



The Timucuan

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

August-September 2009

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The next business meetings of the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club's **Executive Committee** will be held on **August 5th and September 2nd at 5:30 p.m.**, at the **University of Central Florida's University Center, 1200 W. International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach.**

Our meetings are held at the **University of Central Florida's auditorium, University Center Building #150, room 101, 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd.**
Handicapped parking is available.

Get out of the House and Meet Our Speakers for August and September -- Both Dedicated Environmentalists, Who Really Make a Difference!



PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.

MICHELE MOEN

Chair of the Volusia Soil and Water
Conservation District, Seat 2

Don't miss this opportunity to hear a true
Local Heroine for the Environment!
Mrs. Moen has volunteered for the past eight
years in Volusia County Working with local
chapters of Audubon, Sierra Club,
Environmental Council of Volusia and Flagler
Counties, the Native Plant Society, and the
Volusia Association for Responsible Growth,
just to name a few!

Michele obtained a grant from the St. Johns
River Water Management District and
partnered with the University of Florida to
bring the first Low Impact Development
Workshop promoting water conservation and
water quality to Volusia County.

PROGRAM FOR AUGUST MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5th, at 7:00 p.m.

THE WATER BENEATH YOUR FEET

Presented By
MR. WILLIAM (BILL) HALL,
Ambassador for the
Blue Spring Working Group --
an initiative of Florida's Wildlife Legacy of the
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission and the Florida Department of
Environmental Protection, dedicated to the
conservation and restoration of the Blue Spring
and spring-run streams.

If you love beautiful Blue Spring and care
about the threats to its health and the perils to
our groundwater, don't miss this program!

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club Welcomes New Members and Transfers

Astor

Kenneth Aigner

Lake Como

Tom Ball

Daytona Beach

Connie Coddington

Kent Hottinger

Ormond Beach

Nanci Bowman

George Hugus

Wesley Reagin

Stephen Robinson

Louise Van Vianen

Deltona

Robert G Esterberg

New Smyrna Beach

Eugenia Cartwright

Diane Devry

Christina Spradlin

Patricia Swen

James Watkins

Lake Helen

Betty Doherty

Edgewater

Emil Eckert

Susanne Leininger

Harry Nelson

Palm Coast

Barbara Eveleigh

Tom Kukitz

John McCauley

Virginia Reagan

Joanne Robrahn

Cherie Siegel

Dean Vangorden

Wilhelmena Ware

Port Orange

Edgar Ferrier

Anita Grant

S. Wienclaw

DeLand

Ella Foster

Richard Jones

Horacio Edward LaGrave

Beth Nolan

Heather Williams

Edit Palmer

Susan Rabner

Susan Smith

Martina Vidovic

DeLeon Springs

Katherine Harp

South Daytona

Beverly Jackson



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BLUE SPRING WORKING GROUP

Update by *Beeg Camarota*

The Blue Spring Working Group has been meeting quarterly for more than a year. The Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club has had a representative at each meeting of this group of organizations, government personnel, and citizens. The purpose of this group is education concerning the spring and how we can protect this Class I spring while experiencing increased demand for water from the contributing aquifer. Marjorie Byron has represented the Sierra Club at most meetings, but Beeg Camarota attended the June meeting.

The morning sessions consisted of 4 speakers from the St. Johns River Water Management District, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Volusia County Water and Utility Services Group, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Wetland Solutions, Inc. The discussion centered around the growth of the manatee population, and the flow in the springs necessary to sustain their numbers.

In the afternoon the group took a field trip snorkeling the spring run with park personnel, aquatic biologists, ichthyologists, and herpetologists. We examined the water clarity using the horizontal Secchi disk measurement and examined vegetation and various wildlife in the run.

To learn more about the Blue Spring Working Group, go to:

<http://share2.myfwc.com/spring/default.aspx>.

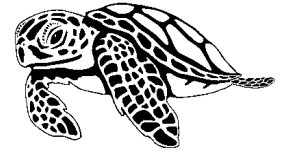
To learn more about Blue Spring, visit the website of the Florida Springs Initiative at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/springs/> and the website of the St. Johns River Water Management District at

<http://sjr.state.fl.us/springs/index.html>.

For more information, please contact the Working Group Coordinator, Carol Lippincott, at (352) 377-8693 or Carol.Lippincott@cox.net.

