



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FLORIDA CHAPTER

**Turtle Coast Group**



Local Group for Brevard and Indian River County

Hello All,

This is a brief letter to catch you up on what's happening and let you know about some of the good things we've been doing.

I'll start with some things we've been doing.

**Titusville Tree Ordinance** - A big shout out to all the Sierra Club and Titusville Tree Team members who worked very very hard on making the Titusville tree ordinance a reality.



Previously, developers who cut down trees had to pay into a trust that the city set up to plant new trees in the city. Payments into the trust were based on the size of trees cut down. Under the new policies, residential developers who set aside tree canopy areas, will see those payments reduced and maybe even eliminated.

Under the new ordinance, the total area of tree canopy must be at least 25% of a new residential subdivision's area.

### **Space Coast Pride support**

Turtle Coast Executive Committee members voted to provide support to the Space Coast Pride organization. This action is part of our effort to bring together people from all walks of life to work together for a better world for everyone. As part of our

support, we are helping to promote Space Coast Pride activities.



### **Workgroup for Innovative Solar Energy Resources (WISER)**

A Brevard County Working Group known as WISER has been meeting since August 2020. The Workgroup for Innovative Solar Energy Resources (WISER) is a commission-appointed group that has been tasked to:

- Develop a cost-benefit analysis and plan for County government to transition to clean-energy sources.
- Make recommendations on improving public access to economically beneficial clean-energy technology.
- Identify policies and practices that serve as barriers to the adoption of advanced energy technology within the County, and make recommendations on policy revisions.

The current Turtle Coast Group Chair, Bill DeBusk is the District 3 Appointee. The final document is a Clean Energy Transition Plan for Brevard County. This document is finally complete and awaiting review by the Brevard County Commissioners. Stay tuned! We will provide more information as it becomes available.



### ***Letter to NASA Administrator Bill Nelson***

Sen. Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator on May 3, 2021, tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency. Our Turtle Coast group along with State and National Sierra Club representatives drafted a letter to Bill Nelson.

Our letter congratulates Sen. Nelson on his appointment and stresses the importance of minimizing environmental impacts as the Space Center evolves. We also offer our assistance and any resources he may need to ensure NASA's actions don't impact our sensitive local environment.

Leslie Maloney past Chair and current member of our Turtle Coast Group Executive committee was the primary driver in writing and guiding this letter through to completion. Leslie along with Maureen Rupe (also on our Executive committee) serves on the Indian River Lagoon Roundtable that initiated this effort. This letter has already had an impact as it recently found it's way into an NPR story discussing environmental issues surrounding Space X in Texas. You can read the letter to Sen. Bill Nelson below.

[\*\*Letter to Bill Nelson\*\*](#)

## Happenings

### Past General Meeting Topics

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> Citizens Climate Lobby En-ROADS Climate Change Simulation Model

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Florida's Water Quality Crisis

**Harry T. Moore Museum – past event**



Our group was taken on an amazing tour of this museum on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The docent did an excellent job! If you haven't been to this museum, it is definitely worth a visit. The violent death of Harry and Harriette Moore was the pivotal event that set in motion the 1964 signing of civil rights act. You can learn so much about this amazing history by visiting this museum

## Coming Up

### Planting Trees in Titusville

This is not a Sierra Club led event, but one we definitely want to help promote.

Brevard Parks and Recreation has recently approved a Community Tree Planting Project at Chain of Lakes Park, 2300 Truman Scarborough Way, Titusville. Pelican Island Audubon Society has provided 71 one-gallon potted bald cypress and 45 live oaks for this project. As the pots are 8" by 5", planting holes need only be dug 8" deep by 10" across. Planting trees at the park will provide habitat for wildlife, provide

shade for walkers, and reduce stormwater discharge into the Lagoon. A tree planting event is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4, starting at 8:00 a.m.

### **Space Coast Pride 5K run tabling event**

Turtle Coast Sierra Club Group will be tabling at the 2021 Rainbow Run 5K in Whickham Park on Saturday Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. Come help us support Space Coast Pride! This country belongs to all of us. Together, we can help deepen the movement for a livable planet, safe communities, and a democracy that works for everyone.

### **Winter Solstice Party!**

Come join the Turtle Coast Sierra Club group for their annual Winter Solstice Party!

This event will be held on Sat. December 11th. We will kick off the event with a hike followed by a potluck style picnic. For more details and RSVP please visit our Turtle Coast Sierra Club Meetup.

### **Kayaking**

Launching for 2-3 hour trip south on the Sebastian River. Predicting perfect weather, a lot of visual delights. Birds, flora, possibly dolphins, manatees and occasional alligator. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and life jackets! There are kayaks available to rent near the park. For more details and RSVP please visit our Turtle Coast Sierra Club Meetup.



**Coming Soon - 2021 voting for Executive Committee members**

**We'll announce more about on-line voting soon.**

Thanks for all you do for the environment,  
Bill DeBusk  
Chair,  
Sierra Club Turtle Coast Group