



# Broward Sierra Bulletin



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[www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward) • [www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra](https://www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra)

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/> • <https://twitter.com/BrowardSierra>

[To join the Sierra Club, click here.](#)

## Important Notice

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

It's that time again! We begin procedures pursuant to our by-laws, to elect our 2023 Executive Committee (ExCom).

Our by-laws require in July we form a nominating committee (NomCom) consisting of 2 ExCom members that are not seeking re-election and 1 that is not on BSG's ExCom, and will not be seeking a position on ExCom.

The 2 ExCom members that have volunteered to be on this NomCom are Pat Turpening and Pamela Kondziela. Again, our by-laws require us to reach out to you to join this NomCom!

Would you be willing to serve as the third member of our nominating committee?

I will be happy to share with you the responsibilities that being on NomCom require and answer any questions you may have. Please contact me ASAP if you wish to be on this committee at [excomleah@gmail.com](mailto:excomleah@gmail.com).

Thank you!

## Hello Stranger

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

### **GETTING TO KNOW YOU.**

Hey, Broward Sierra members! What's your story? Tell us why you joined our club and what interests you. Is it to attend our monthly meetings? Is it to go on outings with our outings leaders? Is it to help us save our endangered species? Is it to protect our environment? Is it to help us elect environmentally concerned candidates? Is it to volunteer on a committee? What is it that brought you to us?

This column has created a good amount of members' interest. We love getting to know our members. Perhaps they would like to know you too!

These columns have created a good amount of member interest. It is fascinating to learn about the different paths that have brought people to the Broward Sierra Group. Everyone's story is unique.

Please send our editor/proofreader, Pat Turpening, a short paragraph or two to publish in our Bulletin along with a photo of yourself.

This month, the deadline for submitting your story to Pat is the end of day on July 20 at: [patsierraexcom@yahoo.com](mailto:patsierraexcom@yahoo.com). Please put in subject **Getting to Know You**.

We are all looking forward to knowing our members better!

## Volunteers Needed

**Membership Committee** – Contact Emily Robinson: [emilyrobinson.sierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:emilyrobinson.sierraclub@gmail.com).

The Committee collaborates with the Membership Chair to attract new members and to engage new and existing members to volunteer. Recruitment is a vital part of the membership committee! Aims of the Committee are to increase our membership; to send a monthly welcome letter to new members; and to reach out to schools, organizations, and clubs. Committee members will set up quarterly get-togethers, such as wine & cheese mixers, picnics, environmental outings, garden parties, and art exhibits. They will create ways to stay in touch with all members and supporters via the tools that are provided by Sierra Club.

## Political Corner – Ready, Set, Vote

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Committee Chair*

One of the reasons I love the Sierra Club is that not only do we protect our natural resources, but we endorse candidates who will help us in our mission by passing environmentally friendly legislation.

**2022 is a Midterm Election Year and Midterm Elections are Important!  
We must elect leaders who pass environmentally friendly legislation!**

After you've reviewed all the important election dates and voter information below, be sure to scroll down to see who Sierra has endorsed so far in the 2022 elections. And be sure to visit the Sierra Club Florida Chapter's Website for updated information about who's been endorsed: <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/florida-sierra-club-political-endorsements-list>.

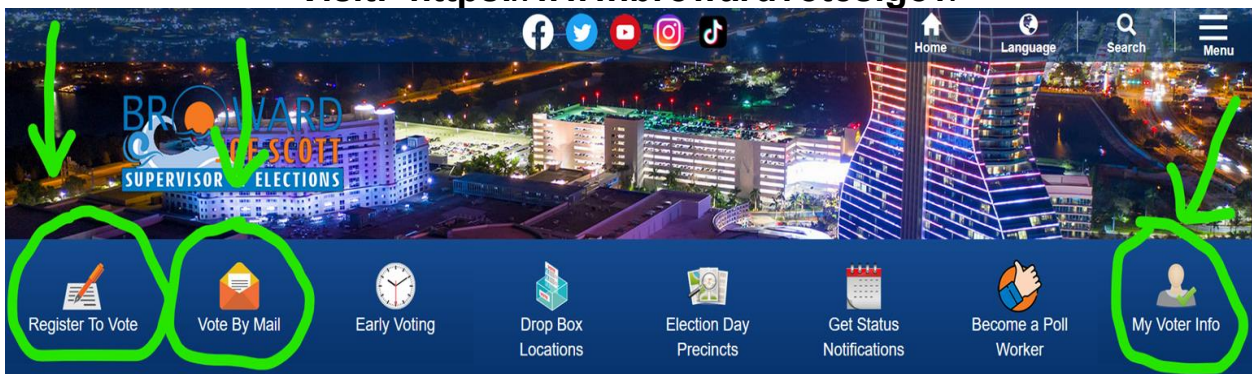
**This year, Floridians will decide who will be Florida's Governor  
for the next four years!**

