



Suwannee-St. Johns Group

Sierra Club

Newsletter

Published monthly except June and August from Gainesville, Florida

VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 2 • February 2005

70 Years of Abuse

CAN TUMBLIN CREEK BE RESTORED?

BY KRISTINA JACKSON

Tumblin Creek is undoubtedly one of Gainesville's most damaged creeks. It is an urban creek you can see adjacent to southwest Sixth Street and Depot Road in Gainesville. Tumblin Creek discharges to a 30-acre floodplain wetland that then feeds Bivens Arm Lake. Over 70 years of alteration and abuse through run-off have dras-

tically changed the creek's hydrology. A berm has channelized its flow and caused it to dump all its sediment in the central part of the wetland. These and other human impacts have caused drastic changes in the wetland vegetation.

Mark Clark will be showing pictures and speaking to us about the changes to Tumblin Creek. Many of these typify urban creeks and their human-impacts.

Mark will also talk about the proposed restoration of the wetland to improve water quality. By using the natural processes of the wetland the water quality could be greatly improved before it empties into Biven's Arm. For instance, moving earth to restore sheetflow of water and replanting appropriate plants will slow the water down, spread out its sediment, and allow native vegetation to cleanse the water.

Mark Clark is a wetlands ecologist and associate professor in UF's Soil and Water Science Department. His research includes wetland nutrient assimilation, stormwater wetland functions, and plant eco-physiology, amongst others. Mark works with IFAS extension service; has loads of informa-



A Swamp Tupelo tree 50 meters downstream from the end of the channelized portion of Tumblin Creek, with Mark Clark standing at the estimated soil elevation at the time the tree germinated.

GENERAL MEETING
 Thursday, Feb. 3, 7:30 PM
 Entomology/Nematology Building on the UF campus
 (Just east of the Performing Arts Center. Turn south off
 Hull Road on to Natural Areas Road.)

**TUMBLIN CREEK
 WETLANDS AND
 RESTORATION**

MARK W. CLARK
 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
 UF SOIL AND WATER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



tion, and is an interesting speaker to boot. Come out Feb. 3 and learn about Tumblin Creek and its potential restoration.



The upper reach of Tumblin Creek is restricted within a narrow channel and spoil pile berm that isolates the floodplain to the west (right) of the berm from more frequent flooding.

RALLY FOR THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER 2/19 & 20	4-5
24 AVE. EXPANSION - IT STINKS!	6
MEETINGS FOR ALACHUA CO. LDR'S	7

Coming Together

SSJ GROUP LOOKING TO ACTIVATE OTHER COUNTY MEMBERS

BY SCOTT CAMIL

Dear Member,

Your Suwannee St. Johns Group Sierra Club Executive Committee met recently to plan strategy for 2005. One of the items discussed was the need for us to do a better job of communicating with our members outside of the Alachua County area. While our group represents 14 counties in North Central Florida, Alachua County is where the majority of our members and executive committee live (Putnam, Marion and Levy Counties each have one representative on the Executive Committee). Moreover, it is also the county in which our general meetings take place. We understand that for many of you, getting to the meetings is an inconvenience. Despite this reality, we are acutely aware that the natural resources of importance to the SSJ Group are found in all 14 counties.

At our planning meeting, we recognized that we are not doing a good job of communicating with most of the counties outside of Alachua. We also recognize that because of this lack of communication, our executive committee is unaware and uninformed about many of the pressing issues of the different counties in our group and we

are not making the best use of our membership to help address these issues. We are now in the process of trying to remedy this problem.

You can help!

In order to improve our communications, we would ideally like to set up a committee in each outlying county comprised of members from that county. First and foremost, we'd like to appoint a liaison for each county. This person would be responsible for setting up a meeting with the members from that county (we will make available to each liaison a list of members in their county).

We will then send representatives from the executive committee to your county to meet with you, so that we can learn the issues, needs and strengths of your particular county. We would also like to expand our outings to these counties and add speakers from these counties to our monthly general meetings. We believe that this will make us stronger and allow our work of protecting the environment to be more effective.

Anyone who is interested in helping to facilitate our new outreach program, please contact Scott Camil at s.camil@att.net.

STATE SIERRA NEWS

Help Keep the Environment a Top Issue in Florida

Please help push the environment to the front of the newspaper editors' attention in Florida. Something that you can do (and maybe even make you feel better!) is to write a letter to the editor of newspapers, both in your area and to others.

