



Suwannee-St. Johns Group

# Sierra Club

Newsletter

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BY KRISTINA JACKSON

Gulf sturgeon are fascinating prehistoric-looking fish with large bony plates instead of scales on their bodies. *Acipenser oxyrinchus*, which are commercially important for caviar, have been listed as a federally threatened species for more than a decade now. The species is slow to recuperate from harvesting since an individual takes 8 to 10 years to reach reproductive maturity. Sturgeon are migratory, feeding and living in Gulf waters but returning to their birth river to spawn. Of the six main rivers they are found in along the Gulf coast, three have been dammed, further jeopardizing their survival.

This past February, in a rare move, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service established critical habitat for the sturgeon's recovery. Gulf of Mexico rivers in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida have been designated, as have been bays, sounds, and nearshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The Suwannee River system and Suwannee Sound are, of course, major components.

At our May 1st meeting, Jim Clugston, a long-time sturgeon researcher, will show a video exploring the life history and biology of the Gulf sturgeon with some neat underwater footage.

Jim will also talk about what needs to happen for the Gulf sturgeon to survive.

Svenn Lindskold, a co-founder of the citizen group Save Our Suwannee, will speak about the group's 10 years of work and its current priorities. According to Svenn, "Our predominant interest is always surface and groundwater quality. Specifically, we are watching the river's nitrate contamination. How will the state's new Total Maximum Daily Load program deal with nitrates and its relation to BMPs?" [Best Management Practices – a voluntary program for agriculture to reduce nutrient impacts on waterways.]

"A major concern for SOS is the direction of commercial/economic development along the river itself," Svenn says. "The comprehensive plans and land development regulations of all the counties along the Suwannee and its tributaries call us to action with some regularity. There are too many counties and there are few persons really concerned with planning in this area."

Come learn what is going on "way down upon the Suwannee River". Find out how you can help protect Florida's most fabled waterway.

## SUWANNEE/ST. JOHNS SIERRA CLUB

### GENERAL MEETING

Thursday May 1, 7:30 p.m.

UF Entomology & Nematology Building

(on campus, off Hull Road just east of the Center for Performing Arts complex)

## Resurg-ing Sturgeon?

JIM CLUGSTON, RETIRED BIOLOGIST  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

and

## Ten Years of Advocacy by Save

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# Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to get involved in your Club? Here are a few ways you can help out. Contact Roberta Gastmeyer 336-2404 or afn61265@afn.org to volunteer.

## GETTING STARTED

- Sell Sierra Club calendars to friends, family, co-workers (2-3 hours).
- Fold and label newsletters in preparation for mailing (2 hrs).
- Sort newsletters & deliver to post office (4 hrs/mo).
- Distribute complimentary newsletters around town (10-60 minutes).
- Send welcome letters to new members (1-2 hrs/mo).
- Staff our Club table at local events (2 hrs).

## THE NEXT STEP

- Help plan and coordinate new fundraising events (2-3 days).
- Help plan special events like Earth Day or tree plantings (2-3 days).

- Help plan a pot luck dinner (1 day).
- Perform member surveys (4 hrs/mo).

## TAKE THE LEAD

- Arrange and host meetings for members in for counties other than Alachua.
- Create and lead outdoor adventures. Must become certified leader. Training offered on a regular basis.
- Inner City Outings - take inner city and/or minority children on environmental outings. Need leadership training similar to outings leader. Approximately 1-2 outings per year per leader.
- Legislative Liaisons - monitor a state legislator voting record on environmental issues. Make the legislator aware of Sierra position on issues. Much background support given by our state lobbyist.
- Create an annual fundraising/membership event with an environmental theme to promote our issues and gain support.

## LEADER TRAINING

If you're a Sierra Club outing leader or you want to become one, this interactive and educational workshop is for you. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you're an old hand or have never led before, you're invited to attend a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun. Brought to you by the Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP), managed in the Outings Department of the National office. This is the only Core OATP workshop in this region for the year.