We'll also choose our State Representative and, depending on where we live, we may choose our State Senator, County Commissioner, and/or City Commissioner/Councilperson. Let's elect leaders who share our values and will protect our natural resources and protect us from the impacts of climate change.

- **The Primary Election will be on August 23 (deadline to register is Mon, July 25)**
- **The General Election will be on November 8 (deadline to register is Tue, Oct 11)**

**MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE!**

Visit: <https://www.browardvotes.gov/>



(Continued)

If you're already registered, verify your registration by clicking on **My Voter Info** to make sure all your information is correct. This is also where you'll see if you're signed up for Vote-by-Mail (VBM). VBM is a great way to vote. You can drop off VBM ballots at polling locations and you don't need to stand in line! If you're not signed up for VBM, click on **Vote By Mail** to request a VBM Ballot.

If you're not yet registered, click on **Register to Vote** and REGISTER! If you have any difficulty, e-mail browardsierrapac@gmail.com and we'll help you with your registration.

The following candidates that have been endorsed by the Florida Sierra Club Political Action Committee.

**ENDORSEMENT ALERT**



**Lauren Book**  
for Senate District 35

Paid for by Sierra Club Florida PAC 28 W Flagler St, Suite 300,  
Miami, FL 33130 independently of any candidate

**ENDORSEMENT ALERT**



**Charlie Crist**  
for Florida Governor

Paid for by Sierra Club Florida PAC 28 W Flagler St, Suite 300,  
Miami, FL 33130 independently of any candidate

**ENDORSEMENT ALERT**



**Clay Miller**  
for House District 101

Paid for by Sierra Club Florida PAC 28 W Flagler St, Suite 300,  
Miami, FL 33130 independently of any candidate

**ENDORSEMENT ALERT**



**Linda Thompson Gonzalez**  
for House District 100

Paid for by Sierra Club Florida PAC 28 W Flagler St, Suite 300,  
Miami, FL 33130 independently of any candidate



## Message from the Chair: You Don't Want to Miss This!

– Leah Weisburd, *Executive Committee Chair*

The ExCom of our Broward Sierra Group is very busy planning many exciting outings and very interesting, informative general meeting speakers. So, please mark your calendars - you don't want to miss anything!

- **July 7, 2022.** Our presenter will be Jessica Floyd. Jessica is with American Bridge. They have done research with women voters; what issues are moving them, what media they watch, etc. Research has shown there is surprisingly little difference in the data from state to state. A lot of what they have found applies to Florida. Recommended by me, Leah Weisburd.
- **August 4, 2022.** Our presenter will be Rachel Skubel from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Recommended by our Sierra member Phil Busey.
- **September 8, 2022.** Our presenter will be Beth Malow and team from Braver Angels. Their topic is that the environment and climate change are not partisan issues; how to discuss with ANYONE, regardless of political persuasion. Recommended by our Political Chair, Susan Steinhauser.
- **October 9, 2022.** This will be a very special occasion as we are planning a tri-county meeting with our Loxahatchee Sierra Group, and our Miami Sierra Group, perhaps on Sunday, October 9th. We are looking into having this meeting as a hybrid (in-person and virtual) with either a happy hour, or brunch, and lots of surprises!! Our presenter Denise Elliot who comes to us from League of Women Voters Broward County, will focus on Decision 2022 - A recap of the political races & issues on the November 8th ballot, changes in Florida voting laws & districts, in-person vs. vote-by-mail.
- **November, 2022.** No meeting this month as we are planning a Thanksgiving holiday party to give thanks to all our members, supporters, and volunteers. We will be awarding several of our members that have volunteered over, and over again, our BSG Award Trophies.
- **December, 2022.** No meeting this month as we proceed with our election for all our members to vote for our 2023 ExCom group. We wish you all a very happy, healthy, wonderful, holiday.

