



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Calusa Digest



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Serving Southwest Florida

Winter, 2003

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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.

"Problems in the Gulf" Presentation

On **Friday, 27 February 2004 at 9:30 AM** (location to be determined) the Sierra Club Calusa Group and several other area environmental groups will be giving a presentation about the "Problems in the Gulf". Our group will be working with the Naples Daily News and using their pictures and information from the powerful "Gulf in Peril" series in our PowerPoint slide show. Two of our speakers are Dr. Larry E. Brand from the University of Miami Division of Marine Biology and Fisheries Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and Dr. Brian E. Lapointe Division of Marine Science Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc. Both scientists feel the same way I do, that

agriculture run off (nutrients) flowing from north of the Everglades to the Shark River and

Taylor Sloughs is causing the red tide in Florida Bay and the destruction of coral reefs. Dr. LaPointe has watched over 100,000 acres of sea grass die with the increase of nutrient flow. Several people swimming in the Gulf in the Tampa area have reported large lesions on their bodies similar to those found on fish exposed to red tide.

Other topics for this presentation will be black water and the hypoxic (dead) zone. Black water is another event that is currently occurring from Charlotte Harbor to west of the Marquesas. This black water also seems to

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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)**

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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.

Responsible Growth Management Coalition Dinner

The Responsible Growth Management Coalition (RGMC) is inviting all interested Sierra Club Members to our Fifteenth Annual Dinner. The dinner will be held at the Radisson Inn of Fort Myers at 6:00 PM on **12 January**. Bill Hammond will speak on the impact of the RGMC over the past fifteen years. The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person. Please contact Mike Andoscia at 561-2315 for an invitation and menu.

IMPORTANT! CALL FOR A VOLUNTEER!

The Sierra Club Calusa Group must have a representative to the Sierra Club Florida Chapter Executive Committee (FLEXCOM). Karen Cartwright and John Swingle have held this position in the past, but they are moving out of the area. The post is for one year, starting in January, and requires attendance at four one-day FLEXCOM meetings held around the state. All travel expenses are paid or reimbursed. Our FLEXCOM representative is also a member of the Calusa Group Executive Committee and should attend our monthly meeting on the second Thursday of the month. This is a great responsibility but very important. Without a FLEXCOM representative we will have to disband our group and cease the work we do to protect beautiful and precious southwest Florida. Please call Bobbie Lee at 992-9061 if you are interested in volunteering.

CALUSA GROUP OUTINGS

Every month on the weekend following the general meeting of the Sierra Club Calusa Group of the Sierra Club (2nd Thursday 6PM) we have an outing. It could be a hike in a unique area. It could be a visit to a recycling center or it could be a kayak trip to see a bird rookery with thousands of birds of many species. It could be a camping trip in some primitive area not far away. No matter what we will be doing, it will be fun and informative and a little out of the ordinary.

Come and join us! You don't have to be a Sierra Club member!

On **Sunday, 11 January 2004** we will be guided through the Estero Bay Buffer Preserve by Laura Estabrook, an environmental specialist with the preserve. She will show us the many habitats that are present there and teach us much about the preserve and its inhabitants. For more information and a reservation call me.

Connie Langmann, Outings Chair
239-694-5513
GAEA Guides

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### Sierra Club Suncoast Group Outing

26-30 Dec. Four night/five day backpack trip to Myakka River State Park. A moderate hike of about 30 miles. We plan to stay at three of the park's best campsites: Bee Island (two nights), Oak Grove, and Panther Point. Limit 10. Cost is \$20 plus campsite reservation fees. Co-leaders are Mike Pici and Ben Berauer, 727-539-0882 or revmp777@earthlink.net.

#### 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!*

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.

## Out There

*Some thoughts from someone who is "out there" a lot*

The manatees seemed as delighted to see us as we were to see them. One youngster was nudging and pushing one of our group's kayaks around - they get very curious. The person in the kayak was, of course, thrilled to be getting such personal attention from the endangered animal - one we hear about so often, but rarely see.

Here in the Fort Myers area we have just had our first cold snap of the season and moms are bringing their calves into the warmer waters of the Caloosahatchee and Orange Rivers. When I and my fellow kayakers first pulled into this little nook that the manatees like to hang out in, it was very quiet. It was nice to rest after paddling several miles to get there. We relaxed, had a drink and some lunch. After a few minutes it seemed that there were no sea cows there, but then I noticed one right next to my boat and then I could hear others breathing as they came to the surface for air and then I saw noses sticking out of the water around us.

Everyone in our group got to see some of these gentle, passive creatures right up close to their boats - what a treat! Moms and their babies - a very endearing sight. I hope that my grandkids get to see them, too.

As always, it was a great day "out there" in nature.

Connie Langmann  
GAEA Guides - guided kayak nature tours  
239 694-5513



## Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference

The 2004 Conference, hosted by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SAWG), will be held **23-25 January** at the Paramount Resort and Conference Center in Gainesville. This 13th annual event is created by and for farmers and others working toward a more sustainable agriculture for family farms, our environment, and our society.

The program will offer exciting and informative sessions on production, marketing, enterprise development, food systems and farm policy. Numerous field trips to area farms in season, a pre-conference school for organic growers, and a silent auction are just some of the program highlights. Admission to a special banquet dinner is also included with conference registration. The complete conference program is now available online: [www.ssawg.org](http://www.ssawg.org)  
Contact: Toni McLaughlin, Publicity Coordinator, 225-654-2017 or [ssawgconf@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssawgconf@bellsouth.net)

**2004 – 2005  
SIERRA CLUB CALUSA GROUP  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT**

Each year, half of the Sierra Club Calusa Group Executive Committee is up for election to two-year terms. In January, Mike Andoscia, Lori Glenn, Bobbie Lee Hasty, Cullum Hasty, Shirley Sheehan, and John Swingle are beginning the second year of their terms. The specific offices to be held by the elected officers will be determined by the Executive Committee on 8 January 2004.