## WHAT'S THIS WORKSHOP ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

- The goals of the Core workshop are to learn and enhance leadership skills, bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas, to welcome new outdoor leaders, to learn what it takes to lead for other outings programs of the Sierra Club, and once again, to have a lot of fun.
- The purpose of the Core workshop is to bring together new and seasoned leaders from ICO (Inner City Outings), GCO (Group & Chapter Outings), and NO (National Outings).

see LEADERSHIP, page 3

## Visit the National and Local Sierra Club Websites!

National: <http://www.sierraclub.org>

Local: <http://www.gatorsierra.org>

## Suwannee-St. Johns Group Executive Committee

Chair	Robert Perez	386 462-6372	
VC Chair	Linda Pollini	246-4545	thirdeyegrafix@earthlink.net
VC Programs	Kristina Jackson	372-2464	turtle@moonmag.com
Secretary	Annette Long	490-8930	MLongAKorn@aol.com
Treasurer	Roberta Gastmeyer	336-2404	afn61265@afn.org
Outings Chair	Julie Thaler	379-5526	afn61265@afn.org
Event Coordinator	Matt Hurst	332-6684	mmh1980@hotmail.com
Environmental Ed	David Auth	371-1991	davidauth@hotmail.com
Political Committee	Dwight Adams	378-5129	adams@phys.ufl.edu
Public Realties	Jape Taylor	332-8194	JapeT@nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu
Newsletter Editor	Kathy Cantwell	395-7441	kacmd@aol.com
Government Liaison	Pegeen Hanrahan	377-7960	Mevyleen@aol.com
Webmaster	Louis Clark	373-5377	klouisc@bellsouth.net
Fundraising	Elizabeth Pooley	336-1782	POOLEYE452@aol.com
Member At Large	Marilyn Walker	374-6642	nest@fdt.net
Alt. Flex. Delegate	Rob Brinkman	281-3610	robluna9@yahoo.com
Membership/Newsletter Folding	Scott Camil	375-2563	s.camil@att.net
Newsletter Layout	Colin Whitworth	372-2464	colin@moonmag.com

## PHONE TREE

Please contact Kathy Cantwell at 395-7441 by phone or by e-mailing her at [Kacmd@aol.com](mailto:Kacmd@aol.com) if you would like to assist with the Sierra Club phone tree.

## FOLDING PARTY

Interested in hosting a newsletter folding party? Contact Scott Camil at 375-2563

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# Poverty, Sprawl, Superstores and the Environment: They're All Connected

BY DWIGHT ADAMS

Sprawl growth in the west and decay and poverty on the east side of town are obvious features of Gainesville. There is a connection that politicians who support sprawl growth refuse to see. Just as northern cities have been devastated as businesses and jobs have moved south, East Gainesville has been devastated, as businesses have followed the sprawl or died because they no longer had customers.

Businesses began leaving downtown by the early 1960's as sprawl began sucking the life out of downtown. Once-thriving arteries such as North and South Main Street, Waldo Road, and Hawthorne Road now have an appalling large number of vacant buildings with "for lease," "for rent," and "for sale" signs. The area is Gainesville's "rustbelt."

Earlier sprawl marts such as the Gainesville Shopping Center and the Gainesville Mall have fallen victims of sprawl moving still farther out and are largely deserted. An entire shopping center at SW 27th Street and Hawthorne Road now houses perhaps the most thriving business in town, the Alachua Sheriff's office. The most viable business on Waldo Road may be the bail bond office of Commissioner Rodney King.

When the obvious connection between sprawl in the west and the prevalent poverty and decline of East Gainesville was demonstrated at the recent County Commission hearing on the comprehensive plan, Commissioner Cynthia Chestnut, who should have been one of the most concerned, responded that she "was offended" by arguments "using East Gainesville" to oppose changes that developers wanted.

