



SIERRA  
CLUB  
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# Calusa Digest



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Serving Southwest Florida

Fall, 2003

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## SECOND ANNUAL EARTH DAY FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS!

On 19 April we had our Second Annual Earth Day Festival at Koreshan State Park in Estero, and it was a grand success! More than 1000 people came to enjoy ecotours and free kayak rides on the Estero River, a morning egg hunt, a 2 mile fun run, environmental presentations in the Founder's Home, and food and music. Admission to the park was free for that day only, and the public could get information from many local environmental groups and buy unique items from some local artisans. In addition, the Lee County Election Office was on hand to register people to vote and demonstrate the new electronic voting machine. Many local businesses donated items for our raffle, and

names of winners were drawn all day long!

*Save the date: The Third Annual Earth Day Festival will be held on Saturday, 24 April 2004 and will be bigger and even better! We're hoping to upgrade the fun run to a 5K race and add a canoe race in the afternoon.*

We need your help to make this event a success! As we expect the number of people to more than double in 2004, we need to provide portable toilets and a shuttle service from off-site parking. Do you have an "in" with a company that could provide these at a discount for a good cause? The name of any company that participates would be noted on the flyers. We

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Want to receive notification of **Emergency Action Alerts?** Send your email address to: **bobbieleehasty@aol.com** You will be notified of events that require prompt action such as letters, phone calls, and emails.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Sierra Club Calusa Group  
1220 Wildwood Lakes Blvd #106  
Naples, FL 34104**

**[www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/  
index.htm](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index.htm)**

Bobbie Lee Hasty, Chair, ABM Rep.  
992-9061

[bobbielee\\_hasty@aol.com](mailto:bobbielee_hasty@aol.com)

Mike Andoscia, Vice Chair, Responsible  
Growth Management Rep.  
561-2315

[mikeandoscia@worldnet.att.net](mailto:mikeandoscia@worldnet.att.net)

Karen Cartwright, FLEXCOM Rep.,  
Environmental Justice  
693-3854

[cabinwitch@earthlink.net](mailto:cabinwitch@earthlink.net)

Kathleen M. "Sulli" Sullivan, Secretary,  
Newsletter Editor, Acting Treasurer  
272-0474

[kathleen.sullivan@syngenta.com](mailto:kathleen.sullivan@syngenta.com)

Lori Glenn, Conservation Chair  
992-1565

Connie Langmann, Publicity, Outings  
694-5513

[GAEKayaks@aol.com](mailto:GAEKayaks@aol.com)

Ellen Peterson, Outings Co-Chair  
992-5455

[fisher@strato.net](mailto:fisher@strato.net)

Shirley Sheehan, Membership Chair  
947-1823

[shirley.sheehan@worldnet.att.net](mailto:shirley.sheehan@worldnet.att.net)

Patrick Nitch, Student Representative  
267-6799

[pmnitch@comcast.net](mailto:pmnitch@comcast.net)

John Swingle, ExCom Member  
693-3854

[cybermerlyn@earthlink.net](mailto:cybermerlyn@earthlink.net)

*Calusa Digest is a publication of the Calusa Group of the Sierra Club and is published four times yearly. Subscription is included with Sierra Club dues or can be obtained by non-members from the Calusa Group for \$5/year.*

## **Earth Charter Summit**

The first annual Earth Charter Summit in our area will be held at the Calusa Nature Center (see page 6 for a map) on **Saturday 11 October 10 AM – 3 PM**. The event will be co-sponsored by the Sierra Club Calusa Group. In order to raise awareness of many global issues, there will be Earth Charter Summits held all over the world on this day. Visit [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org) for more information.

## **Earth Day Festival**

*Continued from page 1*

also wanted to hire clowns to do face painting and make balloon animals for the children, but we couldn't afford it last year. It would be great if some of our members could participate in this way. We are working to make this an event that benefits our community as a whole. To that end, we are collecting non-perishable food for a local food pantry, clothing for charity, and items for recycling, including electronics and household toxins such as paint. We need volunteers to help on the day of the event with the collection of these items and to bring them to the proper agencies, if necessary.

If you would like to help with our Earth Day Festival or have any suggestions, please contact Bobbie Lee or Sulli (see contact information at left). Although April seems far away, there's much to do to help our event grow as a means to educate and serve our community, for our families, for our future!

*Please recycle this newsletter!*

## CALUSA GROUP OUTINGS

The Sierra Club Calusa Group has an outing every month (except in the sweltering summer). We do hikes in a variety of locations, kayak trips on the waterways of Southwest Florida, camp, etc. It's a fantastic way to get to know the great outdoors in your own backyard. All outings require a reservation. For information on upcoming outings, call Connie or check our website,

[www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index/htm](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index/htm). Outings will resume in October.

Connie Langmann, Outings Chair

239-694-5513

GAEA Guides

Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 694-5513, out of area call toll free

866 256-6388

[www.gaeaguides.com](http://www.gaeaguides.com)

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, go to:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings

Department at

415-977-5528 for a printed version.



