



# Sierra Sentry

florida.sierraclub.org/northeast

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December 2014

## Executive Committee Candidates

**Jake Fitzroy** has lived and worked in Northeast Florida for most of his life. He grew up spending a lot of time in the outdoors and began attending and eventually assisting guided nature hikes at the former Guana State Park (now the GTM NERR) in high school. He has a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida. For three years Jake worked as a park ranger at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM NERR). For the last two years he has coordinated the Environmental Education programs at University of North Florida's Eco Adventure. They host field trips, general public programs, and an 8 week summer camp on UNF's almost 400 acres of nature preserve.



**Carolyn Cooper** has recently retired from teaching after 25 years at Episcopal School of Jacksonville. She taught middle and upper school science. One of the courses she taught was Environmental Science. Carolyn became aware of the many problems facing our planet. She recognized the need to educate and to seek solutions. Carolyn earned her Bachelors in Science Education from the University of Florida and her Masters in Science Education from the University of North Florida. She taught public school for 5 years before teaching at Episcopal. She has been a Sierra Club member for many years and appreciates the work that so many have accomplished.



See Page 3 to Vote.

## Sierra Club files lawsuit against St. Johns River Water Management District

The Sierra Club has filed a lawsuit in Orlando federal court against the St. Johns River Water Management District for violating the public trust. The lawsuit was in response to when the management district decided it was allowed to remove conservation easements from federal mitigation banks, meaning protected land would no longer be protected.

The water management district is responsible for granting conservation easements for more than 30 federal mitigation banks. They have reportedly allowed for more than 1,000 acres to be removed from the largest, Farmton Mitigation Bank.

The Sierra Club claims the actions violate both the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and the Federal Clean Water Act, which mandates perpetual conservation of these banks. Under the Clean Water Act, the mitigation banks mandate there be zero net loss of wetlands. The lawsuit questions how the district can assure zero net loss when it is reportedly removing conservation easements. (Source: Jacksonville Business Journal)

## Sierra Sentry to go electronic bimonthly

Due to the recent success of our bimonthly electronic edition, we have decided to make our bimonthly Sierra Sentry fully electronic. If we have your email in our database, you will now receive our electronic edition every other month, unless otherwise specified. A paper newsletter will still be produced on opposite months. We hope you are as excited as we are about this progress. Think about all the trees we're saving!

## Executive Committee

Janet Stanko, Chair	208-1341 janestan@bellsouth.net
Gabe Hanson, Vice-Chair	992-9743 gabehanson@yahoo.com
Tom Larson	247-1876 TCLarson168@msn.com
Ed Schlessinger, Treasurer	730-8148 eds.greenmail@gmail.com
James Taylor	386-795-3670 taj0016@gmail.com
Ken Wright	ken@jacobsonwright.com

Kristin Pawlowski	843-422-6762 Kristen.pawlowski@gmail.com
Jessica Fessenden	561-662-0349 jkfessenden@gmail.com

## Committee Chairs

<b>Conservation</b>	<b>Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876</b>
<b>Environmental Education</b>	<b>Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876</b>
Inner City Outings	D. Westman jacksonvilleico@gmail.com
Legislative 992-9743	Gabe Hanson gabehanson@yahoo.com
<b>Legal</b>	<b>Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Volunteer for this position! Call 247-1876</b>
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Website	Bill Armstrong armstrongjax@att.net
Programs Ponte Vedra	Larry Lickenbrock larr2604@hotmail.com
Programs, Duval	Janet Larson & Pauline Berkeley JCLarson168@msn.com 247-1876

### Connect With Us Online

**E-mail:** ne-editor@florida.sierraclub.org  
**Web:** <http://florida.sierraclub.org/northeast>  
**Meetup:** [www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group)  
**Facebook:** <http://tinyurl.com/29v9hsd>  
**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/sierranefl>

**Don't forget to send us your email to ensure you receive your copy of the Sierra Sentry every month!**

# Sierra Club Outings

No pets allowed on outing except where designated in the outings description. Outing participants are required to sign a waiver and release of liability at the start of the outing. The waiver can be found at: [sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual\\_waiver.pdf](http://sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual_waiver.pdf)

### JOIN US ON MEETUP: OUTINGS HAVE BEEN FILLING UP FAST!

For the most up to date information and to ensure your spot, join our MeetUp site. Details of all outing can be found there with easy access to programs and interactions.

[www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group)

### Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m.: Hike the Trails of the Bayard Conservation Area (John P. Hall Nature Preserve)

Let's hike a trail in this beautiful, upland pine area with its multiple trails, natural settings, and unspoiled St. Johns River banks. We'll hike about 7 miles with a snack along the St. Johns River. After the hike, we could go to Ronnie's in Green Cove Springs for some down-home food. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead for the Bayard Conservation Area, also known as the John P. Hall, Sr. Nature Preserve. The parking for the trailhead is 0.6 miles west of the west side of the Shands Bridge on FL Route 16 on the south side of the road. There are two parking areas; use the more eastern one. Please bring water, snack, sun tan lotion, and bug repellent. No pets, please. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, [armsfam@yahoo.com](mailto:armsfam@yahoo.com).

### Saturday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak Trout Creek

We'll take a leisurely paddle up Trout Creek in St. Johns County, then go over to the Outback Crab House for some good food and refreshments. We'll put in at the boat ramp at Trout Creek Park, 6795 Collier Road, 32092. Go south on US 13, over Julington Creek and past the Shands Bridge turnoff. After crossing the bridge over Trout Creek, you'll see the park on your left. Arrive in time to put in at 10:00. Bring your own kayak or canoe. PFD and whistle are required. You must RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, [armsfam@yahoo.com](mailto:armsfam@yahoo.com).