Chestnut then proclaimed that more jobs is what East Gainesville needs. The Chamber of Commerce, politicians, and community "leaders" have promoted this tired old mantra of "creating jobs" for decades. Since people move here for the jobs "created" by company relocations, the population grows (as the promoters intend), but poverty remains unabated. During the last 20 years, Alachua County's population had grown by about

100,000, with about 50,000 new jobs. Unemployment is among the lowest in the state and nation, yet there has been little improvement in the poverty rate, which is around 20%. Instead of these jobs alleviating poverty, we actually have an additional 10,000-20,000 residents living below the poverty level.

What is the problem? Most of those "good paying jobs" brought here by growth are in low-paying service jobs such as big-box "superstores" and fast-food restaurants. Recently, we heard arguments in *The Gainesville Sun* and at the County Commission that a four-lane road for a developer's proposed superstores on the west would somehow benefit the East Gainesville. Even UF President Chuck Young bought into the ludicrous idea and agreed to donate state property for the road to extend across campus through an important outdoor laboratory teaching area. The four-lane road was approved by the same 3-2 vote by Chestnut, Long, and Lee Pinkoson who had a couple of weeks earlier approved the developers' sprawl comprehensive plan.

**AUTOMOBILE DEPENDENT SUPERSTORES ARE  
MAJOR FORCES IN PRODUCING SPRAWL AND  
DRYING UP SMALL TOWNS ALL ACROSS AMERICA.**

Automobile dependent superstores are major forces in producing sprawl and drying up small towns all across America. For every job they "create," two or three are lost by local businesses forced out

because they cannot compete with the low prices made possible by products imported from China or the third world and by use of exceedingly poor labor practices. The pay is barely above the federal minimum wage that has failed to keep up with the costs of living and "associates" must frequently work "off the clock" in order to maintain their jobs.

Protecting the environment is not a priority for someone who has to work two low-paying service jobs to make ends meet. At the next election, if they vote, it will likely be for politicians campaigning for "good jobs." Then the elected politicians will vote for sprawl projects and against environmental protection. To break this vicious cycle, we must do more to get our candidates elected and to retire commissioners who are in developers' pockets at the next election. Shame on any Sierrans who do not vote in every election!

## LEADERSHIP, from page 2

The agenda for the workshop will encompass an extensive array of leadership topics presented in both group and breakout formats.

"Trying to learn to be a leader by

using your intellectual skills only - by sticking to hard-edged, quantifiable stuff - is like owning a TV that tunes to only one channel: there's no way you can get the full range of information and insights you need. Making the head/heart connection not only provides information

and insights that will make your trips safer and more likely to reach their goals, it also provides richer, fuller, and more personal experiences for everybody involved."

By John Graham, author of *Outdoor Leadership*

# Market and Protect Florida's State Parks?

BY DAVID AUTH

On Friday, April 11, I attended a meeting of the "Recreational Users Group" of the Florida Park Service (FPS), representing the Florida Chapter of Sierra Club. The meeting was held at Wekiwa Springs State Park at the Youth Camp Auditorium where the Florida Chapter of Sierra Club held its annual Conservation Conference for years. Many Sierra Club volunteers received a Chapter award just a few feet from where the 17 of us were now seated. Citizen Group meetings are now rare in the FPS. Incredibly, FPS does not have NGO groups to advise it on conservation, management, nor environmental education. Under the Jeb Bush Administration, FPS main concerns are marketing Florida Parks to get more people in the gate and making the parks more comfortable for rich people. All mosquitoes, chiggers, ticks, and snakes have to pay an entry fee now, in a concerted attempt to reduce their attendance so rich humans won't be hurt when they venture outside their recreational vehicles or their rustic cabins. Luckily, Sierra Club has an outings program, or a representative may not have been invited. As the Florida Chapter's Biodiversity Issue Co-Chair and before, I have been interested since 1967 in what were once FPS's two primary missions – preservation of the best examples of Florida habitats and environmental education of Floridians, mainly the former. Thus, I was the odd man out at a meeting devoted to marketing. My only purpose was to remind FPS staff and citizens of the past, when the main concern was the resource rather than the budget. With 86 million potential customers a year now (17,740,534 actual visitors in 2001-2) and slightly over a thousand staff for 158 parks, it is hardly surprising that the emphasis has changed. The size of the staff actually decreased 3 percent between 1992 and 2002, while visitation increased 58 percent and acreage 28 percent.