The Internet makes this easier than ever. Even if your letter is not published, it is good for the newspapers to know that our issue-the environment-is at the top of peoples' concerns.

Most papers require letters to the editor to include a full name, home address, occupation and daytime phone number, for verification purposes. The name, city of residence and, usually, occupation of writers may published. Send your opinions and share them with others.

Go to the state sierra club website at <http://florida.sierraclub.org> and click on a newspaper to send an email directly to any of the 11 largest papers in Florida.

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	Linda Pollini	481-2048	thirdeyegrafix@earthlink.net
Program Chair	open position, applicants welcome		
Conservation Chair	Josh Dickinson	373-2377	josh@foresttrust.com
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	David Auth	371-1991	davidauth@hotmail.com
Public Relations	Russell Donda	335-8618	rsdonda@viewray
Newsletter Editor/Listserve	Kristina Jackson	372-2464	kristinajackson@cox.net
Government Liaison	Rob Brinkman	337-1757	robbrinkman@cox.net
Environmental Education Chair	Russell Roy		raroy4@bellsouth.net
Alternate FLEX Com Delegate	Tom Begley	352-237-8198	none
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.**

Outings Survey

BY KAREN GARREN

We have incredible variety of resources around us here in North Central Florida. Our outings committee would like to use your opinions to generate some new and interesting places to visit. Please consider the questions below and reply to Karen Garren, 352-371-0008 or email ILuvFla@gru.net.

1) What are your priorities in using the Suwannee St Johns Sierra as a tool to achieve high quality of life in North Central Florida (i.e., natural areas conservation, political activism, environmental education, community involvement, outdoor activities, social)?

2) In which types of activities would you be interested in participating in a Sierra Club Outings Program?

- Outings highlighting local and regional conservation issues.
- Social outings such as picnics, attending festivals, discussion groups, other.
- Learning basics of bird watching, fishing, plant identification, camp cooking, wilderness survival techniques.
- Family outings suitable for participation by small children.
- Outings for mentally and physical-challenged..
- Strenuous outings requiring physical fitness such as backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing.
- Extended eco-tours of small groups with comfortable pre-arranged amenities.
- Others.

3) How can our Sierra group increase interest and participation by members outside of the local Gainesville area? If you live outside of Alachua County, would you be interested in arranging for a program or hosting an outing in your area of Florida?



Outings Workshops

IMPROVE YOUR SAFETY SKILLS
EXPLORE • ENJOY • PROTECT

Mar 19-20 Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course in Gainesville. Cost is \$75 for the 16-hour course. No CPR just WFA. Includes book and three-year certification from the American Health and Safety Institute. Instructed by UF staff. Contact Rudy Scheffer at 727-726-8375 or e-mail:

rudy@adventuresworldwide.com

APRIL 8-10 Outing Leader Training Workshop for all outing programs. Conducted by National staff and volunteers. This course is the Core Workshop, OLT 201, as referenced in the Outing Leader Minimum Standard Policy. Location will be in the West Palm Beach area. For reservations please contact Sascha.Paris@sierraclub.org. For additional information, visit <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/outings/training/index.asp>

APRIL 23 Outing Leader Training OLT 101 class in the Tampa Bay area. Exact location will depend upon group size. Learn how to become a Sierra Club Outing Leader or re-certify as required by the Minimum Leader Standard Outing Policy. Learn about the latest rules and regulations. For information contact Rudy Scheffer at 727-726-8375 or e-mail:rudy@adventuresworldwide.com

'Round the State We Go

These outings are organized by other sierra club groups but have been opened to the rest of the Florida Chapter. There is a terrific variety to choose from...and this is just for the month of February!

The name of the sponsoring sierra group is in parenthesis at the end of the announcement. As usual, all sierra club outings are educational and open to the public.

