

Ancient Islands

DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands and Polk Counties of Florida

Issue: 08-11

November 2008

FROM THE CHAIR...Paul Anderson

At the October 24th writing of this article citizens were flocking to early voting in record numbers. By the time you receive this newsletter the election will have been concluded and we will know who is the next President. I want to thank all Sierrans who got involved - this was definitely not a campaign to "sit it out." I know many of you made telephone calls, walked door-to-door, distributed campaign literature, talked to friends, neighbors, and Clubs you belonged to, attended rallies, or donated money to the campaign. Again, thank you.

On another topic, the September 25th Sierra/Anglers joint presentation in Winter Haven by Captain Dan Kipnis on global warming was the most scientific, and the most depressing, talk I have heard on this subject. Basically our government, and the world in general, has done almost nothing to stem global warming. Even if the U. S., and the rest of the world, did take the recommended actions, it would be decades before the warming trend could be reversed. At best, we could slowly decrease the warming process and mitigate some of the worst effects. In the U. S. some of the most important actions are:

- A. The research and implementation of alternative energy sources.
- B. Enactment and enforcement of automotive fuel efficiency standards.
- C. The use of the best available fossil fuel technology. A recent local problem is the coal fired power plant proposed for southern Polk County; clean coal technology was not scheduled to be used because it was "too expensive". Obviously the "bottom line" was more important than pollution or global warming.

Worldwide, coal fired plants are major problems. So are coal mine fires, especially in China and India. The coal mine fires in China and India alone put more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than all the cars in the U. S. A coal mine fire in the U. S. was recently extinguished so the technology exists. Unfortunately, as I recall, the cost was about \$5M, so the worldwide cost would be very high. Still, it needs to be done. An international agreement needs to be reached to share the cost so that life on Earth, as we know it, will not be totally disrupted.

(Continued on page 2)

AT A GLANCE

Nesting Boxes

Nesting season approaches and you have gifts to buy. Help the cavity nesters and solve your 'what-to-give' dilemma by placing an order with Carpenter Bob at 863 439-2251 for a beautiful cypress wood box. A minimum donation of \$50 is requested - a box can be shipped within the state for approximately \$15. All monies in excess of costs are donated to the Richard Coleman Scholarship Fund at New College.



Photo by Bob Taylor

Web Site

We are in the process of changing Polk Group to Ancient Islands wherever it appears. The web address, however, presents a problem; the sites of many other organizations have links to <http://florida.sierraclub.org/polk/> which means our site will lose too many hits if we drop Polk for Ancient Islands. Visit our site and see how the usual address puts you at Ancient Islands!

LCV Scorecard

The recent League of Conservation Voters' scorecard rated Congressman Adam Putnam at 8 - that's out of 100. The score speaks for itself.

Special Events

Reserve December 11 for Sierra's Christmas Party which will be held in the Winter Haven area and Jan. 11, 2009 which will mark our first meeting at Circle B Bar. The latter will be a joint meeting with Lake Region Audubon; both groups hope that the Circle B Bar location will make it easier for Lakeland members to participate.

More on the Election Scene

Yes, we still need your voting skills. Please see page 3



Photo by Frances H. Coleman

Francina Smith, the Spider Lady, educated and entertained Sierrans at the October meeting. Here, after the program, she answered many of our questions by pointing out spider features as shown on her large number of exhibits.

(Continued from page 1) From the Chair

What we as individuals can do:

1. Change to energy efficient light bulbs.
2. Adjust the thermostat to use less heat in the winter and less air conditioning in the summer.
3. Use no plastic bags.
4. Unplug all chargers.
5. Pay bills online.
6. Buy recycled paper.
7. Eat less meat. (Reduces methane and nitrous oxide formation in feedlots.)
8. Find out your carbon footprint.
9. Drive less and slower.
10. Write your legislators re global warming issues. You will sleep better for it.

FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY

The organizers of this effort believe that, barring any further challenges, they have met their signature requirement to be placed on the 2010 ballot. A reminder: FHD is a proposed constitutional amendment which would mandate that all comprehensive plan amendments approved by a city or county commission must be submitted to the electorate. The proposed Polk Growth Cap amendment to the County Charter is a different initiative which seeks to limit residential sprawl; petitions are still being collected for this effort - call Marian at 863 293-6961 if you want to help.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

For more activities/events, please visit our web site at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/polk/>

2nd Thursdays of the month through March **South Lake Howard Nature Park - Winter Haven.** Naturalist led Walk and Talk from 9 - 9:30AM. Call Rachelle 863 291-5600 ext 247 for more details.

3rd Thursdays of the month through March **Lake Hartridge Nature Park - Winter Haven.** Naturalist led Walk and Talk from 9 - 9:30AM. Call Rachelle 863 291-5600 ext 247 for more details.

Dec. 6 **Trek Ten Grails Guided Hike - Colt Creek State Park.** Participants will be guided through a mosaic of longleaf pine, cypress domes, creek bottoms, and oak hammocks. Call Marian at 863 293-6961 for more details.

Service - These Saturday events are Ridge Ranger projects.

