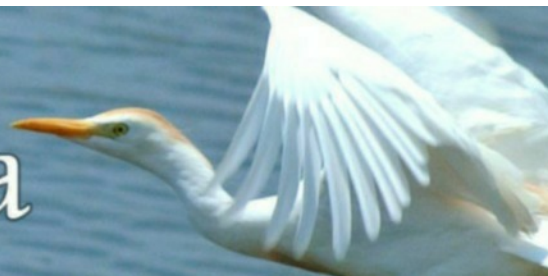




Manatee-Sarasota Group Boca Sierra



Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress

SEPT/OCT 2019

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

What: General Meeting
When: Thursday, Sept 12 at 7 PM
Where: Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd.
Of the Arts, Sarasota
Speakers: Pat Rounds with Susette Bryan
Topic: Sarasota County Redistricting

Pat Rounds will be speaking about the Sarasota County Board of County Commission's plan to redraw county district lines before the 2020 election and the upcoming census.

Pat Rounds is a native of Washington, DC and a graduate of the University of Maryland. She taught in Montgomery County, MD public schools for 6 years also worked in Sales Management, Training and Marketing at Merck & Co., Inc Pharmaceuticals for 24 years.

Pat was the past Secretary of SAFE, Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections, 2005-2007, past Secretary of Sarasota Citizens for Responsible Government and a Board Member of CONA, Council of Neighborhood Associations 2016-2017. Pat Rounds is an advocate for government that serves the public interest through public outreach, transparency and accountability.

Susette Bryan was an English Teacher in Bellport High School in New York. She served as a Board Member and Secretary for SAFE, the Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections from 2006-2019.

PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 2019

What: General Meeting
When: Thursday, Oct 10 at 7 PM
Where: Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd.
Of the Arts, Sarasota
Speaker: Becky Ayech
Topic: Citizen-initiated Amendment to
Sarasota's Comprehensive Plan

Becky Ayech is an environmental and community activist. She currently is (and for the last 25+ years has been) the president of the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida, an umbrella organization with members from 7 counties.

She also serves as the president of the Miakka Community Club. The Miakka Community Club owns, restores and maintains a 105 year old, one room schoolhouse. The Community Club works to conserve and protect the rural area.

She has been the guiding author of the first Citizen Initiated Amendment to the Sarasota Comprehensive Plan. The Comp. Plan governs the ways that the Sarasota Planning Board is required to involve the public citizenry in formulating proposals to develop the county.

Becky is qualified by the State of Florida to be a legal representative in Administrative Hearings on comprehensive plans and water use permit challenges.



Manatee Conservation Committee, Sept/Oct 2019

The Manatee Conservation Committee normally meets at 1:30 pm every second Monday in the upstairs conference room of the library at 1301, 1st Ave W in Bradenton. The next meeting will be in November, 2019.

Please see the update for the committee on page 4. Contact Marsha Wikle if you'd like to receive an occasional email on issues we are following mw121150@gmail.com, 740-352-5021.

Sarasota Conservation Committee, Sept/Oct 2019

The Sarasota Conservation Committee meets at Lucky's market (3501 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota) on the third Tuesday of each month in the conference room at 6:30 p.m. Our first meeting date in September is Sept 17th.

Issues which the committee is currently involved are:

1) A proposed Super Hamlet at Fruitville and Verna Rd, rezone petition and comp plan amendment to increase density and provide county sewer lines, 2) Old Miakka residents respond with the first Citizen Initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendment to remove Hamlet designation on the 6,000 +/- acre parcel and return to Rural Heritage zoning, 3) Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), hearing scheduled with the BoCC, Sarasota Co. Admin building. 4) Update on Celery Fields and future plans for the Quad properties, 5) Update on implementing of voter-passed Single Member Districts vs the redistricting action moving forward by BoCC, 6) The City code, master plan, citizen participation and its dubious benefits of developer Incentives for job creation and affordable housing, 7) Comprehensive plan amendment to: address the need for flood plain mapping including habitat and corridors updated for Sarasota County, 8) Payne Park and Sarasota parks rezoning proposal, from Government use to Parks & Recreation. 9) Hi Hat Ranch CPA to increase density 6 fold on 1000 acres on Fruitville Rd and the need to address it, and, 10) Actions by Sarasota Students 4 Climate.

Contact Gayle Reynolds at 941-587-9797 with questions or to inquire about bringing a conservation issue to the committee.