JAN. 29 Learn about the birds and plants of the Indian River Lagoon on a nature walk and pontoon boat ride at the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, north of Vero Beach. The nature walk will be conducted by the Environmental Learning Center, \$16.95 for the pontoon boat ride. Leisure. Limit 20. Charles Hunt, 561-967-4770 (Loxhatchee)

JAN. 30 Sunday Morning Hike at Gator Creek Reserve. A three hour adventure within the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern and the headwaters of five major river systems of central Florida. Easy to reach on Rt. 98 between Lakeland and Zephyrhills. Leader: Rikter 813-263-4734 or (Tampa Bay)

FEB. 5 Walk Myakka State Park. 4-6 mile walk bring water, wear sturdy shoes and

bring lunch if you have time. Reserve with Sally 941-484-4113. (Manatee-Sarasota)

FEB. 5 Join us as we take a walk in the woods and share discussion. We will learn some of the key features of primary habitats in Sarasota County and we will discuss what the creation says about the creator. The leaders focus is from a Christian perspective but all views are welcome. Reserve with Bill Lewis 941-355-2156 (Manatee-Sarasota)

FEB. 6 Bicycle ride on the Withlacoochee State Trail. The ride will visit a portion of this rail-to-trails linear park. It will be a moderate 3 to 4 hours ride. Leader Ben Berauer at 727.392.2821, bfberauer@aol.com (Suncoast).

FEB. 11 Women's Paddle on the Homosassa Springs and Halls River. We will launch on the Homosassa and paddle to the undeveloped Halls River with its outstanding wildlife. At this time of year, we have a good chance of seeing manatees who congregate in the area. Kayak rentals available(about \$30).Sue Brandon,



see OUTINGS, page 5



Rally for the River

REMOVE RODMAN DAM! RESTORE THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER!

BY KAREN AHLERS

President, Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc.

The Rally for the Ocklawaha River, sponsored by the Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc. is a weekend (Feb. 19 & 20) full of great field trips and a big party with live music by Dale Crider and other Florida folk musicians and Al Burt as featured guest. But more than that, it's an opportunity for you and your group to have fun and make a difference in the ongoing struggle to restore the Ocklawaha River.

Here in Putnam County, almost daily we deal with the controversy in our backyard - the dammed Ocklawaha River and the resulting Rodman Reservoir. While we understand the apprehension of local officials and the business community that fear a negative economic impact if the river is restored, PCEC has planned a fun-filled weekend event to demonstrate the positive impacts of nature-based tourism that will result from a restored river.

To make this successful, we need you! We are asking supporters from across the state to come to Putnam County February 19-20, 2005 (President's Day weekend). Come and enjoy one of the 50+ field trips

and tours we've arranged in beautiful, rural Putnam County, stay at least one night and eat at local restaurants. On Saturday night, join us at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka for a free, music- and fun-filled pep Rally for the River!

We need a big crowd to make this work and are counting on the support of like-minded folks that are equally frustrated over the decades we've spent working on this issue.

Your participation will support restoration efforts by:

demonstrating the economic impact of nature-based tourism on the local economy - we'll provide you with calling cards to leave everywhere you go and ask that you give us your receipts so we can prepare a report for local officials;

showing everyone that this is not a local issue - the Ocklawaha River is an important resource for all Floridians;

reinvigorating and thanking those who

have fought this battle for decades - meet and greet representatives for many of Florida's premier conservation organizations;

giving legislators the evidence of public support needed to continue fighting this battle in Tallahassee and Washington - we'll have petitions for you to sign and sample letters for you to write to your elected representatives;

educating and motivating activists statewide - the resource lies in rural north central

Florida, but the population areas and majority of representation on state and federal levels lies elsewhere; and

strengthen local supporters who have no representation in Tallahassee on this issue - your support will motivate and inspire many who feel they have no voice.

Here's how it works:

This is not a conference with concurrent scientific lectures, presentations, awards banquets, or conference fees. This event has two main features: 50+ concurrent, interesting and mostly FREE field trips and tours in three time blocks: Saturday, February 19, 2005, morning and afternoon and Sunday morning, February 20, 2005; and a FREE pep-Rally for the Ocklawaha River at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka on Saturday evening, February 19, 2005, with live music and interesting guests.

We've created field trip opportunities to satisfy a wide variety of interests and have

enlisted the help of some of the best trip leaders in north central Florida. Great birds, botanists, naturalists, outfitters, and artists will be on hand to show you what makes this area so special.

Most are free and you can sign up for more than one. If you need more information about a location, many have websites. When you decide where you want to go, please call the contact person listed to make reservations for you or your group and have

see RALLY, next page

**RALLY FOR THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER
FEB. 19 & 20TH**

**FIELD TRIPS ALL WEEKEND.
SEE SCHEDULE AT WWW.FLADEFENDERS.ORG**

**SATURDAY, 7:30 P.M. RALLY
AT RAVINE GARDENS STATE PARK**

FREE MUSIC • FOOD • FRIENDS

RALLY, from previous page

maps and other information sent directly to you. Many trips require a minimum number of participants so please don't delay in expressing your interest.

