



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

TAMPA BAY GROUP

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet

APRIL/MAY 2014

www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay

APRIL PROGRAM

WHEN: MONDAY April 14, 2014

PROGRAM: LOWRY PARK ZOO:
Conserving Florida's Natural Resources

SPEAKERS: Craig Pugh, Executive Director/CEO, Lowry Park Zoo, and Dr. Lawrence E. Killmar, VP of Animal Science and Conservation

TIME: 6:30 Social Time / 7 pm Program

WHERE: Unity of Tampa Fellowship Hall,
3302 W. Horatio St. Tampa



Photo by Dave Parkinson

A decade ago, the State of Florida declared Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo a state center for Florida species conservation and biodiversity. For a number of species like Florida's endangered manatees, merely encouraging awareness of environmental issues is not enough.

The role of a modern zoo is to provide people unique opportunities to appreciate the variety of life on earth, to get close enough to care, and care enough to act. One of the ways we accomplish this is by connecting wildlife to wild

places.

The Zoo's Manatee Hospital expands the traditional boundaries of a Zoo, focusing efforts on critical care for injured, sick and orphaned wild manatees. It is the *only non-profit hospital in the world* specifically dedicated to the treatment of these endangered animals.

To date, the Zoo has treated more than 330 manatees for a variety of severe illnesses and catastrophic injuries, reintroducing nearly 200 into Florida waters. Learn more about the Zoo's efforts to conserve Florida's endangered species, and what you can do to help.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! MONTHLY PROGRAMS MOVING TO SEMINOLE HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY !

Ever wonder what Sierra Club groups are doing beyond Tampa Bay? What issues are we working on at a state level? This two-part program begins with a short video that will show you what Sierra is doing across Florida. Join us for fun, good company and to find your place as part of a big group of activists who are committed to Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting Florida.

The second half of the program will answer the question: Why Should Florida Care About the Keystone XL Pipeline?

The Sierra Club has taken a stand nationally

The Keystone XL pipeline would bring Canadian tar sands oil to the world market via the Gulf Coast, maximizing oil company profits



against the Keystone XL pipeline and Michael Brune, our national leader, was arrested in opposition to the pipeline along with James Hanson, the climate scientist, Robert Kennedy Jr., Naomi Klein, Mark Ruffalo, Darryl Hanna and many others.

Pat Kemp is the Legal Chair of Tampa Bay Sierra and she'll discuss why it's so important for us all to draw a line in the tar sands and why stopping the pipeline is critical to Florida and the planet.

We will also talk about how Florida can lead the nation in creating a renewable energy future.

MAY PROGRAM

NOTE: NEW LOCATION!

WHEN: Wednesday May 14, 2014

TIME: 6:30 Social / 7 pm Program

PROGRAM: Part 1: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sierra Club Florida Part 2: Why Should Florida Care About the Keystone XL Pipeline?

WHERE: Seminole Heights Public Library, 4711 Central Ave. Tampa (just south of Hillsborough Ave. and west of I-275, corner of W Osborne Ave.)

SPEAKER: Pat Kemp, Tampa Bay Sierra Club Legal Chair

Contact Us

Tampa Bay Executive Committee

Chair: Marcia Biggs (727) 797-6261
marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org

Vice-Chair/Outings: Gail Parsons (813) 920-2730

gail.parsons@florida.sierraclub.org

Conservation/Growth Management:
Kent Bailey (813) 986-7819
kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Sharon Terrill-Elfers (813) 783-1024

sharon.terrill@florida.sierraclub.org

Secretary: Laretta O'Dell (813) 662-7742

Webmaster: Steve Tryon (813) 980-2079
steve.tryon@florida.sierraclub.org

Inner City Outings (ICO): Rocky Milburn
(813) 966-9785
rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org

Political: Pat Kemp
pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org

Membership: Tamara Pearson
tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org

Pasco Rep: Bob Howell
bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org

Address Changes: (415) 977-5653 or
address.changes@sierraclub.org
Include your membership number located
on the mailing label

Find Us Online

www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay

Search for "Tampa Bay Sierra Club"
on

Facebook and Meetup

Florida Sierra Club: (727) 824-8813
www.florida.sierraclub.org

Outings Liability Waiver: In order to participate in Sierra Club outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To review the waiver prior to the outing, go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms

OUTINGS

Saturday, April 12 HIKE

Explore the shady 6.3-mile hiking trail at Little Manatee River State Park in Wi-
mauma. This trail has been described as
"one of the most beautiful loop trails in
Florida". Depart 9 am Leader: Mike
Raff at mraff98@yahoo.com or [813-642-8624](tel:813-642-8624).

