



Suwannee-St. Johns Group

Sierra Club

Newsletter

Published monthly except June and August from Gainesville, Florida

VOLUME 34 • NUMBER 9 • November 2004

Rural Stewards

PROGRAM TRADES CONSERVATION CREDITS

BY KRISTINA JACKSON

A potential new way to protect natural lands was established in state law this year. Known as the Rural Lands Stewardship Program (RLSP), it was started as a pilot program in 2001 and expanded into a specifically “encouraged” land use designation by the legislature this year.

This approach to land conservation encourages trading of credits emphasizing protection of quality habitat while keeping land in private ownership.

Craig Evans will describe RLSP, its development and applications in natural resource protection.

The RLSP grew out of a collaborative effort beginning in 1993 between government agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners to provide market-based incentives for landowners to maintain and protect natural resources.

Specifically there was emphasis on protecting habitat for the endangered Florida panther. At one point, Florida Wildlife Federation filed suit against Collier County, Florida, because it was not doing enough under its comprehensive plan to protect natural resources in the face of the nation’s highest rate of growth (#1 in U.S. 1980-1990 and #2 in U.S. 1990-2000 after Las Vegas).

Private landowners responded by offer-

ing to place a voluntary moratorium on all development in a 300-square-mile area of the county and to pay for a planning effort to come up with an alternative approach that would work for all interests. The Collier County Board of County Commissioners accepted the landowners’ offer and appointed a 15-member Citizen’s Committee to work with the landowners and all affected stakeholders.

At that point, nine federal, state and regional agencies offered technical support. The Committee reached unanimous agreement on their recommendations to the County Commission after 33 public meetings over the course of 2-1/2 years.

The result is the Rural Lands Stewardship Program, which one state planner calls “by far the best concept we’ve ever seen to address rural growth issues.”

Presently, the RLSP is being applied with four projects in Florida and one in

North Carolina and strong interest being shown in local communities in California, Georgia, Ohio, Texas and Virginia. A new, quick approach has been developed to assess whether the RLSP, or other land use planning options, is appropriate for a specific local area.

Evans has a diverse background in enjoying and protecting the outdoors. He has written seven travel guides to the natural areas and trails of Europe (published under the series title On Foot Through Europe, William Morrow & Company, New York, 1982). He served as the editor

of Backpacker Magazine in the mid-1970s, where he developed procedures to conduct extensive field tests and reviews on backpacking stoves, tents, winter wear, raingear and lightweight binoculars.

Evans now serves on the Florida state committees appointed to assist with rule-making for the “Rural and Family Lands Protection Act” and “Rural Lands Stewardship Act,” both of which will be

administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Come out to our meeting on Nov. 4th and for more information on the RLSP go to <http://www.privatelands.org>

GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, Nov. 4, 7:30 PM
 Nematology/Entomology Building on the UF campus
 (Just east of the Performing Arts Center. Turn south off Hull Road on to Natural Areas Road.)

RURAL LANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
 CRAIG EVANS
 PRESIDENT, FLORIDA STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION



<i>THE HURRICANE STATE</i>	2
<i>SCIENCE AND THE SUWANNEE RIVER</i>	5
<i>2005 SIERRA CLUB BALLOT</i>	7

The Hurricane State

BY DAVID AUTH

SSJ Sierra Club Group Chair

J.E. Duane pointed his flashlight toward the ocean. As a local observer for the Weather Bureau, now the National Weather Service, the great size of the waves fascinated him. All seemed relatively safe when he stepped onto the beach that Labor Day evening on Long Key, Florida, 1935. He mentally took his notes, later to be published as the best record of this worst ever Florida hurricane. The barometric pressure fell to 26.35 inches when the eye passed over Lower Matecumbe Key, the lowest air pressure ever recorded during a Sunshine State hurricane. Suddenly Duane spotted a wall of seawater bearing down on him, the storm surge. He ran toward his cottage only 60 feet away and got to the door in waist deep water. At 10:15 p.m. his once safe haven broke up, after lifting free of the foundation and floating inland, and he soon found himself in the top of a coconut palm. "I was then struck by some object and knocked unconscious." He woke up four hours later and discovered the sea had wedged him 20 feet off the ground. 408 people died in the Labor Day Hurricane, mostly by drowning.

