



Suwannee-St. Johns Group

Sierra Club

Newsletter

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The Power of Trees and Wind

BY LAUREN MCDONELL

Our Nov. 2 meeting is an opportunity to learn and share concerns about using wood to generate electricity in Gainesville.

We have invited a team of folks from the university who are working to better understand the opportunities that communities have to use wood for energy. They are also developing materials to engage communities in discussions about whether this source of energy is appropriate for them.

Many communities in the South are considering waste wood from forest management as well as urban areas as they aim to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

Team members will present their research and answer questions about sources of wood, how much wood could be available, how forests can be sustainably managed to continue to produce wood, the local economic impact of using wood to generate electricity, and other aspects of this timely debate.

The team is interested in collecting information from Sierra Club members about our thoughts and concerns and has invited us to provide ideas as they refine their program and fact sheets.

Some communities will ultimately decide not to pursue wood for energy, but others are likely to move in that direction. If Gainesville continues to explore the potential of wood as a fuel for electricity,

the team is very interested in our suggestions for standards and procedures that will create the best possible wood to energy program — one that safeguards forests and forest ecosystems into the future.



Come to the general meeting on November 2 at 7:30 pm to listen and contribute to this interesting discussion.

If you are unable to attend but would like to receive the fact sheets and contribute your thoughts, please contact Lauren McDonell at mcdonell@ufl.edu or 352-378-2159.

DOD STUDY ALLOWS FOR WIND FARM CONSTRUCTION

BY SIERRA CLUB

Following a missed deadline, and in response to a lawsuit from Sierra Club, the Defense Department last month released their Congressionally mandated study on national security impacts of windmills. The study vindicates Sierra Club's position that windmill construction should move forward.

"The good news is that there is nothing in the report to prevent the construction of new windmills from proceeding as long as proper siting and mitigation measures are taken," said Dave Hamilton, Director of Sierra Club's Global Warming and Energy Program. "Unfortunately, the Department of Defense's report fails to answer its own questions about the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and thus is not authoritative,"

The DOD report calls for additional research and development to improve methods to mitigate windmills' impact.

see WIND, page 5

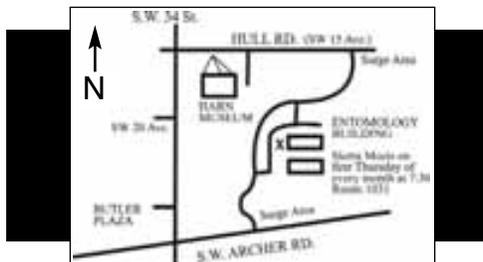
GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, Nov. 2, 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.)

WOOD TO ENERGY FORUM

LAUREN MCDONELL
PROJECT COORDINATOR, UF SCHOOL OF FOREST RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
AND MANY OTHERS...



EPA WASHES ITS HANDS OF E-COLI ISSUE	3
STATEWIDE OUTINGS APLENTY FOR NOVEMBER	3
SSJ SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS	6-7

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PS Form 3526, September 2004 (Page 2 of 2)

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National: <http://www.sierraclub.org> • Local: <http://www.gatorsierra.org>

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FOLDING PARTY

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

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CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Time to Recharge

BY ROSALIE SHAFFER

We face a lot of environmental challenges in Florida today. Here's a chance to enjoy a weekend getaway while learning about ways we can preserve our threatened Florida ecology—The annual Florida Chapter Sierra Club Conservation Conference is Nov. 10-12.

Newsmakers and experts will share their information about issues such as energy, the Everglades, manatees, red tide and global warming.

Want to improve your activist skills? The program will also feature concurrent training sessions on grassroots lobbying, political action, and outings. Excellent buffet-style meals will be served up in the retreat's cafeteria, or cook up your own culinary delights in your lodgings, kitchen or tent camp grill. Re-charge your green batteries by meeting other like-minded folks.

Enjoy the beautiful outdoor setting with trails, swimming, canoeing, volleyball, mini-golf, playground, and much more. Relax after dinner on Saturday with our conservation awards presentation and fascinating talk by Jack Davis, author of *Paradise Lost? The Environmental History of Florida*.

This year we will meet at the Pine Lake Retreat, with its more convenient location and excellent facilities. It's located about 30 miles south of Ocala and 40 miles west of Orlando, just south of Leesburg and the Florida Turnpike. Directions and other information about the facilities and lodging layouts can be found at the retreat's website, www.pinelakeretreat.com.

For more information and help with registration, call Rosalie Shaffer at (941) 729-9248, or e-mail her at Shaffer_us@yahoo.com.

