



Suwannee-St. Johns Group

Sierra Club

Newsletter

Published monthly except June and August from Gainesville, Florida

VOLUME 33 • NUMBER 9 • November 2003

Sierra Club Outings

Saturday, Nov. 15, time to be determined, there will be a "One Club" outing at the Florida Sierra Conservation Conference where we shall visit a typical Florida wet prairie by canoe. Co-led by Kevin Veach and Julie Thaler, conservationist Paul Lyrene will teach us about the unique prairie habitat and the issues surrounding it. FMI call Kevin at 352-374-6795 or kveach@gru.net

Sunday, Nov. 16 at 9:30AM a "One Club" outing will be held at the Rodman dam. Co-led by Kevin Veach and conservationist Kristina Jackson, Ms Jackson will teach us about the conservation issues surrounding the dam. There will be a short hike on the Fl trail after this, limited to 10 people. The talk by Kristina is limited to 30 people. FMI call Kevin at 352-374-6795 or kveach@gru.net

Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. Mushroom Identification Hike at the Temple of the Universe, this outing corresponds to the Sierra Club meeting Thursday, November 7th, Mushroom ID program during which Fungal Family characteristics will be discussed and a slide show presented. On the approximately 3 hour hike, we will be looking for fruiting mushrooms and learning to recognize edible and toxic families. To maximize the experience of our ramblings, a variety of alternative natural history discussions: plants, birds, and ecology will be incorporated in the event the "Mushroom Gods" aren't smiling on us! Please bring small knife, note pad and pencil, stiff-sided collecting container, water, snacks, insect repellent. Leader: Karen Garren. Call 352 371-0008 or email ILuvFla@GRU.net for directions.

see OUTINGS, page 5

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30 PM

Entomology & Nematology Bldg., UF, on Hull Road just east of SW 34th Street and the Center for Performing Arts Complex

"WILD MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION: "THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE BEAUTIFUL, THE UGLY, AND THE JUST PLAIN WEIRD!"
KAREN L. GARREN



Friend or Foe

The Fungus Among Us

Announcing a program on fungal characteristics sufficient for the initiate to start recognizing friend from foe in the field. Discussion will include: Human history of mushroom hunting; natural history of fungi's role in ecology; Order, Family, Genus and Species characteristics; toxins; slide show and stories; literature and reference material; limited number of handouts.

There is an outing related to this program. See Outings section.

A great environmentalist and community leader has left us. John was one of the earliest members of the Suwannee-St. John's Sierra Club and held many positions of importance to the group, including his most recent position, group treasurer in 2001.

He was very active in many other environmental groups as well, including Alachua Audubon, Florida Defenders of the Environment, and Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT). In 2000, he

was awarded the Alachua County Conservationist of the Year Award by ACT. Last year, at a dinner organized to honor him, he was quoted as saying,

**IN MEMORIUM
A Great Leader Has
Passed On
JOHN MAHON
1912-2003**

"There are two types of people...one ...demands their personal property rights be protected by the laws of government. The other group puts public service before private gain, living on the land for a time rather than possessing it."

John definitely fit the latter description. We will miss him terribly.

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Dear Commissioners,

I first of all would like to thank you for your quick response to the Governor's Council of 100 appointees.

This Council, appointed by Governor Bush, seeks to impact areas of the state that have not yet outstripped their water resources, by having large amounts of this vital resource taken from them to supply areas that have allowed uncontrolled growth to outstrip the availability of cheap water. The plan will have the added effect of continuing the unbridled growth of South Florida, with all its impacts on the environment and quality of life.

Due to unmanaged growth in South Florida and a reluctance to conserve the resource, business and development advocates are trying to push a proposal that would, among other things, set up a statewide Water Supply Commission. Its far-reaching authority would supercede

that of the existing Water Management Districts. Ironically, the state government that always advocates for "less government" appears willing to consider adding another layer of bureaucracy to an already complex system.

