JANUARY & FEBRUARY PROGRAM & GENERAL MEETING:

When: Wednesday January 13/ February 10, 2016 7:00 pm: General Membership 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. If the Library parking lot is full, park in the fenced lot next door on the south side. For more information, contact Kent Bailey kent.bailey@florida.sierraclub.org

January 13 Program: Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition:
The Forgotten Coast

Speaker: Mallory Lykes Dimmitt

We are pleased to present Mallory Lykes Dimmitt from the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition to discuss The Forgotten Coast. Mallory is a seventh generation Floridian with a passion for the outdoors. She will discuss the importance of the Wildlife Corridor as a natural, continuous swath of land and water where wildlife, including the Florida Black Bear and the Florida Panther, can travel and live. These connected wild areas are essential to the long-term survival of many native species, as well as the health of our waters and Florida’s rural way of life.

February 10 Program: Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in the Tampa Bay region

Speaker: Dr. Charles Paxton Ph.D. Science Operations Officer National Weather Service Tampa

Dr. Charles Paxton from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will discuss the impacts of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in the Tampa Bay region. Dr. Paxton’s presentation was the highlight of the EPC Climate Adaptation Workshop held in January of 2015.

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to hear from an expert who is intimately familiar with the challenges that rising seas present to our communities.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This newsletter is delivered bi-monthly in print to your mailbox. For updated news and information go to www.florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay or go on Facebook by searching for Tampa Bay Sierra Club

The Tampa Bay Group Annual Awards 2015

The Tampa Bay Group gave the Black Bear Award for 2015 to DecVon Quirolo at the Holiday Party in recognition of her outstanding dedication and hard work on behalf of the environment. DecVon is a published author who has worked with local and national political leaders at all levels of government to protect critical habitats both offshore and onshore. As an organizer, she led a successful effort to prevent an international corporation from destroying a critical environmental area. And she has emerged as the central figure in the reorganization of Sierra members in Hernando County.

Awards from the Florida Chapter to members of the Tampa Bay Group:

The Red Howell Legal Services Award given to Pamela Jo Hatley for her work as an outstanding advocate and fearless voice in defense of the environment in Hillsborough County which has included countless hours of pro bono in defending wetlands and opposing unwarranted environmental impacts;

The Osprey Award presented to Dr. Rick Garrity, recently retired Director of the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, for extraordinary effort by a governmental staff person to protect and preserve Florida's environment.

The Whooping Crane Award honoring Corky Crowley who has done an out
2016 Executive Committee
Chair: 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
Conservation Chair / Program Chair: Pat Kemp (813) 508-0965 pat.kemp@florida.sierraclub.org
Bylaws Chair / Publicity Chair: Bob Howell bob.howell@florida.sierraclub.org
Treasurer, Tabling Chair: Michael Newett (813) 381-2620 michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org
Ex-Com Member: Tamara Pearson tamara.pearson@florida.sierraclub.org
Membership: Paul Thibault paul.thibault@florida.sierraclub.org
Ex-Com Member: Gary Gibbons
Ex-Com Member: Don Kruse
Other Officers & Assignments
Secretary: Linda Hugues
Webmaster: Steve Tryon (813) 980-2079 steve.tryon@florida.sierraclub.org
Newsletter: Corky Crowley (813) 968-4110 corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org
Political Chair: Beverly Griffiths (813) 210-4850 bev.griffiths@florida.sierraclub.org
Stadium Recycling Initiative: Dave Varrieur (813) 503-6970 appraiserfl@outlook.com
Sierra Florida Office: 727 824-8813
Tampa Bay Group web site: http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay
National Office: 415-977-5500
Washington D.C. 202-547-1141

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**January TBA Hike:**
In January we are having a hike in the Morris Bridge area, TBA. This area a pristine swamp that holds critical water for the area. Certified Leader Ed Shindle will be leading this outing. (Tampa Bay) ed.floridaexplorer@gmail.com

**Sun. February 7, Paddle:**
On February 7, 2016 we are having a Super Bowl paddle on the Hillsborough River, starting at Lowry Park, lunch at Rick’s on the River and through downtown Tampa and on to Davis Islands. Outings Chair and Certified Leader Rocky Milburn (tbióc@live.com) will lead this outing. (Tampa Bay)

**New Certified Outings Leader** Congratulation to Michele Carrell who has completed the requirements for a Certified Sierra Club Outings Leader.

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**Tampa Bay I CO**
ICO is the youth outreach of the Sierra Club. Our purpose is to teach our inner city youth about the outdoors. We take them camping, kayaking, have outdoor education and hiking. We are working with 3 agencies and have outings planned every month. The outings are on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturday of each month. If you would like to help please contact the following:

1st Sat: Tampa Academy Prep, Karen Kress-Loy, kress_loy@hotmail.com.
2nd Sat: St Pete Academy Prep, Anthony Sousa, anthony.g.sousa@gmail.com
3rd Sat: Boys and Girls Club of Riverview, Emilie Joyce, emiliejoyce17@gmail.com

If you would like more information on ICO or wish to donate, contact Rocky Milburn, tbióc@live.com. If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer. Contact Emilie Joyce, emiliejoyce17@gmail.com

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**Continued from Front Page: Awards 2015** standing job in the area of public relations and publications for the Group, and in recognition of 19 years assembling the Tampa Bay Group newsletter;

**The Sand Dollar Award** presented to Dave Varrieur for 25 years doing an out standing job raising funds for the Group thru the “Stash Your Cans” program, now known as the “Recycling Initiative”.

