



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Calusa Digest



VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 7

SERVING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

AUGUST, 2000

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Because space in the newsletter is limited, some of the available material is printed directly to the website at

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index.htm>

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to read one of these articles, please call Fay at 283-5812 and a copy will be mailed to you.

Executive Board Meeting

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2000
7:00 P.M.

(FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH)

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

CALL ELLEN PETERSON

992-5455

FOR DIRECTIONS

**Because of Labor Day,
September's meeting will
be September 11**

WRITE TO GOVERNOR BUSH CONCERNING ENERGY 2020 STUDY COMMISSION!

Dear Friends,

We need your help. Governor Bush is in the process of selecting the 17 members of the Energy 2020 Study Commission which will set Florida policy on energy for decades to come. Special interests are lining up to get on the Commission. If we don't act NOW, the environment and neighborhoods won't be represented. We need to urge Governor Bush to include at least two members of the environmental community and at least one citizen consumer and one small business representative on this crucial commission.

PLEASE COPY the letter below into a new email (or send it) to the Governor, add your own thoughts if you like and pass it along to everyone on your distribution lists.

Governor Bush's email and mailing addresses are located below.

Thank You! Ann Elizabeth Vanek
Citizens for a Rational Energy Policy

via email:

fl.governor@eog.state.fl.us

The Honorable Jeb Bush

Governor

The Capitol

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

RE: ENERGY 2020 COMMISSION

Dear Governor Bush:

Thank you for taking a leadership position and creating a commission to study Florida's emergent energy needs!

We strongly believe that FOREMOST among the factors to be considered should be our fragile environment, preservation of our natural resources and the quality of life in our communities. We urge you to balance "big business" interests with the interests of the true "stakeholders," the citizens of Florida, in representation on the commission. We urge you to appoint, at the very least, two environmentalists, one small business consumer and one citizen consumer to the commission.

Thank you for insuring that environmentalists, consumers and neighborhoods are adequately represented on your commission.

Sincerely,



Keep up to date on Fisheating Creek at
www.fisheatingcreek.com

As the newsletter is published only ten times a year, this issue represents the July/August issue. Your next issue will be the October issue, arriving mid to late September.

OUTINGS NEWS

The kayak outing held Sat. July 8 was a great success. Thanks to all that made the trek out, weather and all. We left the bay side of Captiva and made our way down Roosevelt Channel to Hurricane Bay. There we entered Buck Key where a man-made channel cuts through the mangrove lined shore. We had an excellent guide, Richard with the Captiva Kayak Co. and Wildlife Adventures. He is very knowledgeable about the island and its inhabitants. If anyone hasn't been to this serene place or hasn't been in a while I recommend a visit.

OUTINGS

Outings Meeting – August 10th 6:00 p.m. General planning meeting to schedule upcoming events. Please come with ideas and an appetite. Restaurant to be determined. RSVP to Kris 275-7831 or Julia 432-0111.

Caloosahatchee Regional Park Overnite Camping – October 14th Let's have an old fashioned campout like we used to when we were kids. Complete with songs

and s'mores around the campfire. Contact Julia 432-0111 to reserve your spot.

October Outings Leadership Training – October 27th – 29th Boyd Hill Nature Park in St. Petersburg. Join seasoned leaders as well as leaders in training for an intensive workshop on leading Sierra Outings. \$25.00 registration fee includes lodging & meals. Space limited. **See article on page 5 for details.**

Gear Swap Meet - November 4th at Koreshan State Historic Site located in the beautiful picnic area from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. If you've got too much gear or need some, please reserve your table to swap your stuff! Call Julia @ 432-0111 for more info or to reserve your spot now!

November Women's Backpacking Trip on Florida Trail through Ocala National Forest. Arrive on the 9th and return on the 12th. Will have more details later.

Myakka Backpacking in January – Particulars to be announced

Everglades Canoe / Kayak Annual Outing – February TBA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index.htm>

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GENERAL MEETINGS

July 26 -- Charlie Rose of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) will give a slide show of local butterflies. He is a very entertaining speaker and the show is beautiful.

