



The Timucuan

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

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

The next business meetings of the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club's **Executive Committee** will be held on **September 5th** and **October 3rd** at **5:30 p.m.**, at the **Holly Hill Clubhouse, 1064 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.**

PLEASE NOTE: Our September & October Monthly Meetings will take place at a NEW MEETING LOCATION while renovations continue at the City Island Library.

**PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING
HOLLY HILL CLUBHOUSE
1064 DAYTONA AVENUE
(Behind Holly Hill City Hall).**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, at 7:00 p.m.

ANDY KELLY,

Volusia County Councilman, will conduct a question-and-answer session to address our concerns and interests.
Please make every effort to attend.

**PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER MEETING
HOLLY HILL CLUBHOUSE
1064 DAYTONA AVENUE
(Behind Holly Hill City Hall).**

WEDNESDAY, October 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.

KELLI MCGEE,

Volusia County Environmental Management Interim Director, will help us navigate "Map A" and report on the efforts to establish a conservation corridor in the heart of Volusia County.

**Saturday, September 15th - 22nd Annual
International Coastal Clean-Up**

Wear sturdy footwear, gloves, and sun protection, bring water, and **help make a difference!**
Contact **Dennis Bayer** at **(386) 439-2332** to volunteer and for more information

**Saturday, October 6th - Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dedication Celebration**

Recognizing the designation of the Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail as a Florida Scenic Highway
Tomoka State Park, 2099 N. Beach Street, Ormond Beach : Visitor Center-Pine Picnic Area
Come join us and help represent Sierra Club at this event.

Contact: ross.alex@gmail.com / (386) 761-7002

Time is running out.

. . . For black bears and wading birds, panthers and manatees, you and me. We all want what remains of natural Florida to continue and thrive. But that wish is overwhelmed by Florida's growth industry. In Volusia County, Ridgewood Avenue was once a ridge where the woods began. Then came Nova, the new canal and road to the West. Next it was Clyde Morris, named for a local pharmacist and the third major North South freeway of the mainland. But it didn't stop there - Williamson sprang up - and of course Interstate 95, so far out in the boondocks, it would never be built up. Guess again. I-95 is no barrier, except to wildlife. The headwaters of the Tomoka River became the massive Auto Mall. The First Baptist Church plans a megadevelopment - church, schools, assisted living, parking for thousands - near where cows still graze by Tomoka Farms Road.

Out of countless Smart Growth meetings over the past few years came Map A, at the center of Volusia County, **328,678 acres**. It is billed as our water recharge area and conservation corridor, though it is 105,500 acres smaller than the old Natural Resources Management Area, NRMA (434,266 acres). NRMA, developed 20-odd years ago by Growth Management, was to be off limits to development. But there are large landowners out there who find more profit in growing houses than trees. Preferring the laxer city standards to the unincorporated County's, they annex into the more favorable regulatory climate. If we don't grow, we die, declared Port Orange Vice Mayor, Mary Martin. As if development paid for itself! And the big landowners hire smooth-talking attorneys who love green space themselves, you understand.....

Map A contains lands bought by the taxpayer through the St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Forever and Volusia Forever. (That money is running out.) There are lands with conservation easements that still function as farms or forests. Rural land stewardship and transfer of development rights are under study, for as county staff never tires of reminding us, it would take over \$2 billion to buy all the land that we need and want to conserve. And growth is coming: you can't put a fence on the border!

The Council of Governments is nearing agreement that development should not happen in Map A. Zoning densities, even if clustered, should not be increased there. One house per 20 acres gives wildlife a sporting chance. But look out, there is a transitional buffer area called Map B, which encircles Map A and leads to 7-11 and WalMart. That must be the balance of NRMA.

Problems with Map A: it's too small. One area is squeezed by Deltona to the West and Port Orange/New Smyrna Beach to the East, creating such a small bottleneck for wildlife passage, the integrity of the entire swath is compromised. Have you heard of the fringe effect? Habitat inevitably loses when development is nearby. The bigger the piece of land, the more biodiversity, gene pool exchange and migration can occur.

Another problem: Map A is bisected several times by highways - U.S. 92, S.R. 44, S.R. 46. People have enough trouble crossing a street without being killed. Do you think there are any wildlife overpasses or tunnels to give creatures a chance? How costly they are. Concrete prices have gone through the roof. Think we can afford to coddle wildlife?