Contrary to the Council's perceptions, there is no excess water in the state of Florida. Every drop is being fully utilized by people and natural systems. When too much water is taken out of these systems, we see grave damage such as we have seen in the Everglades, which is currently the subject of a multi-billion dollar cleanup, and Tampa Lakes, where draw-downs have created an ecological desert. The health of all our estuaries is dependent upon freshwater inflow.

This plan will discourage conservation and result in even worse water shortages in the future. Privatization would set up a massive for-profit industry controlling the

public's water. Other places in the country where this idea has been tried report horror stories of dramatic increases in costs and reduced availability of water. Private control of the public's water is an invitation to exploitation and disservice.

"This plan is a prescription for disaster," said Rosalie Shaffer, Chair of the Florida Chapter's Water and Wetlands Committee. "And the real truth is that it is unnecessary. With good conservation measures in place and wise growth management, it is not needed." She points out that, according to a recent series on water in the Orlando Sentinel, about half of the water used by people in Florida is used for agricultural purposes. Half of the non-agricultural use is for landscaping. "It's been estimated that half of that water can be conserved through water-saving technologies and reuse," she said.

see COMMISSION, page 5

Visit the National and Local Sierra Club Websites!

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

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

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Executive Committee

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PHONE TREE

Please contact Kathy Cantwell at 395-7441 by phone or by e-mailing her at 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

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club Newsletter (UPS 317-370) is published 10 months a year, **except June and August**, by the Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club, 400 NE 13 Ave, Gainesville, 32601. Non-member subscription rate is \$5.00. Periodicals Postage Paid is paid at the Gainesville, FL 32608 post office.

Postmaster: Send change of addresses to Suwannee- St. Johns Group Sierra Club Newsletter, c/o The Sierra Club, Member Services, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968. Send both your old and new addresses and a Sierra address label, which contains your membership number. PLEASE ADDRESS ALL GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE SUWANNEE-ST. JOHNS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB TO: P.O. BOX 13951, GAINESVILLE, FL 32604.



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Is the Sierra Club Going In the Way We Want It To?

BY DAVID AUTH

Sierra Club prides itself on being a volunteer-run organization. The National Sierra Club President and the rest of the Board of Directors are elected by the total membership and are not paid salaries. The Chapters and Groups are also administered by unpaid volunteers. However, the Club also has many paid professional staff at the National Headquarters in San Francisco, at the Washington, D.C., office, and at other offices concentrated in a few high-population states like Florida. Supposedly, all the professionals take their marching orders from the volunteers, but in actuality that has not been true since the 1970s. Both professionals and selected volunteers "speak for the Sierra Club," a balance of power which is constantly changing and often results in conflicting perspectives on how to solve environmental problems. When this balance is right, Sierra is the best environmental organization in the world.

Money from volunteers makes the professional staff possible, of course. Grant proposals written by staff are important, but when funded constitute a small fraction of the Sierra Club's total budget. Some money donated by the membership is used to environmentally educate volunteers in workshops across the country. A lot more pays for volunteer transportation. But the real budget for volunteers in Sierra Club is far larger than that reported in Sierra's many annual financial statements. Volunteers spend many millions of dollars, not reimbursed, to further their personal environmental beliefs inside Sierra, because they personally speak for the Club rather than rely on paid staff to do their work for them. It is this volunteer power which makes Sierra unique among large environmental organizations and hugely increases

its effectiveness.

