

Seismic Blasting Resolution—A Real Disappointment

By Janet Stanko

Seismic blasting is dynamite – like blasts in the ocean to test for oil and gas deposits before oil & gas drilling is done. Marine mammals hearing is damaged by the blasts. America can do better than more needless killing of marine life and despoiling our beaches with oil spills. We need to focus on clean and renewable energy, not expanding fossil fuel production which has contributed to global warming. The City Council resolution opposing the blasting was initiated by Oceana and Sierra Club and we worked collaboratively with Riverkeeper to lobby for its passage. Despite the outcome, it was a great effort that leveraged the strengths of each organization.

Thanks to all of you who communicated to Council members on this issue. As you probably already know, the resolution opposing seismic blasting did not pass. It was a tie vote so we were very close and may reinitiate the resolution with the new city Council. I want to thank John Crescimbeni the resolution sponsor, Jim Love and Lori Boyer who worked hard to secure the vote during the Council meeting and committee meetings leading up to it. Dr. Quinton White made statements citing the impact on marine mammals.

What's next? Aside from participating in supporting another resolution in the future, we ask you to channel your disappointment and frustrations on supporting clean renewable energy. If you haven't already done so, go to <http://www.floridiansforsolarchoice.com/>.

Sign and mail in the petition to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would remove regulatory barriers to purchase and sale of local small-scale solar power. While you are at it get 10 of your friends and relatives who are Florida registered voters to sign petitions as well. Better yet-- Focus this year on getting petitions to get this amendment on the ballot.

Lets make our disappointment count for something constructive—clean power!

July 14 Adena Ranch/Sleepy Creek —Save the Date

Last summer, during the challenge to the Sleepy Creek cattle ranch water permits, a public hearing was held by the judge. At that meeting hundreds of people from around the state made excellent statements regarding the impact of this cattle ranch on the aquifer for Silver Springs and the Ocklawaha and Silver Rivers. In April, the hearing judge ruled against our challenge to the permits. Now, the board of the water management district must listen to exceptions to the judge's ruling made by Sierra Club and Riverkeeper at their regular meeting on Wednesday, July 14 (specific time TBD) at 4049 Reid Street in Palatka. We are asking you if all possible to attend to show by your presence that we are still opposed to these permits which will cumulatively affect our springs and rivers. Call Janet Stanko for carpool information and save the date.



Sierra Club Members at recent outing "Hands Across the Sand"

"Imagine dynamite going off in your living room or in your backyard every ten seconds for days to weeks at a time," said Matthew Huelsenbeck, a marine scientist at Oceana, one of the environmental groups opposing the plan. (See related, "Offshore Energy Clash Over Undersea Sound.")

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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
Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/29v9hsd>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/sierranefl>

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

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

Saturday, July 4, 11:00 a.m.: 2nd Annual Hike Cumberland Island and 4th of July Celebration in St Marys

We'll hike beautiful Cumberland Island and then spend the evening at the annual St Marys 4th of July celebration. The ferry from St Marys will take us to and from Cumberland Island. The ferry leaves St Marys at 11:45 am; please arrive by 11:15 am and check in at the Cumberland Island Visitors Center (100 W. St Marys St). We will return to St Marys at 5:30 pm and you can head home or stay in the town filled with street vendors selling food, drinks, and crafts. Finally, when dark, the fireworks show is a great way to cap off your day!

The combined fee for the ferry (\$25) and park entrance (\$4) is \$29 for adults. In addition to signing up, *you must call the Cumberland Island Ferry to make a reservation*. I would call now (877-860-6787), as space is limited and it's hard to get through! They also show this website to make the reservation online, but I can't get it to work (www.cumberlandislandferry.com). Ask about the America the Beautiful annual, senior, or military pass. Please bring a picnic lunch that we will eat once we get to the island. A hat, sunscreen and bug spray are also highly recommended. Also, bring a bathing suit, as swimming is an option on the island...it will be hot and the water feels so good after hiking! Finally, bring a blanket or chair for viewing the fireworks. St Marys is only 40 miles from Jacksonville. If you are interested in carpooling, please communicate your suggestions on the meetup website.

Here are some helpful links to help you plan your outing:

Link to information about Cumberland Island & Ferry: <http://tinyurl.com/3b7htup>

Link to information about the St Mary's Celebration: <http://tinyurl.com/q67byz9>

RSVP on Meetup.com (Sierra Club Northeast Florida) or with outing leader Ken Fisher at 904-210-7765 / kpfl965@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 11, 10:00 a.m.: Hike Washington Oaks Gardens State Park

We'll hike about three miles on beautiful, cool live oak tree shaded trails at this historic site. Along the way, we'll look for dolphin in the Matanzas River, explore the beautiful gardens, and step on the old, original A1A. Bring a picnic lunch; there's a nice picnic area in the shade at our trailhead. After lunch, stick around and make a day of it. At or near Washington Oaks you can buy native plants from the plant sale at the Gardens, visit the gift shop, go to one of several great beaches (one is right across the street), visit Marineland, and check out historic Fort Matanzas. You can also stick around for a sunset paddle tour with Ripple Effect Ecotours (reservations required). Entry fee is \$5 per carload (\$4 for single person). Bring bug spray and water. There are plenty of restrooms at the trailhead and along the way. Children are welcome, but no pets. You'll see a sign for "Picnic Area Parking" and a Sierra Club sign. Park there and we'll meet in the picnic area. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong at armsfam@yahoo.com.

