



Suwannee-St. Johns Group

Sierra Club

Newsletter

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 VOLUME 40 • NUMBER 2 • February 2010

DEMONSTRATION OF NEED:

A Powerful Growth Management Tool

BY DWIGHT ADAMS

You can not fight city hall, but Susan Woods, our Feb. 4 speaker, has shown that you can fight a powerful developer and win!

Susan and her friend Karen Lynn Recio killed an unneeded 796-home, 400-acre housing development in a rural area of North Marion County. The winning strategy was to point out the lack of “demonstration of need” by the developer, the County, and the Department of Community Affairs.

This case has ramifications for future growth management in the State. The requirement for demonstration of need could shut down many proposals since already approved developments in comprehensive plans would accommodate 90 million more residents. Because of this, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and other business interests supported the developer, the family of Bernard Castro founder of Castro Convertible Sofa Company.

Indeed, “demonstration of need” will be heard frequently in the halls of legislature in Tallahassee during the 2010 session. Sierra Club Florida is all set to oppose legislation that would strip this requirement from the growth management act.

Requiring a demonstration of needs before approval of an amendment to comprehensive plans is a way to hold local governments to landuse promises and slow unnecessary sprawl promoting projects that burden taxpayers with the cost of unnecessary infrastructure. Situations such as this are the basis of support for Amendment 4 on the November ballot that will give voters the say on comprehensive plan amendments.

After Woods and Recio pointed out that “demonstration of need” was missing from its evaluation of the proposed development, DCA was forced to admit the error and side with Woods and Recio in the administrative hearing. Woods and Recio won in the administrative hearing (a rare occurrence), which the developer then appealed to the

Governor and Cabinet.

Miraculously, with much publicity, the Governor and Cabinet ruled in Woods and Recio’ favor. However, the next round for future projects is in the pro-growth Florida legislature.

Susan, who grew up in Providence Rhode Island, teaches at Four Winds Farm and judges dressage shows and horse trials throughout the Southeast. She is a self-taught environmentalist (aren’t we all?) and is founder and president of Floridan Aquifer Legal Defense Organization.

GENERAL MEETING

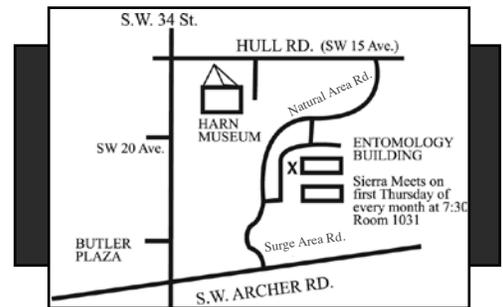
Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Entomology/Nematology Building on the UF campus,
**** room 3118 ****

(Just east of the Performing Arts Center. Turn south off Hull Road on to Natural Areas Road.)

DEMONSTRATION OF NEED

SUSAN WOODS



FACEBOOK AND SSJSC

Our local chapter now has a page on Facebook! If you have a facebook account,

please join our fan page. We’ll be posting functions, outings, current issues, and the latest news on pertinent local political topics. Our title for the search menu is “Si-

erra Club Suwannee - St Johns Group.” If you’d like additional events or issues posted, please contact Melanie Martin at mlfocus@gmail.com.

SSJ NEWSLETTER GOING PAPERLESS	3
KOPPERS—STILL POLLUTING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS	5
HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY	6

Money Matters

BY ROB BRINKMAN

For some time the SSJ ExComm has discussed ways to reduce our newsletter costs and consumption of volunteer and natural resources.

Recent funding reductions in the Sierra Club present immediate challenges; prudence dictates not waiting until we are forced to act precipitously. ExComm decided that the next three issues will communicate to our members that we are employing an opt-in method for those who want to continue to receive printed newsletters.

We previously offered an opt-out option for those wanting to go paperless; now you must opt-in by telling us whether you want a printed newsletter, an e-mail notification of the availability for download of the latest issue, or no newsletter at all. If you wish to provide us your e-mail address, we guarantee a maximum of two e-mails per month and an unsubscribe option. We will never share your address with anyone.

We now mail 1500 newsletters, and we must cut that number at least in half. This is about more than SSJ finances; it is about walking our talk and reducing resource consumption and carbon footprint. It is also about adapting to the changing integration of new technologies in our lives, and attracting more members to better conserve the planet. As long as financially possible, the SSJ ExComm is committed to mailing newsletters to those who let us know that they want one.