It is my belief that the balance of power between Sierra professional staff and volunteers in Florida, as expressed in who speaks and acts for the Club in this state, has shifted too far toward the professionals. The shift started in May of 1998 with the opening of the National Sierra Club Office in St Petersburg, a decision made in San Francisco by the Board of Directors and fully supported by staff. The basis for that decision was the spending of over eight billion dollars of federal and state dollars to supposedly "restore the Everglades." It was also because Florida has exploded in population to over 16 million, now the fourth-largest state in the country. Three full-time staff members now work in St Petersburg. A full-time paid staff person was also hired in 1998 based in Ft Myers, and just recently another full-time staff person is opening a third office in Gainesville. The budget for these three offices is \$450,000. Prior to 1998, National Sierra employed one half-time person in Florida. Meanwhile, over these five years, Sierra's membership in Florida has declined from over 30,000 to 27,000 today, while the Governorship and the Florida Legislature shifted to control by the Republican Party for the first time in history. Why is Sierra's Florida membership declining during the worst environmental assault in state history? I believe it is significantly due to Sierra volunteers losing interest in speaking for the Club and deferring more and more to National Sierra Club staff to do the increasingly difficult and frustrating work.

What has happened to the Sierra budget in Florida controlled directly by volunteers over these same five years? It has remained stable, for the first time in the history of the chapter for a five-year period.

The Florida Chapter budget for 2003 is \$163,000. Another \$37,000 is going to the fifteen groups via quarterly allotments. The groups, in my opinion, are the most effective part of Sierra Club in Florida, yet they receive only 5.7% of the Club's direct financial commitment.

Florida is critical to National Sierra Club's effort to defeat President George Bush in 2004. That effort determines most of the financial decisions from San Francisco. Meanwhile, Florida is approaching parity between registered Republicans and Democrats, perhaps frustrating that effort.

The Florida Chapter still does not have a full-time lobbyist in Tallahassee, a primary goal of the Chapter since its formation in 1971. It spends \$50,000 for a contract lobbyist with two other clients, needing only another \$25,000 to finally hire a full-time lobbyist after 32 years. Sierra members in Florida should be asking why a chapter with a \$163,000 budget can't afford a full-time lobbyist! I believe it is because the chapter is no longer attracting the kind of volunteers who would vote YES on this critically needed commitment. The volunteer leadership has become so frustrated and angry about the Republican Party's anti-environmentalism—fully understandable in my opinion but still the wrong attitude—that they are not making the best decisions for success. The Republican Party in Florida must become more moderate. That will only occur by educating everyone about the critical importance of the environment for human quality of life, not by trying to turn the environment into strictly an issue of partisan politics.

David Auth is Former Florida Chapter Conservation Chair, 1998-99.

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Big Bucks for Big Box

BY DWIGHT ADAMS

One of the few remaining relatively undeveloped areas near UF is west of SW 34 Street and south of SW 24 Ave. The area already has some of the most congested roads in town with auto-dependent Butler Plaza, the poorly planned commercial development along Archer Road, and student apartments in the vicinity, especially along SW 20 Ave. and SW 62 Blvd.

A few years ago a charrette was held in which those interested considered alternatives for what type of development would best serve the needs of the community. They chose the obvious answer: a traditional neighborhood development of high-density student-oriented housing with shops to serve the residents. In such a walkable neighborhood village with sidewalks, students could walk a few blocks to shop and walk, bike, or take a bus to campus.

Thus, SW 24 Ave., now just a dirt road, was designated in the Comprehensive Plan as a two-lane street. However, Clark Butler, developer of sprawling Butler Plaza had other ideas for the area: Butler Plaza North would include two bigbox superstores for Lowes and Wal-Mart. For this auto-dependent development, he envisioned constructing SW 24 Ave. as a four-lane road that would join with SW 62 Blvd. and continue across the UF campus to meet SW Archer Road.

There were a few impediments to Butler's dream: both the county and city commissions had majorities favorable to the charrette's plan and the undeveloped area on the UF campus serves as the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory. A future road does not run through it in the

UF Master Plan. And there is the matter of the cost of about \$20 million, which the county does not have. These might seem like insurmountable obstacles—unless you are a developer wealthy enough to influence several politicians and public officials.

Now, Butler seems well on his way to getting his four-laned SW 24 Ave. New developer-backed majorities have been elected to both the city and county commissions and they have voted for the four-lane road. Big donations to UF convinced Charles Young to consider donating the UF land for the road—never mind that it is not included in the UF Master Plan and is opposed by the pesky entomology professors who use the NATL.

