



Adventure Coast Group // Florida Chapter

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group May 2024 News, Events & Action Alerts

Check out all that's going on!

Weeki Wachee River Summit
Friday, May 3rd
Register now!

Monarch Festival
Saturday, May 4th

Adventure Coast Meetup Wed. May 8th
Florida Black Bears with WFC's Paige Parks
Chazz Paddle & Springs Conservation Outing
Saturday, May 11

Pasco Conservation Committee
ZOOM Thurs, May 23rd

Sierra Club 2024 Legislative Scorecard
The IRA is being put to work already!

Weeki Wachee Summit May 3, 2024
RSVP Today!

Weeki Wachee River Summit

**Friday,
May 3rd,
2024
9am-1:30pm**

**Public
Welcome**



NatureCoaster.com



**George
Foster**



**Hernando
Tourism
Development**



**Hernando
Waterways**



**Nature Coast
Conservation**

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG



SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

Adventure Coast Group

The Weeki Wachee River is an invaluable feature in Hernando County, driving tourism, employment, and renowned for its waterways as a prime recreational destination in addition to being a first magnitude Outstanding Florida Waters Spring.

Springs lovers, Weeki Wachee businesses, local residents, waterfront homeowners, visitors and those interested or concerned about springs protection, water quality and the local environment are all cordially invited to the Weeki Wachee River Summit on Friday, **May 3rd, 2024, from 9am-1:30pm at Pasco Hernando State College--Spring Hill Campus, Bldg. B, 450 Beverly Court, Spring Hill, FL.**

We'll discuss present and future conditions of the Weeki Wachee and learn about watershed initiatives being implemented. Conservation leaders and Hernando County and state agency representatives will discuss the mosaic of watershed initiatives currently underway as well as those planned to protect, maintain, and restore the Weeki Wachee River.

The summit is being hosted by a consortium of Hernando County conservation organizations including Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group, Hernando Audubon Society; Florida Native Plant Society--Hernando Chapter; and the Weeki Wachee River Rescue Team. Hernando County staff, Southwest Florida Water Management District scientists and other agency representatives who will provide updates on initiatives to reduce nutrient loading and improve habitat within the Weeki Wachee watershed.

Conveying this important work to the public and residents of Hernando County is intended to garner support, showcase solutions, and ultimately, achieve our goal to bring the river back to a sustainable condition.

RSVP HERE

For more information, email sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com or call 352 277-3330.

Monarch Festival Saturday, May 4th



New Port Richey

Monarch Festival

May 4th 2024
10am - 1pm
New Port Richey
Library
5939 Main St.
New Port Richey

Educational and fun activities for all! Speakers to include:
"Milkweed Man" & The Sierra Club

Kids Yoga by Flow Yoga Studios - Face Painting
Arts & Crafts Provided by Pasco Fine Arts Council
Sidewalk Chalk - Art Vendors w/Butterfly Art
and So Much More!!!

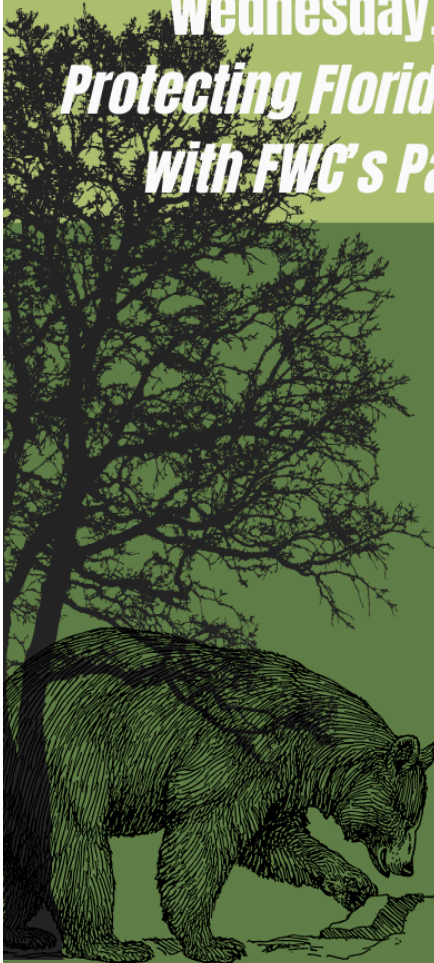
Hosted by New Port Richey FarmNet, and the Sierra Club