CHAIR'S



CORNER

Baguio, cyclone, hurricane, typhoon, willy-willy, or whatever you call it, this is the mightiest storm on earth. The perfect storm can live 20 days, travel 3,600 miles, span 600+ miles across, typically reach 40,000 feet into the sky, sometimes have winds exceeding 200 miles per hour, produce 200 billion tons of water and dump up to 43 inches of rainfall in 24 hours, have a storm surge of 30 feet, and release the equivalent energy of 500,000 Nagasaki atomic bombs in 24 hours. Hurricanes are tremendous heat engines, happiest over oceans with temperatures exceeding 80 degrees F. This heat is released when water vapor turns to water high up inside the storm, the opposite of evaporative cooling down below.

Florida should be called the Hurricane State instead of the Sunshine State, but the leaders of our two money machines, the tourist industry and population explosion, would loudly object. This name change has as much chance of officially passing as the income tax. We do keep state secrets in Florida. 40 percent of all hurricanes in the U.S. hit our Flower State, including 10 of the 31 deadliest since 1900 and more 130+ mph big winds than any other state except Texas, home of the biggest Hot Air of all.

Floridians have experienced Charlie, Francis, Ivan, and Jeanne, with two weakened versions over Gainesville. Since 1886, Florida has been hit by our present maximum four a year, in 1906, 1935, 1948, and 1994(?). Seven times we have had three hurricanes a year.. Just to drive the point home: Floridians are all environmentalists, whether we like it or not!

Climate experts say the United States has entered a decade or longer increase in both the number and severity of hurricanes. Significant correlations have already been made with global warming (President Bush says, "Global What?"), but consensus has not been reached on direct causality. A more violent hurricane future means an increase in the billions of dollars of property losses for Floridians. Such huge financial losses have many negative impacts on everyone, not just to those who are directly affected. Hurricanes are not common in our Group area compared to other parts of Florida. Dora was our last one, forty years ago in 1964. It is impossible to say whether our Group area will experience more hurricanes or tropical storms as predicted generally. Time will tell.

Environmentalists should contemplate the few good things about Florida hurricanes, since we are not likely to ever prevent them. We need the water. There is some talk about calling a special session of

see HURRICANE, page 4

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	David Auth	371-1991	davidauth@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair	Linda Pollini	481-2048	thirdeyegrafix@earthlink.net
Secretary	Annette Long	352-490-8930	MLongAKorn@aol.com
Treasurer/Membership Chair	Roberta Gastmeyer	336-2404	rgastmeyer@earthlink.net
Administrative Chair	Dwight Adams	378-5129	adams@phys.ufl.edu
Outings Chair	Karen Garren	371-0008	ILUVFLA@gru.net
Events Coordinator	Sherry Steiner	375-2563	s.camil@att.net
Political Chair	Rob Brinkman	337-1757	robbrinkman@cox.net
Public Relations	Jape Taylor	332-8194	JapeT@nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu
Newsletter Editor/Listserve	Kristina Jackson	372-2464	kristinajackson@cox.net
Government Liaison	Christopher Thurow	352-528-9352	cthurow@thurow.us
Environmental Education Chair	Russell Donda	335-8618	rsdonda@viewray
Alternate FLEX Com Delegate	Pegeen Hanrahan	377-7960	Mevyleen@aol.com
Newsletter Folding	Scott Camil	375-2563	s.camil@att.net
Webmaster	Louis Clark	373-5377	klouisc@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Layout • Colin Whitworth • 372-2464 • colinwhitworth@cox.net

E-MAIL TREE

Please contact Kristina Jackson at 372-2464 by phone or by e-mailing kristinajackson@cox.net if you would like to assist with the Sierra Club e-mail 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, 1024 NW 13th 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.**

A Fungi Time of Year

BY KAREN GARREN

Storms of hurricanes are good for ducks, frogs and mushrooms. And we have a bunch of mushrooms this fall. Join us to learn about what fungi are fruiting now.