What about the \$20 million-cost of the four-lane road that the county does not have? For that Butler has gotten the backing of state senator Rod Smith and Congresspersons Cliff Stearns and Corrine Brown. Rod Smith, who has promised to help secure \$6.2 million from the state, pointed out in a "private meeting" in Butler's office that, "this must not become a Butler road..." Just how to make it appear as a project with widespread benefits to the community is contained in a letter by Rodney Long to Cliff Stearns asking for \$12.5 million in federal funds:

"It is important to our community because the completion of this road will do several things for Alachua County. Most importantly it will reduce local traffic entering I-75 thereby improving the safety of this portion of the interstate highway system. Secondly, improvements to this roadway will relieve congestion at one of our most dangerous and crowded intersec-

tions in Gainesville—SW 34th Street and Archer Road. Finally, the four lane roadway will create the East-West Connector envisioned in Plan East Gainesville community improvement project by creating the east-west connector in Gainesville south of University Ave. This project will serve to enhance the interstate highway system and improve transportation and promote economic development in eastern Alachua County."

That is right—tout a road to serve bigbox superstores on the west side as an across-town connector to relieve traffic and bring about economic development in the economically-depressed east side! There have been no studies to show that this road would be an effective east-west connector. Auto-dependent superstores do not relieve traffic and create jobs; they create traffic problems and take away existing jobs.

Although this is looking like a done deal for Butler, he has not left anything to chance by agreeing to "donate" \$2.7 million for "phase one" of the road. Thus, he wants to "get the camel's nose in the door" by paving the entrance to his expanded shopping center to the west of SW 34 St as a four lane road "with his own money." On Oct. 14, the county commission voted to approve a contract with Butler for this project. Never mind that the comprehensive plan has not yet been amended to change the road designation to four-lane. In the hearing, Butler had the gall to say that assurance of a pro-development county commission was needed. Apparently, he is not satisfied with just 3 out of 5.

How about Butler's \$2.7 million donation? It is not really a donation at all. The agreement calls for Butler to receive credit

see BUTLER, next page



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Gainesville Regional Utilities: Do We Really Need More Pollution?

BY ADRIENNE BURGES

Gainesville needs an energy future that promises clean air. Gainesville is poised to make an important choice. Spend millions of dollars for additional electric generation that will increase health problems and further degrade the environment, or choose a healthier future for our community through energy conservation and the use of clean and renewable energy sources.

The City of Gainesville's coal-fired plant at Deerhaven is the site of the largest air polluter in Alachua County. The approximately 2 million pounds of air emissions from the power plant is responsible for over 90% of Alachua County's reported annual air emissions (Source: EPA Toxic Release Inventory Program). Deerhaven recently made Florida's "Top Ten List" for power plants that increased pollution from 1995 to 2000. Sulfur dioxide emissions increased 41% and CO2

emissions increased 18% (Source: Darkening Skies: Trends Towards Increasing Power Plant Emissions, April 2002. PIRG).

Deerhaven contributes over 54 times as much air pollution annually as the controversial cement kiln built by Florida Rock Industries in Newberry. These invisible pollutants are linked to health problems, smog, acid rain, mercury deposition, global warming, and reductions in crop productivity. Children, the elderly, and people with cardiac and respiratory diseases are most severely impacted by these pollutants.

Gainesville's first priority should be to decrease the air pollution that it generates, not build new sources of pollution. The Florida Public Service Commissions Review of 2002 Ten Year Site Plans states, "Forecasted reserve margins are expected to far exceed GRU's 15% reserve margin criterion for each seasonal peak throughout

the planning horizon" (ten years). Clearly, there is no urgent local need.

