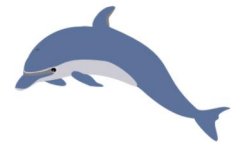




# SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet

July / August 2019



## ANNUAL JOINT MEETING:

**Tampa Bay Sierra Club, Suncoast Native Plant Society & Tampa Audubon Society**

**When: Wednesday July 10, 2019**

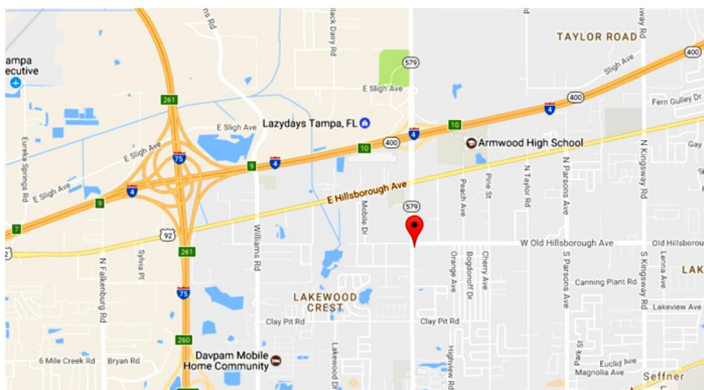
**5:00 Tampa Sierra Volunteers**

**5:30 pm** - Social Time, join us in the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden in the Atrium of the Extension Center.

**6:30 pm** - Potluck Dinner

**7:15 pm** - Program

**Where: Hillsborough Cooperative Extension Service 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, (at W. Old Hillsborough Ave, 1 mile south of I-4 exit)**



## Annual Joint Meeting:

This year it is our turn to host the annual get together with our friends from Suncoast Native Plant Society and Audubon. This annual meeting is a great time for us to socialize with environmentalists from our sister organizations and share a great pot luck dinner. Plates, utensils, cups and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. A label would be useful for those who suffer with allergies.

**5:00 pm** Early arrival by Sierra volunteers will be needed to help move chairs and tables and generally get set up for the meeting.

**6:00 pm** Arrivals please bring potluck dish to kitchen. Social time in the Betty S Walker Discovery Garden in the Atrium of the Extension. Dinner at **6:30 pm**.

**7:15 pm Special Program: Lee Ann Rottman from ZooTampa.** Lee Ann will be accompanied by a special ZooTampa's "ambassador animal" to explore their conservation programs. Ms. Rottman is currently the vice-president of Conservation at ZooTampa working to protect manatees, black bears, African primates and many more threatened and endangered animals. See you there!

## Program & General Meeting

**When: Wednesday August 14, 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. For more information contact Kent Bailey at [kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org)

## August 14, Program: Our Carbon Footprint Speaker: Hillsborough Commissioner Pat Kemp

Pat Kemp will talk about reducing our carbon footprint. She says, "Hillsborough County is on the road to a more sustainable future with solar panels, electric cars and buses. We will be reducing our carbon footprint with alternative energy and new transit options including trains and ferries, and electric buses." Always an exciting and informative speaker, you won't want to miss hearing from Commissioner Kemp.

**Tampa Summer Fertilizer Ban Kicks in June-September 30!** The summer rainy season is here and the heavy rain doesn't water fertilizer in, it washes it away, right into the Tampa Bay, lagoons, rivers, lakes and the Gulf that are the source of our fun. And fertilizer pollution can cause algae blooms and kill fish. That's why so many communities throughout Florida have restricted the use of lawn and landscape fertilizers from June-September. For more information on the fertilizer ban go to [www.BeFloridian.com](http://www.BeFloridian.com)



## 2019 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**  
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**Co-Treasurer: Don Kruse**  
[Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Co-Treasurer: Karen Michalski**  
[karenkaymichalski@gmail.com](mailto:karenkaymichalski@gmail.com)

**Conservation: Nancy Stevens**  
813-380-1668  
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**Transportation Chair: Christopher Gleason**

**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)

**Ex-Com: Pat Kemp**  
[pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Other Officers & Assignments

**Secretary: Linda Hugues**  
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**Webmaster: Marcia Biggs**  
[marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths**  
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**Newsletter: Corky Crowley**  
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**Recycling Chair: Barbara Heineken**

**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)

**Social Media Coordinator: Rob Jordan.**

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

**Reduce plastic Pollution:** Hillsborough County, City of Tampa and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful are joining the world-wide movement to reduce waste from single-use plastics.

The goal is to educate and inform the public and businesses about the environmental impacts of single-use plastic products and furnish them with the tools needed to help combat the problem.

Food-service wares, like single-use plastic cutlery, straws, lids, plastic bags, and take-out containers are a significant threat to marine wildlife because they take hundreds of years to fully break down in the environment. These items may make their way to oceans, bays, rivers, and streams where they can be mistakenly ingested by wildlife.

Hillsborough County businesses are being recruited to take the pledge as well as make it easy for their customers and employees to reduce their use. KTBB volunteers will contact businesses to encourage them to join the campaign. The volunteers will provide them with posters, table tents, and window clings to inform the community about their support of the campaign and to spread the word about the impacts of single-use plastics.

Attractions like Amalie Arena, The Florida Aquarium, Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park, and Busch Gardens/Adventure Island have pledged to reduce the usage of single-use plastics like coffee stirrers, plastic bags, drink straws, and food containers.

"The Florida Aquarium is proud to support the Reduce Your Use Campaign. Our mission is to protect and restore the Blue Planet and that starts right here in Tampa by managing the use of single use plastics," stated Kari Goetz, the aquarium's V.P. of External Relations.

