



SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB

Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet

March / April 2020



Program & General Meeting

When: Wednesday March 11, April 8, 2020

6:30 pm: Social Time

7:00 pm: General Meeting and Program.

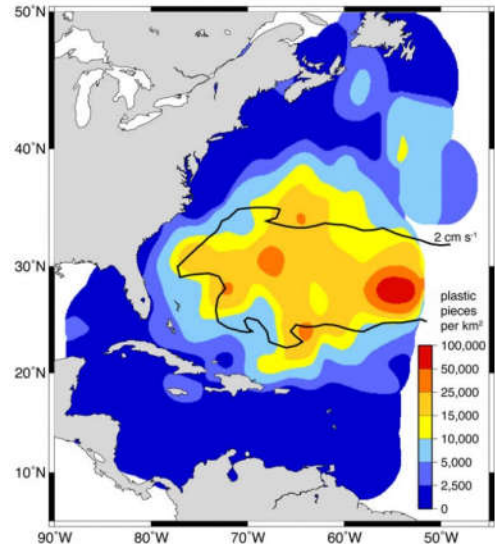
Location: Seminole Heights Public Library, 4711 Central Ave. Tampa (just south of Hillsborough Ave. and west of I-275, corner of W Osborne Ave.) All Tampa Bay Sierra Club meetings are free and open to the public. For more information contact Kent Bailey at kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

April 8 Program: “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Truth About Our Ocean”

Speaker: Heather Segura from the Florida Aquarium.

The ocean is more than just a home to large, charismatic animals like whales and sea turtles. It produces more than 50% of the air that we breathe, nourishes us with food, provides a place to enjoy unique activities, regulates our climate, and unfortunately, collects our unwanted trash and debris in what now is labeled “the great garbage patch.”

All living things in the ocean are affected by the choices we make, be it direct or indirect. And we must remember is that human life depends on the health of our ocean.



March 11, Program: “Florida’s Bees”

Speaker: Jan Betters Allen

Jan Betters Allen from Tampa Bay Beekeepers will inform us about the plight of the honeybees that beekeepers are working to rescue through several methods. Honey bee pollination contribute nearly \$20 billion to the value of U.S. crop production. These small insects are vitally important to our food supply, to say nothing about how healthy their “golden nectar” is. Jan will also share a taste of honey with us following her presentation. Don’t miss it!



News from Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Adventure Coast Meets March 11 & April 8, 2020

Join us for the monthly meetings of the Sierra Club Adventure Coast at the Historic Brooksville Women’s Club, 131 South Main Street in Brooksville. 6:30 pm social. 7 pm program and guest speaker. More information on Facebook at Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group, call 352 277-3330 or email sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com



Green Drinks March 18 & April 15th

Adventure Coast Sierra invites you to celebrate your love of nature at this monthly social the third Wednesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at Marker 48 Brewery, 12147 Cortez Boulevard in Spring Hill. If you appreciate the great outdoors, work, volunteer, or support the environment, join us and be inspired by kindred spirits. Marker 48 Brewing is a 6,000 square foot facility, tasting room, and beer garden. Cash bar and a food truck onsite and some of us will bring munchies to share.



2020 Executive Committee

Group Chairperson: Kent Bailey
(813)-986-7819
kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

Vice-Chair / ICO Chair / Outings Chair: Rocky Milburn
(813) 966-9785
rocky.milburn@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

Membership Chair: Gary Gibbons
gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org

Energy Chair: Bob Howell
bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org

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

Social Media Coordinator: Rob Jordan.

Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813

Great American Clean Up!

Join us at **Westshore Audubon Sanctuary**. Volunteers Needed Tampa Bay Sierra Club and Tampa Audubon Society volunteers will partner to clean up the Sanctuary, a mangrove forest in a residential neighborhood, along Old Tampa Bay, which serves as critical habitat for many wading birds and marine life such as horseshoe crabs and juvenile fish.

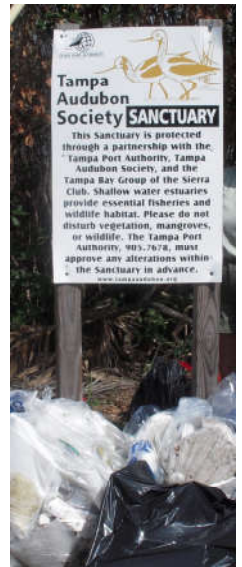
The event will take place on **Saturday, April 25 from 9 -11AM.**

Directions to Site: From I-275, take Westshore Blvd. exit and head south on Westshore. Turn right at W.

San Jose Street. Follow San Jose until you reach an S shaped curve. The Sanctuary is located on the right. Park on the street being considerate not to block mailboxes or driveways.

Volunteers, please wear comfortable light weight long pants, closed-toe shoes, hat/ visor and sunglasses. Be prepared to get wet and muddy. Gloves, trash bags, water and a light snack will be provided. In addition to removing litter, we may also be tearing down and hauling out any illegal structures that have been built on Sanctuary property. This event is not recommended for young children.