We believe that the majority of the citizens in Gainesville will oppose construction of a new air-polluting generator and the negative impacts on health and property values. Power plant pollution is linked to over 245,000 lost workdays, 30,000 asthma attacks, and 1,740 premature deaths each year in Florida. Building new generation will mean an even greater surplus of electricity is exported to other locations while local residents are left breathing more air pollution. A landmark study by the EPA shows that the economic benefits of reducing power plant pollution are 42 times greater than the costs.

(Editor's note: GRU is in the process of deciding how it is going to meet increased energy needs for the future and is taking community input. You may reach GRU by e-mail at futurepower@gru.com, by telephone at 352-393-1036, or by attending an open house Saturday, December 6th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Deerhaven plant. Also, visit GRU's website at www.gru.com and go to the community dialogue link.)

OUTINGS, from page 1

(Please note: "One Club" is a program of Sierra where we link our conservation issues to our outings. Outings are open to members and non-members alike. A signed waiver is required before all outings. Some outings may charge a small fee)

COMMISSION, from page 2

This plan will exacerbate future water shortages, drive up costs, and damage water-dependent ecosystems and wildlife resources. In addition, any water transfer system of pipelines will cost the taxpayers billions of dollars—money that would be better used for conservation measures and storm water control.

Sincerely,
Linda Pollini, Chair Suwannee-St. John's Sierra Club, Gainesville, Florida

BUTLER, from page 4

for \$2.7 million toward his share of the costs of the development once it goes through the required Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process.

So the "donation" is not a donation at all—it is a classic flim-flam with taxpayers the victims. For much useful information on the proposed road, check the web site: <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/24thAve.htm>

YARD SALE



Saturday, Nov. 8

beginning at 8 am
3615 NW 31 Terrace, Gainesville.
Call 378-2401 for directions.

IF YOU HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE, PLEASE DELIVER THEM BETWEEN NOV. 1-8

All funds raised will be used to help the group in its fight to defend the Alachua County Comprehensive plan.

SIERRA CLUB CALENDAR SALE

What's colorful, reminds us of the real world we're trying to conserve and protect, and helps us remember what we've done or promised to do in our lives? Sierra Club calendars, of course!

Why should you buy from us? Well, each year, our local Suwannee-St. Johns Sierra Club Group sells these lovely calendars as a fundraiser, and many of us don't know what we would do without them. And, you save money! We sell the calendars at a discount off the cover price you would pay in a retail outlet.

The Wilderness wall calendar (\$11) shows a month at a glance, with a gorgeous nature scene at the top of each page. The Engagement calendar (\$12) has one page per week, each with a breathtaking photo of the natural world.

Beyond your own personal enjoyment of these calendars, don't forget that the holidays can be great, but gift shopping can be a chore. Sierra Club calendars are perfect gifts for your friends and family. They'll enjoy this gift every day of 2004!

Calendars are available at all General Meetings (October 2, November 6, and December 4). If you live outside of Gainesville or are unable to attend our meetings, call Joanne Auth at 352.371.1991 to discuss other arrangements. If you are a member who has contacts where the calendars may be sold to co-workers/friends, call for information about taking a few to sell. We appreciate the help!



2004 Sierra Club ExCom Nominees

Dwight Adams

adams@phys.ufl.edu

Member since 1982; served as chair of conservation committee, as group chair for two years, then continuously on Excom, primarily on political committee. Main interests: solid waste/recycling, landuse, and governmental accountability; state issue chair on solid waste, led lobbying for state recycling legislation in 1988; has served as chair of the National committee on solid waste; led effort to establish the first curbside recycling program in the state and in using volume-based collection rates. Has devoted 20 years promoting responsible development in Alachua County.