November Outings

BY OUTINGS LEADERS

NOV. 4—Smoked Mullet Paddle Terra Ciega Bay. We will paddle from the rest area along the causeway leading to the Skyway Bridge through Miguel Bay then round the corner into Terra Ciega Bay to the annual Terra Ciega Mullet Smoke Off. Our lunch will be warm out of the smoker whenever we arrive so bring lunch money! Kayak rentals should be available for reservations call by Oct. 30. Peter 941-729-8006 or Ed 941-747-2801

NOV. 4-5—Overnight Backpack trip to Hidden Pond in the Ocala National Forest. We will explore the Juniper Wilderness Area trail and discover our National Forests. A moderate hike of about 9 miles over two days. Learn about National Forest issues. Limited to 8 participants. Leader: Rudy Scheffer, 727.726.8375 or rudy@adventuresworldwide.com

NOV. 12—Pop Stansell Spoil

Island Cleanup. Help our wildlife this holiday season by cleaning trash from two spoil islands the Sierra Club has adopted near Palm Harbor. Open to all, participants must bring their own kayaks and canoes. No cost. Sue Brandon, brandon11@earthlink.net, 813-622-1800.

NOV. 12—Hike the Big Cypress section of the Florida Trail 6-8 mile moderate hike off of Interstate I-75. Bring along a bag lunch. For more information and to reserve, contact Brigita at bbgahr@earthlink.net or 239-337-1857. Limited to 15 participants.

NOV. 18/19—Cumberland Island camping. We are unable to reserve specific campsites. There's a chance we might only have the 12 mile hike to Brickhill Bluff which would be a fun trip for several day's stay. Reservations must be paid for in advance. For information, please contact: Karen Garren at (352) 371-0008 or email ILuvFla@bellsouth.net

news¬es

SSJ MAKES NO ENDORSEMENTS

The SSJ Sierra Club opted not to make endorsements in the November election. The Florida Chapter has endorsed Democratic candidate Jim Davis for governor, but SSJ Sierra Club Executive Committee did not make endorsements in the half-dozen or so races in our territory. In several cases it was a matter of not wanting to choose between the lesser of two evils. In others, it was not wanting to go through all the hassles involved and the questionable value of our endorsements (all three of our primary endorsees lost). In the one race that the Excom felt passionate about, Congressional District 6, in which a former SSJ Group chair is facing the long-entrenched incumbent with 10 percent approval from the League of Conservation Voters, we were prevented from endorsing by the Florida Chapter. You might want to check contributions of candidates on county supervisor of elections web sites and vote against ones who are supported by pro-development interests. But, by all means, make informed choices and vote on November 7.

By Dwight Adams

POPEYE'S KRYPTONITE

Less than a week after the FDA lifted its ban on contaminated spinach, which led to three confirmed deaths and hundreds of illnesses, a California lettuce grower has recalled green leaf lettuce after finding irrigation water contaminated with E. coli.

These E. coli incidents are serious reminders of the need to properly regulate waste. Though large farming operations are one of the most common sources of pathogens like E.coli, and the FDA is investigating livestock waste as a possible cause of the spinach contamination, the government is doing little to ensure proper handling of the contaminated livestock waste.

In a meeting with environmental groups last month, the EPA said it has no plans to require any new controls on large livestock operations.

Learn more about large farming operations and see what you can do to keep livestock waste out of our waters by visiting our web site: <http://action.sierraclub.org>.

By Sierra Club staff

Elections and Activism

BY ROB BRINKMAN

November is election season. I trust everyone will vote in the general election on Nov. 7. Gubernatorial candidate Jim Davis, endorsed by the Sierra Club, needs the support of all environmentally minded voters.

Sierra Club is having its own elections. The ballots for the Florida Executive Committee election will appear in the current issue of *The Pelican* and are Nov. 3. Locally, the SSJ Sierra Club Executive Committee elections are this month, and the ballot and candidate bios are in this newsletter on pages 6 and 7.

The Sierra Club is launching a nationwide series of energy film festivals, and we are planning a local edition, hopefully in January. There are 25 films that the Sierra Club has obtained the rights to show, which are available at <http://www.sierra-club.org/scp/filmfest/>. I encourage SSJ members to peruse the list and send me your favorite feature length and short films. We are also looking for venues and, of course, volunteers.

Speaking of energy, Sierra Club staff attorneys have submitted 60 pages of comments on the draft permit for Palatka's 750-megawatt coal plant proposed by Seminole Electric Cooperative. These comments—the first act in a long process that hopefully will result in denial of this coal plant—are intended to raise all possible issues now and to preserve the Sierra Club's right to litigate any of these issues in the future.

