



Adventure Coast Group // Florida Chapter

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

Check out all that's going on!

**Weeki Wachee River Summit a big success
Check out the video and images**

**Public Service Commission Hearing on Duke
Energy Rate Increase June 12th in Inverness**

**Adventure Coast Meetup Wed. June 12th on
Protecting Our Springs with Maxine Connor & Eugene Kelly**

**Sierra Club Pasco Conservation Committee
ZOOM Thursday, June 13th**

**Native Landscaping Plans Revised for
Dennis Wilfong Center for Success**

**Adventure Cost Meetup Wed. July 10th on
Untamed Florida with Linda Walinski**

**Weeki Wachee River Summit a Big Success!
*Check out the video and images***



Thank you to the speakers, sponsors, and attendees of the Weeki Wachee River Summit held on May 3rd. It was a smashing success! Well over one hundred springs lovers, Weeki Wachee businesses, local residents, waterfront homeowners, visitors and others concerned about our springs participated.

Check out the WWRS highlights video [here!](#)

The summit was 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 from the Waterways, Utilities and Recycling Departments, Southwest Florida Water Management District scientists and other agency representatives.



At the event, we discussed the present & future conditions of our waters plus future initiatives by Hernando County and state agencies to protect, maintain, and restore riverine conditions!

Featured Speakers were Eugene Kelly, Vice Chair of the Sierra Club Adventure Coast, Hernando County representatives Alys Brockway, Gordon Onderdonk and Carla Burrman, Southwest Florida Water Management District's Madison Trowbridge, Tammy Heon, Director of Hernando County Tourist Development, Andy Pitkin of Karst Underwater Research, Brittany Hall Scharf, UF IFAS Hernando Extension and Tiare 'TJ' Fridrich, Manatee Biologist with Save the Manatee Club. Michael McGrath of Florida Sierra presented on the urban fertilizer issue - view the slideshow [here](#).

A panel of local officials and organization representatives including, Jeff Rogers, P.E. – Hernando County Administrator, Madison Trowbridge, Ph.D. – SWFWMD Springs Scientist, George Foster – Landowner Representative, Taylor Masnjak – Get Up and Go Kayaks, Business Owner, Jasmine Tavares – Weeki Wachee High School Student, and Shannon Turbeville – Weeki Wachee River Advocate discussed how we can garner support, showcase solutions, and ultimately, achieve our goal to bring the river back to a sustainable condition.

If you attended the summit, we'd like to get your input! Please click below for very short survey:

WWRS Survey

Show Up and Speak Out on Close-to-Home Coal Pollution!

*Public Service Commission Hearing on Duke
Energy Florida Rate Increase June 12th in Inverness*



A public hearing has been scheduled by the Florida Public Service Commission to consider a Petition for a Rate Increase filed by Duke Energy Florida.

It will be held at the [Citrus County Auditorium at 3610 South Florida Avenue](#) in Inverness, FL. on [Wednesday, June 12th at 10AM](#). Public comment will be available.

Send your written comments via email to clerk@psc.state.fl.us and include the docket number as follows: Duke # 20240025

Duke Energy must retire Units 4 and 5 - two expensive, outdated, unhealthy, polluting coal plants at the Crystal River, Florida Plant by 2030. Duke seeks to charge customers over \$50 million in the next two years on equipment maintenance on these coal units that could be spent on clean energy. We want Duke to commit to shut down its coal-burning facilities and invest in clean energy now.

[Here's some background information.](#)

RSVP Today!

Calling all springs lovers!

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Meetup Wed., June 12th
With Maxine Connor and Eugene Kelly
on *Protecting Our Springs*

Join Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group's Citrus Conservation Chair Maxine Connor and Vice Chair Eugene Kelly who will speak on protecting our springs from nutrient pollution at the June 12th Adventure Coast Group Meetup. Public welcome. Attend in person or remotely via Zoom.

The Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group is seeking to restore water quality in our valuable natural springs. Plans are underway by the state to update the Basin Action Management Plans for area springs including Crystal River/Kings Bay, Homosassa/Chassahowitzka Springs Groups, and Weeki Wachee. We want to work with Citrus County leaders and encourage them to consider revising their current fertilizer ordinance to include a ban on rainy season applications to turf grass lawns. Hernando County amended their fertilizer ordinance last year and plans to implement their rainy season ban beginning this coming June. These and other initiatives will be discussed along with how you can get involved.

The meeting will run from 7–8 pm at the Wilton Simpson Citrus Campus of the College of Central Florida, Building C4, Room 103, 3800 South Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461.

To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcq-d-GurDoqHt0yiftzB4oIYyS45QMnyYLd>

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

Eugene and Maxine seen speaking up for the springs:



Info: www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast, email adventurecoast@florida.sierraclub.org, call 352 277-3330, or find us on Facebook



The meeting will run from 7—8 pm at the Wilton Simpson Citrus Campus of the College of Central Florida, Building C4, Room 103, [3800 South Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3800+South+Lecanto+Highway,+Lecanto,+FL+34461).

To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcq-d-GurDoqHt0yiftzB4oIYyS45QMnyYLd>

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

Pasco Conservation Committee
Zoom Thursday, June 12th at 8pm

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA
PASCO
CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE



2nd Thurs. @ 8pm on Zoom



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.

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.

Native Landscaping Plans Revised for Dennis Wilfong Center for Success



Collaborative efforts between the Hernando County School Board, Hernando County, Pasco Hernando State College (PHSC), Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group and the Hernando Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society to incorporate a Native Plant Demonstration Project at the new Dennis Wilfong Center for Success Campus have been revised due to the uncertainty of funding and timing for their building project resulting in a undetermined ability for the School District and College to provide proper maintenance and upkeep. Competing priorities of the overall project also contributed to this change in direction. a lack of funding from the college to participate in the shared plan.

Nonetheless, portions of the plan for areas within the campus of the school board's Wilton Simpson Technical College building, the parking lot and the perimeter of the shared property fronting Helicopter Drive and Spring Hill Drive are proceeding as planned. However, the common garden area between the Wilton Simpson Technical College and the future PHSC building is on hold for now and turf will be planted as ground cover.

The county's engineer, Coastal, had earlier tasked their landscape design firm, Terra Tectonics, with creating plans for the whole area that included irrigation; select native plants - trees, shrubs and groundcover species; seating, pavilions and parking areas. A new set of plans has been prepared deleting the PHSC grounds but incorporating the previous plans in the other areas of the campus.

The plan is to convene a new committee led by the school district to design native plant installations in areas of the earlier proposed shared garden within the school board's portion of that land. Stay tuned!

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Meetup Wed. July 10th on *Untamed Florida* with Linda Walinski

Conservation Photographer Linda Wilinski will present *Untamed Florida* with videos and photographs at the July 10th Adventure Coast Group Meetup. Public welcome. Attend in person or remotely via Zoom. The meeting will run from 7–8pm at the South Brooksville Community Center, 601 East Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Brooksville, FL.

Explore Florida's enchanting freshwater springs and wildlife through Linda Wilinski's lens where photography and conservation meet. Witness the beauty and significance of keystone Florida's species, learn more about them and their importance to Florida's ecology. Linda will take you on a visual journey to celebrate these natural wonders and the wildlife that calls it home.

Linda Wilinski is a passionate conservation photographer with a focus on freshwater springs. She is a certified Florida Master Naturalist who attended Crealder School of Art and is a board member of Rainbow River Conservation and Florida Springs Council. Her photography and lectures of Florida's wilderness shed light onto its beauty and perils. She believes the true essence of conservation photography is putting wildlife first, even if it means missing a photo opportunity.

To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAodO2spz8pG9LaDrdzDyXnm0zpjQWlzvDv>

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.



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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.

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