David Auth

davidauth@hotmail.com

I joined Sierra Club in 1972. I served with the Florida Chapter as Recording Secretary (1985), Administrative Chair (1986), Archivist (1987-99); Conservation Chair (1998-99); and Biodiversity Issue Co-Chair (2000-3). I served on the National Sierra Wild Planet Biodiversity Committee (1997-98). At the Group level I was Program Chair (1989-90); Treasurer (1991); Chair (1992-93); Conservation Chair (1994-5); Administrative Chair (1996); Membership Chair (1997); Environmental Education Chair (2002-3), and Interim Conservation Chair (2003). I have written 54 articles for our Group newsletter, illustrating my dedication to environmental education.

Russell Donda

russ@FirstVentureMgt.com

Has 23 years of business executive and entrepreneurial experience. His last ten years, dedicated to technology development, involved contract and strategic alliance structuring, negotiation and acquisition of businesses or their intellectual properties, creation of joint development agreements, and intellectual property management. In his most recent position as Director of Business Development for Regeneration Technologies (RTIX) he spearheaded development of multiple radi-

cal technologies, including forays into the National Institute of Science & Technology Advanced Technology Program. Mr. Donda has an undergraduate background in the sciences and B.A. in business from Cleveland State University.

Karen Garren

ILuvFla@GRU.net

A 25 year resident of North Central Florida, Karen Garren received a BS and MFRC from UF and is currently working as a consulting biologist with husband Robert. A long time Sierra Club member, Karen is developing the Inner City Outings program branch of the Suwannee/St. John's group and hopes to provide natural history excursions and wilderness experiences to economically disadvantaged young people and persons with disabilities. In the last two years, she has become more active with the organization. "I find the Sierra Club forum to be a community voice in issues of local, regional, and global impact."

Roberta Gastmeyer

afn61265@afn.org

As the mother of two children, I am dedicated to the fight for clean air, clean water, and ecologically sound natural areas for future generations. An active Sierran for more than 13 years, I have a broad understanding of both the environmental challenges we face and the myriad administrative requirements of the Club. I am willing to continue to work to support those who provide vocal advocacy for our special community.

Linda Pollini

thirdeyegrafix@earthlink.net

Being a member of SSJ Sierra Club has really been a rewarding experience for me. Some of the issues that I've been committed to are: Closing the Archer landfill, stopped the irradiation plant on SW 34 St. and stopped a maximum security prison in Archer. I worked long and hard to oppose the Florida Rock cement kiln and the Ichetucknee cement kiln. I supported the Clean Air Ordinance. I served on the

Kopper's Citizen Advisory Committee, Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, and Keep Alachua County Beautiful. I've been on EXCOM for about three years and have taken the political training course. Positions held on EXCOM have been Secretary, Vice Chair for Conservation, and currently Chair. I think the best way to protect what we have is to get out the vote and elect the right leaders.

Sherry Steiner

s.camil@att.net

I'm a special education teacher for homebound handicapped students in Levy County. I worked on the Clean Air campaign against the cement plant in Newberry and on the Charter One Amendment to allow Alachua County to have stricter environmental regulations than the state. I've worked to elect environmental candidates to the Alachua County Commission, including Newport, Hutchinson, and Byerly. I worked on three City of Alachua campaigns to prevent major industrial development: Robbins, Burgess and Kosman-Rothseiden. I have served on EXCOM since the resignation of Robert Perez. I have served on the Political Committee, Newsletter Folding Committee and help edit the newsletter.

Christopher Thurow

cthurow@thurow.us

I served on the committee to develop the environmental components for the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan. We were successful in creating sound mandates for wetland, coastal marshland and estuary protections in the county. I have been a staunch activist in several counties when interpretation, action and modifications regarding comprehensive plans and development have been at issue. I have worked on numerous coastal marsh mediation and mitigation projects on the west coast of Florida. I was a resident advisory board member on the Kissimmee's River Basin Restoration Project. I have initiated several legislative actions including the Florida Aquifer Protection Act.

SUWANNEE ST. JOHNS GROUP SIERRA CLUB ELECTION FOR 2004 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Use this column for single memberships or the 1st voter in joint membership households.

