

Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

PROTECT WILDLANDS AND WILDLIFE IN SOUTH FLORIDA'S NATIONAL PARKS!

– By Matthew Schwartz, Everglades Chair and Outings Leader



Sierra Club members in south Florida are fortunate to live next door to three units of the National Park Service – Biscayne and Everglades National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve. Tourists come from far and wide to view these ecosystem that exist no place else on the planet.

In addition to the spectacular natural scenery, these lands are also habitat for a huge variety of endangered and threatened plants and animals. These include the manatee, green sea turtle, wood stork, and Florida's state animal, the critically endangered Florida panther. The only big cat east of the Mississippi, only about 80 to 100 panthers remain on about 5 percent of their former range – all of it in south Florida and most in national parks.

Although the National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act of 1916 specified that these lands would only be used "in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations," that is unfortunately not always the case. Quite often our National Park Service seems to be an agency that is literally at war with itself, as agency staff who want these special places to be a safe haven for vanishing plants and wildlife square off against those who would see parks used for a very different set of purposes.

In Everglades National Park, Florida Power and Light (FPL) is anxious to construct three massive power lines (on towers up to 150 feet tall and carrying 500,000 volts each) across the park's eastern edge. These will carry electricity from two new nuclear reactors the utility is now in the process of getting permitted at its Turkey Point nuclear plant (right next door to Biscayne National Park - more about that next issue). Not only will this corridor become a new industrial horizon for the park, it will interfere with natural water flows, spread invasive plant species, and create disturbances for animals, including bird collisions and electrocutions. Please send an email to Superintendent Dan Kimball (Dan_Kimball@nps.gov) and ask the NPS to buy out the FPL corridor as required by the 1989 Everglades Expansion Act. No transmission lines for nuclear energy across Everglades National Park!

In Big Cypress National Preserve, NPS is currently taking comments on its plan to put in 140 miles of off-road vehicle trails for motorized hunting across a 146,000 acre area known as the 'Addition Lands' - currently open to hiking only (and a very popular destination for Broward Sierrans as well as many others). Aside from obvious impacts to the peace and beauty of these unique wetlands, motor vehicles in Big Cypress have been shown to damage and destroy fragile soils and plants, spread invasive species, create ruts several feet deep, and drive out Florida panthers (NPS found a 30 to 40 percent decrease in panther use of the adjacent Bear Island area during periods of motorized hunting). The introduction of motorized hunting in the Addition Lands will also insure a decrease in prey (deer and hogs) that panthers rely upon as a food supply.

With massive new developments planned outside the preserve and double digit deaths annually as a result of road kill, our beloved state animal is barely hanging on. Please try to get some comments in to the National Park Service on maintaining quality habitat in the Addition Lands of Big Cypress National Preserve. Ask the park service to choose Alternative F - no recreational motor vehicles in the Big Cypress Addition Lands! Click on the

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<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra>

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We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Why not join us right now? Come along on an outing. Get involved, learn about local issues and how they affect you and your community. Just use the membership form on the back cover.

Broward Sierra Programs

Thursday, Oct. 1st: Ecological Impacts of Rock Mining. Thomas L. Poulson, Emeritus Professor, Ecology and Evolution, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois, Chicago. Prof. Poulson will speak on the ecological impact of rock mining on Everglades restoration.



Thursday, Nov. 5th: TBA. Check our website for further info.



Thursday, Nov. 19th: Joint meeting of Broward Sierra Club and South Florida Audubon Society. **Protecting Florida's Coastlines and Cleaning Up Our Waters** with Joe Murphy, Florida Director of the Gulf Restoration Network.

Thursday, Dec. 3rd: Annual Broward Sierra holiday party, pot luck dinner and silent auction. Mark your calendars.



The Meetings are held at the Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek (see map on next page).

Doors open at 7:00 PM. Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

'Take Action on the Big Cypress Addition Lands' link on Broward Sierra's homepage (www.florida.sierraclub.org/broward).

For more information or to learn how to help on either of these issues, contact Matt Schwartz, Broward Sierra Club Everglades Chair and Outings Leader: matthew3222@yahoo.com.



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Broward Sierra News is published every other month for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Membership Corrections - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to: **Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441. 415-977-5653 or e-mail <address.changes@sierraclub.org> or <membership.services@sierraclub.org> If further assistance is needed, please contact your local Membership Chair, Andrea Saifman 954-817-1749.

