



Newsletter of the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club
P. O. Box 929, Daytona Beach, Florida 32115
www.florida.sierraclub.org/Volusia

April - May 2009

The next business meetings of the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club's **Executive Committee** will be held on **April 1st** and **May 6th** at **5:30 p.m.**, at the **University of Central Florida's University Center, 1200 W. International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach.**

Our Monthly Meetings take place at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month.
□ **NEW LOCATION FOR APRIL through AUGUST MEETINGS** □

Our meetings in **April & May** will be held at the
**University of Central Florida's auditorium, University Center
Building #150, room 101, 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd.**
Enter from White Street just north of International Speedway Blvd. Handicapped parking is available.

PROGRAM FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st, at 7:00 p.m.

STEPHANIE WOLFE,

RESTORATION COORDINATOR FOR THE MARINE DISCOVERY CENTER IN NEW
SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

The Marine Discovery Center's newest program involves educating private shoreline landowners on the Indian River Lagoon and engaging them to restore their shoreline to natural habitat. The presentation will cover various topics including water conservation, polluted runoff and its effects on the lagoon, oyster bed loss, mangroves, and water quality. **THIS PROGRAM IS ABOUT INITIATIVES NEEDED TO PROTECT ALL OF OUR VITAL WATER WAYS.**

PROGRAM FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 6th, at 7:00 p.m.

DON SPENCE

CERTIFIED ARBORIST /MUNICIPAL SPECIALIST FL –
1341 AM, NATIVE FLORIDA LANDSCAPES, LLC

URBAN TREE CARE

Mr. Spence has worked diligently to protect our local old growth trees from unnecessary removal and has a wealth of information about urban tree care as well as native plants. He is currently teaching a class called "plants in human affairs" at Stetson, and he serves on the Volusia County panel that is reviewing its minimum standards for the tree ordinance and will inform us about the results.

We can't live without trees! Come learn what you can do to help protect them.

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club Welcomes New Members and Transfers

Ormond Beach

M. L. Alzona
Leif Chapman

DeLand

Gayle Bailey

Port Orange

Greg Barnes
Keith Brown
Irena Crouch
Louis Erskine

New Smyrna

Beach
John Crisp

Edgewater

Twila Carra

DeBary

Jennifer Clark
Will Frey

Raiford

Anthony Coppola

Palm Coast

Cedric Corke

Orange City

C. M. Finnigan

PITCH IN FOR EARTH DAY!

To help Sierra Club celebrate **Washington Oaks State Gardens' 20th Annual Earth Day** on **April 18 & 19** or **Project Earth Day** at **New Smyrna Beach** on **April 18**, please contact

Alice Jaeger (386) 677-1667 / greenjaeger@gmail.com
Alexa Ross (386) 761-7002, ross.alex@gmail.com
or **Mike Thompson** (386) 345-3803 thompson17@ucnsb.net
to volunteer and for more information.

Thanks!

WIN A 50-GALLON RAIN BARREL

Fitted with screened jar top and a brass spigot for direct dispensing or garden hose attachment just by attending a Sierra Club meeting!

No purchase is necessary.

Fill out a ticket at each meeting you attend. The drawing will be held **June 3, 2009**, at the Volusia-flagler Sierra Club meeting. You must be present to win. Good luck!

SPRING OUTINGS: TAKE A HIKE! RIDE YOUR BIKE! PADDLE YOUR CANOE!

Marjorie Byron and **Alex Ross** planned the following Outings; so many wonderful places to see in Volusia and Flagler! Please give Marjorie a call at **(386) 956-7396** if you plan to join us for fresh air, camaraderie, and exercise. Helmets required on all bike outings; sunscreen, hat, water and eats always advisable. All are **Sunday** outings. Eastsiders call Alex Ross to carpool or caravan at **(386) 761-7002/334-9270**.

April 5, 10 am: Lake Beresford to Blue Springs and back Bike Ride: 8 mile loop. 8 people can ride into the park for free with Marjorie's membership. Bring a swimsuit to cool off if the manatees have left.

April 18 & 19, 9am to 4 pm Earth Day at Washington Oaks. ONCE AGAIN we will be collecting signatures for the **Florida Hometown Democracy** constitutional amendment petition. Great excuse for a beautiful day out. Call **Alex, (386) 761-7002** if you can take the table a few hours. Lots to see and do. Don't stay home on Earth Day!

April 26, New Smyrna Beach Bike Ride: 12 Mile Loop over both bridges and along the beach. Bring your suit! Meet at 10 am at Old Fort Park, just North of the end of Canal Street. Call Alex if you want to carpool earlier from Sav-A-Lot on US 1, Port Orange. Thanks to Sonya Guidry for suggested routes!

May 3, 10 am: St. Francis Trail 7 mile Hike in Lake County just past Deland. Lunch on a bluff over the St. Francis river, a tributary of the St. Johns. Call Alex to carpool.

