



## SIERRA SCIENCE & SOCIAL

(aka General Interest Meeting)  
**Events through AUG -  
Mark your calendar  
NOW!**

### April 20

"Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh my!!!" by Laurie Macdonald, Fl Director of Defenders of Wildlife Charismatic megafauna of Florida, from panthers to Tiger Beetles: Bears to Manatees..... A Look at some of Florida's endangered Wildlife and the habitat that we all depend on.

### May 18

"Living with Coyotes in Pinellas County" by Master Park Naturalist, Jeanne Murphy

The coyote has earned the title "Wily Coyote" for his ability to adapt to the urban environment. Coyotes now live in the urban neighborhoods of Pinellas County. What we can do to be safe and still allow the coyote to peacefully coexist with us? Join us for this enlightening presentation.

### June 15

"You Know Your Club Would Be Much Better Off If You Disguised Yourself as a Special Interest PAC, Handed Out Soft Money And Behaved As Though Protecting Panthers, Gopher Turtles, Manatees And The Everglades Was a Wicked Thing That Needed To Be Sneaked Through The Legislature." Howard Troxler Columnist for the St Petersburg Times

### July 20

Endangered Sea Turtles and Red Tide with Dr. Janine Cianciola, staff veterinarian at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Each Year from April to October sea turtles migrate to Florida for mating and nesting purposes. Currently Florida is home to the largest population of the endangered Loggerhead Turtles. Within our survey area nesting densities are 5 to 6 per mile. Average activity per season is 170 nests. Last year the nesting was less than half.

### August 17

Water Wars in Tampa Bay by Honey Rand, Story of people, politics and Power

"No matter where in the country (or world for that matter) you are, Honey Rand tells a fascinating story about a key geo-political issue facing us all. Water and who gets to control it."



Clearwater.

**Directions:** (From St Petersburg, take US 19 to Clearwater, turn right on Drew St). Located off Drew Street between US 19 and McMullen Booth Rd. Go north on Fairwood Avenue. Turn left immediately after crossing the railroad tracks onto Park Trail Lane. Follow the road through the gate and to the far building at the end of the parking lot.

Our Suncoast Group meets at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of every month at the Moccasin Lake Nature Park in



Wind energy was used to power Bonnie Raitt's concert, Sierra volunteers helping hand out info. Learn more about wind power, go to [www.cleanandgreen.us](http://www.cleanandgreen.us)

## Opportunity knocking!

**Fundraising Chair** - We need a dedicated and qualified person to chair the Fundraising Committee. Training will be provided on April 28 and 29th in San Francisco. The Sunset Tour and Art Tour are already tried events that have been successful and we would like to have them again this year. Contact **Michael Miller** for fundraising committee information at [michaelmiller@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:michaelmiller@tampabay.rr.com)

**Database Developer** - help us keep our members in the know with email updates

**Fundraising Committee Members** - have fun fundraising

**Tabling Chair** - coordinate volunteers for tabling events

**Tabling Events** - come spend a few hours with us at a Sierra Club table. See Leadership list for contact info on the last page.

⇒ Seminole - April 1 Earth Day in the Park- contact **Ben Berauer**

⇒ St. Petersburg - April 22- Marine Quest- contact **Sandy Culver**

⇒ St. Petersburg - April 23, Unity Church Earth Day Celebration-contact

**Ellen Thompson**

⇒ St. Petersburg April 29 and 30 - Green Thumb Festival - contact

**Cathy Harrelson**

**Living Green Expo** June 17 and 18 - Lots of different volunteer opportunities since the Sierra Club is co-sponsoring the event. More to follow on various opportunities.

**Membership Committee Members** - greet members at meetings, help with food/snacks at meetings, help at social events and occasional mailing parties,

**Sierra Singles**- Committee members organize social events

**Outings Volunteers**- Learn to be an outings leader, lead and co-lead outings - contact **Ben Berauer**

**Political Committee Members, Conservation Committee Members, Coastal Committee Members, Volunteer Coordinator**

## Fort Desoto conservation victory

Some of us may have missed the short but sweet battle over concessions in Fort De Soto Park. The Pinellas County Park boasts 1,136 acres of beaches, uplands, and wetlands between the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, with 3 million visitors a year. It is largely undeveloped, providing only bike/jogging paths and a series of open pavilions, restrooms, and parking lots to facilitate enjoyment of its natural setting.

Starting last July, the County Commission very quietly began formalizing plans to add concessions such as a 225-seat restaurant, a trolley service, packaged beer sales, an ice cream cart, etc, which would have effectively Disneyfied the unspoiled park setting. After a series of articles by Howard Troxler of the St. Pete Times this February, the news of this planned desecration sparked a community outpouring of over 1000 emails to the County Commission in a little over one week. The elected Commissioners got the message and dropped all the new "concession" proposals, citing the massive negative public response as the reason.