I drove home from Wekiwa on U.S. 441, to see Central Florida close up again

at a slower speed. No breaks of green gave respite to the commercial insults along the now almost unrecognizable Dixie Highway I had first excitedly explored in 1967. Although at this late point I needed no help in the matter, the drive pounded home the importance of the 158 parks, preserves, archaeological and geological sites, etc. under the control of the Florida Park Service. Covering 593,459 acres, around 1.6 percent of Florida, these islands are the best protected natural lands left. You have to pay to get into each, 40 state biologists hopefully manage what's there, and you can't hunt or take any animal or plant when you finish after your atavistic visit. Give thanks to the people of the State of Florida for having the foresight to set aside 158 green patches to escape the Hell on Earth the same species has created along U.S. 441 and a lot of other places in Florida.

The corporate Director of the Florida Park Service, Wendy Spencer arrived at the Wekiwa auditorium almost three hours late, after visiting family in Savannah that morning, driving to Atlanta, flying to Orlando, and driving to the park. I could not help but be impressed by her extreme effort to meet with twelve citizens for an hour. Unfortunately, she didn't come to listen and learn and interact, but to push her scripted agenda. The experience for me was not much different than driving home on U.S. 441. Her idea is to integrate Florida Parks into the same tourist miasma making billions in Florida every year since 1950, coupled with attracting more and more new residents bringing in their assets and looking for new housing, roads, schools, water, and other essentials. That sadly is what props up Florida's economy. Wendy Spencer has no concept of how special natural places must be preserved in a disequilibrium environment, only how to sell them like tickets to a college football game. She does recognize how special the state parks are, the reason for her enthusiasm at the opportunity to "showcase" them, but does not know how to preserve them while using them as

education tools for Floridians. Florida already has more than 16,000,000 residents to environmentally educate and is failing badly. Let the 70,000,000 out of state tourists go to Mouseville and the beach condominiums where they have been happy for years. Of course, if the tourists all did that, they would not come back here to live! That, unfortunately, is Wendy Spencer's real chosen objective. Admittedly, if the Governor and the Florida Legislature thought as much about preservation as they do about commercialization, Wendy Spencer would have been a good Director of FPS. I think she is torn between trying to serve the huge human populations she must serve to keep her job and doing what is right for the resource, which has now seemingly become nearly impossible.

The topics were totally scripted by FPS, but the sometimes heated discussions during and following each presentation were not: 1. Suwannee River Wilderness Trail update; Peter Scalco and Kent Whittington, 2. "Florida State Parks Month" (May) and a proposed fee increase for all parks; Wendy Spencer, 3. "Central Reservation System;" Dave Barhay, of Reserve America, Inc.

The Suwannee River "Wilderness" Trail is FPS's big ticket item for five years, \$20,000,000 of your money to commercialize the least disturbed large river basin in Florida. If you can't bring the Suwannee to Mickey Mouse, then bring Mickey Mouse to the Suwannee. Land is still cheap. After \$5,000,000 spent at White Springs, Big Shoals, and Troy Springs, the huge project has briefly gotten hung up on a really big Suwannee River snag, due to Governor Jeb Bush's two tax cuts for the rich, a major national recession, and war with Iraq and who knows what other countries on President Bush's hit list. As the Governor and Florida Legislature make their grabs for your money from Florida's "protected" trust funds to reduce the self-generated shortfalls, they have not yet found this year's \$4,000,000 for new asphalt roads, RV stalls, floating aluminum docks,

\$350,000 toilets, and \$140,000 rustic cabins (now called "vacation cabins").