### Saturday and Sunday, December 20-21, 2014. Blue Springs State Park Hiking and Kayaking Weekend Getaway.

Blue Springs State Park is a manatee refuge from mid-November to mid-March. In addition to seeing a lot of manatee up close, we will hike 4-5 miles of the parks trail system at 1:00 pm Saturday and kayak a 4-5 mile portion of the St John's River at 10:00 am Sunday. Saturday night will be a great time for fellowship around a fire pit while making smores!

NOTE: This outing is only for people with a camping reservation: tent, travel trailer, or RV. The park fills up very quickly on weekends. While people with camping reservations are guaranteed entry, if you come without a reservation you run the risk of not be admitted in the park. Unfortunately the park's cabins are already reserved for weekends throughout the winter.

Don't delay; make your reservation today, as the campground will sell out! This link will take you to the park's website: <http://tinyurl.com/bruy5>. On the right side of the page is a link to make an online reservation. You can also call the park at 386-775-3663. The rate is \$24 per night, plus you might be eligible for a posted discount. The address of the park is 2100 W. French Ave, Orange City, FL, 32763. From Jacksonville it is about a two-hour drive. Take I-95 south to Daytona Beach and then get on I-4 west. Take exit 114 to FL-472 W towards Deland. After three miles take the ramp to US-17 South. In two miles turn right onto W. French Ave. The park is ahead on the left in two miles. This link will take you to a map of the park's location: <http://tinyurl.com/mca9x3z>

For each outing we will meet in the parking lot at the very end of the park road. You must wear a life jacket/PFD and whistle on the kayak trip. Suggest also bringing a hat and sunglasses. Also, don't forget your camping supplies and food!! RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with outing leader Ken Fisher at 904-210-7765 or [kpf1965@gmail.com](mailto:kpf1965@gmail.com)

## Executive Committee Election Ballot

Take advantage of this opportunity to vote for your own local Executive Committee members. There are two positions open this year. Households with a single membership, use box #1. Households with a joint membership, use box #1 and box #2. Cut this page on the dotted line, vote, put your ballot in an envelope, and mail to: **ExCom Election, c/o Brian Paradise 13 Arbor Club Drive #315, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.**

Please keep your membership number intact on the reverse side so we know you are a Sierra Club member with the right to vote in this election. **Ballots must be received by December 21.** Please review the candidate profiles on page 1.

<u>Vote For Two</u>				
<u>Carolyn Cooper</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
<u>Jake Fitzroy</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2

## New Meetup Contribution Tool

Meetup has provided a new tool to enable you to make a voluntary contribution to our Meetup. Just click on the Chip In button on the left side of our Meetup page and use your credit card to "chip in".

Maybe you love us, maybe you want to help us cover our Meetup costs, maybe you want to show us support, or maybe you just want to send us a thank-you. Your contributions will go straight to our Sierra Club Northeast Florida Group to help us cover our Meetup and program costs to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. Chipping in is completely optional and voluntary, so you are welcome to continue enjoying our Meetup events whether you chip in or not. Your contributions will not be tax-deductible.

## Keystone XL Close Call

The Keystone XL Pipeline has failed to pass by only one vote. With the introduction of a new senate, it can be assured that the fight against this pipeline is not over. Although President Obama has made his opposition to this project very clear, Big Oil wants Keystone SO BADLY, it's willing to spend anything and do anything to get its way - even force these votes in Congress to get around the president. The opposition wants to force this pipeline on the American people. Although money often trumps reason in politics these days, we must continue opposing Keystone XL and similar projects for the good of the environment. We have dodged a bullet this time, but must recognize the fight is not over. Your emails and calls in response to our Action Alerts helped to make this a reality! Keep up the good work!

## (Outings Continued)

**Saturday, January 3, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Hike Fort Clinch State Park**

Start off the New Year with a beautiful outdoor adventure! The Fort Clinch State Park (<http://tinyurl.com/2w54qa>) hiking trail is a 6-mile loop trail that offers the chance to see wildlife, such as deer. See MeetUp for more details- Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or Outing Leader Ken Fisher at 904-210-7765 / [kpf1965@gmail.com](mailto:kpf1965@gmail.com).

## Join the Sierra Club

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive  
 a FREE Sierra Club  
 Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
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 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,  
 P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968  
 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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## Meeting Calendar

### Monday, December 8- 6:30pm

Holiday Celebration and Potluck

JAX and PV Program

Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001  
University Blvd W

### Thursday, December 11- 6:30pm

Combined ExCom and Conservation  
Committee Meeting by Conference Call  
6850 Belfort Oaks Road, Jacksonville

"There is a pleasure in the  
pathless woods, There is a  
rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society, where none  
intrudes, By the deep sea,  
and music in its roar: I love  
not man less, but Nature  
more..." Lord Byron



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## General Programs

Visit our websites for maps to all meeting locations:

[florida.sierraclub.org/northeast](http://florida.sierraclub.org/northeast)

[www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group)

### Holiday Celebration and Potluck Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra Groups 6:30 pm Monday, December 8

The Northeast Group will come together for our annual Dec. potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share as well as your artistic talents! We will provide refreshments, paper, and markers! We will enjoy a video from students who received money from Sierra Club Florida to go to 'Power Shift' and play Sierra Club Pictionary, highlighting what our club has been up to this last year! Free. All welcome.

Vegan/vegetarian dishes encouraged, but all options are welcomed. Come at 6:30 and help us set up. The eatin' starts at 7:00.

This is a combined meeting for the Ponte Vedra and Jacksonville groups at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, 2001 University Blvd W, rear of bldg. entrance next to playground.