April 11-13 CAMPING

We will be staying at the group/youth
camp site at Colt Creek State Park. The
facilities are primitive. Join us around the
campfire under an almost full moon, and
learn about this fairly new addition to the
Florida State Parks. Reservations are
required, and there will be a state park
camping fee of \$5/person. Leader: Ben
Berauer, 352-610-6704,
bfberauer@aol.com (Suncoast)

Saturday, April 19 Hike

Explore the Schultz Preserve on Tampa
Bay in South Hillsborough County with a
guided tour by Brandt Henningsen, Sen-
ior Scientist with Southwest Florida Wa-
ter Management District. This restored
ELAPP property has been proposed to be
used for a ferry terminal. Come out and
see for yourself firsthand what is being
proposed on this public land. Hike time:
9 am [www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/
education/watersheds/alafia/schultz-
preserve](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/education/watersheds/alafia/schultz-preserve)

Leader: Gail Parsons. RSVP to gailparl@verizon.com or 913-928-1412 to
receive detailed info on meeting location.

Saturday May 3 HIKE

Explore Dead River Park in Thonoto-
sassa on a 3-hour hike. This Hillsbor-
ough County park has been described as
"a rare treat for naturalists" and "a slice

of Florida wilderness like few others".
The 6-mile hike is mostly shady and in-
cludes a scenic 2-mile trail along the
Hillsborough River. Time: 9 am Leader:
Mike Raff at mraff98@yahoo.com or
[813-642-8624](tel:813-642-8624).

Sunday, May 11 BIKE

Join our annual bike ride on the Withla-
cochee State Trail from SR 50 10 miles
up to Nobleton for lunch, a visit to a lo-
cal county park on the river then back 10
miles. We will be looking for the dog-
woods blooming, bluebirds on the wires
and learn about the early history of the
Withlacoochee State Forest. The is a flat
"rails to trails" ride. Meetup time 10 am
at Ridge Manor Trailhead off SR 50.

Leader: Gail Parsons Please RSVP email
gailparl@verizon.net or call 813-928-
1412 (cell).

JUNE 21-18 PADDLE/CAMP IN

MONTANA Fundraising canoe trip on
the Upper Missouri River in Montana.
We will be paddling 110 miles through
designated Wilderness, celebrating 50
years of the Wilderness Act. We will try
to retrace a small portion of the Lewis
and Clark route and camp on or near
their campsites. This is for experienced
canoers and campers. Cost is \$550 which
includes one night of hotel lodging, ca-
noe rentals, shuttle service and rentals of
common camping gear. It does not in-
clude food. A \$100 deposit is required.
Leader: Rudy Scheffer, 727-726-8375 or
rudy@adventuresworldwide.com.

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

FIND MORE INFO ON OUTINGS AND RSVP ON OUR MEETUP PAGE:

www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Groups-of-the-Greater-Tampa-Bay-Florida-Area/

To locate Sierra Club outings throughout the state, go to

florida.sierraclub.org/outings_browse.asp

Growth Management/Conservation Committee Report

The Sierra Growth Management Committee meets monthly at 5:30 pm just prior to the regular Sierra Club meeting.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has pulled the plug on its plan to sell off Florida Forever properties. These environmental lands are safe for now, but **the future of Florida Forever depends on the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment on your November ballot.** Sierra will be actively campaigning this fall. You are asked to help our Political Committee convert passion to action in support of our endorsed candidates and causes. To learn more about joining our political committee, contact chair Pat Kemp at pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org

Our legislature is in session. The Tampa Bay Group has sent letters to each county commissioner and city councilperson asking for a resolution opposing HB 703, possibly the most dangerous bill to be presented this session. This bill is a water giveaway that takes away control of important development policies from local governments. SB 372 would exempt large developments from meeting important standards and virtually end Urban Service Areas as we know them. Please contact your representatives at both the state and local level and share your concerns about these bad bills.

The Coastal Management Bill (HB 791 and SB 956) contains broad language that threatens our Aquatic Preserves. If passed, this bill would open Aquatic Preserves to commercial development without advertisement or competitive bidding. Aquatic Preserves should be preserved, not commercialized or developed in any way. Please stay tuned for alerts on stopping this bad bill.

Congratulations ELAPP! On April 11, the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP) will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. Through this program, the citizens of Hillsborough County have protected and preserved more than 60,000 acres of essential habitat and ecologically sensitive areas. Not only do ELAPP properties preserve important plant and animal species, but they also protect and enhance Hillsborough County's vital water supply. Sierra Club applauds this program and the people who work so diligently to support it!

— Kent Bailey, Chair, Growth Management Committee



Sierra Club members traveled to Tallahassee on Feb. 18 to take part in the We Want Clean Water Rally on the steps of the state capitol. Nearly 200 activists from across the state demanded the legislature take action to save our springs and protect our water bodies.