Sponsored by AutoNation Cadillac Port Richey and West Side Deli



Adventure Coast Meetup Wed. May 8th Florida Black Bears with WFC's Paige Parks

Adventure Coast Meetup
Wednesday, May 8th
Protecting Florida Black Bears
with FWC's Paige Parks



Learn all about protecting Florida Black Bears at the May 8th Adventure Coast Group Membership Meet Up from 7–8PM at the South Brooksville Community Center, 601 East Martin Luther King Boulevard in Brooksville. Attend in person or remotely via Zoom.

Our guest speaker will be Paige Parks, Westcentral Area Bear Biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Ms. Parks will present an overview of Florida Black Bears and what we can do to prevent human-bear conflicts. She has a B.A. in Forestry with a concentration on wildlife habitat management and a minor in biology from Louisiana Tech University.

To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctcuqhrD4oG9K72C-3nCkuB5UnsCLTeVWq>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

More info at adventurecoast@florida.sierraclub.org or call 352 277-3330, check out our website at www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast, or find us on Facebook



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Chazz Paddle & Springs Conservation Outing
Saturday, May 11th 9:00 AM-1:30 PM



Highlights: Learn about this beautiful first magnitude spring and river, the environmental threats to them, and how we can work together to ensure their protection. Sierra Club Florida will cover equipment rental and parking costs at the Chassahowitzka River Campground. You are also welcome to bring your own equipment if you'd prefer. **Available spots will be reserved on a first come basis.** Whether renting or bringing your own equipment, **RSVPs required.**

Parking is limited. Please arrive early to ensure that you have a parking spot. We suggest arriving by 8:30 AM so we can get out on the river by 9 AM. **Note:** Heavy rain, lightning, or inclement weather will result in the trip's cancellation.

RSVP Here by May 6th!

Questions? Contact Michael at michael.mcgrath@sierraclub.org or 386-341-4708.

Hope to see you there!

Michael McGrath,

Lead Organizer, Red Tide-Wildlands Campaigns, Sierra Club Florida

**Pasco Conservation Committee
Zoom Thursday, May 23rd at 8pm**

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA
PASCO
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE



2nd Thurs. @ 8pm on Zoom



You're invited to join our Zoom meeting the second Thursday of each month at 8:00PM at this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7674695843> with the Zoom ID: 767 469 5843.

Sierra Club Pasco Conservation Committee is dedicated to preserving, exploring and enjoying nature in areas of Pasco County. We are working towards spinning off into its own Nature Coast Sierra Club Group. If you would like to join us in leading efforts to educate and protect Pasco's natural open spaces, please email sashabuddha@gmail.com.

Thank you everyone who showed up to oppose development of the Anclote River Beach Park. This was a partial success in that the restaurant owner verbally had withdrawn. However, we need to persevere with opposition to the county considering this same role, along with other environmentally sensitive proposals.

Sierra Club 2024 Legislative Scorecard



LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD 2024



SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

The 2024 Florida Legislative Session introduced a myriad of dangerous ideas posing far-reaching and devastating consequences for Florida's environment, citizens, and economy. Fortunately, thanks to the support of thousands of Sierra Club volunteers, members of the public, and our environmental partners around the state, we were able to stop some of the most egregious of these ideas from becoming law.

Grade:
D+

Unfortunately, there were others that still made it to Governor Ron DeSantis' desk. This includes **HB 1645, "Energy Resources,"** a bill that would prevent local governments from making decisions about where methane gas storage facilities are allowed in their communities. It would also cut the few programs the state has to address climate change, and increase costs to taxpayers and energy customers by encouraging local utilities and governments to prioritize fossil fuels over renewable energy. As the effects of climate change become ever more palpable, now is the time to be reducing – not expanding – our reliance on gas, but HB 1645 does the exact opposite.