SAY NO TO URBAN SPRAWL: WE NEED HELP

The undeveloped areas in the rural, east Sarasota County, are threatened from over development and urban sprawl. Your Manatee-Sarasota group is in the forefront of the battle to control this sprawl by defending and protecting the critical elements of our long range planning in the 2050 Plan. This campaign often pits David vs Goliath especially where funding is concerned, however, **we can prevail, but we need your support.** Please donate to our 2050 Fund. Send donations to M/S Group, Sierra Club, PO Box 3485, Sarasota, FL 34236-3485. Donations are not tax deductible. Please indicate on the checks Note Line, "2050 Support".

2019 Executive Committee

Group Chair: Krista Lohr 941-302-0610

Kristalohr1975@gmail.com

Group Vice-Chair and Fundraising Chair:

Gerry Swormstedt 941-366-9596

gswormstedt204@comcast.net

Secretary: Cathy Page 941-795-8973,

cnpage@tampabay.rr.com

Manatee Conservation Committee Chair:

Marsha Wikle 740-352-5021,

mw121150@gmail.com

Sarasota Conservation Committee Co-Chairs:

Mike Lasché, 941-544-7788

mike@floridawalksandbikes.org

Gayle Reynolds 941-587-9797

greynoldsdesign@gmail.com

Programs: Open

Outings: Marsha Wikle 740-352-5021

Mw121150@gmail.com

Outreach/Tabling: Open

Political Co-Chair: Gayle Reynolds

941-587-9797

greynoldsdesign@gmail.com

Political Co-Chair: Ellie Petersen,

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Newsletter Co-editor

Kelly Franklin

Kelly.A.Franklin@gmail.com

Appointed Committees and Special Projects

Ready for 100 Co-Organizer: Lynn Nilssen,

Lynnsierra@nilssen.us

Hospitality: Open

Membership: Frances Bratwaite,

941-893-7504

ICO Chair: Sarah Mitchell 941-725-1568,

mitchell8manatee@yahoo.com

Web Master: Will Rauschenberger

will@paintscape.net

Website:

<http://sierraclub.org/florida/manatee-sarasota>

Boca Sierra Vol. XXIII Issue 5

This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Manatee-Sarasota Group of the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. It informs members and interested individuals about local activities and national environmental issues. Members of the Sierra Club subscribe to Boca Sierra through their annual dues. Non-members may subscribe for a \$6 annual fee.

Outings:

July/August 2019



Saturday September 28 Annual Pine Lilly Hike - 8 to 10 miles across open prairie looking for the *lilium catesbae* (pine lilly). Trail may be wet. Group size limited Reserve with Bill Lewis [941-355-2156](tel:941-355-2156)

Saturday, October 12 Caspersen Beach Venice sunset walk 6:30 pm. 3 mile RT to ferry landing and back in moonlight! Wear sturdy shoes, carry water, insect repellent. MUST reserve with Sally 484-4113.

Saturday October 19 Autumn Wildflowers - Hike 8 to 10 miles across prairies and flatwoods enjoying the fall blooming grasses and flowers. Group size limited Reserve with Bill Lewis [941-355-2156](tel:941-355-2156)

Friday October 25- Perico Preserve, Meet at 4:30 pm at the Perico Preserve, 11700 Manatee Avenue W, Bradenton, on the causeway to Anna Maria Island for a Pink Perambulation through Perico. Catch all the wonderful fall bloomers glowing pink in the late afternoon light. We'll walk for about 90 minutes - bring a small flashlight just in case. Text Marsha at 740-352-5021 to reserve a spot.

UPDATE ON MANATEE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The conservation committees of the M-S Group work to protect the natural resources of their area, in our case Manatee County. While our county has a board of commissioners bent on approving all developments at all costs, we have a county preserve system to be proud of. Several preserves are visitor friendly and are crowded through the winter season. Others exist mostly to do just that – exist. In doing so they provide habitat for wildlife and allow our aquifer to recharge.

What Manatee County does not have is a dedicated fund to purchase new conservation land. The county commissioners, at the recommendation of the advisory committee for environmental lands, recently entered into a partnership with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to explore the possibility of a ballot referendum. This vote would indicate whether the voters of our county are willing to support either a bond or a property tax levy to collect funds for land acquisition. From now until late fall, TPL personnel will be interviewing voters. If the result is positive, a ballot referendum will appear on the 2020 general election ballot.