Take an E-Boat Tour through Downtown Tampa!

Have you ever seen Tampa's downtown skyline from the Hillsborough River? If not, you've missed out, but here is your chance. Our Tampa Bay group's Inner City Outing (ICO) team is having a fundraiser on the evening of **Friday, May 9.** You'll be able to take a one-hour electric boat (e-boat) tour through downtown on the Hillsborough River! The river tour allows unique perspective and beautiful views of downtown and the heart of Tampa at dusk. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. Seats are limited, there will be 4 one-hour tours of up to 10 people per boat. The departure times are 5:30, 6:00, 6:30 & 7:00 pm. The tours will meet at the Sail Pavilion on the Riverwalk just south of the Tampa Convention Center. A \$20 donation per person is requested and all proceeds go to the ICO program.

To make a reservation or to ask questions, please contact Chris Loy at kress_loy@hotmail.com Hurry, this is bound to be a sell-out!

Earth Day Festival Returns to Lowry Park on April 12

After three years at USF Botanical Gardens, the city's premier Earth Day festival will return to Lowry Park on Saturday, April 12! This year's ECOFEST will feature exhibits by green and sustainable businesses and organizations, as well as lots of family entertainment. Be sure to stop by the Sierra Club table to learn about the campaigns we are working on. Admission and parking are free! For more information, go to www.learninggate.org/ecofest or search for Ecofest Tampa Bay on Facebook. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm.

Announcing New Tampa Bay Sierra Club Grants

Tampa Bay Sierra announces two new grant programs for Small Loans and Litigation Support.

The purpose of the **Small Grant Program** is to provide funding to approved individuals, groups, schools and civic organizations to support endeavors which closely align or support the mission and goals of Sierra Club. Awards are up to \$500.

Preference will be given to Sierra Club mem-

bers, or to individuals or groups with a background in conservation and sustainability. Preference will be given to projects within our membership territory or which will benefit the Sierra Club or the community from an environmental standpoint. Grants will not be distributed for political causes or to support political candidates. Grants will not be distributed for college tuition payment.

The purpose of the **Litigation Support Fund** is to provide funding to prepare for or to sup-

port litigation which closely aligns or supports the mission and goals of Sierra Club. Preference will be given to litigation which affects our membership territory or which will benefit the Sierra Club or the community from an environmental standpoint. Awards are made up to \$5,000.

For more details and to download grant applications, go to www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay and click on NEW GRANTS.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group April May 2014

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

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TAMPA, FL

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Tampa Bay Sierra Club
PO Box 1948
Tampa, FL 33601-1948



Membership

Join today and receive a FREE
Sierra Club Weekender Bag



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

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	Individual	Joint
ONLINE SPECIAL	\$15	
REGULAR	\$39	\$49
SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
SENIOR	\$25	\$35
STUDENT	\$25	\$35
LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

MAIL TO : SIERRA CLUB
P.O. BOX 52968
BOULDER CO. 80322-2968

F94Q **W3313**

Get Active With Tampa Bay and Sierra Club

Do you want to get more involved with local environmental issues, meet new people, get inspired to make change happen? Tampa Bay Sierra Club is looking for volunteers to work in many capacities such as:

Political Committee: Work on campaigns to support issues and candidates in upcoming elections (must be Sierra Club member, subject to committee approval)

Event helpers: Help set up and host a Sierra Club table at events and festivals, usually on weekends. Help with registration table, food set-up, greeting at events. A fun way to meet new people, get active and educate the community.

We are also in need of a **new treasurer** and **program chair**. For more information on getting involved, contact Marcia.Biggs@florida.sierraclub.org

Experience "Home" on Earth Day

In celebration of Earth Day, Suncoast Sierra Club and Gulf Restoration Network will present a screening of the documentary "HOME" on April 22 at the Studio@620 in downtown St. Petersburg. This spectacular film illustrates the planet's fragile state entirely from a birds-eye view in stunning high definition. With spectacular aerial views from more than 50 countries, viewers will see the extent of human impact on our landscapes. FREE - but donations are accepted. Questions? Call Lisa at 727-242-3184.

Social at 6:30 PM, movie at 7 PM. Head to 620 First Avenue S., St. Pete. Preview: www.homethemovie.org

Say No to Drilling Off Our Coast at Hands Across the Sand

The annual gathering on Florida beaches to declare "NO DRILLING OFF OUR COAST" will be Saturday May 17 as part of the Suncoast Surfriders Florida Cup Paddleboard Championship at Alden Suites, 5900 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach. Watch our Facebook page for more details!