RALLY FOR THE RIVERS

The Rally for the Rivers on Feb. 12-14 is back this year, thanks to Karen Ahlers and our allies at the Putnam County Environmental Council (PCEC). The opening event is a public hearing in Palatka, by the Senate Select Committee on Florida's Inland Water Resources.

There is also a benefit dinner for PCEC Saturday evening. Find the details at www.pceecweb.org.

NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION

After FPL and Progress Energy had their rate increases largely denied, both backed away from plans for two nuclear reactors each and no longer have completion dates. Permits may continue to be pursued but, without ratepayer funds, neither is willing to invest private capital in new nuclear plants. These nuclear power plants will never be built without rate increases to pay for them.

Progress Energy appealed a previous decision of the Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) admitting the interveners' (NIRS, Green Party, Ecology Party) contentions challenging aspects of the application for a nuclear plant license. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) largely rejected the appeal and sustained the admission of most of the contentions that included on and off-site hydrologic impacts, and the lack of an off-site repository for low-level nuclear wastes.

The term low level is misleading, since this category includes virtually everything but the contents of the fuel rods. It can

see CORNER, page 6

CHAIR'S



CORNER

Visit the National and Local Sierra Club Websites!

National: www.sierraclub.org

Local: www.gatorsierra.org

Suwannee-St Johns Group Chairs & Executive Committee

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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.**

SSJ Newsletter Going Paperless

YOUR RESPONSE IS REQUIRED

Over the past couple of years, many Sierra Club groups in Florida and the US have made the transition to an electronic version of the newsletter in the effort to save trees, save energy, and save money.

Early last year, the Suwannee St Johns Group decided to give its membership the opportunity to "opt out" of the paper newsletter and receive an email copy instead.

While we have had some members take us up on this offer, the response has been underwhelming, to say the least.

This year, we are taking a new approach. We are asking our membership to "opt in" to a paper copy.

If you want a paper newsletter mailed to you, **YOU MUST LET US KNOW**. If you want an email notice of the availability of the newsletter online **YOU MUST LET US KNOW**.

In other words, we must hear from you either way (unless you are currently signed up for and receiving newsletter email notices) or you will not receive any news of our many activities, meetings, issues, and volunteer opportunities.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

1. We are a CONSERVATION organization. We want to save the planet, and we need your help. That means reducing our use of paper and all the energy and re-

sources that go into the paper, printing, and mailing of our newsletter.

2. Publication of the newsletter is the single largest item in our budget and every issue consumes hours of volunteer time.

We believe that the money and time would be better spent directly working to improve the environment and spreading our environmental message in the community. Our revenues are dropping.

We haven't yet had to decide between spending money to fight the battles to protect our natural areas from unnecessary development (Paynes Prairie) or pollution (our springs), and the newsletter.

But, someday we may have to. We'd rather have the money to help save the environment.

WILL WE DELUGE YOU WITH EMAIL?

NO! Here's our promise: Two emails per month, MAXIMUM. There will always be an UNSUBSCRIBE option. And your email address will NOT be given to anyone.

HOW SOON WILL THIS HAPPEN?

The Suwannee St. Johns Group is committed to informing members of the many activities of the Group on a regular basis.

We will provide a paper copy of our great newsletter for the few of you who need one.

Notices similar to this will appear in the March and April issues and then, if we have still not heard from you, you will receive a postcard requesting a response instead of a paper newsletter.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

COMMUNICATE WITH US PLEASE. To join our email newsletter, send a note to ssjsierranl@bellsouth.net. In the SUBJECT line put the word NEWSLETTER. Please include your complete name and address and your membership number, if possible (it's the 8-digit number on the mailing label of the newsletter you are now holding).

If you do not have an email address and you wish to continue receiving a MAILED copy of the newsletter, or would rather not get a newsletter at all, please USE THE COUPON ON THE INSIDE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER. It is designed so that when you clip it out your mailing label will be on the reverse side so we know who you are. Fill it out, drop it into an envelope and send it to: Roberta Gastmeyer, 4118 NW 69th St, Gainesville FL 32606.

If we do NOT receive a response from you, you will receive NEITHER the emailed issue NOR the mailed issue after April 2010.

We are asking for a response from ALL of our members. Take a serious look at this newsletter issue you are holding in your hands. It contains valuable information about fun outings, volunteer opportunities, productive and informative meetings and issues we are fighting for on your behalf, all lovingly produced for you by volunteers. Please let us know how, or even if, you want to receive this information any longer.

We are counting on each of you to respond so we know how best to use our resources to serve you.