The Manatee Conservation Committee will continue to deal with local natural resource issues, but if we are headed to a ballot referendum, the main mission of the committee for the next year will be to support this effort by meeting with other local groups, tabling at public events, and helping provide a speakers' bureau. This is something we can do to find positive outlets for our collective energy. Manatee Conservation Committee meetings resumes in November. Join us! Marsha Wikle, Manatee Conservation Chair, mw121150@gmail.com

We Sierrans *Explore*, Enjoy and Protect our environment. Nevertheless, your local M-S Group needs new outings leaders to join us in our outings program. Rewarding and fun, at the same time you will be helping our members '*Explore*' our beautiful environment. If you have some basic experience with hiking, kayaking, nature observation or walks please join us. It just takes a few hours of training and well worth the effort. Contact Marsha Wikle, Outings Chair at 740-352-5021 or mw121150@gmail.com

“I Didn’t Know Sierra Club Did That.”

After giving a short presentation to our local group about the Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program, a woman came up to me afterwards to say “I didn’t know Sierra Club did that.” So, this is an article to spread the word about a pretty amazing program you should all know about.

You probably know about the adult outings that are offered, but did you now there is one that runs trips specifically for children? Our local chapter has an ICO program, or “Inspiring Connections Outdoors”, which focus on taking children out to experience the natural world. For the past few years we have offered this experience to 3-5th graders who attend low-income schools.



We try to offer a minimum of one trip a month during the school year. During warmer months these are usually day trips to places where we can cool down in the water. Students might participate in dip netting on the intra-coastal or seining at Emerson Point. As the weather cools we try to offer camping trips. These offer another first-time experience for many of the children.

On all trips the focus is to allow students the chance to get to know wild places exist, are there for us to enjoy, and need our help for protection. We always try to work in a community service project which ranges from removing exotics to planting natives and even cleaning the bathrooms! Giving the students a chance to feel part of the solution and that every person can help in some way adds to the depth of their experience.

We have just finished picking out dates for this year’s trips and we are always looking for people who would like to help. The most obvious way to be involved is to help chaperone a trip. You could join us for the entire outing, or just show up for an hour and share your specific area of expertise or interest. We’ve had folks come out and help find and identify birds, bugs, snakes, read stories about bats, or to bring telescopes to see the stars. We are open! Let us know what you want to share and we’ll help make it happen.

If trekking around with a bunch of future adults is not your thing, you could help us out by doing things like managing our inventory, generating newsletters, reports and, always a biggy – fundraising.

This is a chance to invest in the future of our world, spend some time with students who are interested in the natural world. These children are learning the importance of the Sierra Club slogan.... Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. Come join the fun!

Contact Sarah Mitchell (mitchell8manatee@yahoo.com) or Lynn Meier (Lynn.meier@verizon.net)

A MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT

Our battle to end the encroachment of Phosphate Mining in Manatee-Sarasota County as well as across the Sunshine State continues. Volunteerism is relatively inexpensive but is not free of cost. If you can see your way to help out, please mail a check to M/S Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3485, Sarasota Florida, 34236-3485. On the check’s note line write “Phosphate Fund”. Donation are not tax-deductible. In this way you can help fight destructive mining practices as well as gyp-stack and slime pond formation. Thanks.

SUMMER CAMP: MULTICULTURAL HEALTH INSTITUTE COLLABORATES WITH M-S GROUP

The Multicultural Health Institute (MHI) wishes to send the Sierra Club a huge thank you for their support with the Newtown Disparities and Environmental Collaborative Program. This July, we offered an innovative STEAMH (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math and Health) Summer Camp Program for middle and high school students interested in pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering, arts, math, and health. With the help of Sierra Club's generous support, we were able to offer scholarships to youth in need in the community, as well as purchase learning materials like air and water monitors, graduated glass cylinders, a chemistry set, dissolved oxygen kits, gloves, and goggles.



Students Holding Indoor AQ Monitoring Meters

We want to give a special thanks to Mr. Bob Fellman, member of the Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club Chapter, for offering his expertise in Environmental Sciences. His week of curriculum was a wonderful learning experience for all.

As July comes to an end, we are reflecting on all of the wonderful activities our STEAMH Summer Camp offered. Each day was filled with hands-on learning, independent projects, scientific explorations and – of course – a healthy lunch. Students got to "Get their hands dirty" and put together a class "EarthBox," a self-contained growing unit. We planted beans, cilantro, and broccoli and watched them sprout into life. One exciting event was our field trip to the Sarasota Water Treatment Plant, where we learned the intensive process of receiving, sanitizing and recovering the water system in our county. Beyond our core curriculum, we were able to collaborate with a number of local organizations and community members. Chis Costello, also from the Sierra Club, spoke to us on the problems of Green Slime and Red Tide. We are so excited to roll out a STEAMH program in Sarasota Schools this Fall. Stay tuned!