Saturday, July 18, 10:00 a.m.: Kayak Julington Creek

Let's kayak down beautiful Julington Creek. We'll go down to Clark's Fish Camp, eat a great lunch, then paddle back. We'll put in at the Palmetto Leaves Park, 13799 Old St. Augustine Road, across from the Shoppes at Bartram Park shopping center (1/2 mile north of I-95). There is adequate parking and a launch via floating dock. You might want to bring your kayak cart or we'll help each other down to the dock (50 yards or so). Bring bug repellent and water. Bring your own kayak/canoe; no rentals available. PFD and whistle required. You must WEAR your PFD. RSVP on Meetup or to Outing Leader Bill Armstrong, armsfam@yahoo.com.

" Your Time...to Save Earth and Money...is Now"

Ken Fisher, Sierra Club Outing Leader

Helping protect the earth is pretty cool, and saving money is in all of our best interests. Want to do both? Consider these seven ideas to reduce your spending and reduce your waste and consumption. The ultimate win-win comes from helping both the environment and your finances.

1. Use your car less: Run all your errands in one trip rather than heading out several times a week to take care of a task here and a task there. This saves time, money and the environment — a trifecta of savings.
2. Cut back on food waste: Create a meal plan and a shopping list to make sure you only buy ingredients you'll eat before they spoil. Learn to use leftovers creatively. Compost food scrapes and food that has happened to expire, or find ways you may still be able to use it (like turning overripe bananas into banana bread).
3. Never buy bottled water: Install a water purification tap on your faucet and buy a reusable water bottle you can take to the gym, work or carry while running errands. You can also buy reusable water bottles that have a filtration system built into the cap, so you can refill at a drinking fountain while you're out.
4. Stay away from overly packaged foods: Buying fresh ingredients and making your own meals from scratch is another trifecta: It saves you money; it cuts back on the unnecessary waste caused by foods that are over-packaged; and it cuts back on the health risks of foods that are over-processed.
5. Grow your own food: Whether it's in your backyard or on your kitchen windowsill, growing your own veggies and herbs gives you fresh, organic ingredients you don't have to waste gas driving to the store to purchase. Plus, you'll know your produce is totally organic and pesticide-free because you grew it yourself.

6. Make your own cleaning products: When you make your own cleaning products from simple household ingredients (vinegar works great), you save money, cut back on packaging waste, and can make solutions that are safer for the environment and your family. Many household cleaning products get the job done just as well as expensive store-bought cleaners with harsh chemicals.

7. Borrow rather than buy: Why buy a DVD you'll only watch once or a book that will just sit on your shelf once you've read it? Borrow media from your local library – many libraries even have video games for your kids. When you have a DIY project, borrow tools from your neighbors rather than buying a power washer or circular saw you'll probably never use again.

Adapted from dailyfinance.com, April 1, 2015

Florida Legislature Ignores Voters on Amendment 1

By: Brian Paradise

Last November, Florida voters voted overwhelmingly, by 75%, to pass Amendment 1 which required that 33% of the proceeds from documentary stamp taxes go for land acquisition and for land and water maintenance. For the upcoming year, funding under Amendment 1 for such land and water programs will grow to more than \$740 million from about \$470 million in the current budget year that ends on June 30. However, while environmentalists had sought \$170 million for Florida Forever in the coming year to purchase valuable natural land, the budget agreement between the Florida House and Florida Senate calls for only about \$17.4 million to purchase land.

Supporters of Amendment 1 have contended that lawmakers ignored the desires of voters by using the increase in Amendment 1 funding to cover the costs of daily State operations while setting aside too little for land buying. Will Abberger, a leader in the successful drive to pass Amendment 1, was quoted as saying: "To say that \$17.4 million is adequate for Florida Forever out of \$750 million available isn't consistent with Amendment 1 and flies in the face of logic". If you are a supporter of Amendment 1 please let your Representative and Senator know that you are dismayed and disappointed by the miserly allocation of Amendment 1 funds to purchase natural lands.

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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

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Meeting Calendar

Monday, July 6 @ 6pm

PV Program: Groundswell Rising
PV Beach Library

Wednesday, July 15 @ 6:30pm

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

*Jacksonville Program is on vacation for
the summer!*

*"Besides the noble art of getting
things done, there is the noble art
of leaving things undone. The
wisdom of life consists in the
elimination of non-essentials"*
- Lin Yutang



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General Programs

Visit our websites for maps to all meeting locations:
florida.sierraclub.org/northeast
www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group

Ponte Vedra Program

July 6, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Groundswell Rising (Anti-fracking movie & discussion)

The NE Florida Sierra Club in Ponte Vedra will present a 2014 documentary about the inherent dangers of "fracking", a well-stimulation technique in which rock is fractured underground by a hydraulically pressurized liquid or fluid. "Groundswell Rising, Protecting Our Children's Air and Water" brings us into the lives of people from all walks of life and all sides of the political spectrum who are dedicating themselves to resisting, slowing down or stopping fracking. We meet parents, scientists, artists, teachers, clergy, community organizers and business leaders who are convinced that this controversial form of gas extraction is a serious health and environmental risk. Driven by a deep moral conviction, we see how they are standing up to one of the world's most powerful industries.

Groundswell Rising generates much needed public discussion, as we are forced to grapple with an insatiable appetite for energy. We are glad to have the opportunity to show this film and provide a forum for discussion and action. The film runs for 71 minutes. Discussion will follow until library closing time at 7:45 pm.

*All are welcome! For further information, contact Larry Lickenbrock at (904) 537-6047. The program will be held in the **Main Meeting Room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library** on Library Road at A1A (blinking light south of the intersection of A1A and Solana Road, on A1A about two miles south of Butler Boulevard).*