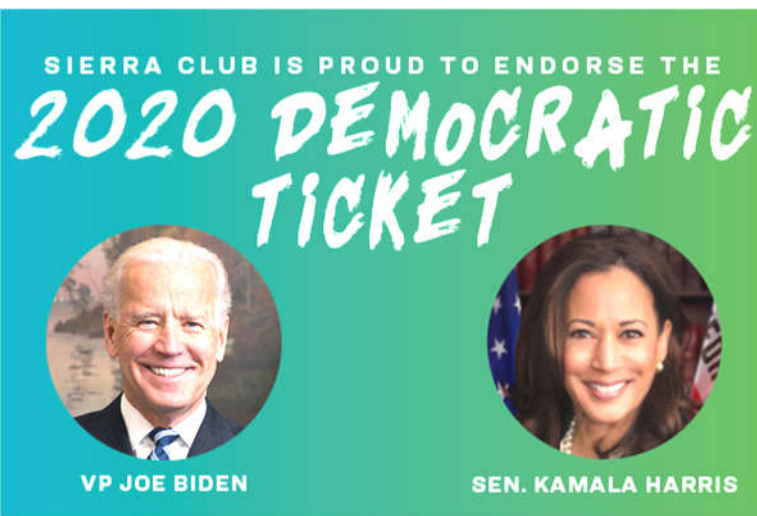




COVID-19 Crisis UP-DATE: Sierra Club Cancels in person Meetings, Programs & Outings Through February 2021!

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.



The Sierra Club is Proud to endorse former Vice President Joe Biden, along with his running mate Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). For the most consequential presidential election in modern history, Biden-Harris 2020 is a bold, powerful choice for climate action.



Florida Sierra Club 2020 Political Endorsements!

Tampa Bay Group’s Political Committee has been hard at work for you, vetting and recommending solid environmental candidates for endorsement by Sierra Club.

About our process: At the start of the election season we meet and review local, state and congressional races within our Group’s boundaries, including races where districts overlap with neighboring Groups like Suncoast and Manatee-Sarasota. We don’t endorse in every race, only in those races where there is a clear choice based on the Club’s criteria for endorsement. Occasionally, we will recommend an endorsement in the primary election. We look at the candidate’s overall record and platform; their performance on environmental, equity, justice and inclusion issues and their prospect of winning the election or at least mounting a credible campaign. We expect candidates to complete and return a questionnaire and sit for a “virtual interview”. Once the exploratory process is complete, we deliberate and make a recommendation. All endorsements must be vetted and approved by the Group’s Executive Committee and a second voting tier, which varies depending on whether it is a local, state or congressional race. We are careful to comply with state and federal election laws, most of which apply to communications and contributions.

To view a list of Sierra Club endorsed candidates visit our Group’s website and you’ll find the link on the **HOME** page - www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay. As new endorsements are completed our list will be updated. Together we are stronger. Bev Griffiths Political Chair



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

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 Coordinator: Rob & Teresa Jordan
rjordan2@usf.edu

Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813

Past President of the Sierra Club Foundation Guy Saperstein Responds to Michael Brune regarding John Muir

In response to widely reported comments by Michael Brune associating John Muir with racism, the letter below was sent to Michael Brune and the Sierra Club Board from Guy Saperstein, a former long-time President of the Sierra Club Foundation. Saperstein is one of America's leading long-time Civil Rights attorneys, who founded the largest private plaintiff civil rights law firm in America and successfully prosecuted the largest race, sex, and age discrimination class actions in American history. Three excerpts from his response to Michael Brune's blogpost about John Muir follows:

"Muir may have made ill-considered comments about Native Americans and blacks as a young man, but he became enlightened about both races after living with black families on his walks in the South and living with Native Americans in Alaska. How many of his era were even open to living with different races? He decried the unfair treatment of blacks, and he expressed understanding and appreciation for Native Americans, while denouncing how whites had abused them with alcohol. Muir also joined the Sequoia Society, an organization dedicated to promoting Native American rights. He described the campaign of Indian extermination and displacement as "mean brutal policy" and confronted the senior US Cavalry officer in charge of the west for following "immoral orders" on this. Later in life, Muir helped raise money and contributed his own to organizations working for the betterment of Native Americans. Rather than the low-life racist you and the Board portray him as, Muir was high in the ranks of enlightened men of his time. Your attack is political correctness run amuck."

"And missing from your attack on Muir's legacy is the most obvious and most commendable accomplishments of his life: Muir's work directly and by inspiration spawned the protection of more than 250 million acres of public lands and over 11,000 miles of wild rivers for the enjoyment of all Americans, regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, status and/or income. Muir left a treasure for all to enjoy and we are all better people for the opportunity to enjoy nature and Muir's writings and his adventures.