Now, in between all these incredible presenters at our monthly General Meetings, our Outings Leaders Adriene Barmann, Max Goldstein, and our new Outings Leader, Alfredo Aguirre are planning many outings this year, such as more kayak dates, Everglade's exploration, nature walks, and so many surprises too. Keep your eyes on our website to make sure you don't miss anything! Outings & Events | Sierra Club

So, Broward Sierra members mark your calendars to "save the dates". Also, as you will note, we value your recommendations so keep them coming. We have presenter openings from January-December 2023. Please send me your suggestions to [excomleah@gmail.com](mailto:excomleah@gmail.com). Also, the Outing Leaders will welcome any outings suggestions that you would like them to lead. Please send your suggestions to [adrienesierraleader@gmail.com](mailto:adrienesierraleader@gmail.com), [alfredo.aguirre@ml.com](mailto:alfredo.aguirre@ml.com), or [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com). Please don't hesitate to send any other suggestions to me Leah Weisburd, [excomleah@gmail.com](mailto:excomleah@gmail.com).

And, last but never least, please remember our need for you to volunteer to help us make the Broward Sierra Group the best in Florida! Please check out our need for YOU! Explore [Issues & News | Sierra Club](#).

Thank you for joining the Broward Sierra Group!

## **Broward Sierra July General Meeting**

Our next meeting will be July 7, 2022 at 700 PM via Zoom. Our speaker will be Jessica Floyd. Her topic is **Lessons from 2020 and Messages that Can Help us Win in 2022.**



Jessica Floyd joins American Bridge as President, having most recently served as Managing Director of Campaigns at the Hub Project, where she oversaw numerous projects and campaigns related to the economy and democracy, including multi-year accountability efforts against Republicans in the House and Senate. Floyd has spent her career designing and managing issue advocacy and electoral campaigns at local, state, and national levels. Following several successful campaigns in New York and New Jersey, Floyd managed Congressman Ron Barber's winning congressional campaign and served as Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' political director. During the 2014 and 2016 cycles, she worked for Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's Independent Expenditure. In 2016, she was the Deputy Director, where she helped to manage paid media programs in targeted districts around the country.

She also has extensive experience in government. She managed government affairs in New York for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, served as district director for Rep. Ron Barber, and worked in the executive office for the New York governor. Floyd has a Masters in comparative government from the London School of Economics and was named one of the American Association of Political Consultants' 40 under 40.

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking here:

[Broward July Meeting Registration](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## **Upcoming Speaker**

Our August speaker will be Rachel Skubel. Her topic: **An overview of Florida's Coral Reef.** Rachel is a researcher, educator, conservation practitioner, and communications professional. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Miami, where she studied climate vulnerability in shark fisheries and policymaking for marine conservation.

## **Website of the Month**

[Carbon dioxide now more than 50% higher than pre-industrial levels](#)

## Blowing Rocks Preserve Outing

– Adriene Barman, Outings Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

On May 28th, Broward Sierra Club Outing leaders Adriene Barmann and Alfredo Aguirre hosted a spectacular outing at Blowing Rocks Nature Preserve on Jupiter Island. Blowing Rocks Preserve, located in Hobe Sound, is one of The Nature Conservancy's four premiere Florida preserves. Although it is the smallest at 73 acres, it has been recorded as being the most popular in terms of visitation, which can be largely credited to the gorgeous beachfront access that includes the titular Blowing Rocks, the largest rocky Anastasia limestone shoreline along the Atlantic coast. At high tide, when the water is rough, the waves break against the rocks and force plumes of saltwater up to an impressive 50 feet skyward. The natural features found here provide a home for many endangered species, and include vital nesting grounds for the rare loggerhead, leatherback, and green sea turtle. In addition, Blowing Rocks Preserve features several short, scenic walking trails, including Maggy's Path, which showcases the Indian River Lagoon coastline with replanted native mangroves from the preserve's own plant nursery, as well as a neighboring native scrubland ecosystem.

We were fortunate to experience an amazing tour with Joshua Whitman, S. Florida Operations Coordinator and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team Coordinator for the Nature Conservancy preserve. We explored the habitat along the coastline of the Indian River Lagoon, noting the mangroves and the coastal scrub that align with the lagoon. We saw mounds of moonflower and wild balsam apple vines surrounding the sea grapes and saw palmetto along the coastline. We learned that even this small parcel of land contributes to the health of the ecosystem including the lagoon's estuary that supports local fish and wildlife.