NOVEMBER 13, Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fungal Foray to the Coleman Farm, Newberry area, and see what's coming up in the way of fungi. This is the time of year fungi are switching gears, no more chanterelles but we may find some boeletes. Perhaps we can reconvene for a cooking class that evening depending on what we find.

NOVEMBER 21, Sunday 10:30 a.m.

to about 2:30 p.m. Florida Trail in the Rice Creek area (Putnam County) Expect to see lots of wildlife and giant trees.

We will hike on an old logging tram road. Moderate in distance, about five-miles, and hiking ability.

There is a boardwalk through the swamp but be prepared to get your feet wet, just in case. We will be shuttling from the trailhead.

DECEMBER 13-17, Monday thru Friday. (Join us for part or all.) Everglades & South Florida. Where is our money

going to? Features learning about the Everglades restoration project. First stop: Kissimmee State Park then onto Long Pine Key, in Everglades National Park. Bring your canoe/kayak as we will explore this area by foot, by road and by water.

COMING SOON:

January we'll canoe and look for manatees on the Crystal River.

For more information contact Karen Garren, 371-0008, or IluvFla@gru.net

Remember, these sierra club outings are all educational and open to the public but you may be asked to sign a release of liability to participate. Small donations towards club expenses are appreciated.



ANNUAL FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB CONSERVATION CONFERENCE AND AWARDS DINNER

SATURDAY, NOV. 20, 2004

For the fourth year in a row Sierrans from all over the state will converge on

north Central Florida with one thing on their minds—conservation.

The theme of this year's state conservation conference is "Florida's Water Heritage" We will have workshops and presentations covering our Gulf and Atlantic coasts and the Keys, our drinking water, our rivers and lakes, etc.

Keeping with the water theme, 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.

Our keynote speaker Saturday night will be John Moran. John will delight us with his pictures and narrative of the wild Florida he has come to know in his 25 years of capturing photos. For more information and to register contact Kathy Cantwell at kacmd@aol.com or 352-395-7441.

SIERRA CLUB CALENDAR SALE

Sierra Club calendars are perfect gifts for your friends and family. They'll enjoy this gift every day of 2005! Calendars are available at all General Meetings (Nov. 11 and Dec. 2). 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!



RENAISSANCE PRINTING

serving your printing needs since 1972



- DocuTech Digital Copies • Express Fax • Digital Color Copies
- Custom Finishing • Desktop Publishing • Offset Printing
- Fast Professional Service • Free Pick-up & Delivery

4130 N.W. 16th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352)372-2233 • FAX 372-3435

WOOD • GAS • ELECTRIC



THE WOOD STOVE
AND FIREPLACE CENTER

611 N. Main Street 377-9535
WEB SITE: woodstoveflorida.com

Dental Arts

Eric J. Amundson DDS
Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

- Comprehensive Dental Care
- Cleanings in a Spa-like Setting
- The Art of Cosmetic Dentistry
- Affordable Teeth Whitening
- Restorative Dentistry Including Implants
- Preventative Dentistry for Your Family

4040 W. Newberry Rd. Suite 1200 • Gainesville, Florida • 32607
352-376-3400 www.dentalarts.us

Are Two Coal Power Plants Better Than One?

BY ROB BRINKMAN

It has been six months since I last wrote an article on Gainesville Regional Utilities' (GRU's) plan to double their coal fired base load (the least expensive and therefore most often used generator) capacity. In the last article, several points were raised, such as: GRU does not need such a large expansion of capacity; conservation should be a much higher priority; and coal emits mercury that other fuels would not.

Also cited were some other options such as upgrading Deerhaven 1 (DH1), an existing natural gas plant; using biomass as a fuel source; and more conservation and energy efficiency programs.

Alachua County's Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) continues to critique GRU's proposal. A delay will be recommended before proceeding with the largest public works project in Gainesville's history.

