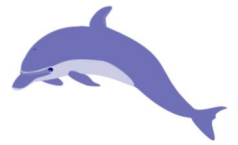




SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet January / February 2019



Program & General Meeting:

When: Wednesday January 9, February 13, 2019

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

descriptions on the Native Plant Society's "Plants for Your Area" website. Learn which native Florida friendly plants will conserve water while attracting birds and pollinators at this fascinating presentation.

February 13 Program: **Hillsborough County**



Commissioners' Community Forum on Transportation

Hillsborough County Commissioners **Pat Kemp, Mariella Smith** and others will hold a Community Forum on Transportation Issues for our County. What is the smartest way to use \$300 million of new transportation funding? Topics will include the proposed merger of the Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), the \$450 million "regional parking garage" plan, replacement of fracked gas buses with clean, renewable electric buses and more. This is a unique opportunity to speak directly to the decision makers on this important issue. Don't miss it!

January 9 Program: Bringing Nature to Your Home Landscape

Speaker: Dr. Shirley Denton



Plant ecologist Dr. Shirley Denton has 30 years experience with plants, wetland hydrology, land management and large-scale monitoring programs. Dr. Denton has contributed numerous photographs to the USF Institute for Systematic Botany's Florida Plant Atlas and written most of the species

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

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

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



Every Sierra Club member is invited to help set out our 2019 plan for the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group on conservation issues, outings, events and more. The Executive Committee's new board will be seated and new officers elected. Chairs for existing committees will be selected and new committees formed.

Volunteers are encouraged to step forward in support of our critical environmental mission. Step up to an active role for the year ahead. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP. For more information or to RSVP please contact Kent Bailey, Chair Tampa Bay Group at kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org or (813)-727-1202.

Thanks to All! 2018 Holiday Party at CL Place Many thanks to Karen Michalski and Chris Gleason for organizing a very successful 2018 Holiday Party at CL Place. New this year were compostable bowls, plates and drink cups that allowed us to use no plastic to serve a great meal from Olympia Catering. The venue at CL Place was spacious, provided a PA system for our announcements and a projector for a great slide show by Gary Gibbons. Helping Karen and Chris with setup and clean up were several Sierra volunteers including Gary and Jane Gibbons, Marlice Cooper, Ray Vaillancourt, Paul Thibault, Shirley Denton, Cathy Bailey, Rocky Milburn, Michael and Bonnie Newett, Diane Zimmerman and others.



2019 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

Co-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

Transportation Chair: Christopher Gleason

Co-Treasurer: Karen Michalski
karenkaymichalski@gmail.com

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

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

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>

The time has come for clean energy in the Tampa Bay area!

TECO Energy 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 12th 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.

Local Action Alert: There will be a local hearing at the **Riverview Hilton on March 11, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Conference Room, 4328 Garden Vista Drive, Riverview, Florida** 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, contact your local Beyond Coal Organizer Gonzalo Valdes via email: gonzalo.valdes@sierraclub.org or 813.334.5588



Black Bear Awarded to Paul Thibault

In recognition of his outstanding service to the Sierra Club, the Tampa Bay Group awarded the 2018 Black Bear Award to Paul Thibault. The official presentation was made at our Holiday Party. Last year Paul organized a state-wide recognition of the 150th anniversary of John Muir's trek across Florida at Cedar Key coinciding with a sea level rise conference there as well. His other efforts have included outreach to disadvantaged communities and tabling for Sierra on countless occasions. Also honored at the Holiday Party with Certificates of Appreciation were our secretary Linda Hugues, newsletter editor Corky Crowley, Stadium Recycling Program director Dave Varrieur, Conservation Chair Nancy Stevens, Transportation Chair Chris Gleason, Ex-com Member Karen Michalski and Outings Leaders Gary Gibbons, Ed Shindle and Shirley Denton.



The Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee and Transportation Sub-Committee will meet on Mondays, January 14 and February 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.

CITY OF TAMPA Sustainable Tampa – the Green Tampa initiative will expand into Sustainable Tampa to include 5 areas: Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction, Sea Level Rise and Resiliency, Environmental Initiatives, Economic Initiatives and Programs, and Social Equity and Inclusion The Website will be updated over the next few months.