Vote for up to, but no more than, 7 candidates

___ Dwight Adams ___ Roberta Gastmeyer
___ David Auth ___ Linda Pollini
___ Russell Donda ___ Sherry Steiner
___ Karen Garren ___ Christopher Thurow

Use this column for the 2nd voter in joint membership households.

Vote for up to, but no more than, 7 candidates

___ Dwight Adams ___ Roberta Gastmeyer
___ David Auth ___ Linda Pollini
___ Russell Donda ___ Sherry Steiner
___ Karen Garren ___ Christopher Thurow

FOLD INWARD ALONG THIS LINE and then tape closed

Each year, the Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club holds elections for Executive Committee (ExCom) members. The ExCom makes decisions concerning the Group's policy and direction and it represents the Group on a local level. We have a total of 15 ExCom officers serving staggered 2-year terms. This year we will be electing 7 officers. We do not elect members for particular positions, only as members at-large. Then the new executive committee appoints its members to the various positions (eg Chair, Conservation Chair, Secretary, etc).

Voting Instructions: Indicate your choices by checking the line in front of the names of the candidates. Each member may cast one ballot, voting for no more than seven persons. Joint memberships (as indicated by a "J" after the 3305 on the top line of your address label on the back of this page) are entitled to 2 votes. The second column on the ballot is provided for this. Do not vote twice if you do not have a joint membership.

Mailing Instructions: This ballot is designed to be a self-mailer. Remove this page from the newsletter, fold the top third inward so the ballot is on the inside and **tape** it closed for privacy (do not staple). Fold the bottom third outward so that the election committee's address appears on the outside and tape the bottom closed. Affix a first-class stamp and mail. To protect your confidentiality, after noting on the outside of the ballot whether it is for joint or single membership, election committee members will remove the label before opening the top part of the ballot. This will make sure no single members vote twice!

Ballots must be received by December 15th, 2003. Please be sure to mail your ballot in time to allow delivery by that date. If you have any questions about this procedure, call Irma Harris, Election Committee Chair, at 352-466-1243

Ballots will be counted on December 15 at 7:00pm at Joanne Auth's house at 425 NE 7th Street, Gainesville. This meeting is open to all Sierra Club members. You may call Joanne at 371-1991 for directions.

FOLD INWARD ALONG THIS LINE and then tape closed

SSJG Sierra Club
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Place 37-cent
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SSJG SIERRA ELECTION COMMITTEE
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NOVEMBER 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. General meeting at the entomology/nematology building on UF campus Rm.1031-1033.

November 13, Thursday, 7 p.m. EXCOM meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church library, 4225 NW 34th St., Gainesville.

November 15, Saturday, All Day, Annual Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club Conservation Conference and Awards Dinner, open to all. To be held at Luther Springs Campground in West Putnam County. FMI contact Kathy Cantwell at 352-395-7441 or kacmd@aol.com.

November 16, Sunday, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club Executive Committee meets at Luther Springs Campground in West Putnam County.

November 20, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Conservation Committee meets at David Auth's house, 425 NE 7th St., Gainesville.

November 20, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. Bayfront Amphitheater in Miami—Oppose the FTAA Rally & March. Contact Linda at 378-2401 Join THRE-NE at Yahoogroups.com.

November 21, Friday, 7 p.m. Newsletter folding party at Scott Camil's. FMI s.camil@att.net or 375-2563.

November 22, Saturday, 9 a.m. Mushroom Identification Hike at the Temple of the Universe.

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB CONSERVATION CONFERENCE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15!

This year the conference will be held at the beautiful new Luther Springs campground on Lake Vause in western Putnam County, between Hawthorne and Interlachen. It's still not too late to register for the conference. Call Kathy Cantwell at 352-395-7441 FMI or go to www.Gatorsierra.org and click on events. (DEADLINE for camping/lodging is Nov 3. There is an awards dinner Saturday with keynote speaker Al Burt and entertainment by Jane Yi. If you are going to just the daytime programs, on-site registration is available.

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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