Speaking of the future, if you've been

paying attention, it is now obvious that if emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are not immediately and sharply reduced, the future is bleak.

Tomorrow's youth may well remember this generation as the one that blew the last chance to avoid irreversible climate change.

The shame of it all is that the most cost effective way to save energy and reduce pollution is to reduce the need for energy through efficiency and conservation. The best, most

effective solution is not alternative fuels or expensive solar panels — it's to use less while living better. Not only does saving energy cost less, it pollutes less and can even be a profitable endeavor. Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases also results in accompanying reductions in particulate matter and other pollutants that contribute to heart and lung disease.

The EPA recently refused to tighten the annual soot standard by a mere one microgram per cubic meter, which could result in 24,000 otherwise avoidable deaths a year.

CHAIR'S



CORNER

than ten times as much. It is past time to recognize that conservation, rather than being an unbearable cost to our economy, actually benefits our local economy by avoiding the export of our money to distant energy corporations.

The top priority of the Sierra Club is smart energy solutions. We must oppose all new coal plants, oil drilling off our coasts, and any attempts to revive nuclear power. There are a multitude of environmental issues confronting the Sierra Club. Our health and our future hang in the balance.

I want to thank all of our members for their continued energy and support, the Sierra club's strength is in its grass root membership.

Finally it has been my privilege to work with Doris Bardon, one of the most respected activist members of our community. A co-founder of Women for Wise Growth, an elder of Gainesville, and a member of the Sierra Club, Bardon was an inspiration to everyone who had the pleasure of working with her, and she was a person who brought people together to work for the good of their community, rather than solely their own interests. Doris Bardon died on Oct. 13, and the entire community will miss her. She accom-

“it is past time to recognize that conservation, rather than being an unbearable cost to our economy, actually benefits our local economy”

While this modest improvement in air quality would have cost less than \$2 billion for industry, the reduced healthcare costs and other economic benefits could be more

plished many good things in her life, yet she was not greedy. Bardon left many more things not yet won, for those of us who will follow her example.



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WIND, from page 1

While the report appears to downplay the effectiveness of current mitigation measures, it importantly concludes that efforts must be taken “to allow for construction of wind turbines while maintaining defense readiness capabilities.”

“The Sierra Club will hold DOD to its word that windfarms with potential impacts on radar will be reviewed to find ways to make them work—not to shut them down,” said Kristin Henry, Staff Attorney for the Sierra Club. “With proper siting, windfarms and military readiness can clearly co-exist.”

“Our collective ability to solve this problem has been borne out by the fact that 614 new turbines that will generate more than 1000 MW have been cleared to move forward since the original FAA alert,” said Hamilton.

In June, the Sierra Club filed suit against Donald Rumsfeld and the U.S.

Department of Defense for creating a virtual moratorium on the construction of new wind power plants by failing to complete a congressionally mandated study of windmills’ impact on radar. In the meantime, D O D , Department of Homeland

Security and the Federal Aviation Administration had halted wind farm construction “within radar line of sight” of any military radar—which had effectively stopped project construction in many places across the U.S.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, claimed that the Department of Defense violated the Administrative Procedure Act and will seek to “compel agency action unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed.” 5 U.S.C. § 706(1). The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 contained a last-minute amendment, inserted by Senator John Warner of Virginia, requiring Donald Rumsfeld and DOD to complete a study

on the effect of windmills on military readiness and the operation of military radar installations by May 8, 2006.

In order to operate and construct a windmill in the U.S., an energy developer must obtain a notice from the FAA stating that the installation is not a hazard to air navigation. The Federal Aviation Administration is interpreting DOD’s “Interim Windmill Policy” to mean that it cannot approve any wind projects “within radar line of sight.” Instead, the agency has been

