



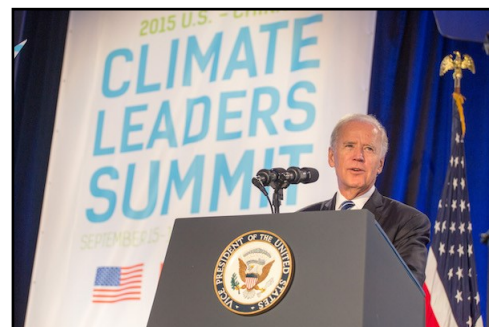
FALL 2020

The Pelican Sierra Club Florida

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SIERRA CLUB

INSIDE: FLORIDA 2020 ENDORSEMENTS

The Only Choice for Our Environment Joe Biden For President



Photo/JoeBiden.com

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SIERRA CLUB

FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Sierra Club is proud to be endorsing Joe Biden in the 2020 Presidential election. Biden has laid out a bold vision of safeguarding our air and water, transitioning to a clean energy economy, and investing in communities that for too long have been left behind and forced to deal with the pollution caused by our reliance on fossil fuels. Vice President Joe Biden’s selection of Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate made this ticket the strongest ever for proposed climate action. The Biden-Harris partnership will prioritize climate -- and climate justice -- in their administration, while restoring the United States as a global leader in tackling the crisis.

More of the same in the Oval Office is simply not acceptable. Since taking office in January of 2017, President Trump has overseen a dramatic shift away from protecting our environment. He has sold off our public lands to corporate polluters, waged unprecedented attacks on environmental protections, and prioritized the desires of fossil fuel company executives over the best interests of the American people at every turn.

Sierra Club President Ramon Cruz shared this comment about the two candidates, “We are confident that Joe Biden will be the champion

for climate justice that America needs in the White House. As Americans head to the polls in November, our country will be facing crises on multiple fronts, including a climate emergency that disproportionately harms communities of color. This may be the most consequential election of our lives, and it is critical that we replace Donald Trump with a leader who understands the scale and urgency of the climate crisis and is ready to take bold action to solve it.”

Over the past several years, we have seen rising consequences of the climate crisis evidenced here at home by more frequent and powerful hurricanes while massive fires have consumed much of the West Coast of the US and parts of Australia.

“Donald Trump is the worst president ever for the climate, our health, and our safety. He views the power of the presidency not as a change for good, but as a weapon to damage the nation while enriching himself and his cronies,” said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. “I am proud to fight alongside Sierra Club’s members and supporters to work tirelessly to put an end to the Trump Administration once and for all by electing two climate champions: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.”

(Continued on page 2)

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

ALYSSA CADWALADER



The year 2020 has slipped by so quickly, it is hard to believe we're already moving into October, with less than 30 days until what may very well be the most important election of our lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement has shined a light into the cracks of our society, highlighting inequities that cannot be separated from our fight to combat climate change and defend our environment. I urge all of you, if you haven't already, to educate yourself, your family, and your friends on the candidates and make sure you vote in the 2020 election. If you're voting by mail, make sure to send your ballots in early. We need every vote to count this year!

The Sierra Club Florida Political Program has been hard at work this election season. The team has been busy endorsing candidates, raising money for the Sierra Club Florida Political Action Fund (PAC), and campaigning for important races throughout the state. Sierra Club Florida has onboarded 21 interns to assist with key campaigns in the state, and some of our staff members have been reassigned to assist with campaigns through Sierra Club's Victory Corps program.

We are working hard to ensure that the best candidates to address climate change and preserve our environment are elected at the federal, state, and local levels. Additionally, the Sierra Club national political program has identified Florida as one of four key states in the 2020 presidential election, moving national resources into the state to help elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the next President and Vice President of the United States.

The national campaign strategy includes letter writing, texting, and phone call campaigns in Florida. Want to help? Visit <https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org> to join the campaign. We need everyone's help to defeat Trump and win back seats for the environment in 2020!

COVID-19 UPDATE

Sierra Club remains committed to the safety of our members, volunteers, staff and the public during these unprecedented times. Most meetings and events will continue to be held virtually in the foreseeable future, with phase-in of outings focused on attendance limits and safety precautions. Watch for news from your local group for updates.

