



Manatee-Sarasota Group Boca Sierra



Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress

Jan./Feb. 2016

“Jon Stewart of Folk Music” To Perform in Benefit for Local Sierra Club

What: Manatee-Sarasota Group Meeting
When: Thursday, January 14, 7 p.m.
Where: Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct

Tom Neilson provides a voice for those who believe in the power of folk music to effect change. His award-winning songs of humor and compassion have been performed in twenty-one countries on five continents. His lyrics are celebrated for their sophistication, political astuteness, and wit. *People For A New Society* has proudly nominated Tom Neilson for the 2015 Nelson Mandela Award. Tom's work has spanned decades and continents sharing comprehensive and sobering interpretations of sociology and history with an easily digestible and entertaining format designed to inform and inspire. Neilson will perform in benefit for the Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club on Thursday, January 14th at 7 p.m. at the Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center, 525 Kumquat Ct., reached from 6th St. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available at www.fogartyville.org.

Combining art with activism, Tom Neilson has appeared with Medea Benjamin, Cynthia McKinney, Amy Goodman, Cindy Sheehan, Cesar Chavez, Noam Chomsky, Ralph Nader, Ray McGovern, Howard Zinn, & David Cobb.



He has been at the forefront in helping communities organize against water privatization, mountain top removal, nuclear energy, incinerators, GMOs, fracking, & toxic waste. At Kerrville, he was referred to as the 'Jon Stewart of folk music'. As well as raising funds to support the local Sierra Club, this event will also be an awareness-raising event for *Move to Amend*. *Move to Amend* is a grassroots organization working to pass a constitutional amendment to say that 'corporations are not people and money is not speech'. The Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club has endorsed their efforts.

Arlene Sweeting, Peace Education and Action Center @ Fogartyville Community Media & Arts Center

Fracking - Damaging in More Ways than One

What: Manatee-Sarasota Group Meeting
When: Thursday, February 11, 7 p.m.
Where: Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd. Of the Arts

The subject of fracking and all of the myriad ways it harms our environment and our health will be the topic for the February 11th, 2016 general meeting. We will be looking not only at the impact on our water quality and supply, but also the impact on our air quality. This is a

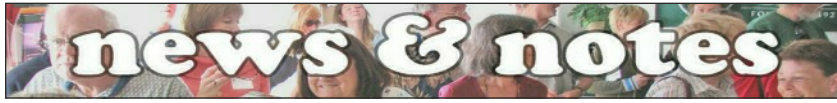
Fracking - Damaging continued on page 3

Could your Urine be Florida Fields New Fertilizer?

The next time you take a bathroom break during a Florida Gators home football game, you just may be giving back to Florida Field.

UF researcher Treavor Boyer, along with his student assistants, developed a urine separation system that allows the urine in a building's bathrooms to be stored, treated and reused as fertilizer. With the success of the system, Boyer has his sights set on implementing the

Urine New Fertilizer continued on page 4



Sarasota Conservation Committee

Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please join us at the Florida House, 4454 Beneva Road (1/10 mi. north of Proctor), to discuss Sarasota’s environmental issues . Dates t.b.a., contact Andre Mele at 914-204-0030 or andymele@mac.com

Manatee Conservation Committee

Mondays, January 11th and February 8th, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Meet with us at the Bradenton Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd and help contribute to sound environmental policy in Manatee County. Join us and/or contact Sandra Ripberger at 941-794-3878 or sandrari@yaho.com

Florida Scrub-Jay Festival

Saturday, February 13th, 9 – 4:30 p.m. Volunteers needed for an information table at the Florida Scrub-Jay Festival at Oscar Scherer State Park. Shifts last 2-3 hours from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Contact John Myers at 941-961-7095 or sagejohnm49@gmail.com. There will be live music, children’s activities, environmental organization exhibits, guided nature walks, tram tours, 5k and 10k runs.

Important Notice to our Members

Due to increasing costs of printing and mailing, and volunteers needed to prepare the newsletter for mailing, our executive committee voted to change the newsletter to bimonthly (every two months) beginning with the January-February issue. All of our activities and important work (monthly meetings on second Thursday, conservation committee meetings in both counties, and outings every month) will remain the same and will be in the newsletter. You can help us keep costs down by signing up for the email version. We also have a growing number of people checking Facebook and Meetup for information that John Myers and Gerlinde Kohl keep updated. Thanks for your continued support of our group!

How to Get Your Newsletter By Email

1. Type this address into your browser: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/FLORIDA-M-S-GROUP-NEWS.html>

2. Click on “Subscribe/Unsubscribe.”

Linda Jones, Group Chair

Join Sierra Club’s Meetup Group!

Become a member and receive information on all meetings, outings, and actions etc.

Check it out by visiting

<http://www.meetup.com/Manatee-Sarasota-Sierra-Club-Group>

2015 Executive Committee

Group Chair: Linda T. Jones, 941-358-3249, lindyleetheis@comcast.net

Treasurer: Bob Fellman, 973-689-5556, rtf082446@hotmail.com

Secretary: Cathy Page, 941-795-8973, cnpage@tampabay.rr.com

Conservation Chairs

Sarasota County: Andre Mele, 914-204-0030, andymele@mac.com

Manatee County: Sandra Ripberger, 941-794-3878, sandrari@yaho.com

Fundraising: Open

Inner City Outings: Sarah Mitchell, 941-721-7132, mitchell8manatee@yaho.com

Membership: Mary Sheppard, 941-752-3200, mecomary@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Jessica Benoit, benwasp@hotmail.com

Outings: Don Kirkley, 941-493-3085, donkirk@gte.net

Program: Gerry Swormstedt, 941-366-9596, gswormstedt204@comcast.net

Publications/Tabling: John Myers, 941-961-7095, sagejohnm49@gmail.com

Publicity: Gerlinde Kohl, 941-474-4712, fgkohl@verizon.net

Group Communications

Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Group Website (Note new web address)

<https://sierraclub.org/florida/manatee-sarasota>

Sierra Club Office:

Mailing address: P.O. Box 3485, Sarasota FL 34236-3485

Web Admin: Barry Zack barryzed@gmail.com

Boca Design and Production: Beki Small, 239-438-8025, beki.small.53@gmail.com

Meetup PR: Gerlinde Kohl, 941-474-4712, fgkohl@verizon.net

Executive Committee meetings are held once a month. For details about date and time, contact Linda T. Jones, Chair.