All this just goes to show that conservation activism (emails, telephone calls, etc.) does work, especially with the help of the powerful media. Howard Troxler will be speaking at the Sierra Club's monthly Science and Social gathering on June 15th at Moccasin Lake Park.

Submitted by Ellen Thompson, Conservation Chair

## Suncoast Coastal Task Force is Rockin & Rollin!

We are in the midst of planning a large event in July that will be a coastal pollution community forum with participation from local business owners, to government agencies, to environmental organizations and all that fall in between. This will be an exciting, educational, and much needed opportunity for Florida's Gulf coast communities to gather together and discuss this vital issue and what we can do to take action to protect our coasts. Hope to see you on April 26th, 7pm for the next **Coastal Task Force meeting at the Sierra Club office in downtown St. Pete (475 Central Ave. Suite M-5), and every 4th Thursday of every month at 7pm.**

Please contact Sierra Club organizer **Amanda Ransone** at (727) 824-8813 ext. 308 or [amanda.ransone@sierraclub.org](mailto:amanda.ransone@sierraclub.org) for more information on the Florida Coastal Protection Campaign or to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

## Message from the Chair

April is Earth Month and it provides us with perfect weather, blooming trees and plants, and the opportunity to reflect on the beauty of the Earth and determine to protect it, even in our small way. Sierra Club is participating in events all over Pinellas County and there is no better way to participate in an event than spending an hour at the Sierra Club table. You get to know your fellow Sierrans and help educate the public about what we do and who we are. It's so easy - we literally put the words in your mouth so there's no need to study ahead of time. Most of you will be planning to attend some of these events, so think about spending a little time with us. We want to get to know all of you this year!

Please take a look at our list of tabling events with the contact person for each one, further on in the newsletter, and let us know if you can help. Thanks to all of you, Cathy Harrelson

## Tarpon Wal-Mart update

Two ongoing lawsuits being sponsored by several groups, including the Sierra Club, are the only thing stopping the construction of a Wal-Mart Super Center at the Anclote River site in Tarpon Springs. If environmentalists win either of these two lawsuits, it will trigger a second public hearing, with newly elected public officials put in place since last year's marathon public hearing and 3-2 loss to Wal-Mart.

The Friends of the Anclote River desperately needs funds to continue these two lawsuits, primarily for expenses related to court costs and expert witnesses, as the lawyers are working pro bono. Wal-Mart's pockets are never empty, so these lawsuits truly represent David vs. Goliath. The website is [FriendsoftheAncloteRiver.com](http://FriendsoftheAncloteRiver.com), where you can make a donation using either PayPal or by check. The Friends of the Anclote River are also sponsoring a kayak/canoe outing along the Anclote River as a fundraiser in May. For details see their website.

Submitted by  
Ellen Thompson,  
Conservation Chair

We have plenty of opportunities for YOU to join in on the excitement this month and throughout the year.

### SUNCOAST SIERRA LEADERSHIP

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## SunCoast Sierra Club Outings

**Apr 2** Exploratory day hike in the Carlton Reserve. This will be an exploratory trip to learn about this reserve and its trails. We will explore this new trail system for opportunities for future hikes and backpacks. If you are adventuresome consider joining us. Leader: **Ben Berauer, 392-2821 or bfberauer@aol.com.**(Suncoast)

**Apr 8** Saturday 8 AM Historic Tour of Downtown St Petersburg, Guest leader is Peter Belmont of the Preservation Society We will meet for breakfast take a 1.5 to 2 hours tour of St Pete and end up at the Famous Saturday Morning market No Rain date Call to reserve a space. Leader: **Pat Kiesylis 528-7220.** (Suncoast)

**Apr 23** Spoil Island Cleanup, 10am-12:30pm. Help our feathered friends by picking up trash at two spoil islands just off Pop Stansell Park in Palm Harbor. Discover the perils faced by nesting birds who must share these islands with campers and high tides that often bring debris. Participants must bring their own kayaks or canoes. No cost. Leader: **Sue Brandon, brandon11@earthlink.net, 813-622-1800.** (Suncoast)

**Apr 22/23** Overnight backpack trip to Mossy Island Campsite - Myakka River State Park. We will explore this beautiful park and learn a little about what Florida's prairie was like. An easy backpack of only about 5 miles total. Limit 6. Co-Leaders: **Mike Pici, 798-9227, revmp777@earthlink.net, and Ben Berauer, 392-2821 or bfberauer@aol.com.**(Suncoast)

**May 7** Morning bike ride. We will ride on the Pinellas Trail from Curlew up to Tarpon Springs for a Greek meal by the sponge docks. Learn about the Pinellas Trail, a linear park stretching almost the length of Pinellas. An easy ride of about 18 miles. Leader: **Ben Berauer, 392-2821 or bfberauer@aol.com.**(Suncoast)



## Pinellas Living Green Expo

The Pinellas Living Green Expo will be held at the Coliseum in downtown St. Petersburg on June 17th & 18th. We are seeking both sponsors and vendors who have products and resources to save energy, save water, and reduce our impact on the environment. We plan to have 70 booths and 15 information sessions over the weekend. If you know anyone who fits those criteria, contact me or go to our website [www.pinellasgreenlivingexpo.org](http://www.pinellasgreenlivingexpo.org).