Thanks,

Executive Committee

Suwannee St Johns Group, Sierra Club

book of the month

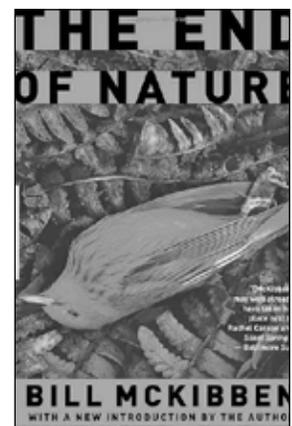
The End of Nature

By Bill McKibben

Random House

1989, 2006

The title refers to natural forces ceding control of the wind, trees, rain, storms, atmospheric chemistry, and temperature to human intervention. A child born today will never experience nature's natural flow as we did. He captures the tension between our yearning for a pristine wilderness and fighter jets screaming over wilderness treetops, or water ski and airboats blasting the senses in semi remote lakes. McKibben is the founder of 350.org.



February Outings

Ocklawaha River Fest Clean-Up—The SSJ club will sponsor the Ocklawaha river cleanup on Feb. 14, 10 a.m., at the Rodman Dam in conjunction with the “River Valley” (see the program at www.pcedweb.org). Bring your paddle craft and afterwards partake of fishing, paddling workshops, field trips, hikes, biking, cultural/historic displays, free pontoon boat rides, food, and live music. For questions, e-mail knoxberries@msn.com or call (352) 468-1790.

Budding Photographers—Join us at Barr Hammock! The Sierra Club and Alachua County Forever are leading a kid’s photography outing at Barr Hammock Saturday, February 27. Barr Hammock is an Alachua County Forever property just west of Micanopy in southern Alachua County. It is a great place to spot butterflies and charismatic critters like bald eagles and Florida sandhill cranes. At the photogenic vista of

Ledwith Prairie we may see ducks that are over-wintering or wading birds.

Our guest, Michael Drummond, will talk to the kids about basics of nature photography and tips for better photos. All cameras are OK – even a disposable you pick up on your way to the outing. The target audience is grade-school kids (5 to 11 years old) and their parents/guardians. Please dress for the weather and bring water in addition to your own camera or binoculars. We will start promptly at 9 a.m. to make the most of the morning lighting. We will end around 11 a.m.

This outing has short, easy walking, and in-depth exploration of a few places in the preserve. This is an educational outing free and open to the public. Space is limited so contact Kristina Jackson at (352) 372-2464 or at kristina_jackson@att.net to RSVP. Rain date – Sunday, Feb.28.

Prairie Creek Paddle/BBQ—Enjoy a totally-wilderness trip down the

same creek the Potano Indians used centuries ago. This Florida Paddling Trail is an outflow of Newman’s Lake on the south end at S.R. 20 and Kate’s fish camp. We will meet Saturday, March 13 at Kate’s, 6518 SE Hawthorne Rd. (S.R. 20), Gainesville, (352) 372-1026. Arrive no later than 9:30am. We will paddle the 3-4 hour roundtrip down Prairie Creek to C.R. 234 in Rochelle and back to Kate’s. This flat-water, no current, beginner’s paddle is suitable for everyone who likes to experience the natural, undeveloped environment. Bring your own drinks and a potluck veggie/salad/dessert dish to share. We will provide Bar-B-Q burgers (beef/veggie) and dogs for lunch over the fire as the Potanos did, and we will finish off the day back at Kate’s.

For information about paddle rentals at Kate’s go to www.katefishcamp.com. Reservations are needed if you want to have a meal. Contact Knox Bagwell at (352) 468-1790 or at knoxberries@msn.com to RSVP.



First ICO Outing At Morningside

BY MARYVONNE DEVENSKY

Our first ICO outing was on January 13. It was a beautiful and sunny day, and ten 2nd and 3rd graders were the first participants of our new program.

They were from Lake Forest Elementary School, and five Sierra Club volunteers came along. The children were excited to go to the Morningside Nature Center, and only half of them had been to this wonderful Center.

Our guide, Hollie Greer, explained to the children that we learn through our senses. When we explore nature, we use our senses to learn about what is around us, by listening with our ears, observing with our eyes, touching with our hands, and smelling with our nose. They all wanted to learn, and they listened attentively. They started a discussion about humans as animals, (one kid was not convinced that we were), then decided

we were. They were eager to practice learning with their senses, by smelling purple lavender and rosemary, by observing various animals displayed in the room, by touching objects (shells, sweet gum tree seeds, snakeskin) that were hidden in big jars. Speaking of snakeskin, they all ventured to touch a live snake that Hollie was holding. For some there was some fear to conquer.