(Continued from page 1)



The Sierra Club has committed more resources towards this election cycle than we ever have before. You can have a direct impact on the election by getting engaged in the **Battleground Program**. Tapping into members and supporters around the country, the Club has organized a number of initiatives we can do to ensure a positive environmental result from this election. You can learn more about how you can help elect Joe Biden and return Donald Trump to private life by visiting <https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/>

Vice President Biden shared this comment about the Sierra Club endorsement, "The Sierra Club has spent more than 125 years pioneering a grassroots movement to protect our planet, fight for clean air and water, and ensure we build a sustainable future. It is an honor to have earned their support and to fight alongside their millions of members who will work to defeat Donald Trump and ensure we elect climate action leaders across the country."

Vote by mail or vote early or vote on November 3. But whatever you do, don't miss this opportunity to correct the trajectory of our country and return us to a place where science and all society are valued and our environment is seen as a treasure to be enjoyed, explored and protected.

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Marcia Biggs, Editor

The Pelican is published by Sierra Club Florida and mailed to Sierra Club Florida members. Annual membership dues include the Pelican newsletter. Address all inquiries to Sierra Club Florida, 1990 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 or e-mail marcia.biggs@florida.sierraclub.org

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Stephen Mahoney, Miami Group

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M-CORES Details Inadequate to Build Toll Roads

The No Roads to Ruin Coalition on Sept. 16 released an extensive study from Cornell Consulting, the leading consulting organization at Cornell University, which reveals data that the M-CORES toll roads project planned by the Florida Department of Transportation does not meet FDOT standards for financial feasibility.

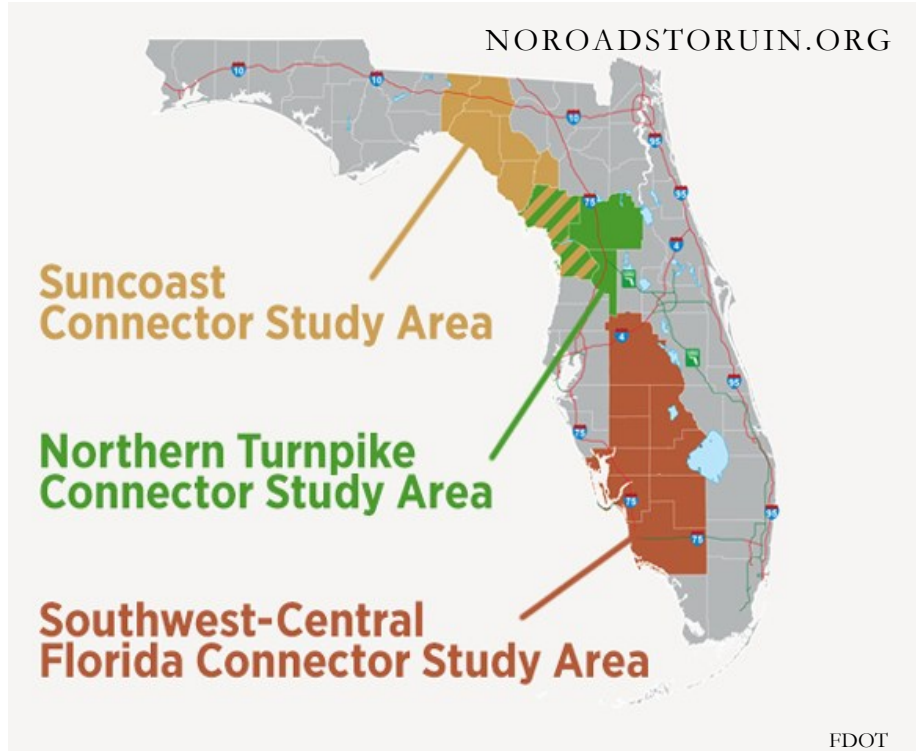
The conclusion of the study supports the vast public opinion that the toll roads are needless, overly expensive and destructive to the economy and rural Florida, and should not be built.

The study, along with an August summary authored by Florida Sierra and 1000 Friends of Florida, challenges the feasibility of the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES), and the revenue needed to fund this project — \$1.7 billion in state funding and total construction costs of \$10.3 billion.