The proposed plant, along with a needed upgrade of the existing coal plant's (DH2) pollution control equipment, will cost close to a half billion dollars to build. This exceeds the current depreciated value of all the rest of GRU's power plants. The total cost to ratepayers over the life of the bonds will be approximately \$1.5 billion dollars. In order to pay for this proposed plant the excess capacity, estimated to be at least 70 million watts (MW), will be used for sales on the grid to other utilities. The net effect will be that the people who own this plant, its customers, will endure the pollution, while other communities get the benefit of the power generated.

When Russia ratifies the Kyoto Treaty, likely before the end of the year, it will

become legally in force. This will largely be a symbolic event, but it will be significant as a declaration that most of the world has recognized the problem of climate change caused by carbon emissions.

Increasingly stringent regulations on carbon emissions will result in either a carbon tax or carbon credit trading; both will have the effect of imposing a significant cost for every ton of CO₂ emitted.

Whichever of these is enacted, the financial implications will be severe for GRU. In Europe, carbon credits are already trading for about \$13.00/ton; as the regulations, by necessity, become more stringent, prices will continue to go up. If costs were above \$23.00/ton, GRU's new coal plant may become a stranded asset, uneconomical to operate. The City of Gainesville could well be left with a huge debt in the form of unpaid bonds.

GRU has apparently chosen the CFB technology because it can burn a variety of fuels such as coal, petroleum coke, and biomass. While this is a versatile and efficient technology, it does have some drawbacks. Of particular concern is increased emissions of nitrous oxide (N₂O). N₂O is another greenhouse gas (GHG) that has 296 times the impact of CO₂. In other words, one ton of N₂O would equal 296 tons of CO₂.

This is a time of great uncertainty in the future regulatory environment for both GHG and mercury emissions. Technological advances in both fossil fuel and alternative power generation could make much more economic and environ-

mental sense for this community than the proposal brought forward by GRU. While this proposed plant has been discussed for over a year now, it would be prudent for the Gainesville City Commission to consider a delay in committing to such a costly project.

Minor changes in contracts with Clay Electric Cooperative and the City of Starke and removing GRU's obligation to satisfy their peak power demands would reduce demand by 7-12% and allow a delay of 3-5 years in making a decision on a new power plant.

A much smaller gas turbine, as was contemplated in the 2003 GRU site plan report to the Public Service Commission, would satisfy our power needs through 2015.

A DELAY WILL BE RECOMMENDED BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE LARGEST PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT IN GAINESVILLE'S HISTORY.

GRU will be conducting workshop presentations on conservation through Demand Side Management (DSM) on November 1st and on November 15th there will be a risk assessment and financial planning workshop. Both meetings will begin at 6 pm. It is expected that GRU will seek a decision to proceed with the engineering and permitting process for a 220MW CFB plant at the last meeting.

The SSJ executive committee voted last March to oppose this plant. If you cannot make the above meetings, particularly the last one, please email the Gainesville City Commission at CityComm@ci.gainesville.fl.us and express your opposition to another coal fired power plant. One coal plant is enough!

HURRICANE, from page 2

the Florida Legislature for new hurricane-related legislation. Lieutenant Governor Jennings said the state may place some restraints on rebuilding along the coast and further strengthen building codes, as happened to some extent after Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The population of our state approaches 17,000,000. Andrew

caused \$20-30 billion of property damages, the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history. Presumably there will come a day, hopefully soon, when the number of people moving to Florida will permanently drop, because these mightiest of storms have always loved our part of the landscape.

*The story of J.E. Duane and facts and figures about hurricanes were gleaned from *The Climate and Weather of Florida, 1994*, by J.A. Henry, K.M. Portier, and J. Coyne. Pineapple Press, Sarasota.*

Science and the Suwannee River

BY ANNETTE LONG

Last month, the U.S. Geological Survey held a workshop to bring together all of the agencies and universities that are currently studying the Suwannee River and its basin. It is heartening to see that so many resources have been dedicated to the study of our Suwannee Watershed.

What became very clear is something most of us don't think about. The "Suwannee" is really the Okefenokee Swamp, the many feeder creeks and streams in South Georgia and North Florida, the Little River, the Alapaha River, the Withlacoochie River, the Ichetucknee River, the Santa Fe River and all of the springs that feed them—not just the Suwannee alone. Each of these parcels has an important effect on our water.