After the indoor presentation, we went outside and walked the Blind Bird Trail, stopping along the way to smell some wax myrtle leaf. The excitement was such they all wanted to walk by Hollie to speak to her. They had to learn how to walk one-by-one along the path, and

finally we arrived at the Bird Blind. Some Carolina chickadees and cardinals were there. The kids used binoculars and took time to observe the birds. Back on the trail we walked onto the Cypress boardwalk and learned about the swamp and water. On the way back to the center, we counted eleven buzzards flying over us in the bright blue sky, and we spotted a woodpecker going up a pine tree pecking up and up as it does.

Back at the center, we thanked Hollie and her assistant Andres, for being our guides. We then had a snack and water before heading back to the school. The faces of the students were of happy children - happy to be



CABOT-KOPPERS SUPERFUND SITE

Still Polluting After All These Years

BY KATE ELLISON

The Koppers Wood Treatment Facility in Gainesville is finally closed. In 1983 the EPA listed the Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site on NW 23rd Avenue as one of the most toxic sites in the nation. The plant has operated from 1916 until the decision to shut it down on December 22, 2009.

Closing the facility is only the first step. Citizens want the site to be remediated to residential standards, and after so many years of pollution, this transition is going to be complicated. Long-time residents may need to leave their homes, and some have

health problems to be addressed.

Gainesville Regional Utilities, County Agencies, and outside specialists have found that surrounding creeks and watershed areas are being contaminated with hydrocarbons and creosote in violation of the Clean Water Act. Each year groundwater contaminates seep closer to the Floridan Aquifer and the Murphee Wellfield, the source of drinking water for Gainesville. Additionally, "Fugitive dust," which contains dioxins, arsenic, and other carcinogenic pollutants blows to nearby areas and affects air and soil quality. Sample soil testing has shown contaminant levels 2,400 times above state standards in the Stephen Foster neighborhood.

A community involvement meeting was held at Wild Iris Books last month to provide input for the EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) (www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/). The local Protect Gainesville's Citizens (<http://closekoppers.org/>) has applied for a TAG grant and seeks coalition with anyone interested in this superfund clean up. The EPA will get involved only when convinced that the community is active and motivated. The meeting was well attended, and many residents of the



Stephen Foster neighborhood underscored the need to have clean-up start immediately. Future community involvement meetings will be held at Wild Iris Books, 802 W University Avenue at 7:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month (February 11 & 25).

Protect Gainesville's Citizens, Inc. mission is to provide Gainesville Area citizens with accurate and comprehensive information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site.

Through analytical research, outreach education, and community participation, Gainesville citizens will have an active voice in the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site clean-up process.

Before It's Too Late

BY KATHY CANTWELL

Sierra Club Florida Legislative Advisory Committee Chair

Our springs are dying or are not safe to swim in. Given massive water withdrawals from our aquifer with little thought to water conservation, many have dried up, including Fenholloway, Hampton, Kisingen, White, and Worthington Springs. Others have had to close or intermittently close because of high bacteria counts (Sulphur, Health, Gemini, Green, Royal, Hornsby, Rock, Pitt, and Rainbow Springs).

Nitrogen from artificial fertilizers on thousands of lawns, manure from large

animal operations and human waste from thousands of septic tanks is seeping into the porous sands of the springsheds and creeping into the aquifer. The nitrates fuel the algae growth that is choking and suffocating the springs' ecosystems.

Our coastal waters and rivers are no better. Blooms of *karenia brevis* (also called red tide) now affect us almost every year, killing fish, birds, and marine mammals and causing respiratory distress in beachgoers or people living or working near the water. The culprits are, again, nutrients, this time both nitrogen and phosphorous. Our lakes are no better.

How did this happen? It's not like we didn't know what to do. The Florida Springs Task Force, composed of scientists from multiple state agencies, gave clear and

precise actions to save our springs 10 years ago. Yet year after year, except for the Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act in 2005, the legislature has refused to even get anything out of committee that would truly protect our springsheds.

Our State Environmental Protection Agency has not developed criteria for saying how much nitrogen and phosphorous is too much for our lakes, springs, streams and estuaries,

see SPRINGS, page 7

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Take the bus to Tallahassee Feb 16. Leaves the Oaks Mall at 7 AM. Contact Merrillee Malwitz-Jipson, President, Our Santa Fe River, 352-222-8893 cell, 386-454-4446 home, Merrilleeart@aol.com, www.oursantaferiver.org.