The analysis results reinforce the “No Build” option proposed by the Coalition, which includes some 99 state organization and partner groups, contending the money should instead be used to bolster the state budget and preserve public services.

The Cornell Consulting study found that the M-CORES project will fail to deliver on its promised outcomes, and that it will be fiscally unsound and cause environmental harm.

“At a time when Floridians face extraordinary and sustained hardship, the state should be looking to strengthen public services and programs to help us recov-



er from this downturn and build the foundation for a more equitable and sustainable future,” said Sadaf Knight, CEO of Florida Policy Institute.

In August, Florida Sierra Club and 1000 Friends of Florida released ***M-CORES: A Detour Around Accountability***, citing lack of ongoing gubernatorial and legislative oversight for a project that could cost upwards of \$26.4 billion over the next decade, without any preliminary determination of need or financial feasibility. The groups wrote a letter in August

requesting Gov. DeSantis and the Florida Legislature to take action to cease funding Florida M-CORES to allow our state to address much more pressing needs. FDOT has not released a cost estimate for planning and building the 330-mile toll road system. M-CORES also bypasses Florida’s corridor planning process adopted under Gov. Jeb Bush and reaffirmed by Gov. Rick Scott.

To find the studies, go to <http://noroadstoruin.org/white-papers>

Speak Up on M-CORES

The final Florida Department of Transportation M-CORES toll road task force meetings and open houses are coming up in October before the final reports are due to the Governor and Legislature on November 15. The public may attend in person or the virtual meeting online, but advance registration is needed for the web site link and to request to comment.

Go to floridamcores.com/calendar-of-events to find meetings and register.

Suncoast Corridor

Oct. 20, 9 am to 5 pm - Suncoast Corridor TASK FORCE MEETING

Oct. 22, 5:30 to 7:30 pm - Suncoast Corridor OPEN HOUSE Madison, FL

Northern Turnpike Corridor

Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Northern Turnpike Corridor TASK FORCE

MEETING

Oct. 22, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Northern Turnpike Corridor OPEN HOUSE Crystal River

Southwest-Central Florida Corridor

Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Southwest-Central Florida Corridor TASK FORCE MEETING

Oct. 21, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Southwest Central Florida Corridor OPEN HOUSE Punta Gorda

2020 POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

AMENDMENTS

Florida Sierra Club has taken a position on the following amendments. For more background on each, go to sierraclub.org/florida/florida-sierra-club-political-endorsements.

Amendment 2: \$15 Minimum Wage
VOTE YES

Amendment 3: Top-Two Open Primaries for State Offices **VOTE NO**

Amendment 4: Require Constitutional Amendments to be Passed Twice **VOTE NO**

Ehr, Krumel Deserve Vote in Florida Panhandle

Northwest Florida's Panhandle has endured many hardships recently with flooding and wind damage by Hurricane Sally. Against this backdrop, several Sierra Club members from Northwest Florida stepped up to help our Political Committee in a couple of races with a direct impact on Pensacola and the Panhandle.



Sierra Club is reaching out to members and supporters in this region in particular, to create change by voting for candidates who understand the impacts of climate change on coastal issues and will stand with the environment as our representatives.

In Congressional District FL-1, we have been represented by Matt Gaetz, someone who has shown a disdain for our environment and civility. You may remember Rep. Gaetz for filing a bill to defund the EPA. Or perhaps his bill to privatize Pensacola Beach. Opposing him this year is **Phil Ehr**, a Navy veteran who is seeking to bring civility and servant leadership back to the district. Ehr is focused on the issues of the district, including protecting the environment and ensuring it can continue to be one of the economic drivers of the region. Additionally, he understands the negative impact on health when the environment is damaged. **Vote for Phil Ehr for Congress this year in FL District 1.**

In the Pensacola Beach area, Florida House District 2, we are pleased to be endorsing **Dianne Krumel**. Dianne is known to many in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties for her leadership in Saving Pensacola Beach from the privatization scheme pushed by Rep. Gaetz. Working in a bi-partisan manner, Krumel and her associates were able to defeat the initial proposal and subsequently had a ballot referendum passed by over 80% of the voters in Escambia County followed by a unanimous vote by the Board of County Commissioners to put an ordinance in place protecting Pensacola Beach. **Vote for Dianne Krumel for FL House District 2.**

Northwest Florida voters can help swing the state in the right direction by working with Sierra Club's political team. Can you spare a few hours or days a week to help in the effort to create change in our state and our country? We need volunteers to assist in all kinds of tasks from phone calls and emails to helping our endorsed candidates.