The campaign's dedicated web site, Reduce Your Use, features businesses that have already eliminated straws/single-use plastics from their operations or implemented "by request-only" programs, with new businesses being added and featured as they come on board.

Individuals can also pledge to reduce the use of single-use plastics. To date, over 600 pledges have been received. To take the pledge, and to learn more, visit [ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org](http://ReduceYourUseTampaBay.org).

TAMPA BAY



Join our **Meetup Page** online where all outings are posted. Go to [www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Groups-of-the-Greater-Tampa-Bay-Florida-Area)

**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 **RSVP** and check details on these outings as well as others at **<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay/outings>**

Traveling this summer? Remember to check out local outings here in the State of Florida and in other States as well, by going to the State Chapter Outings page.



**The Conservation Committee Report:** The Conservation Committee and Transportation Sub-Committee will meet on Mondays, July 8, and August 12, at 6:30pm. Join us at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 5103 North Central Ave. Tampa. We meet in the Snyder Building directly behind the church.

There are many things going on right now, and the more volunteers we have, the more we can do! Come to the meeting to learn where and see where you might want to get involved.

**LAND USE - and WATER:** **Seffner RV Zoning request in Flood Plain. RZ 18-0670.** Thanks to several volunteers who have worked hard to save this property, the developer withdrew their proposal. Bakers Creek, which runs through this property, is a key part of the drinking water system and wildlife corridor in Hillsborough County. The last known Florida panther in Hillsborough County was killed on nearby I4. We are working on a proposal to ELAPP to preserve a Bakers Creek Wildlife Corridor including this property.

**WATER:** Florida Potable Reuse Commission is developing standards for water reuse such as proposed by the Tampa Augmentation Project (TAP) – Benjamin Ochshorn, Water sub-committee chair.

**LAND USE: Development Fees:** Thanks to everyone who expressed their support for Commissioner Kemp’s proposal to have fees reflect 100% of the costs of development – they had not been raised in 30 years! The Commission voted to have Fire Impact Fees, Planning Commission Fees (Comprehensive Plan Amendments) and Development Service Fees changed to reflect 100% of the costs. They are studying changing School Impact Fees and Mobility Fees in the future.

**LAND USE: Wimauma:** There are two requests to convert 400+ rural acres containing wetlands to rezone to PD (Planned Development) to allow more than 1000 single family homes. This is outside the urban service area with poor road access. They will go to **Zoning Hearing Master on June 17**

**LAND USE: Upper Tampa Bay Trail** – developer still trying to cross trail to access proposed development, resulting in 1000 cars per day crossing popular Hillsborough trail. Please let Commissioner Pat Kemp know you are opposed.

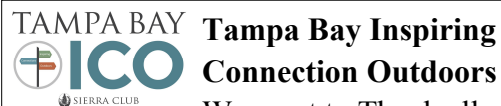
**TAMPA BAY:** There are commercial venture rented horses for riding in the beach area near the Skyway Bridge. This area is designated an Aquatic Preserve to maintain its for future generations. Horseback riding can harm sea grasses and feces can contaminate the ecosystem. A task force is being formed to study this.

**CLEAN AIR: Ready for 100 Launch:** We will work with new Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, City Council and County Commissioners to sign up Tampa for 100% Renewable energy. There will be a launch sometime in July. If you would like to join this effort, contact Phil Compton: [phil.compton@sierraclub.org](mailto:phil.compton@sierraclub.org), 813-841-3601.

**STATE:** The Florida Legislative Session is almost over. As of this writing, we are still waiting to hear if the Governor signs HB 1159, which would negate some of the benefits of newly passed Tampa Tree Ordinance.

If you would like to keep up to date on these and other Conservation Committee topics via email, please contact Nancy Stevens, Chair, Conservation Committee Tampa Bay Sierra Club, [Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org](mailto:Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org)

**The Sierra Club’s Stadium Recycling Initiative:** Now seeking volunteers for the **2019-2020** season to help recycle bottles, cans and plastics for the Tampa Sports Authority at Raymond James Stadium! Sierra Club volunteers show up 2 hours prior to the events and are assigned a recycling station and asks patrons to please recycle using the blue containers around the stadium. It is fun, easy and a great way to get into stadium events for free! This includes all Tampa Bay Buccaneer and USF Bulls home games and special events during the year. In order to get involved, you only need a Sierra Club membership and a great attitude. **Please email coordinator Dave Varrieur at [dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org)**



We want to Thank all the volunteers, leaders, and parents who made the 2018-19 season such a wonderful success. We will be planning our 2019-20 season at the **Annual August ICO Meeting (TBA)**. If you are interested in volunteering please contact **Rocky Milburn, 813-966-9785, [tbico@live.com](mailto:tbico@live.com)** for details.



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

July / August 2019



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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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INTRODUCTORY	\$15	\$20
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CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
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P.O. BOX 421041  
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**Tampa Stands Up to TECO'S plans for more COAL and GAS**

Please join us on Friday, July 19 2019 in the Gaslight Park 241 East Madison, in down town Tampa as we stand up to TECO and send a strong message that we do not need more fossil fuels.

As one of the most at risk cities to Sea Level Rise, we need to be doing more in creating solutions to climate change, not adding to the problem. Leaders came together on June 15th at TECO's shareholders meeting to speak against the "crime against humanity" of building fossil fuel plants in 2019. We had speakers who shared stories of personal health impacts from living near the Big Bend coal plant. We are united to say we will not accept our neighbors getting sick just to enrich a few millionaires and billionaires. WE, the residents of Tampa Bay, are the real shareholders of Florida's future and TECO needs to have OUR interests in mind, not solely those of their investors.