So what to do to pay for all this fancy economic development infrastructure? Last year FPS started milking a new money cow. In the name of saving park personnel from making reservations by phone, FPS turned this duty over to "Reserve America." Owned by USIA of Home Shopping Network fame, RA received \$2,000,000 its first year. Unfortunately for Mr. and Mrs. Park User, an \$8.50 charge was tacked on to the reservation fee if they decided to change their reservation date. FPS got \$10,800,000 its first year from telephone reservations and change charges, as well as freeing up 24,000 hours of personnel time (revenue from fees has increased essentially linearly for the last ten years, from 21 to 33 million dollars). The goal here, in case you forgot the Party Mantra, is to turn FPS into a self sustaining business, like the rest of government. What to do this year to increase the proportion of park costs paid from user fees? Raise every fee in the place, of course! Part of the proposal is to "collapse" all the add-on charges for pets and electricity into a single overnight reservation fee. Then tent campers who don't use electricity and don't have a pet along will have to pay for those who do! As Director Spencer explained it, more and more tent campers are paying extra for electricity anyway, I suppose to activate their TV!

What was different about this present meeting compared to previous meetings I have attended concerning the Trail? The crassly materialistic nature of the presentation, Madison Avenue marketing hammered into our brains by a young recently graduated marketing expert, Kent Whittington. The soft sell wasn't necessary anymore, since Jeb Bush was Governor of Florida for life. At infrequent intervals during the over two hour presentation and discussion, Whittington and Scalco inserted a little word candy for environmentalists, about how the river was also somehow going to be protected during the planned additional explosion of use, tacked on to the explosion already in progress without any infusion of public cash. Kent Whittington gave his Chamber of Commerce PowerPoint presentation, proclaiming the Trail first and foremost as economic development. There was no mention of any money going into environmental education, controlling the additional users by hiring new staff, or getting the controlled burns on schedule, rather than 50 years behind. He and Mr. Scalco look at the Suwannee River through

the same dark sunglasses as the Tallahassee politicians – the basin is "economically depressed" and "accommodation depleted," and "remote," buzzwords for having the last cheap land in the state. It was at this point that Mr. Scalco almost threw me out of the meeting, when I came to the defense of my vanishing adopted home, the last Florida haven for rational but primitive souls seeking quiet, ancient sturgeon, cooters, and camping on a Suwannee sand bar. Bring on the jet skiers, riding their \$6,000 machines at 50 mph, finally bringing jobs to this depressed area. Quotes during the presentation: "It is inevitable, you know!" "We are just trying to get a handle on this!" "No one is capitalizing on the mystique of the Suwannee River" and "This is not about resorts."

According to Wendy Spencer's written statement, "The goal is for every park visitor to leave the park better educated about Florida's cultural or natural resources, and/or learn a new recreational skill." The problem is she is trying to cram more and more people into fixed spaces, people with a lot of unacceptable expectations about what they can do on state lands and waters. FPS does not control the Suwannee River, an open lane to the sea with 51 boat launches, mercury and nitrate contamination, and thousands of private parcels along the banks. Director Spencer has to keep visitors on good behavior using more and more volunteers, since staff has been capped by the Florida Legislature for over ten years. The lion's share of commendable budget increases goes to more and more expensive infrastructure for recreation, rather than to education and management. It is past time for concerned Floridians to come to the aid of their state parks, because the leadership has gotten lost on the wrong trail.

## Vote Rob Brinkman for Gainesville City Commission

At Large Seat 2

**on April 29**

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# SC Hires North Florida Conservation Organizer

FRANK JACKALONE

It is my pleasure to announce that the Sierra Club has hired Marisa Visel to join its southeast regional field team as our new North Florida conservation organizer.

Marisa and fellow Florida conservation organizer Darden Rice will divide work in Florida between two issues, global warming and judicial nominations. Marisa will cover north Florida, including Orlando, and Darden will organize her work in the southern half of the state, including Tampa.

Marisa brings to the Sierra Club considerable experience working with the media, generating grassroots support, lobbying, writing, public speaking, coalition building, and working with coalition partners. Over the past few years, she coordinated grassroots campaigns as an Environmental Associate with the Florida Public Interest Research Group and she gained substantial knowledge of the species and habitat conservation needs of Florida as an environmental services technician at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She graduated

from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences.