The Sierra Club has much to be proud of. Without the Sierra Club, there would have been dams in the Grand Canyon, forest clear cuts in Olympic National Park, geothermal development in Yellowstone, oil and gas fields in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, a ski resort in Mineral King, a nuclear power plant on an earthquake fault, a jet port in the Everglades and much of this great work was inspired by John Muir. Which is why I have supported the Sierra Club for 40+ years and why I am so upset about this attack on Muir's legacy."

The Sierra Club PAC Fund Needs Your Help! Help elect environmental candidates this November. Please donate to the Sierra Club Political Action Committee (PAC). Send your check to: **Sierra Club Florida PAC, c/o Max Goldstein, 220 Lakeview Drive, #305, Weston, FL 33326.** Election laws require that you report your employment information with your donation. *Contributions to the Sierra Club Florida PAC are NOT tax-deductible.* David Harbeitner, Chapter Political Chair, davidh@suncoastsierra.org.

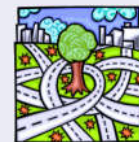
Conservation Committee Report: The Conservation Committee and Transportation, Water and Land Use Sub-Committees will meet **Mondays, September 14 and October 12 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.**

Tampa is Ready for a 100% Clean Energy Future! A coalition of advocacy groups and businesses have been meeting with Tampa City Council members to draft a resolution to commit to 100% renewable energy. If you would like to get involved, contact Phil Compton, phil.compton@sierraclub.org.

Reducing energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency not only helps clean the air but makes energy more affordable. Energy Saver appliances, LED lighting, and other measures reduce monthly energy consumption. Solar panels provide a clean, cost effective energy source. Home owners can invest in these technologies, but renters do not have control over what large appliances are in their rental. Incentives or guidelines for home and rental owners or utilities to provide energy efficiency would help and could be included in the Ready for 100 initiative. Especially now, with so many people struggling to make ends meet, and pay their utility bills, measures to reduce those bills will be a help. Now is the time to encourage investment by the government, utilities and private residential and business owners to reduce future costs and clean the air.

Keep safe everyone and looking forward to seeing everyone again soon!

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: Barb Toepke. From Sierra Club task force:

The best action to take right now is to lobby the Task Force members directly:

<http://noroadstoruin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-CORES-Task-Force-Members-Contact-Info-1.pdf>

But there is another way you can help too! We will be going through all of the M-CORES comment submissions FDOT has provided to the task force members, and could use a hand. Want to join the team that will review the comments to identify anti vs. undetermined vs. pro positions? If so, contact info@noroadstoruin.org



Visit their website to learn more about M-CORES. Add your comments at

FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us. Call and write the governor and your legislators. Google "No Roads to Ruin" to read media coverage and visit <https://www.facebook.com/NoRoadsToRuin>.



Seeking 2021--2022 Executive Committee Candidates! The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates for Tampa Bay Group's Executive Committee (Ex-Com) **FOUR** open seats. Candidates must be Sierra Club members. You will be expected to promote the Sierra Club mission, group goals, campaigns, and attend monthly meetings. Please submit the name of any available member who is passionate about protecting our local environment before **September 5, 2020**. Any candidate not selected by the Nominating Committee may qualify by petition submitted by **September 20, 2020**. Ballots will be sent with the November newsletter and must be returned by **December 1st**.

For details, contact Karen Michalski, flenvactivist@gmail.com or (813)-955-7555



Urban Food Summit: Tampa Bay group is partnering again with USF Food Sovereignty Group, www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/sociology/research-community-engagement/urban-food-sovereignty-group.aspx The annual Summit will be on **Oct 20, 2020**, as virtual interactive gathering to increase awareness that every Urban resident has the right to access or grow healthy, fresh food to support one's cultural heritage. We are also in development stages to increase community gardens. Please contact me if able to assist with gardening know how or with possible urban garden locations like churches or available space. Karen Michalski, flenvactivist@gmail.com





Tampa Bay Sierra Club 2020 Endorsed Candidate Profiles: Districts within Tampa Bay group's range that have Sierra Club endorsed candidates in state and federal races:

District 6 (county wide) Hillsborough County Commission: Pat Kemp “As Tampa’s growth increases, it is imperative that we invest in a future that is brighter for all our communities”. Pat is working on improving regional transit, promoting alternative energy initiatives, and preventing excess sprawl

US House Districts:

14th Congressional district of Florida, Kathy Castor Kathy is our champion in protecting the environment, and fighting oil drilling off of Florida's beaches. Kathy successfully secured \$10 million for Florida university research, especially USF, following the BP oil blowout in 2010. She continues to work on long-term recovery for Gulf Coast communities and businesses. She is one of our most effective advocates for tourism and a clean environment and was an original co-sponsor of the Travel Promotion Act, which became law in 2010.