Our need for volunteers continues. Our goal is to stimulate student interest in environmental sciences, conservation and health. If you are interested in helping us this academic year which started in August 2019, please contact MHI's, Dr. Lisa Merritt (mhigtpr@gmail.com) or Sierra Club's, Bob Fellman(rft082446@hotmail.com)

Not a Member? See Membership Form on Page 10 Act now and become a member of the Sierra Club. By joining you'll support vital environmental advocacy, you'll receive three publications and gain access to local meetings, member-only adventures and other rewards. To join, go to [Join Sierra Club](#). Also consider joining a Sierra Club Meet-Up group! Join Meet-Up and receive information about meetings, outings and actions that you can take to support a clean environment. Visit the Meet-up website at: [Join Meetup](#).

LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS BY CHANGING TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE POLICY.

With Sarasota County Commissioners accelerating the pace of Urban Sprawl in east Sarasota County, consuming agricultural lands and important habitats at alarming rates, they ignore the fact that the transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gasses in the United States. And when Governor DeSantis and the a FL Legislature approved Greg Steube's "**Toll Roads to Ruin**" bill, Florida threw open the doors to urban sprawl in hundreds of thousands of acres of Florida's remaining critical habitats.

Over-development and urban sprawl, primarily deforestation, loss of wetlands and the creation of impervious surface, is the driving cause of the vast majority of damage to Florida's environment. While our County Commissioners preside over much of this, transportation is the sector that federal officials have the most control over with the power of the purse.

The Green New Deal (GND) acknowledges the need to use cleaner fuels and invest equitably but like most conversations around climate change, it gives only a glancing mention to the transportation system and completely ignores the role development patterns play in driving the climate crisis. The GND is largely devoid of the bold re-imagining of federal transportation spending which encourages more roads, more driving, more sprawl, and more emissions.

Transportation is the **single largest source of greenhouse gases** (GHG), outpacing the power sector and comprising at least 28 percent of the United States' total GHG emissions. Surface transportation represents 83 percent of transportation emissions, and transportation has now surpassed electrical generation as the top emitter. Pollution from transportation comes from three drivers: the efficiency of vehicles, the carbon content of fuels, and the distance traveled. Although our vehicles are more efficient and fuels are cleaner, transportation emissions keep climbing as people drive more and further.

Additionally, about half of all emissions of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases, come from cattle and rice fields, while deforestation and the removal of peat lands cause further significant levels of carbon emissions.

Surface transportation programs are designed to keep people in their car. Congress distributes transportation funding to states based on how much fuel is burned. The more gas burned in a state, the more money that state gets. States have built systems tailored to driving, pushing people to drive more over the past 60 years. Moreover, the Federal transportation program dedicates 80 percent of those funds to highways and only 20 percent to transit, funding guaranteed over multiple years while transit funds are on the chopping block every year. If a new highway is built, a state or local transportation agency has to come up with a 20 percent local match. But to build new transit, they have provide at least 50 percent.

In 2012, Congress gave state departments of transportation more flexibility over how they spent federal transportation funds. In exchange, they created a performance management system to establish some accountability over that spending. That system requires states—most of which are organized around building highways and have little or no staff focused on less polluting modes of travel—to set targets for performance in safety, state of repair, and traffic flow. Strangely, Congress allowed them to set targets in these areas to do worse every year. And even in this non-functional "accountability" system, efficiency measures and GHG emissions were completely left out.

Considering the GND is a statement by Congress about what we should do to make every sector more efficient and less polluting, they must look at their own spending (i.e. federal dollars) and consider aligning it with their climate priorities.

Underlying these transportation challenges is the fact that our local governments are pushing the dwindling supply of affordable housing further and further from the jobs and services that people need.

When Rick Scott dismantled the Growth Management Act in Florida, deregulation threw open the doors to increase the rate of urban sprawl, in arguably the most environmentally sensitive state. While the development rules that create these patterns were set by the federal government in the 1920s, the Feds pretend it is a purely local issue and that they have no role in the solution. Many federal programs today continue to support *and encourage* this spread out development that creates long car trips and traffic congestion.

