



# SIERRA CLUB TAMPA BAY GROUP



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet

July / August 2021



## COVID-19 Crisis UP-DATE - Outings July 5th Reopening:

**First, Let's Celebrate!** It has been a long time since we've been gathered together, in person, in the name of Sierra Club. So this is a big deal!! We will start reopening on July 5 with outdoor in-person day trips / training! The safety and well-being of our staff, volunteers, members, and supporters remains our top priority as Sierra Club's Safety Team is diligently working to finalize recommendations on gathering indoors. We can't wait to see you all in-person again soon.

## July / August Photograph Winner!

We are pleased to announce the winner of our photo contest. We received some beautiful photos, and narrowed the winner to the one that best exemplified the call to highlight a Hillsborough County regional park or preserve. Sonja Pederson submitted this beautiful scene captured at Lake Dan Nature Preserve. Congratulations, Sonja! Thank you to all who submitted photos. Get out into our amazing local parks and preserves to take your photo for the next contest.



*This enchanted scene was taken at Lake Dan Preserve. Title for this photo is "Hope."*

*As Florida becomes more developed, it's difficult to find wildlife in their natural setting. Thanks to programs like ELAPP and the Florida Wildlife Corridor and many others, one can still experience these truly magnificent wild places. Thanks Hillsborough County and Sierra Club! Sonja Pederson*

**Call for Photographs for next Contest:** You are invited to submit a digital photograph of either a Tampa Bay Group event or a Hillsborough County regional park or preserve. The winner will receive a Sierra Club shirt, mug, and have the picture on the Group website. For details go to [florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay](http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay)

**ANNUAL JOINT MEETING** Tampa Bay Sierra Club, Tampa Audubon Society, and Suncoast Native Plant Society Joint Meeting will be meeting virtually via Zoom on *Meetup*  
To Join us go to our WEBSITE at [florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay](http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay) and click on the title in upcoming events to RSVP.

**Date and Time:** Wednesday July 14, 2021 from 6:45 to 8:45 PM

**Program:** Tampa Electric Company's Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

**Speaker:** Stan Kroh, Manager of Land and Stewardship Programs, Environmental Services Department, Tampa Electric Company

Organized by the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group. For information contact Rocky Milburn at (813) 833-3386. We will see you at the event!



**AUGUST GENERAL MEETING:** TBA details will be posted on [florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay](http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay)

**Date and Time:** Wednesday August 11 2021 at 6:45

## 2021 Executive Committee

### Group Chair: Rocky Milburn

(813) 966-9785

[rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Vice-Chair/Parliamentarian

### Political Chair: Gary Gibbons

[gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Conservation: Nancy Stevens

813-380-1668

[nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Co-Treasurer/ Land Development

### Chair: Karen Michalski

[karencaymichalski@gmail.com](mailto:karencaymichalski@gmail.com)

### Co-Treasurer: Don Kruse

[Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Outings Chair: Shirley Denton

[ecotypes@verizon.net](mailto:ecotypes@verizon.net)

### Recycling Chair: Barbara Heineken

[bjheineken@msn.com](mailto:bjheineken@msn.com)

### Tabling Chair: Michael Newett

[newett554@live.com](mailto:newett554@live.com)

### Transportation Chair: Christopher Gleason

[hondaman842000@yahoo.com](mailto:hondaman842000@yahoo.com)

### Other Officers & Assignments

### Secretary, Membership Chair:

### Linda Hugues

[linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Program Chair: Bonnie Newett

[b.newett@yahoo.com](mailto:b.newett@yahoo.com)

### Water Co-Chair: Tamara Pierson

[girlouttocali@yahoo.com](mailto:girlouttocali@yahoo.com)

### Water Co-Chair: Ben Ochshorn

[bochshornI@gmail.com](mailto:bochshornI@gmail.com)

### Communication Chair: Rob

[Jordan rjordan2@mail.usf.edu](mailto:rjordan2@mail.usf.edu)

### ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice

[bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Newsletter: Corky Crowley

(813) 968-4110

[corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org)

### Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave Varrieur

(813) 503-6970

[dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org)

Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813

## Hurricane Preparedness

**Say no to bottled water**, just use or invest in a water filter pitcher like Brita then fill-up 100% a clean glass, plastic ♻️ container or igloo. No pitcher - no problem, just fill-up at any Hillsborough County library! Recommended about 1 gallon per adult for drinking. Remember that ♻️ bottles may leach chemicals when the bottle is exposed to heat like being stored outside, near window or no AC warehouse storage.

**Inspect your neighborhood's stormwater drains** are functioning and protected from debris.

**Invest in rechargeable batteries and flashlights.**

**Invest in solar USB charger for phone, and crank radio to keep kids busy and entertained.**

## PARTNERS FOR A PHOSPHOGYPSUM FREE AMERICA ACTION ALERT!



Not only does the phosphate industry create sinkholes that have polluted the Floridan Aquifer System with over 200 million gallons of contaminated water, it leaves behind "gypstacks", mountains of radioactive materials that can reach 200 feet or taller. The 2021 environmental disaster of Piney Point alone has discharged over 215 million gallons of toxic water into Tampa Bay so far. Let's keep the pressure on so that we don't have another Piney Point or Phosphogypsum stack failure. Sign these petitions, then ask family and friends across the USA for mining pollution protection by EPA.