If you are interested in learning more about our political work and how you can make a difference, please send a note to David Harbeitner at davidh@suncoastsierra.org.

| REQUEST BY | RETURNED & RECEIVED BY |
|---|---|
| OCTOBER 24 TH @ 5PM | NOVEMBER 3 RD @ 7PM |

Contribute to Sierra PAC

Would you like to help Florida Sierra Club in our work to elect and support our endorsed candidates, but don't have time? Your contribution to our Political Action Committee will assist us in our mission.

To make a contribution, please go to:

www.sierraclub.org/florida/florida-political-program

2020 POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

Through a rigorous process, Florida Sierra Club has spent months interviewing candidates for the primary and November elections. This list of Sierra Club endorsed federal and state candidates can be found updated and with links to most candidate web sites at sierraclub.org/florida/florida-sierra-club-political-endorsements. Here you will also find our process of endorsement and how to volunteer. To find endorsements by your local Sierra Club groups, check their web sites, or enter your address at www.sierraclubindependentaction.org



PRESIDENT

JOE BIDEN (D)

US CONGRESS

Phil Ehr (FL-1)

Donna Deegan (FL-4)

Al Lawson (FL 5)

Stephanie Murphy -(FL 7)

Jim Kennedy (FL-8)

Darren Soto (FL-9)

Val Demings (FL-10)

Charlie Crist (FL-13)

Kathy Castor (FL-14)

Alan Cohn (FL-15)

Margaret Good (FL-16)

Lois Frankel (FL-21)

Ted Deutch (FL-22)

Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23)

Frederica Wilson (FL-24)

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (FL-26)

Donna Shalala (FL-27)

FLORIDA HOUSE

Dianne Krumel (FL-2)

Ramon Alexander (FL-8)

Allison Tant (FL-9)

Joshua Hicks (FL-11)

Traci Davis (FL-13)

Dave Rogers (FL-17)

Kayser Enneking (FL-21)

Patrick Henry (FL-26)

Dolores Guzman (FL-27)

Tracy Kagan (FL-29)

Joy Goff-Marcil (FL-30)

Barbara Cady (FL-42)

Geraldine Thompson (FL-44)

Kamia Brown (FL-45)

Anna Eskamani (FL-47)

Carlos Guillermo Smith (FL-49)

Joan Majid (FL-51)

Lloyd Dabbs (FL-52)

Phil Moore (FL-53)

CL Townsend Jr (FL-58)

Andrew Learned (FL-59)

Julie Jenkins (FL-60)

Dianne Hart (FL-61)

Fentrice Driskill (FL-63)

Jessica Harrington (FL-64)

Dawn Douglas (FL-67)

Ben Diamond (FL 68)

Jennifer Webb (FL-69)

Michele Rayner (FL-70)

Andy Mele (FL-71)

Drake Buckman (FL-72)

David Fairey (FL-73)

Elisa Ackerly (FL-82)

EJ Bernier (FL-83)

Dolores Hogan Johnson (FL-84)

Jim Carroll (FL-85)

Jim Bonfiglio (FL-89)

Joe Casello (FL-90)

Patricia Williams (FL-92)

Linda Thompson Gonzalez (FL-93)

Bobby Dubose (FL-94)

Jasmen Rogers Shaw (FL-95)

Mike Gottlieb (FL-98)

Evan Jenne (FL-99)

Marie Woodson (FL-101)

David Williams Jr. (FL-102)

Cindy Polo (FL-103)

Robin Bartleman (FL-104)

Maureen Porras (FL-105)

Dottie Joseph (FL-108)

Annette Collazo (FL-110)

Francesca Cesti Browne (FL-115)

Ricky Junquera (FL-118)

Clint Barras (FL-120)

FL SENATE

Patricia Sigman (FL-9)