The Tampa Bay Group is fortunate to have so many deserving members who have worked so diligently on behalf of Sierra Club’s core values.
The Conservation Committee:

Please join our Conservation Committee Chair Pat Kemp at 6:30 pm on the second Monday of each month in the Seminole Heights Library, 4711 Central Ave, south of Hillsborough Ave in Tampa.

Conservation Committee continues to offer input to Hillsborough transportation planning process. We have attended meetings of the Mobility Fee Focus Group conducted by County staff, which will hold a final meeting in early January, with recommendations for the staff to use in a later Workshop on Mobility Fees with the Board of County Commissioners. On November the 24th the Tampa Bay Sierra Club approved a letter stating the Club’s position on the transportation planning which was delivered to each County Commissioner. We have been influential in shifting the conversation towards mobility fees and public transportation. There will be more to come over the New Year.

SWFWMD is pursuing a permit to take water from the Morris Bridge Sink to maintain minimum flow standards on the lower Hillsborough River from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). As other sources of water are available for this purpose, we feel that this project is unnecessary, especially in light of the extreme environmental damage to Morris Bridge Sink that will result. If approved by FDEP it is likely that environmental groups will have to resort to litigation to stop it. Other issues under discussion include a summertime fertilizer ban in Hillsborough County, energy conservation thru LED lighting, the vulnerability of Florida (especially Tampa) to sea level rise, salt water intrusion and the big TBX (Tampa Bay Exchange) proposed by FDOT which will cost from $3 to $5 Billion and destroy historic neighborhoods.

Please attend the next Conservation Committee meeting where you will learn about issues confronting our communities and how to affect these issues. Pat Kemp, Conservation Chair

Annual Planning Meeting January 16, 2016

The annual planning meeting of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club will take place on January 16 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Academy Prep Center of Tampa, 1407 East Columbus Drive, Tampa 33605.

In addition to setting goals and priorities for 2016 we will also review 2015 to note progress made and areas for improvement.

While the year ahead will present many challenges we hope to continue to grow our group both in numbers and in strength.

Club officers and Committee Chairs will be selected at this meeting. Please RSVP to kent.bailey@floridasierraclub.org so that we can serve lunch. All interested members of Sierra Club are welcome. Members of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs are especially encouraged to attend.

Thanks to ALL!

The Sierra Club 2015 Holiday Party was well attended and a great success. If you weren’t there you missed a great time!

But this would not have been possible without the help of many Sierra volunteers who pitched in with decorations, organizing for the event and getting the word out. Tampa Bay Sierra Club would like to thank Paul and Michelle Thibault, Michael and Bonnie Newett, Gary and Jane Gibbons, CL and Ione Townsend, Farah Stokes, Louise Raterman, Sandra Smith, Don Kruse, Bob Howell and Rocky Milburn for working to create an outstanding event.

We would also like to thank Gary Gibbons, Dr. Robert Norman, Rita Kruse, Rocky Milburn, the Newitt’s and everyone else who donated items for our silent auc-

New 2016 Executive Committee

Our new Ex-com roster is Tamara Pearson, Bob Howell, Rocky Milburn, Michael Newett and Kent Bailey; joining Pat Kemp, Don Kruse, Gary Gibbons and Paul Thibault to form our 2016 Executive Committee.

Paul Thibault will be helping Pat Kemp as co-chair of the Conservation Committee. Michael Newett will be continuing as Treasurer. Other chairs and officers will be determined at our 2016 annual planning meeting.

Sierra Club would like to say Thank You to all that served on the 2015 board and worked so hard in pursuit of our goals.

Get the Tampa Bay Sierra Club newsletter online and in color! The Tampa Bay Sierra Club’s newsletter is available online and in color from the Tampa Bay Group’s web page. If you would prefer to not receive the newsletter on paper, please let us know and we’ll take you off the mailing list for the paper newsletter. That saves trees for the planet!
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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☐ Please charge my: MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐
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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
INDIVIDUAL   JOINT

INTRODUCTORY $15
REGULAR $39 $49
SUPPORTING $75 $100
CONTRIBUTING $150 $175
LIFE $1000 $1250
SENIOR $25 $35
STUDENT $25 $35
LIMITED INCOME $25 $35

Adventures Coast Committee Forms
The Sierra Club Adventure Coast Committee is a joint effort of the Tampa Bay and Sun Coast Sierra Clubs. Its purpose is to re-ignite Sierra Club presence and action in Hernando County. Long dormant in Hernando, recent supporting action by the respective Sierra clubs energized individuals in Hernando to extend their activism. Andrea Andersen recognized this and is due much credit for taking the time and effort (long drives to/from Pinellas) to marshal interested individuals around forming a Sierra Committee in Hernando.

The Sierra Club Adventure Coast Committee held its formative meeting November 11th. Election of officers took place and the name officially adopted for the Committee. The Committee held its second meeting on December 3rd and formalized subcommittees to address specific areas of concern - Energy, Water, and Government. There were 18 individuals present at the second meeting including individuals from Pasco and Citrus Counties. It was expressed at the meeting, that there is now considerable interest in the Community about the Committee and membership is expected to grow strongly over the ensuing months. The Committee has its eyes set on becoming a full fledged Sierra Club in the foreseeable future.

Currently, the Committee is formed as a Committee under the auspices of the Sun Coast Sierra Club. Committee Chair is Gwen Bassick.

Andrea Andersen is the Sun Coast Sierra Club Black Bear Award recipient this year for all of her outstanding efforts. report by Bob Howell

Membership Report Membership Chair Paul Thibault reports that the Tampa Bay Group now has 2,143 members. Our Florida Chapter has grown to be the second largest in the nation with 30,501 members while Sierra Club has more than 2.4 million members in America. Please join us now for 2016!