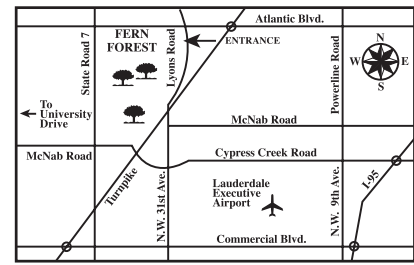
Broward Sierra Club General Meetings

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held monthly at the Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (Between Atlantic and Commercial Blvds., Lyons Road, south of Atlantic is the same street as NW 31st Ave., north of Commercial).

The October meeting will be on **Thurs., Oct. 1st**.

November's meeting will be held on **Thurs., Nov 5th**. Additionally, we will meet in conjunction with the South Florida Audubon Society on **Thurs., Nov. 19th**.

Doors open at 7:00 PM. Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.



GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION CHANGES

Since the county parks will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, beginning in October we will be holding our meetings on the first Thursday of each month at Fern Forest Nature Center.

Make sure to check our website for changes.

Executive Committee Meetings

First Tuesday of each month. Contact Brion Blackwelder at 954-262-6135 for time and location.

The Broward Sierra News is published every other month. To keep you apprised of current Broward Sierra Club events, we will have them all listed on our website: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>. If you would like to receive reminders of these events e-mailed to you, you will need to **subscribe to our Yahoo newsgroup**. The address is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra>. Simply click on the blue "Join this Group" icon and follow the instructions. You may have to create a Yahoo ID first, which is easy and free. This will also allow you sign up for other Yahoo newsgroups, of which there are many.

TO SAVE FLORIDA, START BY NOT BELIEVING THE LIES OF AMENDMENT 4'S OPPONENTS

– By Lesley Blackner, Esq, Sierra Club member and President of FHD

The folks who paved over paradise with over-construction and crashed our economy are in full spin mode, now that Florida Hometown Democracy is on the November 2010 ballot as Amendment 4.

This amendment to the Florida Constitution mandates that changes to local growth plans (a/k/a comprehensive plans) approved by your city or county commission must then go to the voters for final approval or rejection. Millions of taxpayer dollars are spent crafting these plans in order to provide for orderly growth and ensure that your community isn't swallowed by a tidal wave of out of control construction.

But it hasn't worked out that way. Too many city and county commissions are too willing to rubberstamp plan changes. After all, the business of land use is politics. And in Florida, developers make it their business to control the politics through generous campaign donations. Moreover, many politicians are in the sprawl business themselves. The developer/politician nexus helps explain Florida's construction frenzy and the subsequent meltdown.

Amendment 4 gives the people a vote on growth. It will reform the developer/politician dynamic. Not surprisingly, it drives the developer machine crazy.

A campaign designed to spread disinformation is already boiling. Opponents yell about St. Pete Beach to show Hometown Democracy just causes lawsuits. Fact check: The lawsuits are flying because the Hometown Democracy process was not followed. Under Hometown Democracy, there will be a referendum only after the growth plan change is reviewed and voted on by the city commission.

In St. Pete Beach they had the referendum before the proposed plan change went through review and public hearing. That violates state law.

Our desperate opponents say you'll have to vote on hundreds and thousands of little things. Fact check: referenda will track commission votes. That is the way referenda always work. So if your commission approves five ordinances approving growth plan changes, there will be five referenda. If our politicians respect our plans, which have lots of growth built in already, we won't need to vote very often.

Our opponents say we live in a representative democracy and just have to elect better officials. Our officials do a good job representing the sprawl machine. They are directly responsible for much of the Florida's economic/sprawl disaster. Do you really want to continue with a broken, corrupt status quo? You already vote on charter issues, bond and tax questions, etc. The U.S. Supreme Court says voters can take back the power when their elected representatives have screwed up. It's time for we the people to step up and reclaim our communities.

The first thing I suggest you do when you read a letter, column or blog in opposition to Amendment 4 is Google the name of the author. Chances are, the author makes his living off sprawl or works in government (which is often the same thing.) The "say anything campaign" is desperate to preserve a rotten status quo. Immunize yourself now. We still have 14 months until November 2010.