The July meeting will be July 26 at 7 pm at FGCU Building 3, Room #121. When you go in the main entrance, make a left at the stop sign. The first parking lot on your right is parking lot 2. Park there and Building 3 is the first one on your right. If you go in the side entrance on the right side of the building, room 121 will be the first on the left.

Aug 23 -- Laura Miller of the Agency on Bay Management (ABM) will give a State of the Bay Report. She hopes to have copies of the final report available at that time.

Sept 27 -- Mike Owen of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve will present a slide program on the Preserve.

Locations for the August and September meetings will probably be the same as for July. If not, a sign will be posted, or call Cheryl at 540-0905.

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

SIERRA CLUB POLITICS HIT THE NEWS

Lots of us had opinions about items included in the questionnaire. However there was a small problem (some small problems.)

Your opinion taker has been taken to task for slanted questions so the results are questionable. However I'm so delighted that so many of you actually responded and really do care what happens here. Now if we can only get one 10th of those who answered to make an appearance at some public meeting.

The answers will be given in percentages because some of you didn't answer all of the questions. Of the 200 who responded:

- 70% agreed with a strong stand against the locating of the YMCA in the DR/GR water resource zone where commercial building is against county regulations.
- 98% agreed with standing against commercial logging in our national forests.
- 99% wanted more public input into land use planning.
- 99% were against the building of more roads east of I75.
- 75% of you didn't vote on the widening of 75 and 41 (I think the question as it was asked was confusing.)
- 60% voted against building of large developments outside the urban area while 40% voted for that building.
- 90% voted against mitigation being allowed for wetland destruction.
- Everybody except a couple voted to keep the general meetings and most wanted environmentally oriented meetings.

Many of you said you would go on an outing if they were not strenuous. I wonder if you went to the solstice potluck. About 15 of us gathered at Bonita Beach and enjoyed one another's company, along with a few sprinkles. Watch for the next one. Some said that you would go if there was an outing closer to Charlotte county. We're going to try.

Watch the Newsletter. We hope you missed the July edition and will miss the September one. That happens because we only publish 10 times each year.

The letter to the 15 people listed objecting to the bombing in the Ocala National Forest has finally been sent. That took awhile since they had to be sent separately. Next time you bet I'll use a different system or maybe I'll learn how to use my email more effectively. Anyway, thank all of you who responded. It's great to know somebody actually reads the newsletter. Now, the next step, come to a meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL BREAKFAST

The environmentalist breakfast held on the second Wednesday in July had a very small turn out. If you had to miss it and are hungering for some good food and conversation, head out to the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium on Friday, July 28th at 6:00 p. m. for their monthly Fourth Friday Fish Fry. The cost is \$9 for teens and adults, \$7 for children, and we serve an all-you-can-eat fish dinner complete with all the fixins -- and this month they'll be cooking up some special bug recipes for dessert (in addition to the brownies and cookies)! Give Susan Brookman a call if you'd like to attend!

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium (941) 275-3435

YMCA

Supporters of the placement of the planned YMCA in the DRGR (Density Reduction Groundwater Resource) area east of Bonita Springs have announced the start up of a six million dollar campaign to support building in this presently illegal location. At the same time they announce their intent to change the law because the Agency on Bay Management did not place the site on some list. They neglect to say that the agency wrote a letter specifically asking them to change the location to another site more centrally located citing the advantage of being more accessible to those without transportation as well as being legal.

Write to:

Bonita Springs City Hall
P.O. Box 367029
Bonita Springs, FL 34136

asking that they resist this blatant attempt to destroy the land use code thus opening the way for commercial development now forbidden.



