



# The Timucuan

June-July-August 2007

Newsletter of the  
Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club  
P. O. Box 929, Daytona Beach, Florida 32115  
[www.florida.sierraclub.org/Volusia](http://www.florida.sierraclub.org/Volusia)

The next business meetings of the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club's **Executive Committee** will be held on **June 6th** and **August 1st** at **5:30 p.m.**, at **Daytona Beach Regional Library (City Island Library Center)**, 105 E. Magnolia Avenue, Daytona Beach.

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Please note the location for our June meeting -- Back to City Island Library in August

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**PROGRAM FOR JUNE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6th, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Bethune-Cookman University Campus, Daytona Beach**

**Nancy Long,**

**South Daytona Councilwoman, Bethune-Cookman professor, and longtime environmentalist, will bring us up to date on topics of interest in South Daytona and the historical Halifax area.**

Directions: From the intersection of International Speedway Boulevard and Martin Luther King St: Head north on MLK. One block beyond the light at Bethune Blvd., the gates to the library parking lot will be on the left. Turn into the parking lot. There are two portables in the parking lot. We will be meeting in the newer of the two. There will be a sign for the meeting on MLK.

**PROGRAM FOR AUGUST MEETING**  
**Daytona Beach Regional Library (City Island Library Center),**  
**105 E. Magnolia Avenue, Daytona Beach.**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1st, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Jane Mealy,**

**Flagler Beach City Commissioner, will let us know what's going on in the Flagler Beach area, particularly with regard to the Ginn Company's activities.**

## **SUMMER "VACATION"**

The Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club will not meet in July. Watch for the next *Timucuan* for announcements of our programs in September and October!

## **Save Florida for your children and grandchildren: Support Florida Home Town Democracy**

**T**he Florida Home Town Democracy Initiative is one of the most important efforts by environmentalists in Florida that has ever been attempted. It is on a par with the effort to save the Everglades.

The famous Australian scientist, Tim Flannery, in his book *The Future Eaters*, remarks that humans, by consuming easily available resources, are eating the future of their descendants. We are doing this in Florida. Our developers are eating the pristine natural areas that made Florida so attractive to us. They are cutting the trees and draining the aquifer.

There is a war going on between reckless developers whose goal is their own profit before the public good and concerned environmentalists - and the developers are winning. Thus, developers are allowed to fill in sensitive wetlands, bury gopher tortoises alive, pave over supply areas for the aquifer, threatening our supply of clean water and destroying habitat for endangered wildlife. State law requires that every local jurisdiction — county or city — have a comprehensive land use plan to protect agricultural land, open space and forests. The law is supposed to protect us from sprawl. Property owners have rights to use their property in accordance with the designations set forth in the plan. For example, Mr. Smith owns a property designated as agricultural on the comprehensive plan. Mr. Smith has every right to use his land for any and all agricultural purposes. However, Mr. Smith does not have the right to use his land for high-density residential and commercial purposes.

To develop his land with high density residential or commercial, Mr. Smith must obtain a comprehensive plan amendment. Mr. Smith must persuade a majority of the city or county commission (depending on whether his land is in the city or the county) to grant his plan change. As you probably know, there are very few cases in which powerful developers have been denied the amendment they ask for. They hire slick attorneys with slick connections who talk a mile a minute. Sometimes local officials fear that if they deny powerful interests a plan modification or an exception, they will be sued. This is not a legitimate basis for capitulating to developers since the law does not entitle a land owner to a land use change, but it does provide “cover” to commissioners to approve land use changes that are not in the public interest. In other cases, local officials may have a vested interest in a particular development. (A conflict of interest, but that is another story.) The bottom line: our elected officials just don’t say NO, even when the law says they should.

Citizens in a community have rights, too. We have the right to demand that our existing “quality of life” not be destroyed. We have a right to demand that our water supply, our green space, our wildlife, not be obliterated by sprawl. We have a right demand the continuance of the peace and tranquility we paid for. Too often our rights are ignored.

Finally there is some relief on the horizon.

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## Florida Home Town Democracy

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The **Florida Home Town Democracy Amendment**, if passed, will become an amendment to the Florida state Constitution. Florida Hometown Democracy will require a public vote in an affected locality on amendments to local comprehensive plans. By "local," the Initiative means County or City. This will give the voters a say in what goes up in their neighborhood, if it is not already allowed by existing comprehensive plan. In a democracy, differences are easily resolved by a fair and honest vote of all the parties affected, and the vote of the majority is to be followed by all.

An overwhelming majority of the public, although they elect the local officials, wishes to curb the heedless development that is stripping Florida of its beauty. The public in Volusia County proved this when they approved, by a three to one majority, Urban Growth Boundaries in 2004. Despite the disallowance, by judicial legerdemain, of the UGB vote, it is an important indication of sentiment.