16th Congressional district of Florida, Margaret Good While in the Florida House Margaret Good has been an outspoken supporter of protecting our environment, working across the aisle to submit numerous bills to improve Florida’s water. We are confident she will bring this same energy and passion to Congress when elected. Good understands the importance of the environment to Floridian’s economic success and our lifestyles.

Florida House Districts:

Florida House of Representatives District 58, C.L. Townsend The climate is changing, we've got to get to work now! We created the situation - we can fix it. Our water, soil, and air need to be the focus. We need to promote clean energy alternatives, prevent fracking, and guide smart and sustainable development.

Florida House of Representatives District 59, Andrew Learned A veteran Navy Officer and now a reservist with SOCOM out of MacDill AFB, Andrew is looking forward to helping create thousands of new, green, careers here in Tampa Bay by finding innovative solutions to the changing climate. Our scientists can develop solutions for red tide and toxic algae blooms, engineers can build better dikes and save our Everglades, and entrepreneurs can develop and install millions of solar panels, saving all of us on our electrical bills.

Florida House of Representatives District 60, Julie Jenkins Our environment is our economic driver. We must ensure clean water and air, invest in a resilient coastline program, bring business leaders and environmental activists to the table to deliver common-sense solutions to our state’s environmental crises. I will advocate for All For Transportation funds to build sustainable infrastructure like safer roads, bike/pedestrian access and mass transit



Continued on Page 5



Florida House of Representatives District 61, Dianne Hart Ms. Hart is an outstanding community leader who is tireless in her efforts in raising awareness about issues of hunger, affordable housing, economic development. Ms. Hart had organized major environmental cleanups in East Tampa. She created a coalition with the City of Tampa to turn two neglected retention ponds into community lakes. Also worked to lower park fees throughout the City.

Florida House of Representatives District 63, Fentrice Driskill Our drinking water, land, and beaches must be preserved and protected, now and for future generations. Fentrice will promote energy independence and help the sunshine state lead in solar. She will also stand up to special interests to make sure we ban fracking, fight offshore drilling, and hold polluters accountable

Florida House of Representatives District 64, Jessica Harrington District 64 is one of the most beautiful districts in the entire state of Florida. We must work to protect our drinking water, our waterways, and our natural resources. This is the place we call home, and Jessica will work to make sure future generations can enjoy it the way we do. Florida's natural beauty drives tourism, and that drives our economy. Jessica will fight to move Florida toward clean energy and hold polluters accountable.



Florida Senate Districts:

State Senate District 19, Darryl Rouson Our unique ecosystems are some of the most beautiful in America, and I have made it a priority to protect them. From sponsoring legislation to create a taskforce to monitor sea level rise and climate change, to advocating for the increase in use of renewable energy, including solar. I've opposed dangerous legislation that would legalize fracking, a harmful method of extracting oil, which can destroy our environment and even cause localized earthquakes. I also stand against offshore oil drilling. We should not let our pristine, white sand beaches fill with oil waste products or allow our beautiful sunset views to be obstructed by monstrous oil rigs.

Thank You for Your Service! Bob Howell, is leaving our Executive Committee but will continue to serve Sierra as the Chair of the new Adventure Coast Group. Congratulations, Bob!

For many years, Bob Howell has been one of our most active members, he joined our Executive Committee in 2015. Bob is a regular attendee at our Florida Chapter meetings. He worked to secure federally protected status as a "Sole Source Aquifer" for the Floridan Aquifer. Bob organized Neighbors Against Mining to oppose expansion of the Cemex mine and the Seven Diamonds mine. And at considerable personal expense, in defense of Florida's aquifer Bob litigated against expansion of the Lago Verde mine. He organized opposition to the Ridge Road Extension in the Serenova Preserve. Bob was present and vocal when Mosaic's gypstack collapsed into a sinkhole, spilling millions of gallons of toxic water into the aquifer. Bob is consistently active politically, in support of environmental candidates. And thru it all, Bob Howell has securely anchored the proceedings of the Tampa Bay Group to Robert's Rules of Order as our official Parliamentarian.

Our loss will be the Adventure Coast's gain, where I am confident that Bob Howell's leadership will continue building a strong, growing environmental movement. And so on behalf of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club, let me say "Thank You, Bob Howell!"



Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

September / October 2020



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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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September and October “Virtual” General Membership Meetings

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

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

Program: **Dr. Robert Norman - Florida’s Freshwater Landscape** Dr. Norman will share his fabulous video exploration of Florida’s freshwater environment and talk about the importance of this critical resource

October 14 “Virtual” General Program & Membership Meeting:
Wednesday October 14 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** 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 kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org for additional information and detailed answers to your questions.

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 kent.bailey@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