boycott products that are excessively wrapped in plastic (for example fresh produce).

This is just a few ideas to get you thinking about what you can do to reduce plastics in our environment.



2018 Executive Committee

Group Chairperson: Kent Bailey
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Vice-Chair / ICO Chair / Outings Chair: Rocky Milburn
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Conservation: Nancy Stevens
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Energy Chair: Bob Howell
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Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave Varrieur (813) 503-6970
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ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice
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Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813

Tampa Bay Group web site:
<http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay>

We Need Your Help!

Membership numbers in Sierra Club have risen substantially since the last Presidential Election. Unfortunately, since that time, we have also experienced a frightening and unprecedented number of rollbacks 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 2,717 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! We have small jobs and bigger jobs - something for everyone.

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 specific 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.
- Volunteer to work on election campaigns of candidates running for local and state office this year who will be good environmental stewards.

Continue to tell people about the Sierra Club. There are lots of people who still don't know what we do. 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 - especially when they make the connection of the many health issues that are environmentally linked - people are motivated to volunteer to make our region healthier.

Help us by becoming a regular Tampa Bay Sierra Club Volunteer. Together, we can do great things!

From the Chair: In searching for an appropriate quote from John Muir to the purposed Tampa Tree Ordinance I happened to find this:

“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools”.

Muir was speaking of the giants of the Sierra mountains. But this quotation from 1897 is timely today because Tampa's home builders have proposed a truly dreadful tree ordinance that is no ordinance at all.



The Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee will meet on Monday May 14, and June 11, 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.

The currently pressing items are:

Trees: The Tampa Tree Ordinance is being updated, but the Builders Association tried to sidestep the process by introducing an amendment that would essentially allow them to clear cut lots, including Grand Trees, to build a large home. A group of concerned tree advocates won **a battle when** The Planning Commission found the **proposed amendment that City Council transmitted not compliant.**

Next step will be City Council meeting on 5/3/18 or 5/17/18 at 10:30 am, for 1st Reading of Ordinance for the proposed amendment that Council transmitted to the Planning Commission.

Clearwater-owned 425 acres-in Hillsborough County connects to Brooker Creek Buffer Preserve - was sold to ELS, a mobile home park developer and owner of Silver Dollar Shooting Range for \$6.4 Million. (See <http://www.tampabay.com/news/growth/>). Once-headed-for-preservation-400-acres-in-Hillsborough-now-within-mobile-home-park-companys-reach_167053918
DEP inspected the land, showed some signs of contamination. Awaiting final DEP report.

Land Use: In the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan, the county planners defined the Urban Service Area to accommodate dense growth so that transportation, schools, fire and police services can cost effectively be provided in a portion of the county. Outside the Urban Service Area would be retained rural. Unfortunately, often when developers ask for denser development in their rural parcel, the County Commissioners go against the Plan and allow exceptions - despite being consulted by their own staff and consultants **to hold the line on sprawl**. We continue to encourage our County Commissioners to stick to the plan and not approve:

Land Development Code (LDC) 18-0370 Text Amendment to LDC PART 5.04.00 PLANNED VILLAGE - This LDC amendment is to modify the Code to implement the related Balm Riverview Comprehensive Plan Amendment. That text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Element will affect approximately 4,413 acres in the southern portion of Hillsborough County designated "RP-2."

Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) 17-21. The companion CPA proposes to revise the RP-2 land use category to allow for three (3) dwelling units per acre

Transportation: Christopher Gleason, chair

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Volkswagen Settlement - Florida Mitigation Fund. Take the survey Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program Public Survey Comment that old diesel public and school buses should be replaced with Electric Vehicles, and fund the EV charging stations to support them!

Regional Transit Feasibility Plan-Jacobs Engineering. Take the survey <http://tbrregionaltransit.org>

Upcoming Transportation Meetings:

TBNextOnline Comment: <http://www.tampabaynext.com>

May 1st: MPO Board Meeting & Public Comment 9am, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602, 26th floor.
[http://HYPERLINK_\"http://www.planhillsborough.org/calendar/\"www.planhillsborough.org/calendar/](http://HYPERLINK_\)

Online comments: <http://www.planhillsborough.org/metropolitan-planning-organization-mpo/>

May 7th: HART Board Meeting & Public Comment 10:30am, 1201 E. 7th Ave. Tampa, FL 33605, 3rd floor.
<http://www.gohart.org/Pages/AboutUS-PublicMeetings.aspx>

Online comments: <http://www.gohart.org/Pages/customer-service.aspx#comments-suggestions>

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

HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

Clearwater Beach Event on May 19, 2018 4 Rockaway St. on Clearwater beach behind Frenchy's at the Sea Shepard tent.

Join the Suncoast Sierra Club at 11AM, rain or shine, join hands for 15 minutes at 12 noon forming lines in the sand against dirty fuels, seismic airgun blasting offshore, near shore drilling and say yes to clean energy and renewables. Bring water, sunscreen and a hat. Contact Pam Schrader at (727) 365-2097 for details.

NO TO DIRTY FUELS

YES TO CLEAN ENERGY



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

May / June 2018



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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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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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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.

Sat. May 19, 7:30 am - Myakka Ecosystem Morning Hike:

Myakka Ecosystem Morning Hike. As we explore we'll watch for the last of the winter migratory birds heading north and the first of the summer flowers including swamp lilies. The location, somewhere in the greater Myakka ecosystem, depends on the current habitat and hydrologic conditions. Hiking seven to ten miles. Group size limited Reserve with Leader Bill Lewis (941)-355-2156. Manatee-Sarasota Group



Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO)

We are having our **Annual ICO Camp out** for all of our agencies. Volunteers are needed to help with students 5th thru 8th grade. The kids get to hike, canoe, play games, and sleep outdoors. It's always a wonderful end to our ICO season. Please contact **Rocky Milburn, 813-966-9785, tbico@live.com**.