What can we do? Remind your elected official of your support and concern. We endorsed County Councilmen Bruno, Kelly and Northey. Every week at every level, zoning boards are giving away the store. County Planner Ron Paradise no longer works for us, a great loss that needs explaining. And the new green Volusia Soil and Water Conservation Board's funding is cut completely, despite proof that its tiny paid staff had brought grants and projects and dollars into the county. Ask the new county manager what is he thinking? (And our green Governor appoints developers, not biologists, to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission!)

Exhausted by the endless transformation of the state into sprawling communities where wildlife becomes a nuisance, attorneys Lesley Blackner and Ross Burnham crafted a constitutional amendment called **Florida Hometown Democracy**. (Go to www.floridahometowndemocracy.com, download, print, sign and mail your petitions!) Present residents need a say in the future of our communities, by having veto power over significant land use changes to the comprehensive plan. Land is purchased with one zoning (density of housing per acre) with the expectation of appealing to a zoning board to make the project profitable. (If we don't approve changes, why do we meet? Daytona Beach Shores zoning board member once asked.)

(Continued)

Time is running out. (Continued)

Buyers of property get the zoning given, but speculators want more. Cheaper to buy the raw land, bulldoze it, pave it, throw up the drywall and sod and palms. How much better it would be to redevelop crumbling old neighborhoods where roads, services, utilities already exist. Increased density doesn't mean high-rises everywhere, but wiser use of the land. The building industry and Chamber of Commerce have vowed to fight this initiative with one of their own, obfuscating the issues, inviting 10% of the population to register particular objections to zoning changes at the Clerk of the Court's office. How likely is that to happen? Carte blanche, messieurs!

The clock is ticking, the money is all on the other side, it's time for all of us to hustle those signatures in these last few months. If each member of this group signed and mailed one petition, that's 1300 or so. If we each did 5, there's 65,000; ten makes 13,000. Now we're talking. A few of us have spent many an hour in the hot sun at Family Days, Farmers' Markets, libraries, and events and gotten hundreds of signatures, at real risk of burn-out. Let us share our burden!

Once again, we ask you to join in this effort. Our state chapter and our local group have made significant financial contributions for paid petition gatherers, but it's still not enough. As the weather cools, let's mobilize, socialize, politicize and downsize. Let's get this citizens' army on its feet!

Look over the Master Calendar for petition-friendly events. Stockpile your clipboards. We have hundreds of copies of the petition. Think of the organizations you belong to, your favorite restaurants, your neighbors and acquaintances. It only takes a minute to fill it out (CORRECTLY!) - please get on this bandwagon with me. With Florida Hometown Democracy in effect, half of the legal challenges we have made in this state would no longer be necessary.

Cancer is uncontrolled growth and that is what we have in Florida. We are paving over our drinking water and slashing the trees that cool and refresh us. Develop where roads and services already exist. Wildlife has become a nuisance and we steal more of their territory daily. When will it end? It's been on fast forward for too many years. If you just want pavement and stores and cars and highrises, go back to Metropolis. Let Florida live. Give the people who have already invested in their community a say in its future. The developers will drain and doze and sod and split and we are left with traffic jams, higher taxes, less water and greenery. Give the people a voice in our own future. And watch the big money guys fight us every step of the way. Email Alex at ross.alex@gmail.com or phone (386) 761-7002. By January we're done, one way or the other.

-- Alexa Ross, Group Conservation Chair

JOB OPENING

With great reluctance, the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Executive Committee will accept **Don Lieb's** resignation as **Group Treasurer**, effective December 31st. To help smooth the transition, Don has offered to work with his replacement, and train anyone fluent in, or willing to learn, banking software. Please contact Don at (386) 672-4765 for more information.

September - October 2007 Outings

Trying again! Current Outings Leaders Marjorie Byron and Alex Ross, stung by the lack of interest or participants at outings last year, are spreading the risk by including events offered by other groups. Some are a fair drive away; so carpooling is encouraged. Enjoy, Explore!

Saturday, September 8 -- NORTH -- Exploring the beach. Take a two-hour walk with Naturalist Angie Golubovich, Environmental Educator with the **Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve**, (GTMNERR) to learn about the biology, adaptations and conservation needs of beach wildlife. This is about 3.5 miles north of the entrance to the GTMNERR education center. There is a \$3 parking fee. Bring water and sun tan lotion. Children welcome, dogs are not. Reserve with Brian Paradise e-mail. bgparadise@comcast.net.