When you look at the accommodations list you will notice there are few hotels and motels. We encourage you to consider the fish camps. It may sound odd but most of these are located in the southeast corner of Putnam County along the banks of the St. Johns River or Lake Crescent, in incredibly beautiful settings. Many are quaint and pretty basic but have restaurants, facilities for tent and RV camping, boat rentals, and interesting folks with stories to tell. We've tried to list all the available websites so you can go online and check them out before you decide. It would be good for the owners of these establishments to know that there is a market in nature-based tourism other

than bass fishermen.

We've also reserved the dorms and apartment at Welaka State Forest for the weekend. If you're traveling with friends this might be a great alternative to a motel or a tent and the price is right, only \$8 per night. You'll need to bring your own towels and bed linens. Sleeping bags are suggested.

Saturday evening at 7:30 you are invited to attend the FREE pep-Rally for the Ocklawaha River at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka. In exchange, we ask that you give us your receipts so we can tally them up for our report back to local officials. **THIS IS A CRITICAL PART OF OUR STRATEGY!** Concern over the local economy is the main reason proponents of Rodman cite for keeping the Ocklawaha River dammed. We need your help to demonstrate that there is more to nature-based tourism than bass fishing.



Hope to see you there!

For a list of fieldtrips and local accommodations go to: www.fladefenders.org

Or contact Karen Ahlers, Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc. (352) 546-3560 or PCECRiverRally@hotmail.com, Post Office Box 92, Interlachen, Florida 32148.

OUTINGS, from page 3

brandon11@earthlink.net, 813-622-1800. (Suncoast)

FEB. 12 Jim Neville Preserve Paddle. We plan to be on the water by 1 pm and will paddle through and around the mangrove islands of the Preserve then cross the Intercoastal and explore the entrances to Catfish Creek and North Creek then weave south through mangrove islands back to Midnight Pass Beach. Come visit this area that is so contested and see for yourself the beauty of this bay. Reserve with Paul 941-355-3312 (Manatee-Sarasota)

FEB. 13 Morning Hike to the Upper Little Manatee Preserve. This is a true get away from it all for 3 hours outing to the upper reaches of one of the cleanest rivers in the state right here in south Hillsborough County. Leader: Rikter 813-263-4734 or (Tampa Bay)

FEB. 13 Emerson Point 9 to 11:30 am - Hike and explore this 360 acre park at the western end of Snead Island between the Manatee River and the Terra Ceia Bay Aquatic Preserve. This leisurely-paced 3 mile hike will reveal cultural and natural resources including a 30 foot Indian mound, 131 acres of mangrove swamp, oyster bar, and hardwood hammock. Bring sunscreen, snacks, and water. Reserve with

Marge at 941-753-9709 or Mary at 941-752-3200. (Manatee-Sarasota)

FEB. 19 Emerson Point Walk. Walk the Carlton Reserve. Five mile walk. Wear wettable shoes, bring water, sunscreen, bug repellent and lunch to eat if your time allows. Reserve with Sally 941-484-4113. (Manatee-Sarasota)

FEB. 19 Jungles of the World Revealed in Photography Exhibition. Daytona Beach Community College Southeast Museum of Photography, 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd. Jungles of the World Revealed in Photography Exhibition. Join Sierra Club on a "tour" to see exotic jungles and rainforests come to life in an extraordinary exhibition by one of the world's most acclaimed nature photographers. "Jungles" is a 20-year exploration of nature in the tropics by master storyteller, naturalist and National Geographic photographer Frans Lanting. Leader: Mary-Slater 407-426-6896 or (Central)

FEB. 19-20 Overnight backpack trip to Myakka River State Park, Bee Island Campsite. An easy backpack of only about 12 miles total. Limit 6. Co-leaders Mike Pici, 727-798-9227 or revmp777@earthlink.net, Ben Berauer, 727-392-2821 or bfberauer@aol.com (Suncoast)

FEB. 19-20 Rally for the Ocklawaha. There's camping, canoeing, hiking,

botanizing, birdwatching, something for everyone. Karen Garren of the SSJ sierra is leading a wild edible mushroom ID workshop and hike. (Suwannee-St.Johns) See article on facing page for details.