Darryl Rouson (FL-19)

Corrina Robinson (FL-25)

Tina Polsky (FL-29)

Perry Thurston (FL-33)

Jose Javier Rodriguez (FL-37)

Javier Fernandez (FL-39)

Annette Collazo (FL-110)

AMENDMENTS

Amendment 2 VOTE YES

Amendment 3 VOTE NO

Amendment 4 VOTE NO

Nassau Coalition Vows to Come Together, Stand Together

Shortly after protests over the death of George Floyd began to sweep the nation, high school students and college aged youth in the community of Fernandina Beach in Northeast Florida began organizing small marches in town. After sponsoring two smaller marches, the young people reached out for senior advisors to help them organize a larger BLM rally.

Three members of the Nassau County Sierra's Executive Committee responded. Julie Ferreira, Zen Waters, and Rev. Anthony Daniel and three other adults began working with these motivated young adults which led to the formation of a new group - REC, the Racial Equality Coalition. "Come Together, Stand Together" was adopted as the group's motto.

On June 13, some 400 peaceful activists were gathered in Fernandina Beach's Central Park rallying against racism and calling for police accountability. Four speakers stood on the back of a pickup stressing the need for change in Nassau County- this included the Fernandina Beach Police Chief who admired the passion, enthusiasm and diversity of the crowd.

The group marched downtown to the steps of the Courthouse where four more speakers including Rev. Anthony Daniel of the AME Church gave rousing speeches. Led by Rev. Daniel, all of the marchers were invited to lay or kneel on the sidewalk and the street for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the same amount of time that a Minneapolis police officer had knelt on Floyd's neck as other officers looked on. This moving and humbling experience



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Some 400 peaceful activists marched June 13 in Fernandina Beach to call for an end to racism and for police accountability.

gether and Stand Together" against police brutality, social injustice, racism, bigotry, xenophobia, and violence inflicted upon all the marginalized people of our community.

Concerned over the history of racial discrepancies in judicial sentencing in Nassau County, the Racial Equality Coalition sponsored a Candidate's Forum for the five candidates running in the election primary for County Judge in July. And in early August, REC sponsored a "love parade" for a Black Nassau County family that had been targeted with a "hate" letter, to show that we will stand against racial division in the community.

Over 200 cars showed up to participate.

- Julie Ferreira, Nassau Group Chair

PG Photos had most rally participants in tears.

REC strives to create a new future based on racial justice that is inclusive and empowering to all. We "Come To-

Environmental Justice and Sierra Club

Sierra Club's commitment to becoming a more equitable, inclusive, and just organization has picked up steam this year. Current events such as the ongoing Movement for Black Lives, prominent injustices committed by law enforcement, and deepening disparities in healthcare and economic opportunity have left many Americans feeling aimless. Now is the time to dig into environmental justice like never before.

Florida Chapter's Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee

(EIJ) has re-ignited over the last 6 months with a renewed sense of urgency. While staff have mostly led the justice-centered work on environmental issues in our state, some Florida Groups may be unsure what this means on the local and volunteer levels. How should we get involved? When is the right time? Why should we engage on these issues?

Please reach out to justice@florida.sierraclub.org to request resources and information. Let's do this together!

Around the State

Sierra Loses a Leader in Kent Bailey

Sierra Club Florida mourns the loss of former Florida ExCom member **W. Kent Bailey**, who passed away suddenly Sept. 22 at his home in Tampa. Kent was chair of Tampa Bay Group and was a powerful and respected voice for Sierra Club and the environment.



The sheer volume of work that Kent performed each month in addressing environmental issues on the local and state level was astounding. He studied climate science and was considered a local expert on sea level rise in the Tampa Bay region.

One of his greatest successes was spearheading the land purchase of Cone Ranch (Lower Green Swamp Preserve) as an ELAPP property, it was the largest undeveloped tract of land in Hillsborough County.

Kent possessed amazing political skills and was an inspirational speaker, always leading by example and always giving credit to others for their contributions. His loss is immeasurable; he will be missed by many.

Sierra Intends to Sue Over Pasco Preserve

Sierra Club and Pasco County environmentalist Dan Rametta filed notice Sept. 10 of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for violations under the Endangered Species Act with respect to the Ridge Road Extension project at the Serenova Preserve in Pasco County.