Learn more: www.floridahometowndemocracy.com



Local Sierra Group Outings

*To preserve a place, you must believe in it.
To believe in it, you must see it.*



OCT. 4, SAT. HYPOLUXO SCRUB ECOWALK NEAR LANTANA. Enjoy the fall flowers!! Our walk on the nature trail will take us past many rare plants and the burrows of several threatened gopher tortoises that thrive in this 97-acre preserve. More info can be found at <www.pb.gov.com/erm/natural/natural-areas/hypoluxo-scrub>. Rated leisure to moderate. Limit 15. *Cost: Free.* (Loxahatchee Group)
Leader: Sabrina Carle 561-732-4486 <Carles@bellsouth.net>



OCT. 10 - 12, SAT. - MON. JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK CAMPING. Located just south of Stuart, this park teems with wildlife. We'll hike on some of the 4 scenic nature trails allowing us to explore the various habitats. We'll kayak or canoe on the Loxahatchee River, which was Florida's first nationally designated "Wild and Scenic River". *Cost approx. \$75-\$100 (must have payment in full by October 2nd.)* Limit: 10. Ages 13 and up. Rated easy to moderate. (Broward Group)
Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, Assistant: Matt Schwartz 954-865-4306 <matthew3222@yahoo.com>



OCT. 17, SAT. CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY. Morning Walk or Sunset Stroll (to be confirmed). A casual 2.25 mile trek on a raised, wheelchair-accessible boardwalk, located N.E. of Naples, in Collier County. A guide will accompany us through 4 distinct environments, so you can learn the wide variety of birds, reptiles, mammals, and plants that inhabit this area, from a comfortable vantage point. Rated: Leisure. *Cost: TBA (see website for updates or contact leader).* (Broward Group) Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or <jsfisher@bigfoot.com>



NOV. 7, SAT. DAVIE BIKE AND BRUNCH. A leisurely 7-8 mile bike ride, beginning with brunch at Robbins Park and a stop at the recently opened Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area to learn about this archaeologically and environmentally rich area. Rated leisure. *Cost: TBA (see website for updates or contact leader).* (Broward Group) Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or <jsfisher@bigfoot.com>



NOV. 14 - 15, SAT - SUN. MYAKKA STATE PARK CAMPING TRIP. (Sarasota) Leisurely weekend of hiking, canoeing, biking, camping, birding, airboat, canopy walk. One of the oldest and largest state parks, Myakka protects one of the state's most diverse natural areas. The Myakka River, designated as a Florida Wild and Scenic River, flows through 58 square miles of wetlands, prairies, hammocks, and pinelands. Visitors can enjoy wildlife viewing from a boardwalk that stretches out over the Upper Myakka Lake, then take to the treetops with a stroll along the canopy walkway. Choose your own activities. 4 hour drive on Saturday a.m. and return late Sunday. We will Carpool. Rated moderate *Cost: members: \$75, non-members \$85.* (Broward Group) Leader: Nancy Lunz 954-658-8531 <A101nunzie@aol.com>



NOV. 21, SAT. HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE. A trip to our own historic lighthouse (which is also a Coast Guard station). Built in the 1920's, the lighthouse was on the path of the Barefoot Mailman who traveled by foot from Palm Beach to Miami. He disappeared while delivering the mail, swimming across the Hillsboro Inlet because his boat was not there. We will learn history and have fun. Those who wish can climb the lighthouse. We'll have a gourmet lunch on the grounds. Meet at 8:30 am at Sands Harbor Resort and Marina, Atlantic Avenue, a block north and on the east side of Riverside Drive. for the boat ride over. *Cost: \$15 each.* Afterwards anyone interested can have a beer or cold drink at the Resort outdoor bar. Call Barbara in advance to sign up. (Broward Group) Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb@aol.com>



NOV. 28, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. We'll hike 8 miles on a wilderness trail off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (about 50 min from Downtown Ft. Lauderdale). You will learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora, as you trek through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie. Rated leisurely w/ identification of birds, wildflowers and butterflies. Bring your own lunch, which we'll eat on the trail. *Cost: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* (Broward Group)
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954-627-2665 <katrhoad@prodigy.net>