Turtles Troubled

It is sea turtle nesting until the end of September, but some human beach goers activities have only been adding to the obstacles that our ancient marine visitors face when they come ashore. The Turtle Patrol is concerned by the very large holes that are being left by recreational excavators who apparently like to watch them fill with water but who don't fill them back in when the show's over. This leaves behind some considerable craters, posing risks not just to people pedestrians (especially at night) and vehicles but of course to hatchlings and their moms. Baby turtles have been trapped and drowned in the holes, and in St. Johns County a nesting turtle fell into one and broke her neck. Please, if you dig holes in the beach sand, fill them back in! (And tell others to do the same!) If you find an injured, sick, or stranded sea turtle, please call the



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-FWCC.

Who Killed Growth Management in Florida? - And can it be resuscitated?

By Dwight Adams

Florida's noble attempt to manage its explosive growth began with the Growth Management Act of 1985. The death of growth management may have occurred at the hands of the 2009 legislature with passage of Senate Bill 360 and others.

SB 360 eliminated transportation concurrency for counties deemed to be urban by virtue of having population densities of 1000 people per square mile or greater.

The new definition of urban by the 2009 legislature amounts to about 1 dwelling unit per acre or less, not even enough to qualify as decent sprawl. Transportation planners know that densities of about 5 units/acre are needed to support mass transit.

Travel by mass transit was obviously not a concern of legislators bent on priming the growth pump to revive Florida's economy built on the housing bubble. They weren't persuaded at all by the argument that strict regulations had nothing to do with bursting of the housing bubble.

With the elimination of transportation concurrency, developers (folks buying their houses) will not have to pay for the infrastructure needed for their new developments. Guess who will have to foot the bills to expand sprawl-clogged roads.

This is only one of the plums that the legislature handed to developers. Others include: decapitating Development of Regional Impact reviews that look at the impact of large developments on surrounding areas, reduction in

the already woefully inadequate protection of wetlands, and easing requirement to obtain the water needed for thirsty developments. Under the new legislation, water management boards will have no say in consumptive use permits for water and wetland destruction permits. The executive directors alone will be able to make the decision out of the sunshine and with no public input.

Although there are 300,000 empty houses in Florida now and comprehensive plans throughout the State would provide for a total of 100 million new dwelling units, developers managed to get what they wanted from their legislature.

There are two amendments to the Florida constitution that should be on the 2010 ballot that might save the day. One that has had to fight all the way to overcome opposition by the legislature, some uncooperative supervisors of elections, and

Floridians for Smarter Growth funded by development interests is called Florida Hometown Democracy. This amendment would require that amendments to local comprehensive plans be submitted to a referendum by the voters. How many Spring Hills would gain approval by voters?

The other amendment that would cut into the huge Republican majority in the legislature and in Congress would assure that new districts drawn after the 2010 census would not be gerrymandered to assure reelection of incumbents. You can download petitions for this one at www.FairDistrictsFlorida.org. FDF is so popular with voters that they have signed petitions for

which they need funds to pay the 10 cent cost of filing the petitions.

Update on Florida Hometown Democracy amendment: On Wednesday, June 17, 2009, the Florida Supreme Court cleared the way for the immediate certification of Florida Hometown Democracy's proposed constitutional amendment for the November 2010 ballot.

The Court's emergency order affirmed a lower court ruling that the petition revocation scheme created by the legislature is unconstitutional. FHD supporters were ecstatic, but not so Floridians for Smarter Growth. We can expect an all-out push by developers and other growth promoters to defeat the FHD amendment in 2010 with huge amount of money spent on the effort.

We think that Floridians should have the ability to change their mind when they are not told the truth to begin with, said Associated Industries President and CEO Barney Bishop. He said petition collectors made unsubstantiated claims of Hometown Democracy's benefits.

Bishop said his organization may ask the Legislature for a constitutional amendment permitting signature revocations and overriding the Supreme Court ruling. He also said opponents may try to use the courts to stop the measure.

Tell em to be prepared, Bishop said. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. This ain't over.

Reprinted from the Suwannee-St. Johns
Sierra Club Newsletter, July 2009

Learn more about Florida Hometown Democracy at:

www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com

Learn to be a Sierra Club Outings Leader!

Upcoming Training Events:

Saturday, Sept 26

Outing Leader Training (OLT101) for new outing leaders, recertification and a prerequisite for OLT201. Location in the Tampa Bay area.

For more details contact: Rudy Scheffer, 727.726.8375 or email: rudy@adventuresworldwide.com.

Saturday, Oct 3

Outing Leader Training (OLT 201). A requirement for Outing Leaders who want to lead overnight trips away from cars. Location in the Tampa Bay Area.

For more details contact: Rudy Scheffer, 727.726.8375 or email: rudy@adventuresworldwide.com.



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