Please RSVP to site-captain, Bev Griffiths at bevgriffiths@verizon.net or call/text 813-210-4850



TAMPA BAY OUTINGS Join our **Meetup Page** online where all outings are posted. Go to www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-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 a liability waiver, call **(415) 977-5630** or www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/

Tampa Bay Group and Suncoast Sierra Club Joint Outing: Saturday April 11, Birds of Ft Desoto

We are going to spend the day at Ft DeSoto Park area looking for spring migrants, Warblers, Vireos, Thrushes, Hummingbirds, and who knows what? Ft DeSoto is one of the prime migratory locations on the Gulf of Mexico. We will meet at the South Beach near the Rangers house. Leaders Tim Martin and Rocky Milburn

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

Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee and Transportation and Water Sub-Committees meet on Mondays, **March 9 and April 13** at 6:30 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5103 North Central Ave. Tampa. We meet in the Snyder Building, directly behind the church.

The 2020 Tampa Bay Sierra Club Planning meeting resulted in 5 conservation goals and leaders.

1 - **Ready for 100 Tampa** – Linda Hugues

2 - **Transportation** – HART Electric Buses – Christopher Gleason

3 - **Land Use** – Hold the Line on the Urban Service Area -Karen Michalski

4 - **Increase public awareness of sea level rise** – Kent Bailey

5 - **Secure Conservation Easements. This fits in with the Sierra Florida Chapter conservation goal: Increase Protected Lands by 30% by 2030 and 50% by 2050** – Nancy Stevens

Also a Tree Committee will be formed at the Florida Chapter Level.

Volunteers are needed for all the above initiatives, no experience needed.

CLEAN AIR: Ready for 100: Sign a petition to encourage Tampa City Council to work with Mayor Jane Castor, to commit Tampa for 100% Clean energy at <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/tampa-is-ready-for-100-clean-energy-for-all/petition>. If you would like to join this effort, contact Phil Compton at phil.compton@sierraclub.org or call 813-841-3601.

LAND USE: To encourage development inside the Urban Service Area (USA) and protect Rural Land Use designation. Currently the county's low mobility fees subsidizes residential development outside the USA. New road construction cost including lights, sidewalks are prioritized with our limited county budget instead of infrastructure improvements throughout the county. **On Wednesday March 4, 9 AM at County Center, Ordinance:** "Hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of an ordinance to amend the County's Mobility Fee Program Ordinance in order to remove the RP-2 distinction in the rural assessment district."

ACTION: Tell your County Commissioners who should pay for road costs in new residential development which destroy our open rural land. Please attend and bring a sign.

Zoning Hearing meetings: March 16th and April 13th at 6pm, learn about protecting our remaining Rural areas.

Planning Commission Meetings: March 9th and April 13th at 530pm, learn about protecting our Comprehensive Plan and holding the Urban Service Boundary.

STOP PLASTIC BAGS ACTION: Sierra Club Florida has created a campaign to ask Publix to stop using single-use plastic bags at check out. **Go to our website and Sign the petition. Sierra Club's position is REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE - "not when it doubt throw it out"**. We need and can do better for our oceans and our future.

WATER: Benjamin Ochshorn, Water sub-committee chair

- Southwest Florida Water Management District has issued a 5-year assessment of the Hillsborough River. Sierra Club has been listed as a stakeholder and is doing an analysis.
- Senate Bill 1656/ House Bill 715: Reclaimed Water. At the time of article submission, the draft bill includes:

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- ★ Prohibition against Surface Water Discharge – with exceptions: Implementing a statewide prohibition seems unnecessary and possibly dangerous, as well as expensive- costing an estimated \$28 Billion – which would be billed to water users. Justified as a way to provide more water when water conservation would reduce demand – why should we be watering our lawns with drinking water while we are forced to drink sewerage water? Tampa is investigated a variety of methods to provide sufficient water.
- ★ Potable Reuse: Sets rules for using sewerage water for drinking water. It is critical that the water is safe for people and for the Florida aquifer. The water must meet not only existing standards, but also must have safe levels of “Constituents of Emerging Concern,” which are potentially dangerous components found in sewerage for which safe levels are disputed or not known.
- ★ Greywater Incentives: require incentives to developers to reuse water

TREES: back on our list because Florida HB 1159 stripped out some tree ordinance protections. The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) has a certification process, and training for arborists to identify unsafe trees but no separate certification.

M-CORES: Contact FDOT fdot.listens@dot.state.fl.us and let them know that you oppose the M-CORES project: 3 new major toll roads that will destroy large swaths of Florida’s last remaining rural lands, pollute waterways, and threaten endangered wildlife including the iconic Florida panther.

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, at Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org**



Transportation Committee report:

Current - HART PRIORITIES

1. Tampa Streetcar Extension and Modernization (Tampa) 237 million in capital costs paid by Federal Transit Agency (FTA), FDOT and local. Ten to twelve modern streetcars added for service with completion date of 2024-2025. Modernization is 2.7 miles, extension is 1.2 miles, north to Palm Ave by Florida Ave and Tampa St back south to original endpoint.

2. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Arterial USF to Downtown Tampa Study (HART)

★ · Nebraska Ave, Florida Ave, Linebaugh Ave, & Fowler Ave. Increases connectivity, safety for walk/bike, and quicker travel times with 60%-75% dedicated bus lanes.

★ · Florida Ave North to Linebaugh Ave East to Nebraska Ave North to Fowler Ave East to University Area (USF), going south it uses Tampa St as Florida Ave becomes one way..

3. Regional Rapid Transit Study (TBARTA)

★ · Connecting Pasco to Pinellas through Hillsborough County, Wesley Chapel to downtown St. Petersburg. 13 stations along 41 mile route along I-275, desired 10 minute frequency is impossible using elevated expressway.

Six options for project moving forward: No Build! (our preferred option), no stations, or four with escalating costs and increased dedicated lanes.

NOT ON LIST: Ferry Project from South County to MacDill AFB/South Tampa Commuter Route, with non-peak service to Downtown Tampa and St. Pete

Transportation Chair: Christopher Gleason



Sierra Club files lawsuit to Save the Serenova!

On February 6 the Sierra Club filed for a suit to challenge the Army Corps of Engineers permit to build the Ridge Road Extension thru the Serenova Preserve. Along with the lawsuit, we filed for an emergency injunction to immediately halt construction. Already dozens of gopher tortoises have been excavated from the area. Native burrow habitat for over 300 specialized species, including the endangered Eastern Indigo Snake has been wiped away. Land has been cleared. Wetlands are being filled.



The planet is at a crisis point. We can't afford to lose more of our large natural areas to sprawl. This 6500 acre preserve was purchased and presented to the citizens as compensation for the ecological damage caused by the Suncoast Parkway alignment. It was given to the citizens in perpetuity. It provides abundant wildlife habitat and is the southern anchor of the Cross Bar/Starkey wildlife corridor. The proposed Ridge Road Extension is nothing less than a generational betrayal of a sacred trust and promise.

The Sierra Club is a non-profit, and picks our battles wisely, but think we have a very good case. We need your help. Please make a donation to the Serenova Legal Defense Fund at: <https://squareup.com/store/suncoast-sierra-club> or contact Tim Martin, Sierra Club State Conservation Chair at timothymartin@suncoastsierra.org or call (727) 251-9979. Sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/jmariano-pascocountyfl-net-stop-ecological-damage-to-the-serenova-tract-in-pasco-county-deny-ridge-road-extension/u/25727661>

Saturday, March 14, 2020

ICO Fundraiser Mayor's River O'Green

Tampa Bay ICO will be pouring beer to coincide with the Mayor's River O'Green in downtown Tampa.

The location of the pop-up bar is: on the Riverwalk underneath the Kennedy Street Bridge, which is just below the famed "Beer Can" Building. Easiest way to access it is to walk through Curtis Hixon Park, and once you hit the river, turn left and walk about 1 minute. Tampa Bay ICO will receive a good portion of the proceeds to help fund our program.

The Mayor's River O'Green Fest is the City of Tampa's official annual Saint Patrick's Day event that takes place in beautiful Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park. The party is centered around the Hillsborough River, which will be transformed into a bright shade of (environmentally friendly) green for the occasion.

The river provides a perfect backdrop to the celebration which includes live entertainment, games, kids activities, local restaurants serving small plates of Irish faire, beer, and more!

Admission is free and the entire family is welcome, including four-legged members.

Stadium Recycling Initiative Needs Volunteers for: Rolling Stones Guns and Roses Justin Bieber Stadium Tours in Tampa

Encourage Recycling at the Stadium and Attend the Concert for Free! But to qualify you must first help staff one of the upcoming **Tampa Bay Viper games**. The XFL is a brand new, fan-first league that's reimagining the game of football

**Contact: Dave Varrieur
813-503-6970
appraiserandreator@gmail.com**

The No Roads To Ruin Collation

For more information - please visit the 1000 Friends of Florida **M-CORES** page <https://1000fof.org/mcores/> **Join/Like - the No Roads To Ruin - Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/NoRoadsToRuin/>





SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

March / April 2020



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Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

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
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INTRODUCTORY	\$15	\$20
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STUDENT	\$25	\$35
LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

SIERRA CLUB
P.O. BOX 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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EcoFest 2020 is a community event organized by Learning Gate Community School, the City of Tampa and USF Health to celebrate the many businesses, organizations, and individuals in the Tampa Bay area dedicated to the Principles of Sustainability, Ecology, Equity and Economy.

Our 11th Annual EcoFest will be held on Sunday, April 19th at the Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park 1001 North Boulevard

Tampa, Florida 33606. The event will be open to the public from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Admission to the event is free.

There will be live music, demonstrations, informational booths, green products and services. Some local artists, green businesses, environmental organizations, alternative health practitioners, renewable energy specialists, organic farms and gardens with produce will be there.

For additional information on EcoFest 2020, please email ecofest@learninggate.org or call (813) 948-4190 ext 313