Sunday, September 16 -- NORTH -- Hike at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. Although formal gardens are the centerpiece of this park, Washington Oaks also boasts coquina rock formations that line its beach. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Matanzas River, the property was once owned by a distant relative of George Washington. The gardens' native and exotic species, from azaleas and camellias to bird of paradise, shelter within a picturesque oak hammock. We will picnic on the beach after hiking a few short trails (less than 2 miles). Located two miles south of Marineland on State Road A1A in Palm Coast. Contact: **Mary-Slater Linn 407-481-4398**.

Sunday, September 23 -- CENTRAL -- 2 mile loop Hike and Easy Kayak on Indian Lake. Meet 2 pm at Indian Lake Road off ISB 92; the parking lot is a couple of miles North of 92 along a sandy road near the lake. Call **Marjorie Byron** at **(386) 736-0493** to reserve. If you don't have a kayak or inflatable, just enjoy the hike, including the site of what once was an old turpentine camp. This is Volusia's Conservation Corridor!

Sunday, September 30 -- SOUTH -- Ponce Inlet New Smyrna Beach Water Taxi. Cyclists will meet at 11 am under the Dunlawton bridge for an easy ride to Ponce Inlet, where we may be joined by pedestrians, boarding the new WATER TAXI (\$10 all day) departing from Down the Hatch at 11:40 and Inlet Harbor at noon. We will disembark at Riverside Park at 12:45, explore for two hours, then reboard for a ride to the Marine Discovery Center and back to Ponce Inlet. Call **Alex Ross** (761-7002/ross.alex@gmail.com) if you plan to join us. Cyclists need helmets, water, sunscreen and snacks. Walkers need sun protection and liquid too.

Sunday, October 7 -- WEST -- DeLeon Springs' Wild Persimmon Trail. 2 pm. Come early and eat at the Pancake Mill, stay late to swim. We will hike the 5 mile loop. Call **Marjorie Byron** at **(386) 736-0493** to reserve. Park admission fee. Bring water, good shoes, sun and bug protection.

Saturday, October 13-- NORTH -- 5th Annual John Muir Family Walk. Muir was the president/founder of the Sierra Club when it was formed in 1892. He landed in Fernandina Beach on October 15, 1867, to begin his famous walk across Florida. We will celebrate the 140th anniversary of his landing in Florida with an easy 4-mile walk at the new John Muir Ecological Park on A1A in Yulee, Florida. This is a joint outing of the Yulee Historic Council, the Northeast Florida and Nassau County groups of the Sierra Club. Meet at the post office on A1A which is approximately 4 miles east of Interstate 95. Leaders: Todd Sack M.D. and Brian Paradise. Information, bgparadise@comcast.net.

September - October 2007 Outings

(Continued)

Sunday, October 14 -- SOUTH -- Hike at Three Lakes/Prairie Lakes. Within an hour's drive of Disney World is the Kissimmee Prairie, one of the largest remaining expanses of dry prairie in the U S. and named for the three lakes that border the area (Kissimmee, Jackson, and Marian). We will hike 5.7 miles along the Florida National Scenic Trail and enjoy the colorful flush of wildflowers in fall. This trail wanders through march, meadow, hammock and pine forest, with an abundance of deer, bald eagles, caracara, sandhill cranes. Bring lunch and we'll carpool from Orlando. Cost \$1.00 per person admission. Contact: **Mary-Slater Linn 407-481-4398.**

Sunday, October 21 -- SOUTHWEST -- Lake Helen - Cassadaga Bike Tour. Meet at Home Depot on U.S. 92/ISB at 1 PM, carpool to Lake Helen and enjoy the trampoline at Betty O'Laughlin's horse farm. Cycle through sleepy Lake Helen to Cassadaga. **Call Alex Ross, (386) 761-7002** to sign up (ross.alex@gmail.com). Helmet required, sunblock, water, snack recommended.

Saturday, October 27 -- SOUTH -- 10th Annual Oakland Heritage Festival. 10-4 Speers Park in the town of Oakland. Come out for boat rides on Lake Apopka, good food, vendors and environmental groups, enjoy the music under the oaks. Oakland Nature Preserve's mission is to promote understanding of the fragile balances among land, water, mankind, and the natural ecosystems of the Lake Apopka Basin. For more information contact: **Mary-Slater Linn 407-481-4398.**

October 30 -- SOUTHWEST -- Wednesday, Pontoon Boat Ride from Lake Monroe to Blue Springs. 9:30-4:30 Join Jungle Jim, alligator expert, for an eco-cruise from Lake Monroe to Blue Springs. We'll visit the lower Wekiva River basin and stop at Blue Springs State Park for our picnic lunch and a swim down the spring run. It costs \$35.00 for this all day tour. Space Limited to 9 people. RSVP: Contact: **Mary-Slater Linn 407-481-4398.**

Training Event -- for future outings leaders: **September 29** in Broward County. Contact Charles Hunt for details at sierra@smartsolutions.com.