If the supporters of the GND are serious about addressing GHG emissions, they must spend time on this sector that has more direct responsibility than any other.

Gayle Reynolds, Sarasota Conservation Committee Chair, 941-587-9797, greynoldsdesign@gmail.com

ANOTHER FLORIDA CITY COMMITS TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

Congratulations to Safety Harbor, the ninth Florida city to commit to move to 100% clean, renewable energy, joining Dunedin, Gainesville, Largo, Tallahassee, Orlando, South Miami, St. Pete (the first city in the southeast US to commit), and Sarasota. Our own Florida Phil – Sierra Club's Phil Compton, has been traveling all over our state guiding efforts to address the climate crisis at local levels. Under the Sierra Club's national Ready For 100 campaign, there are now 131 cities, 11 counties and 8 states/territories across the U.S. making the commitment (<https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/commitments>).

In Manatee County, the Manatee Clean Energy Alliance is working on adding our county to the list. Led by long-term Florida resident Jim Willard, this group of dedicated volunteers has been fine-tuning our approach over the past year and a half. We presented at the Council of Governments on January 29, 2019. A point made at the presentation that really got the group's attention was the ranking of Manatee County by the international consulting group, Four Twenty-Seven, as being the US county most at risk from climate change. Following the group meeting, we met with each of our county commissioners individually and had a generally positive responses.

As stated on our [webpage](http://ManateeCleanEnergyAlliance.org) (ManateeCleanEnergyAlliance.org) and in our presentations, our goals are to help educate and drive community involvement and, primarily, to gain the commitment of our County Commissioners for a plan to move to 100% clean energy. Whether we have lived here for a long time or a short time, a majority of our residents would agree with Jim's assessment: "Having spent 37 years in Florida, I have always been concerned about protecting its inviting environment. The existential threat of global warming now threatens us all, especially in our coastal counties. Establishing the Manatee Clean Energy Alliance affords its concerned members the opportunity to educate the community and empower citizens to hold our elected officials responsible for addressing it." As a group, we believe in the three E's: Education, Expression and Encouragement. Along with the education on the science of climate change and its current and potential future impact, we want effective expression to help us have meaningful discussions on climate change. And the local encouragement of our officials and community members is critical to a successful campaign and a healthier environment.

Our next steps include a letter-writing campaign, continued presentations to local groups and mapping our county to understand our connections and needs. At our webpage you can read about our campaign, sign up to volunteer and sign the Petition to be Ready For 100 by 2035. You can also follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ManateeIsReadyFor100/>) and Twitter [@cleanmanatee](https://twitter.com/cleanmanatee)

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Sierra Club's Purpose is to Protect the Environment, to Enjoy the Environment through Outings, and to Educate about the Environment through educational meetings. We need more help in our work to fulfill our triple purpose. Our Manatee/Sarasota Group has an Executive Committee, of 13 members. We currently do not have all of these positions filled.

Each person on the Excom has a charge: to attend the two hour, by-monthly evening meetings of the Excom held on the last Monday of the month and attendance at monthly General meetings (no Meetings in July/August)

Open Excom positions are: **Programs**, arranging for speakers presentations at the monthly General Meeting held at the Sarasota Garden Club, the second Thursday of the month, Sept. thru, June, **Fundraising**, planning one or two events during the year to raise funds and also to promote member opportunities to gather with like minded people and make a difference!! **Outreach**, setting up tables at community events to distribute information and promote our Sierra Group information and activities. These happen about 4-5 times a year.

Besides the Excom members, we need an **Assistant Treasurer and more outings leaders** as well as a **Hospitality Chair** to set up the refreshment table for the General meeting – attendees bring refreshments to share. The **Hospitality Chair** coordinates the refreshment tables. Call our **Chair**, Krista Lohr, or our **Co-chair**, **Gerry Swormstedt** or any other Excom member to find out more and to volunteer!(See Page 2 for contacts)

MEETING: CLIMATE CHANGE AND 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR MANATEE COUNTY

When: Mon, September 9, 2019
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EDT

[Add to Calendar](#)

Where: Bradenton Woman's Club
1705 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205

[View Map](#)

A movement is building across the country to reject dirty fossil fuels and embrace clean energy. Clean Energy for All is a grassroots campaign that is moving our country closer to 100 percent clean energy by 2050 by urging federal, state, and local elected officials to take action at all levels of government. To learn about our local clean energy plans and what you can do to move Manatee County to 100% renewable energy, attend this exciting meeting.

