



Broward Sierra News

Please Recycle

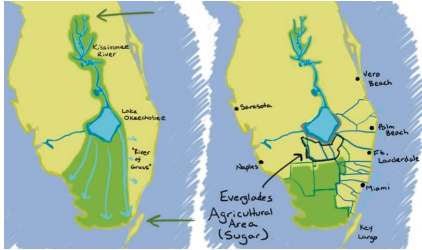


VOL. XXXVII NO. 4 / JUNE 2015

Graphic design & layout by www.carolewalsh.com

www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward • www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra • www.groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES – By Barbara Ruge, Vice-Chair Broward Sierra Club



Please call and write your State legislators and the Governor. The only missing piece for the scientifically approved Everglades restoration project, is for the State of Florida

to purchase 46,800 acres of land south of Lake Okeechobee at the low option price (which expires October 12th). The state has the money from Amendment 1 funds. The State House just has to put it on the budget. The Federal government has already allocated specified funds to build the reservoir and Lake Okeechobee water treatment plant. These will cost the State nothing. US Sugar wants to renege on the purchase option. They want to sell the land at a higher price to developers for a residential community called Sugar Hill. The developers have submitted permits twice, but were denied due to the purchase option we have in effect. If this land purchase does not happen, we will definitely have a fresh water shortage in South Florida. And consequently, more new development will be using up what we do have. Right now, I understand that Everglades National Park should have standing water at 18 to 24 inches. As of this weekend, the level is barely than 5 inches. Likewise in the northern part of the state. The state has subsidized energy companies, Big Sugar and other agricultural interests with no limit to the water they can pump from our beautiful springs. Silver Springs used to be a world wonder. These companies and the legislators they bought have no pride. Last I heard, the springs cannot recover. They are drying up. (An aside: Our wildlife habitats are shrinking. You know about the number of

Florida panthers that get killed by cars, but in case you missed this issue, in September it will be open season for hunting our iconic Florida black bear.) Oil drilling, gas fracking, phosphate mining, agricultural corporations, have been allowed to destroy our natural resources and pollute without limits.



And if that's not enough, follow up on All Aboard Florida coming to the FEC railroad tracks. Not everyone is all aboard with this railway system. Read

up here: <https://www.facebook.com/floridanotallaboard?fref=ts>. Towns up and down the coast are up in arms! This rail system does not serve the citizens of Florida. Without stops, it provides no service or economic benefits to coastal communities. It disturbs the peace, increases expense for maintenance of crossings, and intensifies the risk of environmental catastrophe. The Florida Dept of Transportation is boasting the projected increase in cargo freight by truck and rail system from our "expanded" seaports and airports, prompting a media frenzy of exuberance for success, revenue and jobs. This freight movement is all on the eastside, high populated areas, towns with tourism, boating, fishing and beaches. I saw the power point presentation last month in attendance at the Broward MPO-CIR. You too can view it at <http://tinyurl.com/cargo2040>. Oh, the millions of dollars are astounding, but NOWHERE in this presentation does it address environmental studies, pollution or the potential increased risk of calamity OR ANY increased preparation for disaster response! If people don't think we have an air and water problem in Florida, they live

Continued on next page

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - Each month we have an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

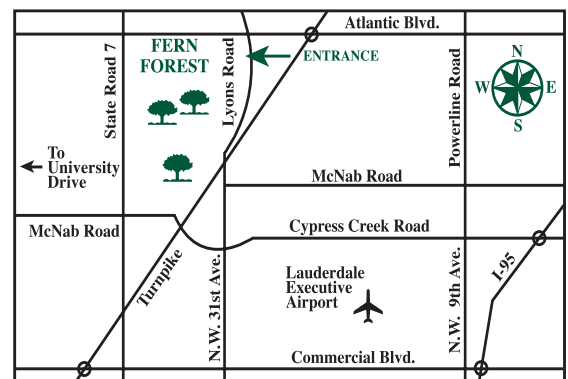
DIRECTIONS: The Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (From the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave., and then Lyons Rd. as you pass under the turnpike.) Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

Thursday, June 4th: Our guest speaker will be Danielle Eisenberg, Assistant Professor of Science/Wellness Education at the Broward College North Campus. She will be giving a talk on **"Celebrating Florida's Native Species."**