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club Welcomes New Members and Transfers

Barberville

Johnny Ferguson

Bunnell

K. Miller

Dara Schlick

Nancy Joseph

Daytona Beach

Suzanne Deleskey

Hazel Sparrow

Roger Moody

Donna La France

Roger Moody

Daniel Bolerjack

Carol Thorne

Mary Doerr

Ruth Clardy

Bonnie & Thomas Player

Ellen Frances Graham

Janet Phillips

Marilyn Beecher

Miriam Smith

Daniel Bolerjack

Miriam Smith

Carol Thorne

Jody Williams

Matt & Marie Allard

Joseph Luckett

Gary Roberson

Sophia Szyndlar

South Daytona

Jessie Brown

Susan Hockenberry

Christine Allen

Bill Galt

Keith Bonner

Michael Harley

DeBary

James Camuso

William Clapham

Patricia Murray

Carman Moore

Shirley Hamilton

Brian Quinn

Holly Hill

Sid Sharples

Osteen

Devitt Harrison

San Mateo

Judy Marti

Port Orange

Lloyd Dunham

John Allaben

Lola Trimble

Cornelia Lindsay

Jane Connors

D. Edwina Clore

Dennis Faherty

Rufus Houdyshell

Carl Turgeon

Lorraine Fisher

Jesse Paquin

Earl Pratt

Doreen Leone

Patrick Perrott

Pam Giese

Yvonne Lodes

Cornelia Lindsay

Lola Trimble

Ben Kollmer

Flagler Beach

Roger Buchanan

Frederick Miller

Richard Conkling

Lauren Dack

Geraldine Kail

Richard Conkling

New Smyrna Beach

Anne Ross

Jo O'Bannon

Paul Roche

Patricia Miller

Elaine Knorst

Mary Newberry

Richard Tinsley

Gabriel Castaner

Kimberly Johnson

Ruth Stammen

Michael Carroll

Orange City

Marian Gurewitz

Kathryn Aymar

Jeff Govreau

Mascotte

Robert Sylvia

Lake Helen

Carole Doss

Harold & Carol Webb

Christine Crowther

Palm Coast

Frederick Gibb

B. Gundy

Jane Culpepper

M. Singalewitch

Debby Duenow

G. Carleton

Irving Arnold

Laura Tuccelli

Johnna Pollard

Karen Young

Pamela Davis

Jerome Full

Stephanie Salkin

Bernard Lynn

Karen Young

A. M. Noad

Cathy Campbell

Sharon Resnikoff

Keith Vinnicombe

Elizabeth Hodovance

Cathy Campbell

Jack Loechner

Ed Glaser

A.M. Noad

Bernard Lynn

Edgewater

Kathy Fluharty

Nancy Saputro

Nicole Grant

Mary Yon

Frances Woullard

John Mesiano

Lorna Marks

Karen Stephenson

Francisco Evangelista

Clermont

Stuart Chaplan

Logan Williams

William Stefancic

DeLeon Springs

Sheldon Skolfield

Kimberly Schmidt

Lady Lake

David Tolleson

Daytona Beach Shores

Dr. Herbert Kerman

Pierson

Marilu Hagen

Ormond Beach

Gregory Dudley

Gail Redfield

Bruce Nelson

Chris Staley

Bob Elton

Gerry Cataldo

J. D'Alba

Sarah Richard

Donna Navarro

Carrie Minihan

June Siebert

Lind Bird

Alfred Smorto

A. Trachtman

Elsa Wittbold

Ronald Englehart

Kathy Eycke

Ted Delarco

Daniel Broderick

Connie Moore

Stephen Knight

Sean Wilborn

Robert Wood

Philip & Betty Green

Kathleen Kopacz

Betty Wooten

Eileen Osteen

Henry Juenemann

Terry Shaughnessy

Eady Hawes

Barbara Taylor

Kerry Thek

Cathy Hames

Jeanne Young

Robin Weiss

Helen Blair

Stephanie Walsh

Doris Deiter

DeLand

Hadie Erhardt

Troia

Virginia Bradford

Anne Hallum

Esther Jones

Barbara Page

John Boyle

Lori Riggs

Virginia Illig

Deltona

Debbi Kosinski