Submitted by Karl Nurse, Green Cities Chair

**May 7** Treasure Island 4 PM Kite Flying Behind the Biltmore Hotel/ 5PM Beach Walk to Johns Pass and back/ 6PM Beach Basket supper and/ 7 PM Drum Circle and Sunset Watching, Pick and chose or enjoy all of the outings events. Come join other Sierra friends and discover what your local beaches offer. Leader: **Pat Kiesylis 528-7220.** (Suncoast)

**May 21** Pinellas bayou paddle. We will paddle around the Cross and Long bayous in the heart of Pinellas County. This will be an opportunity to paddle through mangroves and learn about the many birds and other creatures you can find right in the middle of this busy county. An easy paddle of about 3 hours. Leader: **Ben Berauer, 392-2821 or bfberauer@aol.com.**(Suncoast)

**General Outings Information:** The Suncoast Group of the Sierra Club invites you to join our outings to beautiful and interesting natural areas with friendly and mutually supportive people. Most outings are geared for novices: all are open to the public on a space available basis. Outings rating system is as follows: Easy (E) that the average healthy individual can do and which do not require any specific expertise or physical condition. Moderate (M) activities require some experience and better than average physical condition. Strenuous (S) indicates that both significant and specific experience and excellent physical condition are needed. In order to participate in Sierra Club outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

*For more Information and other outings, go to*  
**[www.suncoastsierra.org](http://www.suncoastsierra.org)**

Every day is Earth day - JOIN NOW!

My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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Enclose check and mail to:  
 Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO  
 80322-2968

**F94Q W33121**



Explore, Enjoy, and Protect  
 the Planet

**Save the date:**

- Apr 1st** Seminole's Earth Day in the Park
  - Apr 6th** 7:30pm EXCOM\*\*\*
  - Apr 8th** Earthfest, Pinewood Cultural Festival in Largo
  - Apr 12th** USF Harbor Day Celebration in St Pete
  - Apr 20th** 7pm Sierra Science & Social-Moccasin Lake Park
  - Apr 22nd** MarineQuest, St Pete
  - Apr 26th** 7pm Coastal Task Force meeting, St Pete email to amanda.ransone@sierraclub.org
  - Apr 29th** 3pm 13th Annual Sierra & Friends Pool Potluck, RSVP Rudy at 726-8375
  - Apr 29+30** Green Thumb Festival, Walter Fuller Park in St Pete
  - May 4th** 7:30 EXCOM\*\*\*
  - May 18th** 7pm Sierra Science & Social-Moccasin Lake Park
- \*\*\* The Executive Committee (EXCOM) at Sierra Club Office, 475 Central Ave, downtown St. Pete

**Plans to drill off**

**Florida's coast meet resistance**

America's fragile beaches and coastal waters are under growing congressional and administrative threats as the oil and gas industries and their allies in Congress work to dismantle decades of important coastal protection and industrialize America's fragile coasts by overturning the 25-year old bipartisan ban on new oil and gas drilling off the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

These plans ignore the realities of offshore oil and gas drilling and real energy solutions. Last fall, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita shone a bright spotlight on the danger of our oil dependence and how fragile our reliance on it is. The hurricanes also exposed how vulnerable offshore oil and gas drilling infrastructure is, yet the knee-jerk reaction to throw up more offshore rigs continues. Basing America's energy future on drilling some of our most sensitive areas is not smart energy policy.

Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Mel Martinez (R-FL) have introduced a bill that would head off these threats by providing permanent protection for Florida's coasts and extended protection for the remaining moratoria areas. Instead of undermining protections that America's coasts have long enjoyed, we encourage Congress and the administration to move more in the direction of Senators Nelson and Martinez. We need to shift the national debate on offshore drilling closer to securing permanent protection for America's fragile coasts. Submitted by Annie Strickler, Sierra Club: (202) 675-2384

**Sierra Club 24 HR Hotline:  
 (727) 945-0999**

**Sierra Club National Headquarters  
 415-977-5500**

**Moving? Members:** Please send your current mailing and new address to **Sierra Club Member Services, PO Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968**. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing.

**Gratis mailings** (no membership # on top line of label): send new address to Suncoast Sierra Club, PO Box 4183, St. Petersburg, FL 33731-4183

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**Suncoast Sierra Club**

FOUNDED 1892  
**SIERRA CLUB**