May 17, 10 am: Cracker Creek Canoes near Gamble Place, 1795 Taylor Road, Port Orange. Bring your own boat (\$5 launch fee) or rent one (kayak, single or tandem, or canoe), starting at \$15 an hour; "Pirate" Eco-tour on pontoon at 1pm, \$6/\$8, reserve your place. Go to ***CrackerCreek@OldFloridaPioneer.com*** or call **(386) 304-0778** for details. See where your Florida Forever ECHO money went, enjoy this beautiful 175-acre preserve, the only access to Spruce Creek West of I-95 and the inspiration for Disney's Snow White cottage.

May 31, 10 am Lake Helen Bike Tour. Meet at Blake Park, pedal to Cassadega's Lake Colby, maybe circle Lake Winemassett and try out the trampoline at Betty O'Laughlin's horse farm before harvesting air potatoes. Eastsiders may carpool at 9:15 am from Taylor Road Publix to 415 to 44 to Lake Helen. How many bikes does a bike rack hold? Call **Alex, (386) 761-7002** to confirm.

MEMO FROM THE CHAIR

The Florida Steering Committee (formerly our FLEXCOM) has designated March as our Fund Appeal Month for local fundraising. We have approximately \$ 207,000 in our state Sierra Club coffers as of December 31 2008 and while our state finances are strong, this fundraising appeal is necessary to ensure that we have the resources we need to continue our programs, litigation, legislative monitoring and educational activities. Locally, our group funds have been largely consumed by our support of Florida Hometown Democracy and efforts to combat the imminent development of the Miami Corporation and restoration projects in New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater. The downturn in the financial markets has also struck a severe blow to our funds and eliminated much of what we had in savings.

Keeping our finances strong allows us to keep our club and our programs strong. Currently Florida has almost 30,000 Sierra Club members, the third largest chapter in the nation. While there is strength in numbers, there is also a great need for financial clout as well. Just some of the areas where our funds are put to good use:

1. **Outings.** At the last report, we held 229 outings statewide, attended by 2263 people and led by over 90 of our CPR and first aid trained volunteers. These have traditionally been the hallmark of our membership participation.

2. **Legislative Program.** We have a lobbyist in Tallahassee, as well as a special lobbyist for the Florida clean car initiative. Things we are working on include monitoring and opposing legislation that attempts to take away local control of comprehensive plans and growth management, legislation that would decrease the rights of local governments and citizens to protect wetlands and the environment, support continued funding of Florida Forever and support the state's acquisition of 180,000 acres of sugar lands for Everglades restoration.

3. **Coastal Protection.** Oppose the revocation of the oil drilling moratorium, support of seagrass bed protection and oppose any mitigation schemes, and support the protection of mangrove wetlands.

4. **Energy.** Work to adopt the California clean automobile standards here in Florida and support the Governor's goal of having 20% of our energy produced in the state coming from renewable sources by the year 2020.

5. **Water.** Strengthen nutrient protection regulations for the state's 33 first_order springsheds, support the call for a state_wide ban on phosphate lawn fertilizer, and support stormwater policies that eliminate pollution.

6. **Transportation.** Support legislation that promotes mass transportation and encourages less use of automobiles.

7. **Citizen Participation.** Support for citizen initiatives and transparency in the petitioning process. This would be a boon to our Florida Hometown Democracy efforts.

8. **Trust Funds.** Oppose any attempt at transferring designated trust funds into the budget for other uses.

These are only some of the areas where your Sierra Club is working to protect and preserve Florida's environment and our quality of life for the future. All of this takes money. I understand that we are in the midst of hard economic times, but please take a moment and see if you can't make a donation, however small, to our Sierra Club. Thanks for your continued support of the Sierra Club.

Don Kanfer, Chair
Sierra Club Volusia_Flagler Group

Greetings from Tallahassee

The action began March 1 and ends in May. Dave Cullen (very reachable at cullenasea@aol.com), Florida Sierra's Legislative Lobbyist, provided the following information through The Sierra Club Florida Report, which you can receive on-line, by emailing Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org with this message: SUBSCRIBE FL-FLORIDA-REPORT

Our Legislative Platform for 2009 can be seen at: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/Legislative.asp>. and includes mining, wetlands, springs, Florida Forever, purchasing sugar lands, seagrass beds and mangrove protection, vehicle emissions, renewable portfolio standards (RPS), fertilizer, stormwater, mass transit, environmental trust funds, citizen initiatives and more. You can track bills at www.flsenate.gov and www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Notice the troubling trend to streamline permitting, removing requirements and expediting the process to get the economy moving again. There's a bill to ask the US Congress to end the moratoria of offshore drilling in federal waters off of Florida, and let Florida share in the revenue. The Governor expects a federal stimulus package and passage of Miccosukee Tribe gambling to balance the budget, but some lawmakers are dubious. Tallahassee routinely raids the trust cookie jar when funds are short.