### OUTINGS

1. *Arrive 10 minutes before outing to get signed in. Every effort will be made to start outings on time. Please be prompt!*
2. *A small fee will be charged for every outing. All outings are rated EASY unless otherwise specified.*
3. *IMPORTANT! Call Leader first to be sure outing is still scheduled. You don't have to be a Sierra Club Member to come to an outing. Everyone is welcome!*

### Upcoming Meetings

**11 Sept:** Joe Murphy, "Florida Forests"

**9 Oct:** Earth Charter Festival

**13 Nov:** 30-minute video, "Phantom Future", on Florida's water supply

**11 Dec:** Annual Potluck/Strategy Session. Dinner: 6-7 PM

## Out There – Good news from someone who is *out there* a lot

Bats! EEK!

We are very fortunate to have many of these unique animals in our area. Bats are great for pollinating plants and spreading seeds. Farmers love to have bats around their acreage because the bats will take care of many of the harmful insects that destroy their crops. And that is what 70% of the 1000 species of bats do – eat insects.

Bats are not blind and they do not like to get in your hair! These are “old wives” tales and completely false. Bats actually have good vision and are quite timid. Their five senses are as good as a human’s (to which they are more closely related than any other animal) plus they have a 6<sup>th</sup> sense - echolocation, which helps them find objects (e.g. mosquitoes) and avoid objects (e.g. your hair).

I have been doing guided kayak bat tours on the Imperial River in Bonita Springs and Judd Creek in North Fort Myers and find these little critters to be very interesting. I’m constantly learning more about them and am looking forward to having the “Bat Lady” from the Florida Bat Center educate the tour groups even further. She will be bringing an ambassador of the Bat Community with her and a Bat Detector, which converts the sounds of their echolocation to a frequency that we can hear. For more information on the Florida Bat Center go to their website at [www.FloridaBats.org](http://www.FloridaBats.org) or come along on one of our tours.

Connie Langmann,  
Sierra Club Calusa Group Outings Chair  
GAEA Guides – Guided Kayak Nature  
Tours ([www.GAEGuides.com](http://www.GAEGuides.com))  
239-694-5513

## Density Reduction Groundwater Resource Action Alert

As most of you may know, there is an assault on the Density Reduction Groundwater Resource (DRGR) area in Lee County. Now that almost all of the land is gone west of I 75, the developers have set their sights on our well fields. Recently, the Sierra Club Calusa Group and several other local environmental groups sent a letter to the Lee County Commissioners asking for an expanded restudy of the DRGR. We asked that the study include endangered species habitat, urban sprawl, migratory bird colony habitat, and groundwater recharge issues. We sent supporting evidence to show we are in serious trouble on all of these fronts already. We will be opposing several large-scale projects slated for this area that would forever change the face of our landscape in the DRGR area. At the rate we are going, Southwest Florida will not be sustainable. If you are interested in having your voice heard as these major issues arise please send your email address and membership information to **[bobbieleehasty@aol.com](mailto:bobbieleehasty@aol.com)**, and you will add be added to our action alert list. This will enable you to keep informed of issues that need our immediate attention as they come up. You will be told whom you can call or write and information on public hearings.



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Yes, I want to be a member of the Sierra Club*

*Yes, I want to give a gift certificate.*

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that a gift announcement card will be sent for my use. I've entered my name and address above and the recipient's name and address below.

Gift Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Categories

(Check One)	Individual	Joint
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$128
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250

## PAYMENT METHOD:

CHECK     MASTERCARD     VISA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CARD NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
EXPIRATION DATE

Contributions, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your chapter newsletter.

Enclose payment information and mail to:

**SIERRA CLUB**

P.O. Box 52968, BOULDER, CO 80322-2968

F99QV 3303 -1

Residents of Canada may remit in Canadian funds

### *The Sierra Club's Statement of Purpose:*

*To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild spaces of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives*

## General Meeting

*Second Thursday of Every Month*

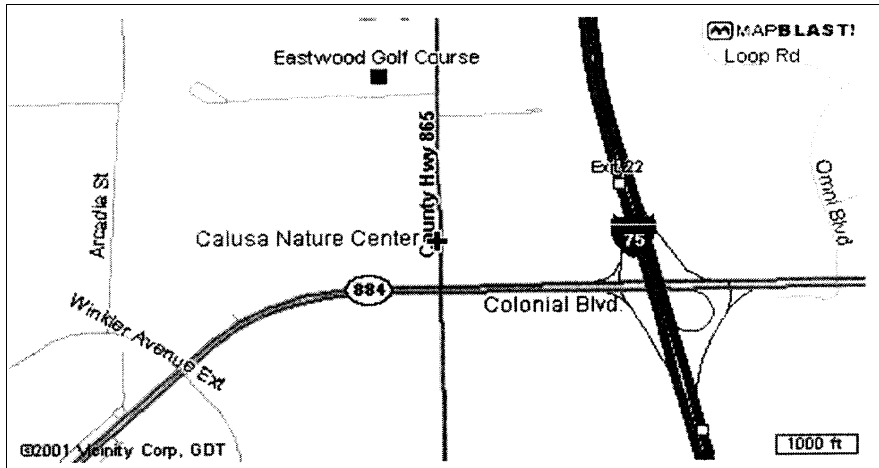
Calusa Nature Center Classroom

**11 September 2003**

6:30 PM Joe Murphy, "Florida Forests"

7:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting

*Everyone Welcome!*



**Calusa Group of Sierra Club**  
27063 Allan Street  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

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