Speakers will include:

Dr. Tim Rumage, Coordinator of Environmental Studies, Ringling College will speak to climate and the need for change.

Lynn Nilssen, Co-coordinator for the Sarasota Ready for 100 Committee, will cover Sarasota's commitment to 100% renewable energy.

Diana Robinson, Manatee County Manager of Energy and Jim Willard, Chairman, Manatee Clean Energy Alliance will present Manatee County accomplishments and future plans.

The League of Women Voters of Manatee County Hot Topics programs feature knowledgeable speakers on major issues of the day. Doors open at 11:15 am, and a buffet luncheon is provided at 11:30 am (\$5 donation asked).

There will be questions from the audience and discussion.

Help Sierra Save Money!

Want to help save local Sierra dollars, ease the burden on volunteers, conserve trees, and receive the newsletter faster and in color? Just follow the steps below to be switched from the paper copy mailing list to the electronic mailing list. A simple, two-step process:

Step1: Type the address below into your browser:

<http://lists.sierraclub.org/SCRIPTS/WA.EXE?SUBED1=FLORIDA-M-S-GROUP-NEWS&A=1>

Step 2: Click on "Subscribe/Unsubscribe."

OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESERVATION ACTION

The Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast submitted two Florida Forever applications this spring and is seeking support from the M-S Group of the Sierra Group to add these two special properties to the Florida Forever acquisition list. The properties are **(See URL for Property Maps below):**

1. Charlotte Harbor Estuary Florida Forever Project Addition - Don Pedro Island State Park Addition, Charlotte County

This 8.47-acre parcel abuts the southern mainland boundary of Don Pedro Island State Park and is within the Park's Optimum Boundary. This property has the opportunity to be a valuable addition to the existing park to enhance water access and visitor amenities as well as help buffer the park from surrounding neighborhoods. The property is located on a canal that flows into Lemon Bay and already has a dock and boat slips.

2. MJ Ranch/Myakka Island Conservation Corridor, Manatee County

The Florida Forever application proposes the purchase of a perpetual conservation easement to protect 2,390+ acres of the MJ Ranch in eastern Manatee County. The property contains more than 5.5 miles of shoreline on the Myakka River. Protecting this property conserves that last large ranch along the Myakka between the Myakka River State Park and Flatford Swamp, the headwaters of the Myakka River. The effort to conserve the land buffering the upper and most fragmented section of the state designated "Wild & Scenic" Myakka River further protects Charlotte Harbor, a nationally recognized estuary, and the Gulf of Mexico. MJ Ranch is an operating cattle ranch and hosts a diversity of habitats supporting a variety imperiled plant and animal species. The property contains several depression marshes and tributaries to the Myakka River. Because of the property's range in elevation, from sand pine scrub in the uplands to the Myakka River in low areas, the property contains bayheads and seepage streams associated with rapid elevation change. At least three such streams totaling at least five miles of flowing water pass through the property and contribute water to the Myakka River. Finally, where the Myakka River passes MJ Ranch and nearby ranches, the river is classified as impaired for fecal coliform bacteria. Conservation of MJ Ranch may include revised cattle grazing practices that may reduce or eliminate cattle access to the river, leading to a reduction in or elimination of this impairment.

Here is something you can do you can do to help protect these lands: Write a letter of support to the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC <https://floridadep.gov/lands/environmental-services/content/acquisition-and-restoration-council-arc>) which reviews and approves projects to be added to the Florida Forever list. The vote by the ARC will take place in December. Please send letters within the next couple of months. Letters should be addressed to:

Acquisition and Restoration Council, c/o Shauna Allen, Staff Director, Office of Conservation Services, Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection,,3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 140,Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000




To help you with your letters or testimony, area maps of the property and a basic support letter may be obtained at **(URL Address for the Maps and Letter)**. Simply scroll down to "Call for Action" on nine lines from the bottom of the page. Finally, please send copies of any support letters or emails you send to **DEBI L. OSBORNE**, Director of Land Protection, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, 400 Palmetto Ave, PO Box 902, Osprey, FL 34229 Tel: 941.918.2100, Fax: 941.918.2103. debi@conservationfoundation.com

ManateeSarasota Group
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3485 Sarasota
FL 342363485



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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (CHECK ONE)		INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
SPECIAL OFFER		<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Regular		<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
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, Student or Limited Income		<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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 for your chapter newsletter.			
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