DECEMBER 4 - 6, FRI. - SUN. BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK CAMPING. Enjoy the beautiful beach, the fresh air, visit Key West and relax before the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Limit 6. Adults only. Rated leisure. *Cost approx. \$65 to \$85.* (Broward Group)
Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



DEC. 19, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. See Nov. 28. (Broward Group)
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954-627-2665 <katrhoad@prodigy.net>



JAN. 10, SUN. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. See Nov. 28. (Broward Group)
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954-627-2665 <katrhoad@prodigy.net>



JAN. 15TH - 18TH, FRI. - SUN. SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BIRDING & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL at Rookery Bay near Naples. At the Rookery there's kayaking, guided walks, a boat trip, plus speakers who cover wildlife from eagles to panthers to wading birds are featured. We'll tent camp at Collier Seminole Fri. and Sat. night. There are many nature walks, including an early morning trip to a marsh area. Previously we saw 16 different species of birds, including Rosette Spoonbills, Osprey, Ducks, Coots, and Herons of all kinds. We could even hear Sand Hill Cranes. Later we saw eagles fighting over nesting sites. *Cost: members \$75, non-members \$85.* Must be paid in advance. (Broward Group)
Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb@aol.com>

FEB. 6, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. See Nov. 28. (Broward Group)
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954-627-2665 <katrhoad@prodigy.net>

We would like to invite you to come on one of our fine educational outings! If you have any questions about an outing, you can check with the certified Broward Sierra Outing Leader in charge of the outing. Some of the outings need no experience; others require some level of proficiency. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, contact the leader of the outing or go to <www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>.

For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>

SIERRA PICNIC – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Club Education Chair

A great time was had by all on Aug. 8 at our yearly Sierra picnic on the beach – and a great turnout too! This year the emphasis was on showing off our vegetarian/vegan culinary expertise. Demonstrating that taste does not have to suffer when meat takes a backseat (or no seat at all) at the dining table, this Sierra gathering truly showed off everybody's veggie-creativity. We were treated to exotic quinoa dishes, lentil stews, multiple chips & dips and scrumptuous salads in all shades and forms. Kudos to all for pleasing our combined palates. Kudos also to Max Goldstein for taking a moment to enlightening us all about the benefits of eating more greens instead of animal products. While this writing isn't meant to make fanatic vegans out

of us all, just consider going lighter on the meat side of our daily nourishment. The multitude of benefits range from not only being good for our general state of health, but also curtailing our grocery bills in these hard economic times. Max rightly educated us about the numbers, i.e. how many gallons of water it takes, how much land and how much fodder to feed a cow just to raise it to the point of serving up a few steaks for a limited number of consumers. All in all, in addition to a veggie-fest and the gentle cooling ocean breezes, the great company made it a wonderful day. (Come to think of it, why don't we do this more often?)



We all had fun at our yearly picnic at John Lloyd Beach State Park – including (in the above photo) Mrs. Inge Lutze, at 95 years of age, presumably our oldest Broward Sierra member.

Photos by Nancy Lunz and Max Goldstein

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ADVERTISE IN THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS

Placing an ad in the Broward Sierra News does more than reach thousands of local, environmentally sensitive readers. It also helps to offset the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, making it possible to continue to alert you to issues of local importance and the actions you can take, as well as inform you of events, outings and meetings of the Broward Group of the Sierra Club.



	<u>1 issue</u>	<u>3 issues</u>
Business card size ad (3-3/4" x 2")	\$55	\$150
Double size ad (3-3/4" x 4")	\$95	\$255
1/2 page ad (7-3/4" x 5")	\$195	\$525

If you would like to place an ad, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or email him at <maxgold@yahoo.com>.

Join the Sierra Club and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag! (While supplies last)



Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage and receive a free Sierra Club Weekender Bag. My payment is enclosed.

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Phone (optional) (_____) _____

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Check enclosed, payable to Sierra Club Mastercard Visa AmEx

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Contributions, gifts or 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Membership Categories



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Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club**
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

DONATE TO THE SIERRA CLUB BROWARD GROUP



You can donate directly to our environmental work here in Broward County. Your donation will support our county-wide environmental programs, including our efforts to protect Florida panther habitat in South Florida. Contributions and gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Please make your check payable to:
Broward Group of the Sierra Club
Mail your donation to: Broward Group of the Sierra Club,
PO Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335