### *Judicial Approval*

The Florida Supreme Court has approved the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment for placement on the 2008 ballot if we collect **611,000** petitions. We now have about 350,000. We must collect the remainder *before the end of this year*.

If you have not signed the petition and you are a registered Florida voter, please sign it now, and get others to sign. You are urged to download the petition at

[www.floridahometowndemocracy.com](http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com)

Sign it and mail it to:

**Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc. P.O. Box  
636 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170-0636.**

Or call **866-779-5513** for petitions to be sent to you.

Make copies of the petition and give one to each of your friends and neighbors, get them signed, and mail them to Florida Hometown Democracy.

Every step of this effort requires money. The signatures must be processed; this costs 10 cents a signature. Since time is getting short, it may be necessary to hire petition gatherers. Over half a million dollars has already been spent of this effort and the end is in sight. The Executive Committee of Volusia/Flagler Sierra Club has voted a \$10,000 emergency infusion of cash from the Rosalie Moore bequest. Presently they are discussing donating \$30,000 - \$40,000 more. Also, individuals are urged to donate directly to Florida Home Town Democracy. They may make their checks to Florida Home Town Democracy and send them to the address above or donate on line.

Time is not on our side. Please act immediately.

***Wilfred (Fred ) Bisson ExCom Member***

## Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club Welcomes New Members and Transfers

### Ponte Vedra

Connie Compton

### Daytona Beach

Derek Hinkley

Edwin Weber

Sue Habel

Lois Liebman

### Port Orange

Robert Scherer

Dennis &

Summer Clayton

Joe Elliott

### Palm Coast

Erminie Bruno

Constance &

Donal March

### Minneola

Gizele Wallace

### Holly Hill

Elsie Ann Pollitz

### Edgewater

Charles Bradway

### St. Cloud

Cheryl Williams

### Winter Park

Marilu Hagen

### Enterprise

Chris Spiliotis

### DeLand

Mary K. Rabb

Ryan Hutson

Ruth Frietzsche

Albert Flowers

Shirley Willows

Marsha Glaze Hester

### Deltona

Robert Todd

Louise Leake

Keith &

Linda Garfield

### New Smyrna Beach

Nancy Cox

Phyllis Robertson

David Kyle

Rick Kolodinsky

Janiece Fazio

Daniel Overath

Olga McCosh

### Ormond Beach

Peter & Susan

Erdman

Ralph Smith

Ann Lambert

Katherine Millen

Gina Russo

Sam Harrison

## CALL FOR MARINE MONITORS

The next Marine Debris Surveys will be held **Saturday, June 2nd, June 30th, and July 28th**, at **9 a.m.** We meet at North Peninsula State Recreation Area, north of Ormond Beach on A1A, at the last beach parking lot in Volusia County (Highbridge Road). The survey takes about two hours\* and volunteers are welcome! (\*The more volunteers, the sooner we're done!) Call **Ann Arnold** at **(386) 409-3742** to volunteer, to verify **how much we need you**, or for information.

### Central Florida Sierra Club Outings

**Jun 2-3 Joint camp/kayak on Lake Norris with Florida Trail:** We'll kayak on the 1,100 acre Lake Norris Conservation Area and tent camp Saturday night. The paddling is easy and the area is a very quite and peaceful. No roar of cars or motorboats. Blackwater Creek and the 22,000 acre Seminole State Forest are adjacent to the lake. The area boasts an impressive collection of ecosystems, including almost all of the naturally occurring communities found in Central Florida- flatwoods, scrub, and bottomland forest. These uplands provide important habitat for the threatened black bear. We'll also paddle to a large collection of cypress trees that ring the lake. Cost: Free but bring your own kayak (or borrow a friend's) and camping supplies. Leader: **Mary-Slater Linn 407-481-4398** [flsierra@bellsouth.net](mailto:flsierra@bellsouth.net)

**June 30<sup>th</sup>: Full moon hike at Brickyard Slough:** Meet at 8:15pm and hike under a full moon, 4 miles round trip, down to the eastern shore of Lake Monroe, approximately four miles from Sanford and one mile south of Osteen. This is a classic Florida hike along sand roads lined with palm trees. The conservation area contains a large portion of the floodplain of Lake Monroe. This provides flood protection, and protection of water quality and more than three miles of Lake Monroe and St. Johns River shoreline. It also protects fish and wildlife habitat. Years ago, Native Americans hunted and fished in the area. This area also provides habitat for waterfowl, wood storks, wading birds and shorebirds. Other common sightings include sandhill cranes, bald eagles, turkeys, ospreys, deer and alligators. Bring your wine, dinner and interesting conversation as we enjoy fine waterfront dining under the moon. **Free.** RSVP: **Mary-Slater 407-481-4398** [flsierra@bellsouth.net](mailto:flsierra@bellsouth.net)

## **A Smart Growth Missile**

Excerpts from an article by **Rob Brinkman**,  
Chair of Suwannee-St. Johns Sierra Group.