FEB. 25 Campground camping at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring. We'll hike the park trails and learn about the Central Florida highlands ecosystems. \$40/person (\$10 for children under 14) includes 6 meals and campsite. \$30/person if arriving on Saturday. Leisure. Limit 20. Mike Baird, 561-965-7237, (Loxahatchee)

FEB. 26 Paddle Terra Ceia Bay. Putting in at Emerson Point Park and will paddle across the mouth of Terra Ceia Bay to Rattle Snake Key. Moderately difficult trip because of distance and open water. Rentals need to be reserved by Feb. 22. Reserve with Peter 941-729-8006 (Manatee-Sarasota)

FEB. 27 Sunday Morning Hike to Blackwater Creek Preserve. This is a real favorite of mine and the best maintained preserve you will find anywhere thanks to the dedication of the Ham family. Visiting the rock formations at the creek is a unique local feature. Leader: Rikter 813-263-4734 (Tampa Bay)

BY JOSH DICKINSON

Conservation Chair

As a result of private meetings between a single developer and our elected representatives in Congress, Alachua County will receive an unrequested \$3 million from the Federal budget to four-lane SW 24th Avenue. This money will obligate the County to spend millions in scarce transportation funds to solve the problems created by this road.

The process was not transparent. But to add insult to injury, three of our local commissioners voted to accept the gift. WHY? Their arbitrary decision runs contrary to the results of citizen engagement in a major charrette, various workshops, and detailed studies by staff and consultants showing that a four-lane road is not needed to support future development in the area.

It is important that the commissioners feel the strong sense of community outrage at this bait and switch. We must continue to speak out and watch vigilantly.

Call Senator Nelson (202-228-2183) and Reps. Corinne Brown (202-225-0123) and Cliff Stearns (202-225-5744) to complain about dumping unrequested money on the County for a pork barrel project far different than the County envisioned.

Write a letter to one of the three Commissioners (Chestnut, Pinkoson, DeLaney) who voted YES to accept the money and ask him/her to change his/her vote. It's not too late!

An Open Statement to the Alachua County Commission (sent Jan.11)

Garcia Marquez evokes the indelible olfactory image of rotting guavas when he titled one of his novels "The Fragrance of

THE FRAGRANCE OF PORK

ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION TAKES THE \$3 MILLION BAIT

Guava". Southwest 24th Avenue evokes the aroma of the dark side of American democracy - pork barrel politics.

We all know that political mischief is often perpetrated around Christmas when the public is distracted by holiday preparations. This Christmas was no exception. The Commission Chair put the \$3 million four-lane road on the 14 December meet-

ing agenda for approval with minimal public notice. The four-lane string attached to the federal appropriation was the result of a letter by Commissioner Chestnut to Florida's Representative Stearns. As a result, it doesn't matter what subsequent studies indicate.... 2 lane or 6 lane.....we are stuck with a 4 lane road. This process stinks!

In a recent telephone conversation, a commissioner justified his support for Mr. Butler's road by deprecating "The 20th Avenue - Hull Road Charrette" because "only about 40 people" participated and

that Mr. Butler did not choose to be one of them.

This is a slap in the face to Linda Crider and other concerned citizens, staff members and experts who contributed to recommendations later approved by the MTPO (Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization). He also said that the taxes on the new development will pay for things like after school programs. Do we really believe that Mr. Butler will shift his investments to Ft. Lauderdale if he has to suffer the inconvenience of following established County procedures, submit to the DRI process, and actually seek a compromise with the professional planners and citizens who have a different vision for the 24th Avenue area?

One comes to realize that there are two kinds of philanthropists; those who give freely with no more expectations than a

WE ALL KNOW THAT POLITICAL MISCHIEF IS OFTEN PERPETRATED AROUND CHRISTMAS WHEN THE PUBLIC IS DISTRACTED BY HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS. THIS CHRISTMAS WAS NO EXCEPTION.

thanks and perhaps their name on a building.... and those who give, or hint at giving, in order to get. We hope that you commissioners who promoted and voted for this gift of odiferous pork will ponder on its real costs - to your reputations, to the morale of your staff, to future citizen participation, and thereby to the democratic process in Alachua County.