One of the reasons so much attention is being paid to the Suwannee is that it is unique in the world as rivers go. The Suwannee Basin crosses state boundaries, it has an immense groundwater (springs) input, it has not been altered to any great degree (dams, dredges etc.). The Suwannee also has a unique estuary (it is an "outie"

instead of a bay) surrounded by an oyster reef.

Many of the studies presented at the workshop addressed minimum flows and levels (MFL's) either directly or indirectly. Minimum flow effects are being studied because the USGS, Florida DEP and the Suwannee River Water Management District are trying to understand just how much water it will take to keep the river healthy.

The Florida Legislature has made law to prevent measurable harm to our rivers, but "harm" was never clearly defined in the statute. Is harm done when the Gulf Sturgeon can no longer make it to their spawning site due to low water? Is harm done when the invertebrates on the bottom of the river cease to thrive? Is harm done when the swamps dry out and are replaced by upland forest trees?

All of these studies are being done because there is not a lot of historical data for river stages or river biology. In theory, harm can't really be defined until we know what "normal" is. The USGS will be publishing a white paper on the workshop and has organized a steering committee to continue similar workshops in the future. The ultimate goal appears to be to create a "Suwannee River Database" so that all of us can have access to information that is important to understanding our river. When published in the next couple of weeks, this information can be accessed

<http://gulfsoci.usgs.gov/index.html>.

A copy of the open file report and notes from the Suwannee River Workshop can be obtained from Annette Long at mlongalong@bellsouth.net.

MADISON BLUE SPRING MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS

The Suwannee River Water Management District Board of Governors has been working on a draft rule for the Madison Blue Spring Minimum Flows and Levels. The public hearings will likely be held at either the November or December board meetings. For more information regarding SRWMD meeting agendas, dates and times: <http://mysuwanneeriver.com/default.htm>

LOWER SUWANNEE NEWS

The SRWMD has completed the purchase of a continuous protected wildlife corridor on the east side of the Lower Suwannee River. The corridor now begins at Manatee Springs State Park outside of Chiefland and extends all the way to the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. The addition of the conservation easement on 2,022 acres in the Usher Tract will add both wildlife and groundwater protection for the Lower Suwannee.

Sprawl Hurts Us All

BY KATHY CANTWELL

Public Lands Issue Chair Conservation Committee
Florida Chapter

Ichetucknee Springs is under assault again, but this time it is not a coal-burning cement plant or a dirty industry pouring toxic wastes into the water. The villain this time is much more of a threat than this. The villain is Urban Sprawl.

Columbia County is proposing extending its' urban boundary 3 miles out from its present location. If this is approved, it will change the density allowable in this urban reserve from 1 dwelling unit/5-20 acres to 1 dwelling unit/1-3acre.

This could have potentially disastrous effects on the springs. Most of the land to

the south of Lake City is in karst topography with multiple stream to sink connections to underground rivers and caverns that have been proven to directly connect to Ichetucknee Springs.

There is presently no infrastructure in place to provide sewer and water to this area. Increased density in this area will mean the proliferation of septic systems and wells that will significantly alter the hydrology and water quality of Ichetucknee Springs. The septic systems would potentially increase the already increasing nitrate problem in the Ichetucknee system

Development at this intensity will increase impervious surface area to this important recharge area. This will increase

storm water runoff, bringing even more pollutants to this underground springshed for the Ichetucknee.

Nitrate levels have been gradually increasing in Ichetucknee Springs, a first magnitude spring that is the crown jewel in the State Park system. This has been directly related to human activities in its' springshed. Development that would be allowed in this proposed amendment to the comprehensive plan of Columbia County would greatly increase this problem.