**I**t is time to stop sprawl development and apply sustainable criteria to the redevelopment of our communities. The only reasonable - indeed sane - way to manage growth is to insist that it pay the full cost of the impacts it has on a community. This is the intent, if not the actual effect, of impact fees.

Failure to recoup the actual cost of new development amounts to public subsidy of private profit. If the taxpayers are to pay for half of the needed transportation enhancements, then they should also receive the same percentage of profits derived by the enterprise.

Most issues confronting Floridians with respect to growth management and environmental protection are at least in part the result of a failure to assess the real cost of their developments. Overcrowded schools, polluted water and air, and traffic congestion are the seeds we have sown by our failure to act rationally with respect to the true impacts of growth. Florida cannot continue to use taxpayer's money to subsidize new growth. It was a bad policy in the past, and it is suicidal to continue the practice in the future.

We need only look around at the disappearance of what attracted most people to Florida to realize the disastrous results of past policies. If we do not stop repeating our mistakes, we are doomed to suffer the consequences. It is time to stop the insanity and insist that new development pay for the impact it produces on the rest of the community. We must ensure that adequate steps are taken to preserve the natural resources that make Florida a great place for humans and wildlife.

Things must not continue to be business as usual. It is time to recognize that there are more important things than economic wealth, like human welfare and natural wonders. Our society regards land as a commodity we inherit from our parents, or otherwise acquire, which endows us with the right to benefit from its wealth; in fact we borrow this world from our children and we diminish their lives by exploitation.

In Memory of Sierra Club's and Florida's  
Great Friend

**Shirley Owens**

April 13, 1915 - May 7, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June - July - August 2007</h1> <h2>Volusia-Flagler Environmental Events</h2>						<p><b>Please note:</b> The Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee now meets every TUESDAY (except holidays) at <b>4:00 P.M.</b></p>
27	28 <b>SIERRA CLUB FOUNDED 1892</b>	29 4:00 p.m. Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee City Island Library DAYTONA BEACH	30	31	<b>JUNE</b>  Also on <u>June 2nd</u> : 11th Annual St. Johns River Cleanup 8:00-11:30 a.m. (386) 736-5927 ext 2424	2 Marine Debris Survey N. PENINSULA STATE RECREATION AREA 9:00 A.M. (386) 409-3742
3 <u>June 2-3</u> : Lake Norris Camp/Kayak with Central Florida Sierra 407-481-4398 flsierra@bellsouth.net	4	5	6 <b>VOLUSIA- FLAGLER SIERRA</b> 7:00 P.M. Bethune-Cookman Univeristy Daytona Beach	7	8	9 <b>Sierra Outings Leaders Training</b> Melbourne 727.726.8375 rudy@adventureswor ldwide.com
10	11	12 4:00 p.m. Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee City Island Library DAYTONA BEACH	13	14	15	16 VCOG aSummit@: How Shall We Live in Volusia 2570 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach (386) 226-0422, ext. 2
17	18 Halifax River Audubon 6:30 p.m. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill Program: Right Whales	19 Native Plant Society Sica Hall 1065 Daytona Ave. Holly Hill 7:00 p.m.	20 S. E. Volusia Audubon Society Edgewater Public Library 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26 Volusia-Flagler Environmental Council - 1381 Educators Road, Daytona Beach 7:00 p.m.	27	28	29 Also on <u>June 30th</u> : Full moon hike at Brickyard Slough near Osteen 407-481-4398 flsierra@bellsouth.net	30 Marine Debris Survey N. PENINSULA STATE RECREATION AREA 9:00 A.M. (386) 409-3742

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JULY 1</b>	2	3 4:00 p.m. Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee City Island Library DAYTONA BEACH	4 <b>Happy Independence Day!</b> <b>No Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club Meeting</b> See you August 1!	5	6	7
8	9	10 4:00 p.m. Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee City Island Library DAYTONA BEACH	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 <b>Native Plant Society</b> Sica Hall 1065 Daytona Ave. Holly Hill 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Volusia-Flagler Environmental Council - 1381 Educators Road, Daytona Beach 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28 <b>Marine Debris Survey</b> N. PENINSULA STATE RECREATION AREA 9:00 A.M. (386) 409-3742
29	30	31 4:00 p.m. Volusia-Flagler Environmental Action Committee City Island Library DAYTONA BEACH	<b>AUGUST 1</b> <b>VOLUSIA- FLAGLER SIERRA</b> 7:00 P.M. City Island Library	2	3	4