Thursday, July 2nd: TBA

Sunday, August 9th: Instead of our usual monthly meeting in August, we will be having our annual Summer Picnic at the Beach at the John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach. (See next page)



Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



JUNE 20, SAT. KAYAK, CANOE, SNORKEL AT INDIAN KEY. 1am-3pm. Launch from the entrance to Tea Table Key, the left (ocean) side of the highway. It is a short paddle from there to Indian Key, an interesting island with a fascinating history. It is also on a coral reef so the swimming and snorkeling is great. Lots of aquarium type fish to see. And the water is exceptionally clear. We have canoes available, or bring your own paddle gear. Some paddling experience necessary. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, hat, camera and any safety gear you will need to enjoy the day. Carpooling highly encouraged. Rating: Leisure to Moderate. *Suggested donation: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.* For more information contact Outing Leader: Mark Walters 305 632 7514 mark.walters@sierraclub.org



AUG. 9, SUN. BROWARD SIERRA CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC AT THE BEACH, any time from noon on, at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach, Jetty Pavilion. Come have fun and enjoy the food, beach, swimming, snorkeling, and just plain lounging and socializing with other environmentally-minded folks. We'll have some short updates, as well as plenty of educational and interesting conversations on local and national environmental issues. This yearly fundraising event raises money to support the Broward Sierra group's activities and environmental causes. More information to follow. *Check our website for updates.* <http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/outings-events> or contact Judy at 305-308-8913 judykuchta@yahoo.com or Max at 954-296-3411 maxgold@yahoo.com.



OCT. 17, SAT. FAKAHATCHEE STRAND PRESERVE STATE PARK SWAMP WALK. Copeland, FL. Join us for a guided swamp walk in a lush environment filled with ferns and bromeliads. Learn what type of habitat is required to grow more native orchid species (including the famous ghost orchid) in a wilderness setting, than anywhere else in the U.S. Rated moderate due to uneven footing, mostly under water. Cost TBA. For more information contact Outing Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 jsf812@bellsouth.net.

We would like to invite you to come on one of our fun and educational outings! If you have any questions about an outing, please check with the certified Sierra Outing Leader listed for the outing. Some of the outings need no experience; others require some level of proficiency. All participants 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 http://vault.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual_waiver.pdf. Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

Unless otherwise stated, the costs for each outing represent a best estimate of actual shared expenses, for food and transportation and other direct expenses.

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

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward

Updates, continued from previous page



with blinders on and don't care about the future of Florida, its economy, its beauty or the health of our people. They only want to know what it will personally cost them. So selfish, so short-sighted, so anti-social to the nth degree.

See the Everglades Coalition resolution (endorsed by over 50 organizations) calling for the purchase of the US Sugar lands for Everglades restoration and coastal estuary protection. http://www.ussugar.com/environment/env_restoration.html

Please read this article on one of the few State senators who is considering supporting the US Sugar land purchase <http://tinyurl.com/NegronArticle>. Senator Negron, by the way, is a Republican, one of the very few, who realizes what true priorities are. Maybe because his district covers the city of Stuart, which is directly affected by the toxic water from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River. They can't boat in it, swim in it, fish in it. High in bacteria, you are warned not to even touch it. It kills wildlife all the way to the ocean.

Stay alert Sierra Club members. Join the protests. Sign the petitions. Get your friends to the voting polls. Vote for environmental champions. Sierra Club strives to keep you informed.

ATTEND the Big Sugar Summit Saturday June 20th.

Sign up for tickets here. (\$10 registration fee includes lunch!) <http://tinyurl.com/big sugarsummit>

The Big Sugar Summit will pull the curtain back on the sugar industry. We'll dig as deep into the muck as we can, in one day, to uncover just how profoundly Big Sugar affects us all. You'll get the facts regarding the sugar industry's influence and impact on Florida and its citizens. Our speakers will represent a wide spectrum of the political, academic, scientific and advocacy realms.

The following topics will be covered:

- History of Big Sugar in the EAA
- Sugar's impact on the Everglades
- Sugar burning practice and impacts
- Health impacts
- State-level political influence
- Federal-level political influence
- U.S. Sugar Program
- Local economy in the EAA
- Sugar Hill Sector Plan

Note: There will be a social hour immediately after the program.