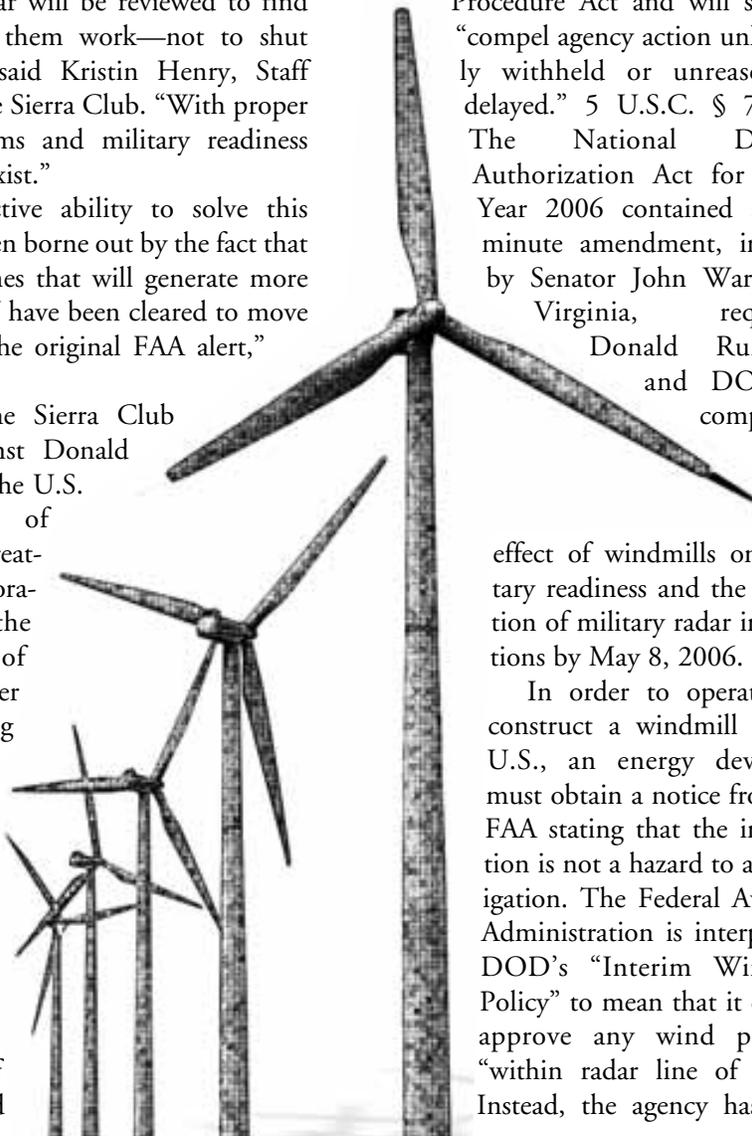
issuing “Notices of Presumptive Hazard,” which decline to provide the required notice until more information is obtained regarding possible interference with military radar installations. Since much of the nation and almost all of the Midwest is “within radar line of sight,” this policy has a sweeping effect and has essentially created a de facto moratorium on new wind power projects.

Federal officials have declined to reveal how many wind projects have been blocked from construction, but, according to media reports, at least 15 wind farm proposals in the Midwest have been shut down so far. The list of stalled projects includes one outside Bloomington, Illinois, which would have been the nation’s largest source of wind energy, generating enough electricity to power 120,000 homes in the Chicago area. Coal and natural gas will likely replace the lost wind generation, resulting in higher energy costs and increased soot, smog and global warming pollution.

On June 2, Senators Russ Feingold, Dick Durbin, Herb Kohl, Kent Conrad, Byron Dorgan, and Barack Obama wrote a letter to the Department of Defense and the Federal Aviation Administration requesting that they stop unnecessarily obstructing the construction of clean, renewable energy sources.

Wind energy is the fastest-growing source of power on the planet. With our tremendous wind resources, the United States can become a world leader in wind energy.

Already, wind turbines in this country produce enough electricity to meet the needs of more than 1 million households. A single modern wind turbine can produce enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of 500 average homes.





Julie Mountain Hideaway

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2007 Sierra Club ExCom Nominees

Knox Bagwell

Being a blueberry/blackberry farmer in Earleton for the past 25 years, I'm well aware of the negative impacts on the environment that an uneducated/uncaring population can impose. Experience of over ten years on the board of Santa Fe Lake Dwellers, from lobbying before the State Cabinet to grassroots support of lake conservation practices, has shown me a knowledgeable, dedicated, persistent advocate can bring about change...hopefully first through win-win negotiations, secondly by some arm-twisting and lastly, if warranted, through legal means in the areas of wise growth planning, environmental/natural resource safeguards, lifestyle changes through effective public education and new paths for more productive results from all Sierra Club members.

Rob Brinkman

Thank you for re-electing me two years ago. For the last year it has been my privilege to serve as chair, during which there has been a spirit of collegiality and cooperation on Excom, even on the rare occasions when there may have been divergent views. I believe that when there is disagreement, constructive dialogue is more productive than labeling the views of others. We have diverted Gainesville from building a coal power plant, stopped the conversion of a public park into a supercenter and helped enact impact fees in Alachua County. With your support we can accomplish even more.

