



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

TAMPA BAY GROUP

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet



February / March 2014

General Meeting: MONDAY, February. 10 at 6:30 pm for Social Time and 7 pm for the Program. Location: Unity of Tampa Church at 3302 W. Horatio

February Program: Florida Mangrove Watch
Speakers: Dr. William L. Ellis and Dr. Chris Miller, Saint Leo University

Mangrove forests are a beautiful and essential part of natural coastal Florida. They provide food and habitat for a myriad of terrestrial and aquatic animals, act to filter unwanted material from our waterways, and buffer our shorelines from storms.

Mangrove Watch is an international organization that teams scientists and community members in an effort to monitor and evaluate the condition of mangrove forests using GPS-linked video analysis. Just over a year ago, several faculty members and the students from Saint Leo University joined the Mangrove Watch program, and have been collecting video imagery and forestry data in the mangroves of Pinellas County.



NEW MEETING LOCATION AND DATE!

Tampa Bay Sierra Club has moved to a new monthly membership meeting location and a new day of the week. We will NO LONGER BE MEETING AT HILTON GARDEN INN in Ybor City. Beginning in February, we will meet in the spacious fellowship hall at **Unity of Tampa Church** on the **SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH**.

Unity of Tampa Church is located in South Tampa at 3302 W. Horatio near the intersection of Henderson Avenue and Azelee St. Free parking is available adjacent to the Church. **General Meetings are FREE and open to the public. For more information, call Marcia Biggs at 727-797-6261 or marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org.**

They are now looking for people who would like to spend some time on the water as Mangrove Watchers and help protect the mangroves. If you think you can help, or just want to learn more about mangroves, this is a program you won't want to miss!

MARCH GENERAL MEETING: MONDAY, March 10 at 6:30 pm for Social Time and 7 pm for the Program. Location: Unity of Tampa Church at 3302 W. Horatio Program: TBA



Tampa Bay Inner City Outings Training Class

On September 28, 2013, 20 Volunteers from both

Tampa Bay and Suncoast Sierra Clubs attended a Tampa Bay Area Inner City Outings OLT101, Water Safety and Basic Canoe Skills training at Crystal Springs Preserve in Zephyrhills. The training took place in the springs where each participant learned and practiced various canoeing skills, including paddling, canoe rescue and retrieval. The attendees include Hadrian Alegarbes, Chris Altenbernd, Steve Bourque, Craig Chambers, Courtney Covin, JC Devitt, Michael Ives, Lou Gomes, Emily and Dennis Joyce, Carol MacInnes, Francine Michel, Rocky Milburn, Cassandra Moll, Robert Morgan, Julie and David Morningstar, Sonya Rose, Christine Schiebel and Anita Wash.



Volunteers needed:

We are in the process of adding more kids to our program and need volunteers to help. If interested, please contact Rocky Milburn, Tampa Bay Area Inner City Outings, 813-966-9785

rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org

ICO received notes from fifth grade girls at Academy Prep of Tampa after an outing to Ft Desoto, here is part of one.

“Fort Desoto is a very clean and beautiful beach. My favorite part of this trip was kayaking because I got a chance to learn something that I never learned before in my life. It was also a great experience because that was my first time to ever get in some kind of boat without even falling in the water.”

If we don't teach the youth about the great outdoors, who will? Rocky Milburn Chair ICO

2014 Executive Committee

Chair: Marcia Biggs (727) 797-6261

marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org

Vice-Chair / Outings Chair:

Gail Parsons (813) 920-2730

gail.parsons@florida.sierraclub.org

Growth Management Chair:

Kent Bailey 813-986-7819

kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

Webmaster: Steve Tryon

(813) 980-2079

steve.tryon@florida.sierraclub.org

Inner City Outings (ICO) Chair:

Rocky Milburn (813) 966-9785

rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org

Political Chair: Pat Kemp

(813) 237-1235

patriciakemp.law@gmail.com

Secretary: Lauretta O'Dell

(813)-662-7742

Pasco: Bob Howell

bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org

At Large: Tamara Pearson

tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org

Other Officers & Assignments

Newsletter: Corky Crowley

(813) 968-4110

corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org

Treasurer: Sharon Terrill-Elfers

(813) 783-1024

sharon.terrill@florida.sierraclub.org

Conservation Chair: Pamela Jo

Hatley

pamela.jo.hatley@florida.sierraclub.org

Stash Your Cans: Dave Varrieur

(813) 503-6970

appraiserfl@outlook.com

Sierra Florida Office:

(727) 824-8813

Tampa Bay Group web site:

<http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay>

To participate in the Sierra Club's Outings, you need to sign a liability waiver, call: (415) 977-5630 or email www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/



OUTINGS



Saturday February 8, Hike:

Hike Fish Hawk Creek Preserve, Hillsborough County at 9:00 am. Level: Easy. Learn about the Fish Hawk Creek Preserve in the River-view/Lithia area on a leisurely 3-hour hike. We will explore the south portion of the 3,500-acre Hillsborough County-owned preserve. Our 6-mile route includes shady trails in forested areas and mowed, grassy lanes in more open areas. If you plan on attending please contact the leader: Mike Raff at 813-642-8624 or mraff98@yahoo.com. (Tampa Bay)

Saturday February 22, Hike:

Hike Lake Frances Nature Preserve, 10225 Woodstock Rd. Odessa, FL. A new ELAPP site to explore with Brooker Creek running through it. Almost sure to see turkey and deer. Approximately 4 miles. Bring water, snacks and lunch. If you plan on attending please contact the leader: Gail Parsons at gailpar1@verizon.net or (813) 928-1412. (Tampa Bay)

Do You Love the Great Outdoors?

Outings Leaders' Training 101 and first aid training Sat. February 15.

Outings are one of the core functions Sierra Club groups offer its members, but great outings start with trained leaders. We will be offering both Outings Leaders' Training 101 and first aid training so that you can qualify to become a certified Outings Leader. Consider attending if you enjoy hiking, biking, paddling, or camping and the camaraderie of others. The next training will be held from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday, February 15, north of Orlando in Oakland, Florida. Participants must be Sierra Club members. Cost is \$6 to cover handout material. To register, contact

Rudy Scheffer at rudy@adventuresworldwide.com.

Sat. / Sun. March 15 & 16 Hike:

Backpack to Mossy Hammock in Myakka River State Park. Myakka State Park Road, Sarasota, FL. Easy short hike in and out. Discover and explore a Florida grassland prairie park and learn how it is being restored. We camp under large old oaks and hike through varied habitat. Registration is required before March 14, please contact the Leader: Mike Pici, at 727-798-9227 or revmp777@earthlink.net (Suncoast)

Sat. / Sun. March 29 & 30 Hike:

Backpack trip to Hidden Pond in the Ocala National Forest. We will explore the Juniper Wilderness Area trail and enjoy the stars at Hidden Pond. Learn about the wildlife and habitats this wilderness area has to offer! We often see scrub jays! A moderate hike of under 12 miles total. Registration is required before March 28, please contact the Leader: Ben Berauer, 352-610-6704 or bfberauer@aol.com. (Suncoast)

NOTICE TO OUTINGS

LISTSERV MEMBERS:

The weekly Sierra Club Outings listserv e-mail will discontinue in 2014. You are encouraged to join our **MEETUP PAGE** online where all outings are posted. Go to Meetup.com and search for [Sierra Club Groups of the Greater Tampa Bay Area Meetup](#) and click on Join Us! Interested in finding more Sierra Club Outings? Anyone can join the Meetup page to get regular notices when new outings are added.

Florida Seller of Travel Reference No. ST37115

Growth Management Committee: NEW DATE & LOCATION

The Sierra Growth Management Committee will meet at 5:30 pm Monday February 10 and Monday March 10 at Unity of Tampa Church, 3302 West Horatio Street, Tampa 33609, just prior to the regular Sierra Club meeting.

Please note the new location and we will meet on the second Monday of the month.

The efforts of Sierra and others have successfully placed the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment on the ballot for November. Soon we begin mobilizing to get this amendment passed and to elect Florida friendly candidates. Sierra is the most trusted “brand” in America. When you campaign as Sierra, voters listen. Multiply your vote: Campaign with Sierra.

