



COVID-19 Crisis UP-DATE: Sierra Club Cancels in person Meetings, Programs & Outings Through February 2021!

In the interests of public health and safety, all Sierra Club in-person meetings, (including our committee meeting) activities and outings have been canceled through **February 2021**. We regret this necessary accommodation to current public health safety concerns. But the safety of our members and the general public are of paramount concern. We urge our members to observe precautions from the Center for Disease Control (CDC): Avoid going out in public when possible, otherwise please wear a cloth mask over your mouth and nose and observe a minimum 6 foot “social distance” when in public, including periods of outdoor exercise.

Remembering Kent Bailey



Kent Bailey was a passionate speaker on behalf of Tampa Bay Sierra Club and the environment.

Celebration of Life for Kent Bailey
Friday, November 27 2020 Lower Green Swamp Preserve, Location and Time TBA
Friends, colleagues and admirers of Kent Bailey are welcome to join in a celebration of his life. Go to sierraclub.org/florida/tampabay.

The Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) will be honoring Kent Bailey with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** at their **January 14, 21** meeting, tentatively set for 9 a.m. at County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, but may be moved online due to COVID. Go to www.epchc.org in January for an update.

The chair of Tampa Bay Sierra Club and climate change activist died September 22 after suffering a massive heart attack. His accomplishments during the past decade are innumerable. He was a tireless advocate for the environment and had a huge heart. He was considered a local expert on sea level rise in the Tampa Bay region and was sought after a speaker at workshops, press conferences and panel discussions. He was respected by all who met him as a kind, honorable and passionate person.

One of his first and greatest accomplishments was spearheading the preservation of Cone Ranch (the Lower Green Swamp Preserve). At 12,800 acres, the preserve is now the largest undeveloped tract of land in Hillsborough County and a Hillsborough County ELAPP property that will never be developed.

The loss for our community, our State, and Sierra Club is immeasurable. We have lost a giant for the environmental movement.

Wesley Kent Bailey was married to Cathy Bailey, the father of six children and 22 grandchildren.

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2020 Executive Committee

Group Chair / ICO Chair / Outings

Chair: Rocky Milburn

(813) 966-9785

rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org

Vice Chair / Membership Chair:

Gary Gibbons

gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org

Co-Treasurer: Don Kruse

Don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org

Co-Treasurer: Karen Michalski

karenkaymichalski@gmail.com

Conservation: Nancy Stevens

813-380-1668

nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org

Transportation Chair:

Christopher Gleason

Ex-Com: Sandra Duenas

Laflorida55@hotmail.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

Recycling Chair: Barbara Heineken

Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave

Varrieur (813) 503-6970

dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org

ICO Webmaster: Bob Rice

bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org

Webmaster & Social Media Coordi-

nator: Rob & Teresa Jordan

rjordan2@usf.edu

Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813

Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee and Transportation, Water and Land Use Sub-Committees will meet **Mondays, November 9 and December 14 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.**

No Cementing the Wetlands! One of the last projects Kent worked on resulted in saving a portion of our Florida wetlands. Kent was outraged to learn that a homeowner was requesting a variance so he could put concrete on the wetlands in his backyard. He spent time researching, writing a letter, then going to a hearing to speak against the variance, which was denied.

READY FOR 100: We are working with a coalition of groups asking Tampa to join 167 other cities and commit to 100% clean renewable energy by 2030. City Council is working on a draft resolution. The Mayor has hired a Sustainability and Resiliency Officer who is working on a Climate Action and Equity Plan.

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**



M-CORES UPDATE: The Florida legislature approved a bill to fast track three major new toll roads and the task forces for them have released their first draft report after months of meetings and tons of public comment, overwhelmingly negative.

Frank Jackalone, Sierra Club Florida Chapter Director and Timothy Martin, Sierra Club Florida Chapter Conservation Chair called it "a disastrous Toll Roads to Nowhere Bill that would be ruinous to the rural heartland of Florida and our state's nature coast. The urban sprawl that would accompany the new toll roads would be deadly, devouring hundreds of thousands of acres of rural and natural lands, fragmenting wildlife habitat and polluting our rivers, springs, lakes and coastal waters."

It faces broad public opposition and would cost more than \$135 million a year. The Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance program (M-CORES) task force released a draft report on Sept. 28th that questions the need for all three roads, expresses a preference for improving existing highway corridors, and asked that a "No build" option be considered in future project actions.

FDOT in October held M-CORES task force meetings and open houses to finalize the reports that will be submitted to Gov. DeSantis and the Legislature on November 15.

Add your comments at **FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us**. Call and write the governor and your legislators. and visit **<https://www.facebook.com/NoRoadsToRuin>**.