We urge you to contact the County Commission of Columbia County and ask them to address this issue. You may contact the Columbia County Commission at Post Office Drawer 1529 Lake City, Florida 32056-1529. Telephone:(386)758-1005 Fax: (386)758-2182. E-mail penny_stanley@columbiacountyfla.com

2005 Sierra Club ExCom Nominees

Tom Begley

At 14 years of age, I left home to train for the Brotherhood (De La Salle Christian Brothers) and teaching. Twenty-nine years later, I left the Order and have since been married, widowed, and blessed with my present companion Blanche. My greatest opportunity to impact the environment came as a teacher of English (25 years) and Special Education (20 years). In Tanzania, I taught students destined to be influential members of their country politically and socially. I particularly encouraged them to protect their environment from industrial over-development and its negative impact. As a member of Smart Growth Coalition (Marion County), I continue to pursue this same outlook.

Rob Brinkman

It's hard to believe that two years have passed since I ran for a seat on excom; time flies when your busy! I have been involved in opposing the Wal-Mart super center on Hogtown Creek's headwaters and GRU's plans for another coal fired power plant. Excom has struggled with the development community and Alachua County over the new comprehensive plan and, for too long now, the Kopper's superfund site has required our constant attention. I have found serving as chair of the political committee this year very rewarding. I hope to be re-elected so that I may continue to serve.

Scott Camil

I'm a Vietnam veteran who has been an activist against war, the death penalty and injustice for over 30 years. I've worked for a woman's right to choose, Campaign Finance Reform, Citizens for Police Review, the Clean Air Ordinance, Charter Amendment 1, and Alachua County Forever. As a strong advocate for the environment, I've helped elect pro-environmental candidates. As a member of Excom for the last 2 years, I have served as the folding party coordinator as well as on the nominating, newsletter and political committees. I am on the advisory board of All Veterans for Kerry and a counselor for the GI Rights Hotline.

Joshua Dickinson

I have a BS in engineering, PhD in geography and postdoc in ecology. Most of my career has been in natural resources-related consulting in the Southeast and the tropics. Sixteen years were spent with Tropical Research and Development, Inc. In 1992 I founded the Forest Management Trust. If elected, I would bring a practical perspective on ecologically and economically sustainable forestry as an alternative to the prevailing industrial model. I am currently serving on the County Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, the County NAACP Executive Committee, and the national board of the Forest Stewardship Council. My hobbies are fishing, hunting, and hiking.

Russell Donda

Russell Donda 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, creation of joint development agreements, and intellectual property management. He has spearheaded development of multiple radical 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. He currently holds a board seat on the Suwannee/St. Johns Sierra Executive Committee and is the Chief Executive Officer of a Gainesville medical technology start-up company.

Kristina Jackson

I've spent fully half my life in Gainesville and have but scratched the surface of all there is to explore and cherish about this area. Now I am spending much of my time with my 7 month-old and 3 year-old daughters as well as working with local non-profit enviro. groups Classroom Nature, Florida Defenders of the Environment and, of course, Sierra Club. I have a masters degree in systems ecology from UF and love tromping around in wet-

lands but I've become more focused on environmental/science education recently. I've been an active Sierran for five years. This year I served as newsletter editor.

Annette Long

Hello to all, I am currently acting as the secretary for the SSJ Sierra Group Excom. I have served in this capacity for the last two years. I got involved with Sierra because of the issues that surfaced regarding the Suwannee River and the springs on the Suwannee, Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers. I spend a considerable amount of time monitoring land use and conservation issues in Levy, Dixie, Gilchrist and Suwannee Counties.

Guy Marwick

I have been involved with many environmental issues throughout my life. Growing up in Pompano Beach strengthened my resolve to fight that type of destructive unplanned growth in Marion County. In 1987, I began the Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center. I remained the director until retirement this summer. Currently, I'm on the Marion Audubon Board of Directors, the Silver Springs Basin Work Group, the U.S.F.S. Forest Access Planning Group and the Smart Growth Coalition. Land acquisition has been an important of my efforts, both through Florida Forever projects and as chairman of Marion County Pennies for Parks Board.

Russell Roy

Russ Roy is a retired Santa Fe Community College Physics Professor who has lived in Gainesville since 1964. He is a member of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club and the Coastal Conservation Association and is very interested in the protection of fisheries, coastal estuaries and wetlands, and water quality. In his view, the present state and federal governments are doing a poor job in these areas and he wants to become more active in conservation. He is married to Eileen Roy and they have two adult children and one grandchild.

