



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Calusa Digest



Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Winter, 2007

JOIN US AT OUR MEETINGS

The first Thursday of each month, -6:30 PM at The Unitarian Universalist Church, (off Daniels Parkway)-13411 Shire Lane, Ft. Myers, FL 33912

For information call **Loren (239) 267-1566**

News

YES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This fall **Governor Crist** intervened on behalf of the Conservation Commission to maintain the manatee's status as endangered. Now it is our turn to thank him for his environmentally responsible action. You can e-mail: Charlie.Christ@MyFlorida.com.

After you thank him, urge him to revisit Florida's listing/delisting rule criteria for imperiled species. Florida's classification system has been objected to by numerous scientists worldwide and is currently based on a listing/delisting rule language that environmental groups have continually called greatly flawed. Be sure to let the governor know that when a species meets the endangered criteria, they need to be called endangered, not threatened.

WE FOUND YOUR GOLD DENTAL PARTIAL!

Yes, we found your lost dental partial on Fort Myers Beach, along with about eighty pounds of other debris. Five Sierrans helped with the International Coastal Cleanup this fall on Fort Myers Beach. During a cool-off swim in the gulf we discovered several starfish, including one with nine legs! [Hmm, how many legs did the others have?] The Fort Myers Pilot's Club, sponsors of the cleanup, treated the workers to pizza and cold drinks afterwards. You should try it next year and see what you find—we guarantee you won't be a loser.

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Great news for manatees! Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is expected to postpone a decision on its controversial proposal that would have undermined protections for endangered manatees. This welcome news comes just one day after Governor Charlie Crist sent a letter urging the commission to delay a decision on management of "one of our state's most beloved natural resources."

READER'S PUZZLE

Earlier this year a U.S. citizen who is prominent in facing our global warming crisis made the following suggestions for how the U.S. should proceed. If you think you know who made these comments then e-mail your answer to dpart31@aol.com and you will win this issue's puzzle prize.

I think we ought to have an immediate freeze on co2 production and start from there.

I think we should cut taxes on employment and make up the difference with pollution taxes—principally co2 taxes.

I'm in favor of cap and trade and I supported Kyoto, but I understand the realities of the situation.

We should have a moratorium on new coal plants that are not fixed with carbon capture and sequestration technology.

I think our congress should fix a date beyond which incandescent light bulbs are banned.

I think we ought to raise the CAFÉ standards, but don't single out autos.

We ought to encourage widely distributed power generation. We ought to take off the caps and let individuals sell back as much as they want on the grid.

We should require corporate disclosure of carbon emissions. Investors have a right to know about material risks that could affect the value of their stocks in the future.

If you have an idea for a future Reader's Puzzle then send it in an E-mail to the above address.

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MAILING LABEL

THE HOLTON ECO-PRESERVE
Invites you and your child to experience

Earth Wonders

Earth Wonders is a program conducted by naturalists in the Holton Eco-Preserve for groups of elementary age children. It encourages children to get close to nature, to feel at home in a natural setting, to understand the web of life, and to become defenders of the planet. Each session consists of **Opening and Closing Circles, Nature Explorations, Earth Dramas, and Earth Promises**

For more information and to arrange an **Earth Wonders** experience for your students or child, email mgonzalez@comcast.net or call 230-561-2700

Now enrolling children ages 8-11 for Earth Wonders in January. Meet at Holton Eco-Preserve Amphitheater on the campus of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers on January 12, 19, 26, and February 2, from 9:00-12:00 AM.

13411 Shire Lane
Ft. Myers, FL 33912

Sierra Club Calusa Group Winter, 2008 Outings

All participants are required to sign a liability waiver on Sierra Club outings (www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/waiver.asp) . Unless a fee is noted, suggested voluntary donations for outings are \$3 for Sierra Club members/ \$5 non-members.

Jan. 12, Sat. 9 a.m. Kayak Johnson Bay Paddle around Johnson Bay as we explore the area north of Isles of Capri. Expect to see manatees, dolphins, osprey and lot of other birds. You should have some paddling experience for an eight mile trip through the backwaters and some open water along the Gulf. Rent a kayak from Saltwater Sports or bring your own. Rental cost is \$30. Contact outing leader Victor Hill for details and a trip packet -- (239) 438-5286 or victusmaximus@comcast.net.

Jan. 13, Sun. 8-10 am. Monthly hike along the 10-Mile Linear Parkway in South Ft. Myers. Leisurely walkers will hike Phase 1 (~2.25 miles), while brisk hikers will do both Phase 1 and 2 (~4.5 miles) along this new trail that follows a canal whose purpose is to filter water naturally. We have several outing leaders participating on these walks. Both groups will finish hiking about the same time, and can join us for brunch afterwards at a local restaurant, if they like. Register with Brigita at bbgahr@embarqmail.com or call 239-337-1857 (evening/weekend).

Feb. 10, Sun. 8-9:30 am. Monthly hike along the 10-Mile Linear Parkway (refer to the Jan. 13th outing description).

Feb. 16-18, Sat.-Mon. Camping at Hillsborough River State Park (NE of Tampa). Join us over the President's Day holiday for a weekend of hiking, canoeing, biking, and a possible tour of historic Fort Foster. \$50 fee includes tent camping, 5 meals, and fort tour. If you need to rent a canoe and/or bike, that will be extra. Limited to 15 participants- reserve early by contacting Brigita at bbgahr@embarqmail.com or call 239-337-1857 (evenings/weekend).

Mar 9, Sun. 8-9:30 am. Monthly hike along the 10-Mile Linear Parkway (refer to the Jan. 13th outing description).