Sea Level Rise: Tampa City Council members are looking for a to do list to protect Tampa.

REGIONAL The Suncoast Sea Level Rise Collaborative Conference on Sea Level Rise will be held in April at St Petersburg College. The conference will bring together the business community, news media and government representatives and concerned citizens who will explore innovations in resiliency and mitigation. For more info: <https://solutions.spcollege.edu/the-suncoast-sea-level-rise-collaborative-conference-on-sea-level-rise/>

NATIONAL The Energy Innovation Act, will enact a carbon tax to encourage use of sustainable energy. The act was introduced into the House of Representatives by a bi-partisan group of five representatives including three from Florida, (Charlie Crist St Pete, Ted Deutch Miami, and Francis Rooney Naples) - the bottom line is that when it is passed, it will reduce carbon emissions by 33% within a few years and have health benefits for everyone as well as true economic benefits. Contact your representative and ask her or him to support this bill in the House. <https://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/energy-innovation-act/>

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. Let us know if you see a request that impacts our environment. We are currently opposing:

- ★ **Upper Tampa Bay Trail:** A developer land swap was not passed by the BOCC.
- ★ **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. Sierra Club has submitted a letter of opposition. The Zoning Hearing Meeting was moved to December 17. Please submit comments to: Monsanto@hillsboroughcounty.org
- ★ **Silver Dollar Shooting Range:** We continue to monitor.
- ★ **Trees:** Work continues on the City of Tampa Tree Ordinance, with next readout to City Council planned for the end of January 2019.

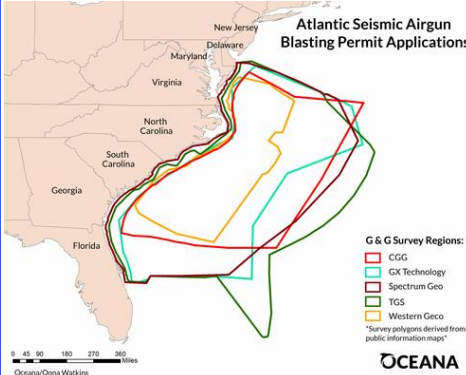
Transportation Sub-Committee:

ACTION: The Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), will hold the MPO Meeting on January 8 2019 - write to MPO to keep the Hillsborough County MPO separate from Pinellas and Pasco MPOs. <http://www.planhillsborough.org/mpo-board/>


Going Forward:

1. Electric buses – advocate for HART to purchase electric rather than CNG buses. Prices are getting closer now that US companies are building them - \$750K for electric vs \$500 for CNG. Infrastructure will have to be build but FPL is doing it now.
2. Transportation tax revenue opportunities – HART will have matching funds for Federal Grants. They are currently looking at buying 30 buses, hiring 60 drivers, expanding service on existing routes and adding routes.
3. Walk/Bike Safety – using the Complete Streets guidelines to increase safety

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



On Nov. 30, the National Marine Fisheries Services announced final authorizations that would allow a massive expansion of seismic testing in the Atlantic coast from Florida to Delaware for oil and gas exploration, so long as harm to wildlife like the North Atlantic right whale, which is especially susceptible to explosive sounds is unintentional. Florida's economy depends on healthy coastal waters. Research shows the potential damage to marine life, from whales and dolphin to commercial fisheries near the state could be significant. The Florida State's leaders must act to stop this threat by joining a consortium of East coast attorneys general and environmental groups that had filed a legal challenge to the authorization of seismic testing.





SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

January / February 2019



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Address Changes:

Please call (415) 977-5653 or email address.changes@sierraclub.org
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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
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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
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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/

Sat. Jan 5, 2019 Historic Hike of Ybor City:

Rocky Milburn and Chris Altenbernd

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.**

Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group Membership Numbers:

December, 2018: We now have 2,589 Members in the Tampa Bay Group (an increase of 36 members from the prior month).

Florida Chapter Membership Numbers:

December, 2018: At the state level Total Members: 37,383 AN INCREASE of 737 from the previous month.