ESTERO BAY BUDDIES WORKDAY

The Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. (EBB) recently sponsored a field workday to plant mangrove seedlings. It was a great day! Eleven volunteers (including two youngsters) planted 900 seedlings. Everyone had lots of fun helping to reclaim the land. Anyone interested in joining in future events can contact Chris Reed at 941-463-3240 or e-mail to christopher.reed@dep.state.fl.us

HELP GET ALL OF FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS CLEANED UP

The Southeast Office of Clean Water Network is working with organizations and citizens across Florida to get all of the state's waterways cleaned up under the Total Maximum Daily Load Program (TMDL) of the Clean Water Act, and we need your help.

The TMDL Program requires that states create a list of all waterbodies that are not meeting minimum water quality standards and then set and enforce pollution limits for each waterbody. In 1998 the FDEP listed 712 of Florida's rivers, lakes, estuaries, and streams, as not meeting water quality standards. This is a large number, but there are still many more waterways in Florida that did not get included on this list.

Unfortunately, the State has decided to dismiss the federal criteria for listing impaired waterways in favor of creating its own standards. This process will use the 1998 list as a reference tool only, and will start the listing process all over again. The State's new standards will make it harder to get polluted waterways on the list and get pollution limits set for them.

Significant citizen involvement is the only thing that will ensure that the DEP's list will encompass all of Florida's impaired waterways and get them cleaned up. Groups and individuals can help get waters in their areas listed by starting to collect data on these waters now. Ways to gather relevant data that

documents impairment may include but is not limited to:

- * Reporting beach closures
- * Calling local DEP offices, water management districts, fish and game commissions, local governments, etc. for studies done on your waterways
- * Gathering data from volunteer water monitoring groups
- * Visiting the national inventory of fish consumption advisories website at <http://www.epa.gov/ostwater/fishadvice/>
- * Clipping related newspaper articles
- * Collecting photographs of algae mats, fish kills, and other suspicious environmental occurrences

This data will be crucial to listing our impaired waterways when the DEP opens the public comment period and holds public hearings calling for citizen participation.

In the coming weeks Clean Water Network will be reaching out to groups and individuals across the state to get citizens involved in getting our waters listed through the TMDL program. Please contact us with any waters you

know of that should be on the impaired waters list or with the names of any organizations or individuals that we should contact to include in the campaign. To get more information on the TMDL Program visit the United States EPA web page at www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl or contact our office in Tallahassee.

Thank you for your support and involvement,

Grace Frances
Field Organizer Clean Water Network
P. O. Box 254 Tallahassee, FL 32302
Ph. (850) 222-8701 Fax (850) 222-9541
gfrances@mindspring.com

For more information see the website www.dep.state.fl.us/water/division/tmdl. It's called the 303(d) list.

After it came out in 1998 the DEP tried to de-list over 200 of the waterways on it, so it's important that we make sure and keep all the existing waterways on the list, in addition to listing new ones. Anyone wishing to help, call Ellen at 941-992-5455.



OUTINGS PLANNING MEETING

We're planning an outings meeting for the evening of August 10th at 6:00 p. m. Kris and I would like all of you to attend. The location will be in either south Ft. Myers or Bonita - TBA. Please respond with your intent to attend. We need to work on day hikes and day outings. Please come with some new ideas. We'll again meet at a restaurant for dinner.

We would also like for all of you to sign up for and attend the October Outings Training for the 27 - 29 of October. It will be a very informative training session with lots of fun to go along. We need to try to recruit new leaders as well. So if any of you have friends that are interested in leading day or any outings please invite them to our August dinner meeting. It's imperative that we strengthen our chapter.

EPA PROPOSES REVISION TO FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WASTEWATER DISPOSAL IN FLORIDA

The United States Environmental Protection Agency announced that it has proposed revisions to the Federal requirements for deep well injection of municipal wastewater to further protect underground sources of drinking water in South Florida and continue protection of Florida's coastal environment.

EPA will hold four public hearings to solicit comments on the proposed rule and will accept written comments for 60 days from date of publication in the Federal Register. Two hearings will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2000 in Tampa at the Travelodge, 820 Busch Boulevard from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Also, two hearings will be held on Thursday, August 24, 2000 at the Sheraton West Palm Beach Hotel, 630 Clearwater Park Road in West Palm Beach, FL from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Written comments should be addressed to Nancy H. Marsh, U. S. EPA Region 4, Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. The proposed rule and other supporting information is available from the EPA Region 4 Web site at www.epa.gov/region4/uic/uicindex.htm.