Mar. 15, Sat. 8:30-noon. Hike near Collier-Seminole State Park (E. of Naples). Moderate 6.5 mile hike through Everglades cypress habitat. Limited to 15 participants. Sign up with Brigita at bbgahr@embarqmail.com or call 239-337-1857 (evening/weekend).

Cost of the four-session program is \$4 per child

FEDERAL ENERGY BILL UPDATE: SOLAR LIVES TO SEE ANOTHER DAY

From Vote Solar 11/16/07

The campaign to keep support for solar in the federal energy bill is doing the trick, and solar lives to see another day. For policy wonks, the backstory is as follows. Key players in both the House and the Senate are informally conferencing to reconcile the versions passed in each chamber (H.R. 3221, H.R. 2776 and H.R. 6). Last week, we got word that Congress was considering moving forward on an energy package without a tax title--and the tax title is where the critical solar investment tax credit (ITC) resides. No tax title means no support for solar energy. We sent out an email--and the response to the call to action was ferocious. We have never seen the like.

We just met with Pelosi's staff, who informed us in no uncertain terms that the Speaker is now, and has always been, 100% in support of a long term ITC for solar energy.

The Senate is more precarious. Unlike the House, the version of the energy bill that the Senate passed over the summer did not have a tax title, and Senate Majority Leader Reid, a strong renewable energy supporter, is in a more difficult position as he tries to find a way forward that has 60 votes--the threshold needed to avoid a filibuster.

Sierra club first annual picnic

It was a beautiful day at Koreshan state park, on the day of our picnic. About 35 people showed up to enjoy the day. The food was great! And The Company was even better. There were representatives from eight local environmental groups who participated in our out door round table discussion. Everyone seemed to agree that the best way to work together on big issues coming up was to develop a massive email list that issues could be sent out on immediately.

When issues are sent forward that need immediate attention it should be clearly spelled out as to what the issue is and the contact information on who to contact also must be included. This way people will know what to say and who to call, making for a quick response from concerned citizens. Also, brought up was the idea of getting younger people involved.

There was a suggestion made to see about having events at the college to bring in younger people who were concerned about local issues. Many people told their story of how they became environmentally minded and shared their experiences with the group. Our discussion was both interesting and productive.

If you are interested in being added to our action alert list, please email Connie Langmann. She is our publicity person and she also manages our newly formed action alert list. Just look for her email address where our board members are listed in this newsletter. When an issue arises that needs an immediate response she will send it forward so you can have a voice. Together we can accomplish much. We hope to see many more of you next year.

**Sierra Club Calusa Group Vice chair
Bobbie Lee Gruninger**

WHO WE ARE

ON THE WEB <http://florida.sierraclub.org/calusa>

Ellen Peterson	Chair	239-992-5455	ecrone1@gmail
Bobbie Lee Gruninger	Vice Chair & Special Events	239-495-5891	bleegruninger@comcast.net
Lori Cloutier	Conservation	239-992-1565	rosesplus@comcast.net
Corey Hyde	Flexcom	239-887-0095	cmhjunques@yahoo.com
Cindy Kraft	Treasurer	239-851-1969	csk.1952@hotmail
Connie Langmann	Publicity	239-694-5513	GAEAKayaks@aol.com
Loren Wieland	Newsletter & Membership	239-2671566	Lorenlw@aol.com
Brigita Gahr	Outings	239-337-1857	bbgahr@earthlink.net
Cullum Hasty	Political & ABM Rep.	239-948-8653	cullumhasty@comcast.net
Carl Veaux	Babcock Rep	239-549- 7265	cveaux@aol.com
Dave Parton	Holton Preserve	239-415-8402	dpart31@aol.com

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

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L Blackner

Thursday, November 08, 2007 11:44 AM

Florida Hometown Democracy update

We have 7 weeks remaining in the year to collect another 125,000 plus petitions. We have now collected about 600,000 total and have started submitting to the supervisors of elections every week. Given validity rates of about 75% and the fact that we must collect half the petitions in twelve of the 25 congressional districts, the job is daunting. Still, if everybody does a little, we can make it. It will be a nail biter but we can make it if people get out and petition. You will see our numbers start to move in the near future: the state now has us at 355,000.



Membership

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Gift

Name _____
 Address _____
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 State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed, made payable to **Sierra Club**

Master Card Visa Am Ex

Cardholder name _____

Card # _____ Exp.Date ____/____/____

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REGULAR	\$39 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$47 <input type="checkbox"/>
SUPPORTING	\$75 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
CONTRIBUTING	\$150 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$175 <input type="checkbox"/>
LIFE	\$1000 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$1250 <input type="checkbox"/>
SENIOR	\$24 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$32 <input type="checkbox"/>
STUDENT	\$24 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$32 <input type="checkbox"/>
LIMITED INCOME	\$24 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$32 <input type="checkbox"/>

Enclose check and mail to **Sierra Club**

P.O. Box 52968 Boulder CO 80322-2968

Calusa Chapter 3303

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

to the board

Are you seeking a mission, want to become involved in a useful cause? Volunteer some time and energy.

Have leadership skills? Become our new **chairperson**.

Would you make a good **secretary**? We are looking for you.

Is conservation your thing? **Conservation** chair open.

Join our merry band of Earth savers.



SIERRA CLUB-CALUSA GROUP

PO BOX 595

ESTERO, FL

33928

WE'RE ON THE WEB VISIT US

[HTTP://FLORIDA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CALUSA](http://FLORIDA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CALUSA)