AND/OR

Write or call your representative and tell them you want legislation NOW that truly protects our springs. Go to our webpage <http://florida.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp> and scroll down to the Florida Springs Issue Brief FMI.

AND/OR

Write the EPA and tell them you support the establishment of NNC for Florida's inland and coastal waters. FMI go to <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/rules/florida/>

See you in Tallahassee.

Hometown Democracy Amendment

BY ROBERT M. WEINTRAUB

Chair of Florida Sierra Chapter's
Growth Management Committee

Florida's most important political issue in 2010 is one that can provide significant protection to the environment: wetlands, wildlife, green spaces.

It is the Hometown Democracy amendment to the Florida constitution, Amendment 4 on the Nov. 2, 2010 ballot. The Sierra Club's Florida Chapter urges Sierrans to understand this amendment.

Since 1985, Florida law requires counties and cities to have comprehensive land use plans. These plans were created to control growth and protect forests, wetlands and green spaces from development.

Instead Florida has had uncontrolled development as local officials approve developer's changes to comprehensive plans despite community objections. Further, developer interests in the state legislature have systematically weakened the Growth Management Act. Developers have marginalized the public.

To return control of government to the public, the Florida Hometown Democracy amendment was put on the 2010 ballot after more than a million Floridians signed petitions. The amendment requires a referendum whenever a county or city tries to

change its comprehensive land use plan.

Opponents (developers and associated industries, Chamber of Commerce, city and county state organizations) say the amendment will stop development and prolong the recession indefinitely.

Supporters say FHD/A4 will slow down, but not stop, development. Without any land use changes, they point out, existing comprehensive plans permit housing developments to accommodate 100 million people in Florida (the state currently has a population of 18 million). So there will be plenty of development and construction jobs once the 10-month backlog of unsold houses in Florida has been reduced.

Opponents complain voters would be besieged with hundreds of referenda and cost local governments millions of dollars in election costs.

FHD proponents explain that referenda would come once a year in a county's or city's regular election, therefore additional expense will be miniscule.

Only land-use changes to a comprehensive plan would come before the public once they have been approved by a county or city commission and by the state's Department of Community Affairs. Most communities would have 2-3 land use changes a year. Knowing the public has a veto power is expected to reduce the number of land use changes approved by

commissions, which will become more responsive to the public interest, according to FHD/A4 supporters.

Opponents claim the hometown democracy concept was tried, and failed, in St. Pete Beach. In SPB, where the public opposed developer efforts to build high-rise hotels on the waterfront, former city commissioners say the problems were caused because SPB did not have the hometown democracy process to resolve the dispute. They say the city commission violated the Growth Management Act in approving the hotels, which resulted in lawsuits.

City and county officials say as they are the elected representatives of the community they should have the final say on land use. FHD/A4 proponents point out that Florida has one of the worst economies in the nation because of the failure of city and county commissioners to control growth.

But as local officials won't control development, we must restore control to the people, they say.

Overdevelopment paves over productive farmlands and creates traffic congestion unattractive to businesses interested in relocating here. Overdevelopment will chase away Florida's 80 million annual tourists.

Better control of development will encourage a stronger, more diversified economy based on permanent, productive jobs, according to FHD/A4 proponents.

CORNER, from page 2

even include those contents that have escaped their fuel rods as has occurred when the Three Mile Island reactor core melted 30 years ago. The lack of a low-level waste repository means all reactor sites in Florida are defacto nuclear waste dumps. Some low level waste is more dangerous than spent fuel rods.

The Crystal River Nuclear Reactor is still shut down, pending assessment of the structural integrity of the containment dome, which in addition to the cracks is also delaminating. There is a request before the NRC to require Progress to replace the entire outer ten inches of concrete and steel on the entire dome.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The FDA recently issued a cautionary warning about a common additive in many plastic containers and in the liners of canned food. Bisphenol-A or BPA, was found to have endocrine disrupting effects. The impacts are not limited to humans, as traces of this compound are becoming all too common in water bodies. I learned from a recent NPR program that Eden foods changed the formulation of their can liners to eliminate BPA. The SSJ Sierra Club is also selling water bottles that are BPA free.

Recently the Gainesville Inner City Outings program had its initial outing and a schedule of future outings is being developed. I want to thank all those who have

made this program possible. If you would like to contribute to this program or volunteer, please contact Maryvonne Devensky.

