



SIERRA TAMPA BAY GROUP CLUB



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet January / February 2020

Program & General Meeting

When: Wednesday January 8, February 12

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

our Florida panther, black bear, wood stork and so much more is at stake.

Find out what needs to be done and how you can get involved from exploring Florida Greenways and trails and sharing this experience to being an advocate for land protection by calling and writing to our state legislators urging them to support Florida Forever.

February 12, Program: Wildlife photography Speaker: Jim Gray

Wildlife photographer Jim Gray and a native of St. Petersburg, Florida, will be showing fantastic photos of his favorite local bird celebrities. He'll talk about the challenges of shooting in low light and his share his techniques for capturing natural behavior. Subjects will include great horned owls, bald eagles, Sandhill cranes, the belted Kingfisher and more. Birders and photographers alike will find his presentation enjoyable and informative. Don't miss it!



January 8, Program: Florida Wildlife Corridor

Speaker: Jason Lauritsen

Jason Lauritsen, Executive Director of Florida Wildlife Corridor implements the vision and mission of that organization to connect, protect, and restore essential conservation habitat statewide. Mounting pressures from climate change and development endanger essential ecological connections. Hear the Florida Wildlife Corridor story; told through the wildlife, the landscape and the people who depend on it. The future of



Save the Date! Tampa Bay Sierra 2020 Planning Meeting

The Tampa Bay Sierra Club will host our Annual Planning Meeting

Saturday January 18th, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Location: Academy Prep Center of Tampa, 1407 E. Columbus Dr. Tampa, FL 33605



Every Sierra Club member is invited to help set out our 2020 plan for the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group on conservation issues, outings, events and more. The Executive Committee's new board will be seated and new officers elected. Chairs for existing committees will be selected and new committees formed. **Volunteers are encouraged to step forward in support of our critical environmental mission.** Step up to an active role for the year ahead. **Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP.**

For more information or to RSVP please contact Kent Bailey, Chair Tampa Bay Group at kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org or (813) 727-1202.

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

HART's Fracked Bus Plan

Attendees at the December 9 CNG Information Session hosted by HART were treated to an interesting, if inaccurate, comparison of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from diesel, CNG and electric buses. It was interesting because HART has decided to use its portion of the Volkswagen settlement proceeds to buy CNG buses (most other are buying electric) but inaccurate because their analysis minimized the impact of "fugitive" methane, the gas that escapes during the extraction, processing and transporting of CNG.

Experts disagree on the exact amount of fugitive methane associated with CNG. Some say it is as much as 12%. The average estimate is 4.5%. But they agree that the importance of fugitive methane is vastly underrated. Methane is 80 times more potent as an earth warmer than CO₂. And while atmospheric CO₂ has gone up a bit more than 30% since pre-industrial times, methane has increase 125%! Switching from coal or diesel to CNG does nothing to reduce climate change and may actually make it worse. Living in the Sunshine State, where we have abundant solar energy available, HART's decision is shortsighted and ill-informed.

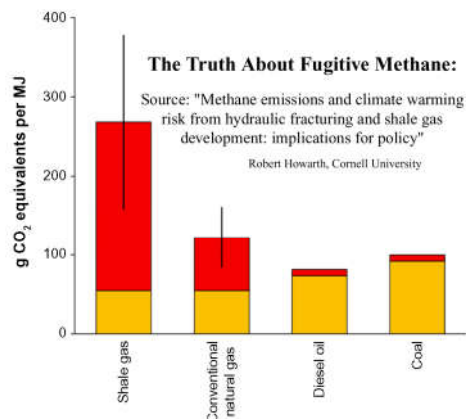


Figure 2 The greenhouse gas footprints of shale gas, conventional natural gas, oil, and coal expressed as g CO₂ equivalents per MJ of heat produced.

TAMPA BAY 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/

Sun, Feb 2, 2020, Tampa Bay Super Bowl Paddle

Come Paddle with us on Super Bowl Sunday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm on the beautiful Hillsborough River and have lunch at Rick's on the River. We will meet at Lowry Park Boat Ramp and shuttle cars to take out point. Leaders Rocky Milburn, tampaico@gmail.com, (813) 966-9785 and Gary Gibbons, ggibbons@gibblaw.com, (813) 286 3641.