Water issues will be in the forefront of this legislative session. A bill to change the way water is allocated, used and reused will emerge early. Other issues include the sale of thousands of acres of preservation land and possibly a “shell bill” to fast track tourist trap development in the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve. Sierra will be there.

Hundreds of acres of Cone Ranch are being opened to the public. Saved from private development by Sierra activists four years ago and purchased by ELAPP to become the Lower Green Swamp Preserve, 13,000 acres have been saved for future generations.

A privately owned, elevated toll road could bring intense development pressure to the Cone Ranch / Two Rivers Ranch area, if approved. The 33 mile Pasco superhighway from Hwy 19 to Hwy 301 would terminate near this undeveloped area. In Lutz, a proposed rezoning threatens even more cul de sac, turf grass subdivisions, at the expense of wild Florida.

If you can, please join our February Growth Management meeting to cultivate smart growth and sustainable development of Florida’s precious and limited resources.

Kent Bailey, Growth Management Committee Co-Chair at kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org



Want to Get Involved and Make a Difference?

If you have been thinking about getting more involved in Sierra Club & want to meet like-minded people, we are seeking volunteers in the following areas:

Program Chair: Lines up and publicizes monthly program and speakers, introduces speaker at programs. Should be organized with attention to detail.

Fundraising Chair: Organizes events and campaigns aimed at fund raising including the Holiday Silent Auction. An organized and creative idea person is a good fit.

Tabling Chair: Attends occasional festivals, workshops, and events where a Sierra Club table is needed, usually on weekends. Duties include setup and teardown of table and material.

No experience required for these roles, just a willingness to do the job and reliability. Contact Marcia Biggs at 727-797-6261 or email marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org for more information

Florida Sierrans Stay Informed!

The Florida Senate will convene on **March 4 2014**. Environmentalists are facing more challenges in the Florida Legislature this coming session. You can help your representatives understand what is important to you. The Florida Chapter's Tallahassee Legislative Lobbying Report gets you up-to-date environmental news and action alerts about the Florida Legislature and our efforts to educate them. Learn what is happening, and get involved.



For Florida Legislative alerts, join our FLORIDA REPORT. Go to www.sierraclub.org/memberlists?listname=FL-FLORIDA-REPORT (have your membership number available). Or contact the owner of the list at FL-FLORIDA-REPORT-Request@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG



It is easy and you will get email info, alerts, and news on actions you can take at home during this next session. Please help us pump up the volume on the environmental message.

Political Committee:

Interested in joining our Political Committee?



We need informed members willing to evaluate candidates for endorsement and work on upcoming political campaigns. Help get strong environmental candidates elected to public office. Contact Political Chair **Pat Kemp** at (813) 237-1235 or patriciakemp.law@gmail.com for more information.



IMPORTANT NOTICE: This newsletter is delivered bi-monthly in print to your mailbox. For updated news and information go to www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay



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FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

February / March 2014



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Sierra Club
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Boulder, CO. 80322-2968

Or: address.changes@sierraclub.org
Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

Tampa Bay Group
P.O. Box 1948
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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
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RALLY TO TALLY FEBRUARY 18 FOR CLEAN WATER

Join Clean Water activists from Sierra Club and other organizations across the state as we travel to Tallahassee on February 18 to voice our concern for water issues. This rally comes on the heels of the January 22 kickoff of the Floridian's Clean Water Declaration Campaign in 16 cities across Florida.

In Tampa, Sierra Club called a press conference in which Hillsborough County Commissioner Kevin Beckner, City Councilwoman Mary Mulhern and State Rep. Mark Danish all signed the Declaration.

For updated information on the February 18 rally, check out our Meetup.com and Facebook pages.



Hillsborough County Commissioner Kevin Beckner signs the Floridian's Clean Water Declaration at the Jan. 22 press conference on Tampa's Riverwalk. Photo by Marcia Biggs

Get Involved, Help the Planet: Get updates and information of local events and add your comments and photographs on Facebook. Find events on MEETUP. To find us just log on and search for Tampa Bay Sierra Club at **MEETUP.COM & FACEBOOK!!!**