Marisa and her spouse, Noah, presently live in Tallahassee, but will make Gainesville their new home in June, where Marisa will open the Sierra Club's new regional field office for north Florida.

Sierra Club has chosen Gainesville because of its environmental, cultural, and political uniqueness. Settled in proximity to two national forests and several important rivers, springs, and lakes, Gainesville's central location is also within easy reach of important communities and media markets in Jacksonville, Orlando, and Daytona Beach. Another strong asset is the presence of the University of Florida's College of Natural Resources and Environment which provides the new office with opportunities to recruit students and faculty to volunteer on Sierra Club research projects and issue campaigns.

Please join me in welcoming Marisa Visel. She can be reached by email at [mvisel@earthlink.net](mailto:mvisel@earthlink.net) or by phone at 850-321-3066.

*Frank Jackalone is the Senior Regional Representative for the Sierra Club.*

## Calling All Adventurers to Inner City Outings

KAREN L. GARREN

"What's that? Why is it this way? How does it do that?" The insatiable curiosity of young children can often be exasperating but how sad to see them dulled by life as they get older and their questions turn into "Who cares?"

The Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program reaches out to kids who lack opportunities for outdoor activities and gives them healthy interaction with others of their ages while introducing them to the wonders of the natural environment. This is an effective means of developing kids' interest in the surrounding world while broadening their horizons. Kids in Gainesville and the surrounding environs would benefit from having an ICO program established here.

What is ICO? Inner City Outings is a community outreach program providing nature adventures for kids from low-income, inner city areas. Older kids get experience with wilderness excursions while younger kids get day trips to participate in nature around their schools, churches, neighborhood parks, and own back yards.

ICO is staffed by trained volunteers with First Aid safety certification. The programs are directed by state and national Sierra Club groups. There are more than 50 ICO programs in communities throughout the United States and 6 here in Florida. If we can get a program established here in Alachua County, it could reach out to disadvantaged kids in surrounding counties. We are fortunate to have a wealth of natural areas recreational opportunities here in North Central Florida.

interaction skills and personal self-esteem. As they learn how the natural world works, they become self-directed, they learn to find answers to their questions, they develop the ability to face challenges. They mature into good community citizens with respect for natural connections. Many adults consider their childhood "field trips" to be some of their most memorable experiences.

What can citizens do for kids? A successful ICO program needs community support, not so much in the way of mon-

### **YOUNG PEOPLE WITHOUT EXPERIENCE IN NATURAL SETTINGS OFTEN HAVE MISPLACED FEARS. WITH MORE EXPERIENCE UNDER SUPERVISED SETTINGS, THEY LEARN HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.**

What can ICO do for kids? Young people without experience in natural settings often have misplaced fears. With more experience under supervised settings, they learn how to take care of themselves. They learn to value non-commercial activities, they develop social-

etary as moral support. It needs a steering committee established and volunteers for outings. Volunteers must be trained—a state-wide training session is scheduled for September. The program needs spon-

# The Florida Legislature... or How the Environment Was Ripped Off in 2003

BY KATHY CANTWELL

The Florida legislature, more anti-environment than ever, with an anti-environmental governor aligned with an anti-environmental president was doing its best to do away with environmental protection.

As of this writing, April 16, 2003, the legislature was doing its best to dismantle what they hadn't taken apart last year as far as protecting the environment. And with only a few weeks left in the session, expect a big rush. None of these bills has actually come to the floor of either house as of this writing (except for HB 1793)!

## Funds to buy conservation lands

HB 1793: Desperate to come up with funds to cover a budget completely busted by the governor and legislature's give-a-way tax breaks to corporate campaign donors, the house voted to transfer funds that were in trust funds to general funds. One of the victims was the documentary stamp tax. Whenever property is purchased, a documentary tax is levied, and that money goes to the state's trust funds for purchasing lands for conservation. The house voted (76 Yes, 41 No) to do away with that trust fund and divert the money to the general fund. Of our local legislators, Jennings, Stansel, and Kendrick voted the right way (No) and Cretul and Pickens the wrong way (Yes). Our only hope is that the senate does not approve a similar bill.