"The Governor did not mention Florida Forever in his address to the Joint Session, but he did include the full \$300 million in the budget he submitted to the legislature." writes Dave. "Gov. Crist's budget does propose transferring money from some environmental trust funds"

"Sweeps" from the Department of Environmental Protection:

- \$175.6 million — Inland Protection Trust Fund
- \$31 million — Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund (CARL)
- \$20 million — Land Acquisition Trust Fund
- \$12.5 million — Solid Waste Management Trust Fund

Another major concern is S.B. 360, dubbed the "Community Renewal Act" -- which would make changes to Florida growth management process, some good (stimulating and providing incentives for urban infill) but many bad (a 1000-people-per-square-mile formula that promotes development in fringe and rural lands).

Please join other on-line activists and maybe they'll hear our concerns in the capital!

-- Alexa Ross, Conservation Chair

HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY COMES TO THE ROCKIN' RANCH CALL TO ALL TROOPS - DEMOCRACY ROCKS!

Janet Ivanhoe, local businesswoman and animal activist, has offered her popular country nightclub on Nova Road in Ormond Beach for signature gathering for our long-sought constitutional amendment to allow voters a say in land use changes to their community's comprehensive plans. **Jimmy Ivanhoe's Rockin' Ranch** features live bands and free dance lessons in swing, country and Latin. Why not join me in a fun evening while giving Florida voters the chance to act against sprawl and greed?

AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW... Too often, concerned citizens with green objectives are helpless and tardy, outgunned and outspent, when 'raw' land - habitat, watershed, ecosystem - is condemned to be bulldozed, cleared, paved and housed. Were Florida Hometown in place, voters would have some choice in their future, whether to allow development-fueled changes in land use. When big projects come before local governments, investors often want more than current zoning permits and appeal to the cities for zoning changes. Endlessly pursuing tax base increases, community leaders and zoning boards often give the nod to the side with the paid attorney, and more acres of Florida's heartland are lost to concrete. Rampant development destroys any sense of place, just as mountaintop-removal for coal does in Appalachia.

We will be at the **Rockin' Ranch, 801 S. Nova Road, Ormond Beach at 6 pm on Monday, April 6** and depending on our success, continue nightly until the weekend of Earth Day. Please email me, **Alex Ross, (ross.alex@mail.com)** or call **(386) 761-7002** to sign up for an evening of fun at a classic venue. Thanks to the generous bequest of **Rosalie Moore**, we have been able to contribute much to this effort. It would be tragic to lose out when we are so close to our goal. Legal decisions are taking time, and we need to have additional signatures ready to be sure of success: getting this concept on the state-wide ballot. Then the real hard work begins!

Welcome to the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club's newsletter, *The Timucuan*.

We highly value our members and friends and hope that you enjoy hearing about all that is new with our organization. We could not function without your support.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April - May 2009</h1> <h2>Volusia-Flagler Environmental Events</h2>					Please note: The Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee meets every TUESDAY (except holidays) at <u>4:00 P.M.</u>	28
					29	30
5 10:00 a.m. Lake Beresford to Blue Springs and back Bike Ride (386) 956-7396	6 6:00 p.m. Florida Hometown Democracy Rockin' Ranch, 801 S. Nova Road, Ormond Beach	7 1890 Marjorie Stoneman Douglas born	8	9 7:00 p.m. Evening at Whitney Lab -"Rewriting the bird tree of life" 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd. Marineland	10	11
12	13	14 4:00 p.m. Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee City Island Library DAYTONA BEACH	15	16	17	18 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EARTH DAY at Washington Oaks (386) 761-7002
19 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EARTH DAY at Washington Oaks (386) 761-7002	20 Halifax River Audubon 6:30 p.m. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill	21 John Muir born 1838 Native Plant Society Sica Hall 1065 Daytona Ave. Holly Hill 7:00 p.m.	22 EARTH DAY	23 April 23-26 Birding and Fotofest Whitney Lab Marineland www.getaway4nature.com	24 EARTH DAY CONCERT U.U. Society Ormond Beach 386 672-5910	25
26 10:00 a.m. 12-mile New Smyrna Beach Loop Bike Ride (386) 761-7002	27	28 8:30 p.m. Environmental Council of Volusia & Flagler Counties (386) 846-2428	29	30	MAY 1	2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>St. Francis River Trail 7- mile Hike (386) 761-7002</p>	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>VOLUSIA- FLAGLER SIERRA 7:00 P.M. @ <u>UCF Auditorium</u></p>	7	8	9
10	11	<p>12</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee City Island Library DAYTONA BEACH</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Evening at Whitney Lab - "New treatments for cancer" 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd. Marineland</p>	15	16
<p>17 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Cracker Creek Canoes, Port Orange (386) 304-0778</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>Native Plant Society Sica Hall 1065 Daytona Ave. Holly Hill 7:00 p.m.</p>	20	21	22	23