See more on this subject on page 4 of our August Extra on our web page.

OCTOBER OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING EVENT

The Sierra Club's Outdoor Activities Training Committee, in conjunction with the Outing Department, is running a two-day **Outdoor Leadership Workshop** from the evening of Friday, October 27 to mid afternoon on Sunday, October 29, 2000 at Boyd Hill Nature Park in St. Petersburg, Florida. This workshop will be bringing together new and seasoned leaders from Inner City Outings, Group & Chapter Outings, and National Outings. The goals of the weekend are to learn and enhance leadership skills, bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas, recruit new outdoor leaders, learn what it takes to lead for other programs of the Sierra Club, and of course to have a lot of FUN.

The agenda for the workshop will encompass an extensive array of leadership topics such as Sierra Club Structure and History, Leadership Skills, Trip Planning, Crisis Management, Risk Management and Liability, Group Management, and Conservation, presented in both group and breakout formats. There is a \$25 registration fee, which includes cabin lodging Friday and Saturday nights and meals; participants only need to bring a willingness to learn and have a good time.

Space is very limited and first come, first served, so if you are interested you should reserve space ASAP. To register, send your name, address, phone, email and a \$25 check made payable to the Sierra Club to the address below. In addition, please include a brief description of your experience as a Sierra Club Outings leader. If you have never led before but would like to start, please briefly describe your outdoor skills, what types of trips you would like to lead, and whether or not you have already approached a Sierra Club volunteer about becoming a leader.

Send all information to:

Sierra Club Outings October Training
85 Second St., 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105.

Questions? Contact Steven Shewach in the Outings Department at 415-977-5711, e-mail: steven.shewach@sierraclub.org, or for a local contact Rudy Scheffer at 727-726-8375, e-mail: rudy.scheffer@sierraclub.org

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____


City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Introductory \$25 Phone (Optional) () _____

Individual \$40 Joint \$50

Senior, Student \$24

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our 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.

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Please mail this to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, Colorado, 80322-2968

UPDATE ON BAY COUNTY SEWAGE PIPELINE

The NW group wants to thank everyone who called, wrote or sent emails on its Action-Alert regarding the proposal to leave the submerged sewage pipeline in Bay County unburied and unprotected on the bay bottom. The permit originally required that the pipeline be trenched and buried under at least 4 ft. of sediment. The permit holders, at one point in construction, decided to violate the permit and not bury the pipeline, leaving 1/3 of it subject to ship anchor strikes and other mishaps that could cause rupture. Thanks to all

of the public pressure and other recent developments, DEP has decided to enforce the permit and require burial or equivalent protection for this raw sewage line. You can read about it at the News-Herald website: www.newsherald.com . Click on the archives for the June 13 article on this pipeline.

Also, click on the article in the June 15 edition, for two related stories concerning all the conflicts of interest regarding this matter. The lawyer for the permittees is a close political ally of Jeb Bush, and was

widely perceived as wielding political influence with DEP. The real shocker in one article ("Harrison: No political connections were used") is that apparently the idea for leaving the pipeline uncovered, exposing St. Andrew Bay to potentially severe damage from sewage spills, and setting bad precedent in Florida, came from none other than Kirby Green, the Assistant Secretary of DEP!! <http://www.newsherald.com/articles/2000/06/15/lo061500b.htm>

Contact person: Tiana Burton, NW Group, 850-231-1169, jburton@emeraldcoast.com

August "Extra" - ARTICLES THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE NEWSLETTER

See <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/fl/calusa/index.htm>

MORE PHOSPHATE NEWS: PHOSPHATE MINING IN SOUTH & CENTRAL FLORIDA

BLACK BEARS UNDER THE GUN?

EPA PROPOSES REVISION TO FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR
WASTEWATER DISPOSAL IN FLORIDA

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