As of this writing, there was no companion bill in the senate. Watch for alerts (join our e mail list by contacting me at kacmd@aol.com or go to our web page at [www.gatorsierra.org](http://www.gatorsierra.org)).

## Big Sugar wants to bailout of their responsibility to the Everglades

For years, a coalition of enviros has worked arduously to get the plan going and funded that would restore the Everglades. With an \$8 billion dollar price tag, it will be costly, but the federal government has committed to paying at least half of that if the state follows the plan. Well, that is all in jeopardy as big sugar hired 40 lobbyists to try to change the plan that would restore the Everglades. Senate Bill 626 and a similar house bill would delay cleaning up the Everglades by 20 years and allow 50% more pollution. It will get Big Sugar off the hook in cleaning up its mess of pollution. SB 626 has just been in committees so far, but it doesn't look good. In the house Natural Resource Committee, Stansel and Kendrick voted the wrong way. In the senate Natural Resources Committee, Argenziano voted the wrong way. They need to be contacted and told you do not approve of their vote and to change their vote if and when this comes to the floor.

## OTHER BAD BILLS

HB 1005 would make it risky legally for Water Management Districts to reserve water for conservation (fish and wildlife needs). They could face a legal challenge if they do so. In the Natural Resource Committee, Kendrick and Stansel voted the wrong way.

SB 2726 would make it easier to not clean up toxic sites by saying it was "too costly" or it would allow just covering them up without cleaning them. THIS WAS ACTUALLY SPONSORED BY ARGENZIANO!

HB 1525, performance-based permitting. This may be a good bill. This would make it more difficult for companies that violate permits to get additional permits. (Remember the Ichetucknee cement plant and Anderson's record?) We need to watch it closely. Stansel actually tried to get another bill passed which would do the opposite—it would make it more difficult for agencies to deny permits. Luckily it died in committee.

To get involved, subscribe to the Tallahassee Report by contacting Susie Caplowe at [susiecaplowe@cs.com](mailto:susiecaplowe@cs.com) or join our e-mail list by contacting me at [kacmd@aol.com](mailto:kacmd@aol.com) or join our listserv at [www.gatorsierra.org](http://www.gatorsierra.org).

## Representatives from the 14-county region that make up the SSJ Sierra Group are:

House: Ed Jennings (D) 850-488-5794, Will Kendrick (D) 850-488-7870, Joe Pickens (R ) 850-488-0665, Larry Cretul (R ) 850-488-0887, Dwight Stansel (D) 850-488-9835

Senators: Nancy Argenziano (R) 850-487-5017, Rod Smith (D) 850-487-5020

Phone calls to their office are the most effective. To follow bills, go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov) or [myfloridahouse.com](http://myfloridahouse.com) or <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>

## INNER CITY, from page 6

sors and sources of kids. If you are a civic organization concerned with social issues, an educator teaching the earth sciences, a governing agency or board dealing with children and/or the natural environment,

a non-profit organization involved with quality of life, a business consortium that wants to give back to the community, then a successful Inner City Outings program here in North-Central Florida needs you. The national directives give local programs a year's start up time and 6 outings/year must be committed to. For

more information on the national program, check out: <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/outings/ico/> on the web.

A steering committee meeting will be held Wednesday evening, May 7th. For more information contact: [ILuvFla@GRU.net](mailto:ILuvFla@GRU.net). or 352 371-0008. We can make it happen!

# MAY-JUNE 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1, General meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 1031-1033 Entomology/  
Nematology Building, UF campus, just east of the Performing Arts Center.

May 8, Excom meeting, 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, NW 34th St.

**No folding party** this month because we don't publish in June.

**No June General meeting.**

June 12, Excom meeting, 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, NW 34th St.

June 20, Folding Party for July newsletter, at Linda Pollini's house, 3615 NW  
31st Terr. Call 378-2401.

●●● **GAINESVILLE CITY VOTERS** ●●●  
**Brinkman and Nielsen on Tuesday, April 29**

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