SUWANNEE ST. JOHNS GROUP SIERRA CLUB ELECTION FOR 2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS and REFERENDUM ON BYLAWS AMENDMENT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 8 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 eight (8) 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: Remove this page from the newsletter and fold the ballot so that your membership number appears on the outside. Place the ballot in an envelope and mail to: Sierra Club Election Committee, C/O Joanne Auth , 425 NE 7th St, Gainesville, FL 32601.

Ballots must be received by December 4th, 2004. Please be sure to mail your ballot in time to allow delivery by that date. If you have any questions about this procedure, call Roberta Gastmeyer at 352-336-2404.

To protect your confidentiality, after confirming your membership, election committee members will remove the label portion before opening the rest of the ballot.

Ballots will be counted on December 6 at 7:30 p.m., 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.

Use this column for single memberships or the 1 st voter in joint membership households. *Vote for up to, but no more than, 8 candidates* <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Begley <input type="checkbox"/> Russell Roy <input type="checkbox"/> Rob Brinkman <input type="checkbox"/> Kristina Jackson <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Camil <input type="checkbox"/> Annette Long <input type="checkbox"/> Josh Dickinson <input type="checkbox"/> Guy Marwick <input type="checkbox"/> Russell Donda	Use this column for the 2 nd voter in joint membership households. *Vote for up to, but no more than, 8 candidates* <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Begley <input type="checkbox"/> Russell Roy <input type="checkbox"/> Rob Brinkman <input type="checkbox"/> Kristina Jackson <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Camil <input type="checkbox"/> Annette Long <input type="checkbox"/> Josh Dickinson <input type="checkbox"/> Guy Marwick <input type="checkbox"/> Russell Donda
---	---

REFERENDUM ON BYLAWS AMENDMENT

An amendment to the Suwannee St. Johns Group Sierra Club bylaws regarding members who wish to run for ExCom by petition has been proposed by the Executive Committee. The proposed amendment is shown below with strikethrough denoting deletions and underline denoting additions. The amendment would make it easier for a member to obtain the necessary number of signatures in order to run as a petition candidate. Amendments require a majority of voting members, after approval by Excom, Flexcom, and Sierra Club National Board, all of which have occurred. Vote either For or Against the proposed amendment by placing an X on the appropriate line.

4.3 Petition Candidates. The name of any Group member proposed in writing by at least ~~10 percent of the~~ 25 Group members prior to the deadline for submission of petitions, and who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot. The nomination petitions shall be retained until the ballots are destroyed.

Use this column for single memberships or the 1st voter in joint membership households. <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against	Use this column only for 2nd voter in joint membership households. <input type="checkbox"/> For <input type="checkbox"/> Against
--	---

Suwannee-St. Johns Group
Sierra Club
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 13951
Gainesville FL 32604

Periodicals
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Gainesville FL 32608



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Printed on Post-Consumer Waste
Recycled and Recyclable Paper

NOVEMBER 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 2, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Do your civic duty: VOTE.

Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, SSJ Sierra general meeting at the Entomology and Nematology Bld. UF campus (see page 1).

Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Thursday, SSJ Sierra Executive Committee meeting at the general meeting room Santa Fe Comm. College Downtown Gainesville campus.

Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, OUTING: Fungal Foray to Coleman Farm, Newberry. See page 3 for details.

Nov. 19, 7 p.m., Friday, SSJ newsletter folding party at Scott Camil's house. Call for more information: 352-375-2563 or scamil@att.net

Nov. 20, Saturday, Florida Sierra Club, State Conservation Conference. Contact Kathy Cantwell for reservations (see page 3).

Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, OUTING: Hike Florida Trail in Rice Creek area (Putnam County). See article on page 3. Contact Karen Garren, ILuvFla@gru.net, 371-0008.

To advertise
in the newsletter,
contact
Kristina Jackson
at 372-2464.

Membership

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard Visa Exp Date ____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

F94Q **W3305** .1



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968