Mr. Butler is so wealthy, so powerful, that he can thumb his nose at participation in the planning process. He has apparently coined a new motto: MY WAY AND THE HIGHWAY!

Unlock the beauty of your Plants naturally with



GreenEdge

Environmentally Friendly • Adds Organic Matter to Your Soil • Grow Your Plants With Less Water

www.green-edge.com

Gainesville:
Garden Gate Nursery
Harmony Gardens

North & Central Florida:
ACE Hardware Stores

Slow Release Organic Fertilizer

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

Influencing Development

BY JOSH DICKINSON

Conservation Chair

The Land Development Regulations (LDRs) are what developers can and cannot do. The LDRs related to Natural and Historic Resources Protection are particularly important to us sierrans. Note when the public and Commission meetings on these LDRs are to be held. You can be certain that developers will be there to assure that the regulations don't limit their actions.

See LDR website link: <http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/ldr.php> to download LDRs before the meetings.

PUBLIC WORKGROUP MEETINGS:

Unless noted all are scheduled from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Grace Knight Conference Room, in the Alachua County Administration Building, 12 S.E. 1st St,

Gainesville.

Jan. 13—General Provisions and Development Review Procedures (Chapters 400, 401, 402).

Jan. 27—Zoning and Uses (Chapters 403, 404).

Feb. 10—Zoning and Uses, continued (Chapters 403, 404).

Feb. 24—Natural and Historic Resources Protection (Chapter 406).

March 10—Development Standards (Chapter 407).

March 24—Overlay Districts and Activity Centers, Nonconformities, Enforcement, Definitions (Chapters 405, 408, 409, 410). Location to be determined.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CHAPTER REVIEW MEETINGS:

Unless noted all are scheduled for 1:30

to 4:00 p.m., in the Jack Durrance Auditorium, Alachua County Administration Building, 12 S.E. 1st St, Gainesville.

Jan. 18—General Provisions and Development Review Procedures (Chapters 400, 401, 402).

Feb. 1 —Zoning and Uses (Chapters 403, 404).

Feb. 15—Zoning and Uses, continued (Chapters 403, 404).

March 1—Natural and Historic Resources Protection (Chapter 406).

March 15—Development Standards (Chapter 407).

March 29—Overlay Districts and Activity Centers, Nonconformities, Enforcement, Definitions (Chapters 405, 408, 409, 410).

April 19—Summary Meeting (Backup material)

May 3—Tentative Public Hearing (Backup material), at 6:00 p.m.

May 19—Tentative Public Hearing (Backup material), at 6:00 p.m.

Jan. 31 - Vote on GRU's Future Plan

Fossil Fuel Dependency or Energy Independence?

BY ROB BRINKMAN

On Monday, January 31st at 6 p.m., the Gainesville City Commission may

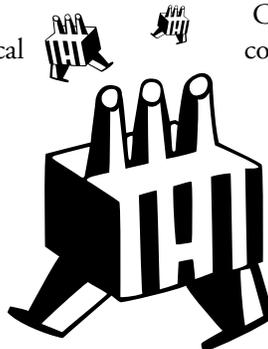
make a far-reaching decision that will determine the energy future of our community for up to 50 years!

GRU is proposing a local version of the Dick Cheney Energy Plan, with more fossil fuels, more pollution, and more export of our electricity to other communities, while we keep the pollution.

Gainesville could invest in conservation, increased energy efficiency, and renewable energy, while

investing in the local economy and achieving drastic reductions in pollution.

Come to the meeting or contact your commissioners, phone 334-5015 or CityComm@ci.gainesville.fl.us, and ask them to chart a new course and appoint an independent panel of experts to develop viable options incorporating extensive use of renewable resources and increased conservation. We must reduce, rather than increase, our consumption of fossil fuels. We owe no less to our children and grandchildren.



WOOD • GAS • ELECTRIC

THE WOOD STOVE
AND FIREPLACE CENTER

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

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

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*

FEBRUARY 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, SSJ general meeting at the Entomology & Nematology Bld. on UF campus (see page 1)

Feb. 10, 7 p.m., Thursday, SSJ executive committee meeting at SFCC Downtown Gainesville campus

Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Friday, newsletter folding party. At Scott Camil and Sherry Steiner's house. Call 352-375-2563 for directions.

Mar. 8 through May 6, Florida State Legislature holds their 2005 regular session. Watch out!

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