When the state Department of Transportation built the Suncoast Parkway toll road in Pasco County, it destroyed about 200 acres of wetlands. To make up for the damage, the DOT bought the 6,500-acre Serenova tract and donated it to the Southwest Florida Water Management District, thus preserving its 2,300 acres of wetlands.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the permit in December to destroy those wetlands to extend Ridge Road, and the construction has been underway.



Calling all Panhandle Activists - Join us!

Florida Sierra is forming a Northwest Florida Committee to bring together members who would like to engage in environmental issues, political endorsements, outings (when possible), conservation issues and more. If you would like to join a conference call to discuss opportunities, please email Debbie Matthews at treehuggerdeb@gmail.com, or Rocky Milburn at tampaico@gmail.com

Florida Chapter ExCom Nominations Open

Interested in running for the Sierra Club Florida Executive Committee? Seven volunteer leaders representing Groups and members from all over the state are on the Executive Committee; each seat is a two-year term. The Florida Sierra Executive Committee meets several times a year with leaders from the Groups to discuss and make decisions on issues of importance across the state.

Sierra Club members in good standing are eligible to run for a seat and should be able to attend meetings (virtual at present) and actively participate in emails and phone calls. Candidates should be informed on current conservation and environment affairs, or have a willingness to learn.

Deadlines for submissions:

Nominations for candidates October 31

Receipt of candidate petitions October 31

Candidates submitted to Excom November 17

Questions and nominations should be submitted to Mary-Slater Linn at sierraclub01@yahoo.com; text or call (407) 701-6475.



Order your 2021 Sierra Club calendars today! Wall (\$14.95) and engagement (\$15.95) calendars available, plus taxes and shipping. Go online to store.sierraclub.org/

Save a Tree, Get Your Pelican Online

Help Sierra Club in our efforts to reduce newsprint and mailing costs by opting to receive this newsletter by e-mail. Drop out of the print Pelican by sending an email with NEWSLETTER OPTOUT in the subject line to editor@florida.sierraclub.org. Include your current address and the email you wish to receive the newsletter.

Moving?

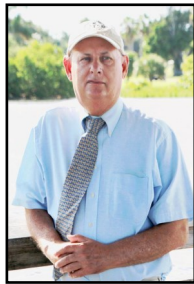
Email new address to
address.changes@sierraclub.org
and include your membership ID
number located on the mailing label.

Florida Sierra Leaders Receive National Awards

Two longtime Florida Sierra Club leaders were recognized with National Sierra Club awards in a virtual ceremony held September 9 from California.

Drew Martin, Conservation Chair for the Loxahatchee Group, was awarded the Special Service Award. He is involved and attends many of the important meetings in Palm Beach County and around the state, meeting with various public leaders and political figures who make important decisions affecting our land, water and climate.

Everglades conservation and restoration have been priorities for Drew, who serves on the Everglades Coalition working hard with our legislators and the water management district to allocate fund-



Drew Martin

ing for Everglades restoration as well as Florida Forever. Single-use plastics, sugar field burning and clean energy are also issues Drew works on.

Janet Stanko, longtime Conservation Chair with the Northeast Group, received the Environmental Alliance Award from the National Sierra Club. Janet has been creating key alliances with city officials in Jacksonville and many regional groups focused on conservation and climate change issues.

Through her efforts, the Northeast Group partnered with St. Johns Riverkeeper to stop development along the river that would have threatened water quali-



Janet Stanko

ty. They partnered with Riverkeepers and Florida Defenders of the Environment to prevent Adena Springs, later Sleepy Creek, cattle ranch from receiving a permit allowing the withdrawal of millions of gallons of water per day for their grass and processing facility. This would have resulted in massive nutrient runoff.

Janet has been instrumental in her work with the Jacksonville Mayor's Environmental Council, pairing with the Communications Workers of America for the Blue-Green Alliance while working on the Obama campaign, and is currently working with Georgia Sierra Club to oppose mining north of Okefenokee Swamp. She recently helped to form a Resiliency and Climate Change Coalition in Jacksonville. Janet received a Chapter leadership award in 2019.