Boca Sierra Vol. XIX Issue 1

This newsletter is published monthly by the Manatee-Sarasota Group of the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. The intent is to inform members and interested individuals of local activities and national environmental issues. Members of the Sierra Club subscribe to Boca Sierra through their annual dues. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$6 annually.



Myakka Island Trail Section 3

Saturday, January 16. The Myakka Island Trail extends 18 miles across Myakka River State Park and the Carlton Preserve. Several of us have completed sections 1 & 2. Over the next few months we will hike the other sections and adding in some other trails to make loops. Each hike will get longer. On this month's hike we'll cover 6 to 8 miles. You will need typical day hiking gear and be comfortable hiking. Group size limited. Reserve with Bill Lewis at [941-355-2156](tel:941-355-2156).

Caspersen Beach Walk

Saturday, January 23, 6 p.m. Join us for a 3-mile full moon walk at Caspersen Beach Venice. Wear appropriate footwear and outerwear and carry water. Must reserve with Sally at [941-484-4113](tel:941-484-4113).

Outings Leaders Needed

Be an active club member and have fun at the same time by becoming an outings leader. Contact Outings Chair Don Kirkley at 941-493-3085.

Check out our Facebook Page

Get the latest info on our meetings, outings, other conservation/protection activities & action alerts.

Scrub and Flatwoods Interpretive Hike

Saturday, February 6. We will cover two to four miles on one of our local public lands as we learn about the plants and ecology of this unique treasure. Group size limited. Reserve with Bill Lewis at [941-355-2156](tel:941-355-2156).

Carlton Reserve Walk

Saturday, February 13, 8:30 a.m. Enjoy a 4-mile walk in the Carlton Reserve, Venice in hopes seeing blue flag iris! Wear sturdy shoes, sunscreen, insect repellent and bring lunch. Must reserve with Sally at [941-484-4113](tel:941-484-4113).

Myakka Island Trail Section 4

Saturday, February 20. The Myakka Island Trail extends 18 miles across Myakka River State Park and the Carlton Preserve. Several of us have completed the first three sections. Section 4 will be visiting some gorgeous prairie, marshes and flatwoods. During the morning hike we will be covering 10 to 12 miles at a faster pace rather than an interpretive outing. Need usual day hike gear and be comfortable with the distance. Group size limited. Reserve with Bill Lewis at [941-355-2156](tel:941-355-2156).

Help Sierra Save Money!

Want to help save local Sierra dollars, ease the burden on volunteers, conserve trees, and receive the newsletter faster and in color? Just follow the steps below to be switched from the paper copy mailing list to the electronic mailing list.

1. Type this address into your browser: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/FLORIDA-M-S-GROUP-NEWS.html>.
2. Click on "Subscribe/Unsubscribe."

Fracking - Continued from Page 1

battle that is confronting the environmental community and Sierra Club. Added to the already devastating impacts of phosphate mining, and ever expanding population, we are really feeling the effects of these issues. Our speaker will be Michelle Allen, Florida Water Watch Organizer headquartered in Tampa. She will be talking about the battle to prevent the great damage from fracking practices. Please come to the Sierra Club meeting at the Sarasota Garden Club and bring a snack to share afterwards.

Gerry Swarmstedt, Program Chair

Yes! I want to be a member of the Sierra Club and help preserve the beauty of the earth. FREE GIFT WITH MEMBERSHIP

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CITY _____ STATE _____

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Check here if you want to be excluded from receiving information from other worthy organizations.

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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior, Student or Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine, and \$1 for your chapter newsletter.

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Urine - Continued from Page 1

process at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Urine is comprised of about 80 percent nitrogen, which is used as a fertilizer on athletic fields. Boyer and his team ran calculations on the number of people at each football game, how often each person would go to the bathroom during a game, how much they would urinate, and how many toilets and urinals are located in the stadium.

“It turned out that if you were to collect all the urine from the seven home football games, it would have enough nitrogen to meet the growing needs of the field for the entire year,” said Boyer, an associate professor in UF’s Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment.

He explained that by collecting the urine after UF’s last home football game, which is typically played at the end of November, the urine would be stored for several months. This storage time would allow any viruses in the urine to deactivate, and the urine would be ready to use as fertilizer when turf management begins on Florida Field in the spring.

The system Boyer has developed uses waterless urinals and no-mix toilets to separate the urine and harvest nitrogen. Fertilizer is not the only benefit of his research, though, as Boyer says the system could cut back on UF’s water usage by about 20 percent.

“When you implement this system of urine separation, you save a tremendous amount of water,” he said. “Not only do you save water but you save energy, because the fresh water plant doesn’t have to produce as much water and the wastewater plant doesn’t have to treat as much water.”

Jason Kruse, a UF assistant professor of environmental horticulture and a turfgrass specialist, has assisted Boyer on his research and believes that urine could definitely work as a fertilizer for Florida Field. “If you captured the urine at the stadium during games, there would be enough to meet the annual needs and then some of the plant, and probably enough for the whole campus,” Kruse said.

Kristen Chuba - Florida Conservation Coalition News

For the complete article, please see the Florida Conservation Coalition News.