SAVE THE DATE! January 16, 2021 Tampa Bay Group Annual Planning Meeting

Date: January 16, 2021 Time, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Location: Online Via "Zoom" thru a computer or on your smart phone! All members are invited to attend this meeting and help us plan the future of the Tampa Bay Group Sierra Club





Remembering Kent Bailey, Chair of Tampa Bay Sierra Club

Kent had a natural born talent for speaking the truth, for teaching the truth. And he had the courage to speak the truth right in the face of power. Kent also had a natural talent for leadership. For inspiring people to work together. I would like Kent's family to know that his legacy lives on - in his many accomplishments - not least of which is the 13,000 acres of wildlife habitat and critical wetlands that are preserved forever in Cone Ranch - but also in the many people he brought together and inspired, who will carry Kent Bailey in our hearts as we carry on his work for years to come.

Mariella Smith, Hillsborough County Commissioner



MEMORIALS

An Ode to Kent Bailey

Floridian's Clean Water Declaration Hillsborough River, Tampa



Our grateful and saddened Tampa Bay community pledges to carry forward the work of Mr. Bailey. His formidable efforts and selfless devotion to making Tampa Bay and the rest of the United States a better place to live are unmatched and are worthy of recognition. On behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, Florida, and citizens across the United States, I am proud to honor W. Kent Bailey for his lifelong dedication to the protection of the environment. His legacy as a tireless advocate will live on and inspire others in the community for many years to come.

US Representative Kathy Castor

vine grow out and form a new potato and then that potato will send out a new vine for another new potato. So, on and so forth. That is how Kent viewed our work. Teach about the environment to others and they will teach to others. And they will teach others. We have so much work to do. Miss you and love you, Brother **Rocky Milburn, Chair and ICO Outings Chair**

I will always remember Kent as a fantastic leader. He always led by example, working harder than everyone else on his team, never for personal gain or attribution, but always with his eyes clearly focused on the particular task at hand (and there were many). Kent had it in his DNA to help others. Kent always ended our monthly Sierra Club meetings

with a quote from the founder of the Sierra Club, John Muir. Muir said: "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

It was my honor to know and "walk" with this Force of Nature, Kent Bailey, for the last 12 years. He taught me so much and has left a giant void in our hearts and in our community.

**Gary Gibbons, Vice Chair Member
Chair and Outings Leader**

Kent and I talked just hours before he passed as I was working in my garden and he on his remodel project, during this conversation we talked about many things and the conversation came to sweet potatoes. How the potato has a

Words, empty sails upon a brilliant sea. Vain attempt by confining script to define a Spirit.

A Spirit so large that it encompassed all that came close.

A Spirit so gentle that it held compassion for those who opposed.

A Spirit who led by example, regardless of the price.

A Spirit who did not doubt, the cause and the people.

A Spirit who thought hard and deep about issues, people, the planet.

A Spirit who always gave and refused the limelight.

A Spirit whose presence and presentations held captive all.

A Spirit who was: My friend My confidant My mentor My sounding board My uplift at dark times

My humor when needed

A Spirit who always listened.

A Spirit who included all.

There is and will always be a ripple in time. Where he tread.

Heavy heart, empty head, I remember the Spirit.

Words, empty sails upon a brilliant sea.
Sail the cosmos my friend!

**Bob Howell, Chair Adventure Coast
Sierra Club, former Tampa Bay
Ex-com member**

Biographies of the Candidates for the 2021-22 Executive Committee

Gary A. Gibbons

I am a native Floridian and a semi-retired attorney. I'm deeply concerned with the degradation of our springs and water quality throughout Florida. I want to work to restore and protect our precious resources, wetlands, and watersheds before it is too late.

I am a certified Outings Leader for Sierra Club and love leading Outings and inspiring others to get active in protecting our fragile ecosystem. I now serve on the ExCom of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club as the Vice Chair, Membership Chair and on the Political Committee, interviewing political candidates for local elections. .

Christopher Gleason

I am currently serving on the ExCom and seeking a second term to continue the work that I have seen from my seat for the last two years. I first became active with the Tampa Bay Group in the Conservation Committee, and with my extreme interest became Transportation Chair for the last couple years. Since the 2018 election cycle I have been part of the Political Committee with our main focus being endorsements. Conservation of lands, transit for all, and electing like-minded officials are my most ardent endeavors for the future.

Barbara Heineken

Barbara has been working in the recycling and solid waste world and was the City of Tampa's first recycling coordinator and implemented many programs in the city including the stadium recycling program. Early on she brought Sierra Club in to volunteer with

the program, which has been one of the club's biggest fundraisers.

Barbara is a trained outings leader and has been involved with the ICO program for the past 5 years. She loves exposing adults and kids to the many outdoor activities we have here in Florida. She can't wait to be able to get everyone out on the trail again!

Tom Krumreich

Since 2012 I have become involved with the Florida Sierra Club and have worked on many campaigns including education, tabling, and phone banks. Recently, for the Sierra Club Independent Action group. In 2014 my work for the Tampa Bay Sierra Club was recognized with the Black Bear Award, their highest recognition for service.

I believe my many years of political organizing and educating the public for Sierra Club and other non-profit lobbying groups qualify me for consideration to join the Florida Sierra Club ExCom.