For more details call the Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Reed, at 863 699-3742 or email james.reed@myFWC.com or call Gunn at 863 326-5426

Nov. 8 **Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek State Preserve - near Lake Hamilton.** Fence Removal. Start 8:30.

Nov. 15 **Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve - Lake Alfred.** Stewardship. Start 8:00.

Nov. 22 **Bok Tower Gardens - Lake Wales.** Stewardship. Start 9:00.

Dec. 6 **Flamingo Villas Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge - Sebring.** Clean-up, habitat improvements and tour. Start 8:00.

Dec. 13 **FWC Lake Blue Scrub - Auburndale.** Removal of nonnative and invasive species. Start 9:00.

Dec. 13 **Jack Creek - Sebring southwest near Lake Josephine.** Fence clearing. Start 8:00.

Dec. 20 **Arbuckle Tract of Lake Wales Ridge State Forest - East of Frostproof.** Footbridge repair. Start 8:00.

In order to participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver which will be furnished at the beginning of the outing. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5528. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. Please note that the above listed activities are events that we think you will find interesting and fun, but they are not official outings. Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

Attention Election Committee



2009 Sierra Club, Ancient Islands Ballot

Be sure to write a 1 or 2 in this box to record the number of people in your household voting.



2009 Election Committee
Ancient Islands of Florida Sierra
(c/o Marie Sands)
185 Lake Otis Road SE
Winter Haven, FL 33884

- - - - - **FOLD ADDRESS PANEL OUTWARD** - - - - -

Ancient Islands Executive Committee
Elections for 2009

Voting Instructions:

This ballot has been designed to insure secrecy while minimizing election costs. You may vote for the listed nominees or write in candidates. Indicate your choices by filling in the boxes for each position. Please detach this page and fold it as a self-mailer envelope (see illustration on right.) Then tape or staple the ballot *both top and bottom*. Use the box in the upper left corner of the return address to indicate how many household members are voting. (1 for individual membership, 2 for joint membership.)

Once we receive your ballot, we'll verify that there is a membership mailing label on the reverse side of the address panel. We'll do this by removing the tape or staple that holds the address panel closed. The presence of the computer generated label will demonstrate it came from a member. We'll also verify that your claimed membership status (individual or joint) matches our records, then we'll mark the unopened lower portion with the number of voters to expect, and remove and discard the flap with your mailing address. Another group of the election committee will then remove the remaining staple or tape to expose your ballot and record your vote(s).

Fold in thirds with return address showing.

Staple or tape upper and lower edges. Add postage and postmark by Dec. 5th.

- - - - - **FOLD BALLOT UP TO COVER DIRECTIONS ALONG THIS LINE** - - - - - **MAIL BY DEC. 5, 2008** - - - - -

Ancient Islands Elections 2009 Executive Committee Ballot

The Executive Committee is the official decision making body of our local group. The terms of office are staggered.

EXCOM Positions	NOMINEE	WRITE-IN
<u>Two-Year Terms</u>		
Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Member-at-Large	<input type="checkbox"/> Albert Honican	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

For 2nd Voter/Joint Membership only	
NOMINEE	WRITE-IN
<input type="checkbox"/> Robert Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Albert Honican	<input type="checkbox"/> _____



Sierra Club

Ancient Islands - FL Sierra
P.O. Box 7544
Winter Haven, FL 33883

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1117
Lakeland, Florida

Published Monthly

Members should send **changes of address** to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or address.changes@sierraclub.org

NOVEMBER 13 MEETING

PROGRAM:

**Conserve Water & Reduce Pollution
Create a Florida Friendly Yard**

Presented By

**Anne Yasalonis, Florida Yards &
Neighborhoods Coordinator, Uoff IFAS
Polk County Extension Service**

*General Meeting and Executive Committee
Meeting Run Concurrently*

Join us for our pot-luck suppers at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month. Bring a dish to share, a drink and your utensils. Dress is casual. **The meeting will start around 7:15 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Audubon Nature Center, 115 Lameraux Rd., Winter Haven. From the traffic light at the intersection of Hwy. 540 (Cypress Gardens Blvd.) and Cypress Gardens Road (look for the Shell station and Blockbuster Video) - Turn east onto C.G. Road and follow around sharp right hand turn & then sharp left hand turn. After left hand turn, Lameraux is fourth road on left, two blocks west of Garden Grove Elementary School. Distance from the light to the Nature Center is about 2.3 miles. (Phone 324-7304)

Web Site: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/polk/>
(links to Ancient Islands)

Sierra Membership Application

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional): () _____ **F94Q W3311 1**

Check One **Individual** **Joint**

Introductory \$25

Regular \$39 \$47

Senior \$24 \$32

Student \$24 \$32



Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1). Dues are not tax-deductible.

Please mail your check and this form to:

Sierra Club, PO Box 52968, Boulder, Colorado, 80322-2968

2008 ANCIENT ISLANDS SIERRA GROUP

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Chair - 965-8241

Marian Ryan
Vice-Chair - 293-6961

Jenny Jacobs
Secretary - 439-1926

Charles Geanangel
Treasurer - 326-5748

Members-at-large

Gunn Honican

Robert Jackson - 646-1475

Membership - 326-5426

Al Greulich - 967-6783

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