<https://phosphogypsumfreeamerica.org/radioactive-waste>

<https://phosphogypsumfreeamerica.org/radioactive-roads>

<https://phosphogypsumfreeamerica.org/new-wales-stack-expansion>

*The Florida Chapter of Sierra Club belongs to this coalition.*

## Stadium Recycling Initiative

The Volunteers for the Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative were excited to hear the news that we will be back to work for the 2021 – 2022 event season at Raymond James Stadium. This will include all "sold out" 2021 Superbowl Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers football games, USF Bulls games, the Rolling Stones and Kenny Chesney concerts and other events. Volunteers recycle for 2 hours prior to the start of each event then are allowed to enter the stadium at no charge. At this time, there is a waiting list to volunteer. However, to join the waiting list for future volunteer openings, please contact **David Varrieur at [AppraiserAndRealtor@gmail.com](mailto:AppraiserAndRealtor@gmail.com)**



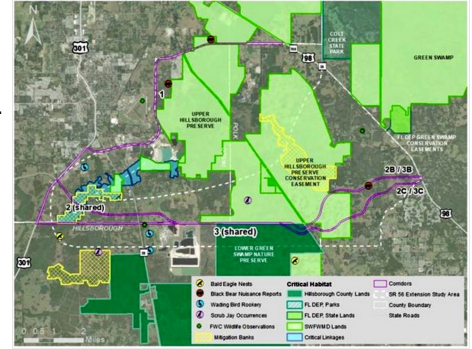
## Conservation Committee

The next meetings will be **Monday, July 12 and Monday, August 9 at 6:30 via Zoom.**

**Highway through Hillsborough County wilderness:** Florida Department of Transportation - FDOT is planning to extend Pasco's SR 56 – one proposed Corridor would bisect the Lower Green Swamp and the Upper Hillsborough Preserves.

We wrote a joint letter with Pasco Sierra Club recommending Corridor 1 which expands on existing roads, rather than Corridor 3b, which bisects wilderness areas. June meeting was postponed.

See <https://fdotd7studies.com/SR56EXT/> to get updates and provide input.



**No Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) from Port of Tampa:** A Tampa based company, Strom Inc, has received approval from the Department of Energy to export LNG to other countries. Strom Inc plans to liquify gas in Crystal River and export it. The Port of Tampa says they have no plans to export LNG from Tampa. We will keep you posted if that changes.

**Poisoned:** An investigation by the Tampa Bay Times found that a lead battery recycling plant was violating OSHA rules and poisoning its employees. <https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2021/investigations/lead-factory/poisoned-trailer/>. We are looking into whether there might be environmental damage to water and air due to the plant.

**Tampa PURE:** City has hired consultants to do scientific analysis of current TAP/PURE Proposal and an Alternatives Analysis. Alternative Analysis report is available and we are providing feedback in support of Alternatives other than the current proposal, which would put industrial and residential wastewater into the aquifer, and Hillsborough River and Reservoir.

**SB 64**, if signed by the Governor, would mandate eliminating non beneficial wastewater from going into the Bay, thus requiring Tampa to do something else with it. Since we only need a fraction of the water for Tampa, this would require Tampa water users to pay well over \$1B over 30 years – essentially an unfunded mandate from the state.

**USF Forest Preserve Land on the River for Sale** – Located north of Fletcher Ave, the USF Forest Preserve protects over 600 acres of imperiled sandhill and wetland ecosystems and nearly a dozen endangered or threatened plant species. For decades, the Preserve has functioned as a core research facility and natural classroom for many departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. The entire property also serves as a critical link in a wildlife corridor that joins the Cypress Creek floodplain to the Green Swamp. Rocky Milburn sent letter to USF President Steven Currall expressing our support for preserving USF Forest Preserve. We will continue to watch this.

Would you like to get involved in conservation? Have a topic you would like to discuss? Join our zoom meetings or ask to be included in the conservation mailing list. Contact Nancy Stevens, Conservation Committee Chair at 813-380-1668, [Nancy.Stevens@Florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Nancy.Stevens@Florida.sierraclub.org)



## **Tampa Summer Fertilizer Ban Kicks in June 1st - September 30th!**

The summer rainy season is here and the heavy rain doesn't water fertilizer in, it washes it away, right into rivers, lakes and into the Gulf. And fertilizer pollution can cause algae blooms that kill fish. That's why so many communities throughout Florida have restricted the use of fertilizers. For details go to [www.BeFloridian.com](http://www.BeFloridian.com)



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

## July / August 2021



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TAMPA, FL  
Permit No. **2834**

**Address Changes:**

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 Trail Cooler Tote at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



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**  
**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



**OUTINGS**

SIERRA CLUB

### Outings are Back!

We recently got the news that we can run outings starting as early as **July 5**. We are in the process of creating a schedule, which we will publish on

**MeetUp** page online (**Upcoming events | Sierra Club Groups of the Greater Tampa Bay Florida Area (Saint Petersburg, FL) | Meetup**)

and on our group website

(**<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay>**).

We do have work to do. We are making plans to update leader training and to train new leaders. If you are interested in becoming an outings leader, please contact Shirley Denton at [ecotypes@verizon.net](mailto:ecotypes@verizon.net).

*Shirley Denton, Tampa Bay Group Outings Chair*

### **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>

### TAMPA BAY



### Tampa Bay Inspiring Connection Outdoors

We will be planning our 2021-22 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