The Legislature also passed **HB 433, "Employment Regulations,"** which would block cities and counties from enacting local heat safety standards for workers. Of the many threats climate change poses to Florida, extreme heat is one of the biggest, accounting for 120,000 workplace injuries and \$100 billion in lost productivity every year just in the U.S. alone. From 2019 to 2022, Florida saw a staggering 88% increase in heat-related deaths. The facts are clear: Preventing local efforts on climate change will cost Floridians their paychecks and their lives.

The 2024 Session also brought the passage of **HB 87, "Taking of Bears,"** a bill that would make it easier for people to kill Florida's black bears. Built upon the bold-faced lie that Florida faces an epidemic of 'crack bears' who are ingesting illicit drugs and destroying people's homes, HB 87 proposes a dangerous solution to an imaginary problem, and ignores simple, common sense steps endorsed by experts to reduce human-bear interactions. While the Legislature ignores real issues, Floridians' quality of life continues to worsen as the state becomes increasingly unaffordable and their personal and local freedoms are under attack.

If signed into law, the extreme legislation passed in 2024 will have detrimental repercussions on our democracy, environment, and economy for years to come. For that reason, we give the 2024 Florida Legislative Session a D+.

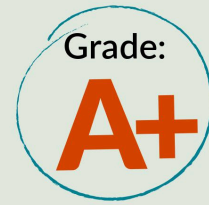


HEROES

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

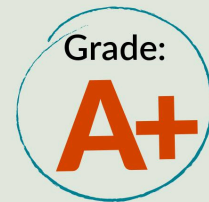
SENATE MINORITY LEADER LAUREN BOOK

This marks Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book's last legislative session and we're sad to see her leave. Senator Book has led her caucus to prioritize environmental issues and to serve Florida's families and economy by doing so. For her environmental performance this year and her skilled and steady leadership, we're proud to give Senator Book an A+.



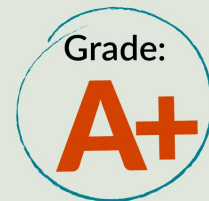
SENATOR JASON PIZZO

Senator Pizzo has approached his work with a common sense that is rare in Tallahassee these days. On our priority bills this year, he voted with us 100% of the time, and has consistently shown up when Florida's environment needed him most. We look forward to Senator Pizzo's leadership over his caucus, and are pleased to give him an A+ this session.



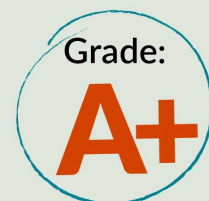
REPRESENTATIVE ANNA ESKAMANI

Environmentalists across the state know that Rep. Eskamani is a strong and consistent champion for the environment. Floridians want more state action as climate change threatens their homes, finances, and well-being, and they need look no further than her ambitious plan to set renewable energy goals for Florida. It should be no surprise that for the 2024 Session, Rep. Eskamani gets an A+.



REPRESENTATIVE LINDSAY CROSS

Representative Cross has been a strong environmental advocate for years. In 2024, she helped lead the charge to protect local freedom from government overreach on fertilizer ordinances and more. If the Legislature had more representatives like Rep. Cross, we'd have a better and brighter future for Florida's environment and economy. For that reason, we give her a well-deserved A+.





ZEROES

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**PAUL
RENNER**



Our state is in desperate need of new leadership and new ideas, but this year, the Florida State House was the source of a number of dangerous proposals threatening Florida's freedom, economy, and environment. The House's extreme policies, backed by Governor Ron DeSantis, have left Florida even more exposed to skyrocketing insurance rates, big government overreach into our communities and homes, and inaction on our environment. For his failures and those of his caucus, Speaker Renner gets a resounding F.

REPRESENTATIVE

**BOBBY
PAYNE**



HB 1645 – the extreme bill that would slash the few programs that Florida has to address climate change and would force dirty, toxic gasses into our homes and communities – comes from none other than Rep. Bobby Payne. A classic example of the corrupt leadership that Florida has come to expect from Tallahassee, Rep. Payne is in the pocket of large, out of state oil and gas companies and utilities trying to raise your monthly rates. For his attacks on the finances and freedom of Floridians, Rep. Payne gets a clear F.

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The IRA is being put to work already



PHOTO: ISTOCK.COM/PHOTOGRNAME

EXPLORE • ENJOY • PROTECT



For more information about Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group, visit our website: www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast, send an email to

sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com, or call 352 277-3330.

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).