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, **January 13 and February 10** at 6:30 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5103 North Central Ave. Tampa. We meet in the Snyder Building, directly behind the church.

There are many things going on right now, and the more volunteers we have, the more we can do! Come to the meeting to learn more and see where you might want to get involved.

LAND: **Upper Tampa Bay Trail** – thanks to public opposition, the developer has withdrawn their apartment complex proposal that would have had 1000s of cars crossing the popular trail every day.

WATER: Southwest Florida Water Management District has issued a 5 year assessment of the Hillsborough River. Sierra Club has been listed as a stakeholder and Sid Flannery is doing an analysis. Florida Potable Re-use Commission is developing standards for water reuse such as proposed by the Tampa Augmentation Project (TAP) – Benjamin Ochshorn, Water sub-committee chair.

CLEAN AIR: **Ready for 100 Launch** - We will work with Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, City Council and County Commissioners to sign up Tampa for 100% Renewable energy. If you would like to join this effort, contact Phil Compton: phil.compton@sierraclub.org, 813-841-3601.

TREES: Florida HB 1159 allows trees to be removed if they present a danger. Thanks to all who wrote in protest to the removal of 65 trees at Plant High School for a track. The trees are going to stay!

FERRY: Permanent ferry service based in South County can start in just three years. The County's private partner, HMS Ferries, has agreed to run the service without taxpayer operating subsidies. And Mosaic has offered free land for a South County ferry terminal at its Big Bend facilities. The ferry service will include:

- Year-round weeknight & weekend service: South County, Downtown Tampa and Downtown St. Pete
 - Weekday commuter service: South County to MacDill AFB, taking 1000s of commuter trips off our roads
- The \$35 million capital cost of the ferry project is less than the cost of widening 1-2 miles of county roadway.

ACTION NEEDED. Email Commissioner Stacy White at whites@hillsboroughcounty.org, or call at 813-272-5740. Ask him to get the South County ferry project going again.
(Please copy tampabayferry@hotmail.com)

STATE: The Sierra Chapter Conservation Committee has a goal of acquiring 30% more land for conservation by 2030. Volunteers are needed for Chapter Growth Management and Water Quality working groups.

M-CORES: Contact FDOT at 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,

Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org



The No Roads To Ruin Collation

Earlier this year, the Florida state legislature passed a bill to fast-track three major new 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 completed, 330 miles of toll roads could be constructed by 2030. Road building alone will immediately destroy more than 52,800 acres of undeveloped areas and promote unsustainable sprawl, destroying hundreds of thousands of additional acres.

We are a coalition of concerned citizens committed to opposing these "roads to ruin." Please join us in the fight to preserve Florida's remaining natural areas.

BAD FOR OUR ECONOMY: Florida's existing infrastructure is

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Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

January / February 2020



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Address Changes:

Please call (415) 977-5653 or email 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



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
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LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
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No Roads To Ruin

crumbling but the legislature has already allocated \$135 million to advance the Roads to Ruin.



BAD FOR OUR HEALTH: New roads will increase air and water pollution and destroy wetlands, springs and aquifer recharge areas.

BAD FOR OUR WILDLIFE: The three toll roads will slice through some of the best remaining natural and agricultural areas, permanently severing connectivity within the Florida Wildlife Corridor affecting animals like the endangered Florida panther.

BAD GOVERNMENT AND BAD POLICY: The toll roads bill (SB7068) was rushed through the Florida House with almost no discussion or debate and quietly signed by the Governor despite the enormous public demand for a veto. While supporters claim they were “well vetted,” they were never publicly discussed before spring 2019. The proposed routes were not included in FDOT’s 5-year plans and, in 2016, the FDOT Interstate 75 Relief Task Force recommended expanding the vehicle capacity of the interstate and connecting highways rather than build new roads.

BAD FOR OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES: Small towns may be left behind as new toll roads bypass their communities or create an influx of new, unwanted strip malls and subdivisions.

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/>