Don Kruse

A third generation Floridian and a lifelong Tampa resident, I'm very active in the Tampa Bay community. I have always tried to lead by example. I joined the Sierra Club Growth Management team in 2012 to stay abreast on growth in our community and do what I can to help guide it in the right direction. I also served on the board of The Nominating Committee of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group for the Executive Committee candidates for election.

Michael Newett

I've probably always been an environmentalist. When I owned a farm in Indiana, I chaired a County Group we started called the Porter County Wildlife Management to monitor deer and other local wildlife issues. I learned a lot.

I have been involved with Sierra Club since my arrival in Florida 11 years ago, and have served on ExCom, tabled at hundreds of events, given numerous presentations, served as treasurer, helped put on seasonal events, participated with Dave Varrieur and the Raymond James Recycling initiative, managed the Conservation Committee, worked with community outreach, and tried to be a good participating member to the Group, and an advocate for local environmental issues, according to Sierra Club National Guidelines.

I am asking for your vote to re-join the Executive Committee and help Rocky and the Team manage the myriad of issues which will follow the Covid pandemic, address many of the community related opportunities which may surface, and help members and potential members understand the meaning of "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet".

Steve Newhouse

During college I enjoyed the state's springs and canoeing its rivers which lead me to learn more about the state's aquifer and water supply system through workshops, volunteer work, and through eco-tour paddling trips on local

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The Nominating Committee of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group presents the 2021-2022 Executive Committee (Ex-Com) Candidates for election.

MAIL IN BALLOT VOTE - BY December 1, 2020

I am a member of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. I vote for the following Four candidates for the **2021 / 2022** term on the Executive Committee.

Membership number : _____

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
1 Gary A. Gibbons:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Christopher Gleason:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Barbara Heineken:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Tom Krumreich:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Don Kruse:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Michael Newett:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Steve Newhouse:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Walter L. Smith II:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Barbara Toepke:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE VOTE for only Four of the Candidates

One vote for an individual member, two votes for joint members only.

Please include your **8 digit membership number or ID number on membership card or look above your address on the newsletter.**

Mail your ballots to:

Linda Hugues

15422 Carrillon Estates Blvd.

Tampa, FL 33625



Continued from Page 4: rivers. I have found my recreational enjoyment has combined with a great feeling for conservation. The preservation of the springs and our public lands is not only for recreation, but critical to our quality of life. But there are so many issues that threaten our state's environment, as a member of the Sierra Club and serving on the ExCom, I believe I can help make a difference.

Walter L. Smith II

Walter L. Smith, II is a community advocate, political analyst, radio talk show personality, instructor and twenty-year veteran in the field of envi-

ronmental engineering, land use, and impact.

Early in his career he worked at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District. He later worked as a private consultant on due diligence assessments, environmental impact analyses, and community revitalization projects. He is active on community boards, social media, video broadcasts and his weekly public relations radio show, "The Sunday Forum," on WMNF 88.5 FM. He is currently leading the Tampa-Hillsborough Disaster Resilience Initiative with Organize Florida.

Barbara Toepke

As a member of the Conservation committee for two years I've learned about local issues with water, trees, and transportation, and have spoken at BOCC and HART meetings. This past year I attended eight MCORES task force meetings in person or virtually, spoke and wrote letters, and sent local reports. I've seen the wisdom and experience of our local leaders in action at board meetings, outings, and at membership meetings, and look forward to joining them.

Voting via Email for the Tampa Bay 2021 Executive Committee

To view complete Biographies of the candidates please go to:

florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay.

Ballots will arrive via email for those members who have opted in to receive Sierra Club emails. To check if you opted in or out when you became a member, send an email to:

membership@sierraclub.org with your membership number, name and current email.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

November / December 2020



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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
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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November & December “Virtual” General Membership Meetings

Wednesday November 11, at 6:30 pm Online Social Time, Program at 7:00

Where: Online Via “Zoom” thru a computer or on your smart phone!

Program: To be Determined.

December Annual Party on Zoom “Virtual” Party / General Meeting:

Wednesday December 9 at 6:30 pm Online Social Time, Program at 7:00

Where: Online Via “Zoom” thru a computer or on your smart phone!

Stay tuned as we expand our technical skills to better manage our “virtual” membership meetings.

Attending a “virtual” Zoom meeting is easy from either your computer, tablet or on your smart phone. The link to our meeting can be found either in our email newsletter, on our Meetup page and on the calendar of our Web Page. Simply “click” on the link and follow the online instructions.

To join by phone: dial number, enter the meeting ID followed by the # sign and the 6 digit passcode (also followed by the # sign). If you need any help or have any questions please email Rocky Milburn at rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org for additional information and detailed answers to your questions.

Volunteers Needed! Sprawl Squad is looking for members interested in protecting our Rural land designation. No experience needed, just passion to protect our valuable open spaces. To be added to email or phone action list, contact Karen Michalski, flenvactivist@gmail.com