After November, voters might choose their legislators, rather than the legislators choosing their voters, as is currently the case. I just received word that the Fair District state constitutional amendments will be on the ballot in November. The Sierra Club Florida has endorsed both Fair District amendments, as well as the Florida Hometown Democracy amendments.

After the ridiculously cold weather we have had, it is common for vehicle tires to lose some air pressure, so pump up your tires to save gas and money while reducing pollution and making your trip safer.

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE SUWANNEE ST JOHNS GROUP NEWSLETTER BY MAIL, OR DO NOT WANT A NEWSLETTER AT ALL, PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX AND MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Roberta Gastmeyer
4118 NW 69th St.
Gainesville FL 32606

Please make sure the mailing label with your name and address is on the back of this coupon or otherwise included in your mailing so we know who you are.

Please send me the mailed version of Newsletter. I do not want to receive it by email.

I do not want to receive the newsletter at all, via the mail or email, because...

REMINDER TO THOSE WHO WANT THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL:

Send email to sssierranl@bellsouth.net

Put "Newsletter" in subject line and your name and address including zip code in the message.

news¬es

RALLY FOR THE RIVERS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12: All-day workshop focusing on bringing citizens up-to-date on local and statewide water policies; the science behind the issues; the 2010 Legislative Session, and ideas for activists to make a difference. Location: Quality Inn on St. Johns River in Palatka.

Cost (sliding scale): \$10-\$25.

Saturday, February 13th: St. Johns River Fest with day and evening events of folk music, storytelling, conservation workshops and displays, free rides on the river, book signings, great food, and a fundraising dinner and concert (tickets will be \$50). Location: Palatka's Riverfront Park.

Sunday, February 14th: Ocklawaha River Fest: Paddling workshops, cultural and historic displays, free river rides, food, music, and more!

Additional details can be found at the SSJ Group website.

By Kathy Cantwell

SPRINGS, from page 6

even though the Federal EPA told them 10 years ago to do so.

As a result, Sierra Club, along with several other groups, sued EPA for not acting

and the courts agreed with us. Now EPA is holding hearings to determine what those so-called "numeric nutrient criteria" (NNC) should be.

Citizens are gathering February 16 in Tallahassee to tell the legislature to fix our

springs. On the same day they will attend the EPA hearings, also in Tallahassee, and support the establishment of NNC's for Florida. We expect the usual industries to be there opposing us. We need your support! Become an activist! Take the bus!

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Gainesville:
Garden Gate Nursery
Harmony Gardens

North & Central Florida:
ACE Hardware Stores

Slow Release Organic Fertilizer

Looking for a way to get involved? Don't have a lot of time? Like to write? Like the environment?



Then the Sierra newsletter committee is for you. We have a need for enthusiastic writers for our newsletter committee.

Whatever your interest, we can find a place for you.

Contact Kathy Cantwell at kacmd@aol.com or 352-395-7441.

Suwannee-St. Johns Group
 Sierra Club
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Periodicals
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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FEBRUARY 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 4—SSJ Sierra Club Group general meeting, 7:30 pm., in the Entomology/Nematology Building on the UF campus, room 3118. See page 1 for details.

FEB 11—SSJ Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting, 7 pm., at the Santa Fe Community College Downtown Gainesville campus Board meeting room.

FEB 14—Sunday, Ocklawaha river cleanup, 10am at the Rodman Dam, in conjunction with the RIVER RALLY. See page 3 for details.

FEB 16—Florida Springs Rally bus trip to Tallahassee, Leave Oaks Mall at 7am. See page 7 for details.

FEB 26—Friday, Folding party for the February newsletter, 7 pm., at the home of Scott Camil and Sherry Steiner. Call 375-2563 for info.

FEB 27—Saturday at 9 am, a kid's photography outing at Barr Hammock with short, easy walking, and in-depth exploration of a few places in the preserve. This is an educational outing free and open to the public. Space is limited so contact Kristina Jackson at (352) 372-2464 or kristina_jackson@att.net to RSVP. See page 3 for details.

MAR 13—Saturday at 9 am, Paddle the 3-4 hour roundtrip down Prairie Creek to C.R. 234 in Rochelle and back to Kate's Fish Camp. Meet at Kate's, 6518 SE Hawthorne Rd. (S.R. 20), Gainesville, (352-372-1026), rentals available, (www.katesfish-camp.com). See page 3 for details.

Membership

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

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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(See pages 3, 7)