Write-ins are welcome as there are usually more positions than Executive Committee members.

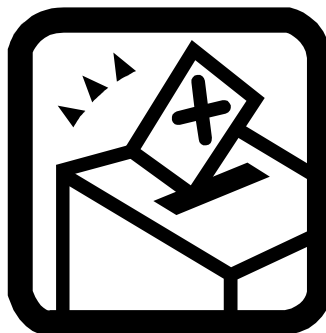
*Please take this opportunity to vote!*

Send completed ballots by 2 January 2004 to:

**SIERRA CLUB, CALUSA GROUP  
1220 Wildwood Lakes Blvd #106  
Naples, FL 34104**

| <b>TWO-YEAR TERM (1/2004 – 12/2005)</b> | <b>YES</b>               | <b>NO</b>                |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Karen Cartwright                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Connie Langmann                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ellen Peterson                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Patrick Nitch                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kathleen Sullivan                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Write-in Candidate (*This could be you!*): \_\_\_\_\_



# 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*

*Please recycle this newsletter!*

## "Problems in the Gulf" Presentation

*Continued from page 1*

result from agriculture run off (nutrients nitrogen and phosphorous) mixed with some storm water run off and silica. Fisherman observed either a black or mustard yellow color in this area, with reports of lethargic fish or no fish at all. This black water event occurred before the lethal red tide of 2002. From February to May of last year red tide was responsible for the death of 146 sea turtles and 75 manatees in Charlotte Harbor alone. Many dolphins, fish, and birds have also lost their lives due to red tide, and the long term effects on humans is still under investigation. The dead zone is found primarily in the northern part of the Gulf, but its effects can be carried through the Gulf Stream. A hypoxic zone is an area with no oxygen, so it can sustain no aerobic organisms. The hypoxic zone results from agriculture, industry, and other pollutants coming from the Mississippi River and the industry run off on the Louisiana coast.

Some would like to treat Red Tide with spraying clay and collecting dead fish, chopping them up and dumping them off shore. I feel both these ideas are big mistakes. These do not address the real causes of red tide, black water, or the hypoxic zone. It reminds me of the way we are dealing with cancer, looking for a cure instead of eliminating the causes. The toxic algae bloom simply sinks to the bottom; clay will kill shrimp, clams, and other bottom dwellers. Clay may also get clogged in fish gills causing them breathing problems and making them susceptible to infection. Chopping and removing the dead fish is only a cosmetic solution in order to fool the public into thinking there is no problem.

In the next two months more information will be available on this informative presentation in SW Florida. Continue to check our website for updates: [www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index.htm](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index.htm)

If you would like to volunteer to help or would like more information, please contact me.

**Volunteers are needed** to type handouts, research and organize articles for presenting, make phone calls, copy materials, and make reservations at hotels for speakers. Help us make this a huge success! The public needs to be educated about the imminent dangers to the beautiful and precious Gulf of Mexico, its wildlife, and ourselves! Only an educated public can affect public policy.

Lori Glenn, Conservation Chair  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
239-992-1565, rosesplus@comcast.net

### ***SAVE THE DATE!***

***Our Third Annual Earth Day Festival will be on Saturday, 24 April 2004 at Koreshan State Park in Estero! We will have a 5K race in the morning, a canoe race in the afternoon, ecotours, environmental presentations all day, music, food, and tables of information from many local environmental groups! Free admission!***  
***See you there!***

## General Meetings

*Second Thursday of Every Month*

Calusa Nature Center Classroom

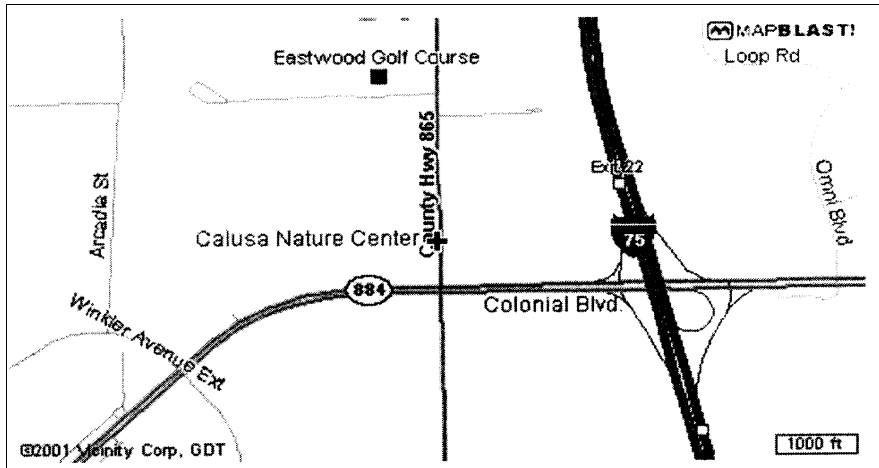
**8 January 2004:** 6:30 PM "Changing Lanes" video about traffic

**12 February 2004:** 6:30 PM The Population/Environment Connection in Ecuador

**11 March 2004:** 6:30 PM Earth Day Festival organizational meeting

All General Meetings are followed by the Executive Committee Meeting at 7:45 PM

*Everyone Welcome!*



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

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