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 to protect a women's right to choose, Campaign Finance Reform, Citizens Police Review Board, 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 4 years, I have served as the folding party coordinator as well as on

the nominating, newsletter, events, and political committees. I am also a member of Veterans for Peace and a counselor for the G.I. Rights Hotline.

Kathy Cantwell

Activist in Sierra Club for 10 years. Served as Chair, Conservation Chair, Program Chair, newsletter editor and as group representative to the Florida Chapter. For 2 years I was the administrative chair and public lands chair for the Florida chapter. I am currently the public lands chair for the local group. Received the Chapter Panther award twice for my conservation work. Also on the board of Sustainable Alachua County, serve on the Orange Creek Basin working group, the Land Conservation board for Alachua County, the Gainesville Energy Advisory Group and as the projects committee chair for the Putnam Land Conservancy.

Besty Hurst

Growing up along Rattlesnake Creek in Gainesville, respect for our environment comes naturally to me. For the past six years, I've regularly attended county commission meetings, organizing ever-larger groups of neighbors and other concerned citizens. We prevented an attempt to weaken protection for scenic roads and got citizens back on the scenic roads advisory committee. Networking with others, I've worked tirelessly on our tree ordinance to conserve energy and protect our area's natural beauty. Due to our county's inability to effectively manage growth or protect natural areas, I recently ran for County Commission. As a member of the Executive Committee, I will continue to work for our area's environment and its citizens.

Anne Morgan

Grew up in North Florida and has always delighted in our unique environ-

ment. She is a teacher who understands the importance of educating citizens to provide them with the tools to make informed decisions and to vote for lawmakers who will act responsibly with our environment.

Jay Peacock

Has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1991 and a life member since 2001. Jay joined the Suwannee St. Johns Group ExCom this year. His environmental interests include fisheries, national parks and forests, and forestry related issues. Jay earned a degree in Forest Resources and Conservation from the University of Florida in 1986. He currently works as a Technical Systems Analyst in the Information Services department of Shands

HealthCare where he has worked for the past 10 years. Jay hopes to be able to use his background in forestry and information technology to contribute to the club.

Rudy Rothseiden

As a 25-year-old native of Alachua, my experiences growing up in the area have fostered my care for our natural environment. Finishing my first term as environmental education chair of the ssj group has enlightened me to the developmental impacts threatening our water, air, and wildlife. I will help protect and educate others about the threats to our quality of life to keep them as pleasures for tomorrow.

Russ Roy

Presently finishing his first term on ExCom and is serving as Administrative Chair. His environmental interests include water quality, fisheries, and mercury pollution. He is also very interested in finding and supporting good people to run for office, both locally and at the state level. He is concerned that environmental groups do not cooperate enough and hopes to improve this. He is retired from Santa Fe Community College where he taught physics for 35 years.



SUWANNEE ST. JOHNS GROUP SIERRA CLUB ELECTION FOR 2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 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 (e.g., 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 (7) 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: Roberta Gastmeyer, Elections Committee Chair, 4118 NW 69th St., Gainesville, Florida, 32606.

Ballots must be received by Friday, December 8th, 2006. 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 Sunday, December 10th, at 4 p.m. at Roberta Gastmeyer's house (address above). The counting is open to Sierra Club 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

<input type="checkbox"/> Knox Bagwell	<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Morgan
<input type="checkbox"/> Rob Brinkman	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Peacock
<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Camil	<input type="checkbox"/> Rudy Rothseiden
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathy Cantwell	<input type="checkbox"/> Russ Roy
<input type="checkbox"/> Betsy Hurst	

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Knox Bagwell	<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Morgan
<input type="checkbox"/> Rob Brinkman	<input type="checkbox"/> Jay Peacock
<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Camil	<input type="checkbox"/> Rudy Rothseiden
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathy Cantwell	<input type="checkbox"/> Russ Roy
<input type="checkbox"/> Betsy Hurst	

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NOVEMBER 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOV. 4-5—Downtown Festival and Art Show. SSJ Sierra Club will be tabling from 10-5 on both days. Call Sherry Steiner if you would like to help, at 375-2563.

NOV. 2—SSJ Sierra Club Group general meeting, in the Entomology/Nematology Building on the UF campus (see page 1 for details).

NOV. 9—SSJ Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting, 7 p.m., at the Santa Fe Community College Downtown Gainesville campus. Board meeting room.

NOV. 17—7:30 p.m. Folding Party for the November newsletter. At Scott Camil and Sherry Steiner's house. Call 375-2563, after 3 p.m., for more information.

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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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

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