Josh directed us across the street through the tangled bower of sea grapes shading the sandy trail to the beach. And as we emerged up the stairs towards the sea, beautiful eroded rocks of the Anastasia limestone formations, that are on the edge of the beach meeting the Atlantic Ocean, stood out with amazing carved-out formations of jagged limestone rock. It was hard to believe we were still in Florida, but we were there exploring the tide pools and spectacular views on the small Florida-style cliffs.

We spent the rest of the morning soaking in the ocean and lounging on the beach. Then we took an awesome bike ride heading north along the coastline surrounded by spacious mansions. We found ourselves at the Indian River Lagoon with a picturesque view of the waterway and surrounding tree islands. After a water break, it was time to head back to our cars and to call it a wonderful day!!



## **Florida Chapter Award Winners**

Many of your Broward Sierra Club members work very hard for the environment and some even receive awards for going above and beyond in their efforts. The Broward Sierra Group is proud to announce these Florida Chapter award recipients. (Source: [The Florida Pelican](#) )

### **Adriene Barmann, Broward Group Otter Award**

The Otter Award honors a Group member who has done an outstanding job for the Group's outings program. Since 2010, Barmann has inspired members and non-members to experience the outdoors both in person and virtually during the pandemic.

### **Sue Caruso, Broward Group Manatee Award**

The Manatee Award honors a Group member who has done an outstanding job of service to the Group. Sue is a longtime volunteer and inspiration. She works doggedly to protect the environment from unnecessary development, educating both the public and public officials as a spokesperson and activist.

### **Cat Uden, Broward Group Cypress Award**

The Cypress Award is for an individual who has contributed greatly to the public's environmental awareness. Uden is a powerhouse fighting plastic pollution and single-use plastics, working with local government officials to pass ordinances banning plastic pollution.

### **Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn, Broward Group Osprey Award**

This award is presented for extraordinary effort by a governmental staff person to promote or effect changes in policy or practice to protect or preserve Florida's environment. Vice Mayor Melissa P. Dunn was elected to the City of Lauderdale Commission in November 2020. Since joining Broward Sierra Club she has shown she is a strong voice for environmental issues including sponsoring an ordinance to repeal M-CORES and an ordinance to ban single-use plastics and polystyrene on City owned property.

**And our biggest award: *See next page!***



**NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB AWARDS**  
**COMMISSIONER BEAM FURR**



**EDGAR WAYBURN ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION AWARD**

The Sierra Club's top award for persons in public service who have championed environmental causes. The award honors the late Dr. Edgar Wayburn, a five-term president of the Sierra Club, champion of public lands and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999 from President Bill Clinton.

The Broward County Sierra Group nominated Commissioner Furr for this prestigious award, and the National Sierra Club wholeheartedly agreed.

Commissioner Furr stands out from the crowd because he is a long-term planner and thinker. He doesn't go for the flashy short term attention getting projects. He is working for our future, a healthy environment, public transportation, developing policies that promote the reduction of carbon emissions, increasing clean energy options and the wellbeing of our children. These are what build a robust and fulfilling place to live.

He has always made himself available to listen to our concerns on environmental issues and has consistently championed those issues to the County Commissioners. He never stops.

But for those who don't know him. Beam Furr is the Broward County Commissioner representing District Six, which comprises parts of Hollywood, Hallandale Beach, West Park, Pembroke Park, Dania Beach, and Fort Lauderdale. He was first elected to the Broward County Commission in 2014. Prior to that, he was a Hollywood city commissioner for 12 years. As an elected official, he has always focused on environmental issues, early childhood education, transportation, housing, economic opportunity, and the arts. Commissioner Furr was a teacher in the Broward County School system for 25 years.

Thank you, Commissioner, for being our champion!



## Loxahatchee Group July General Meeting

The next general meeting for the Loxahatchee Group will be July 28, 2022 at 700 PM via Zoom. Their speaker will be Michael McGrath and the topic will be **Clean Water Conversation: 101 - Florida's Water Quality Crisis, Harmful Algae Blooms, and Slime Crimes.**



Michael McGrath is an Organizing Representative for Sierra Club Florida's Red Tide and Wildlands campaigns. Based in Fort Myers, he focuses on water quality standards that stop pollution at its source, promoting urban fertilizer ordinances, springs protection, Everglades restoration, endangered species protection, landscape conservation programs, phosphate mining, and protecting wild and rural lands from development pressures. Michael also represents Sierra Club on the Florida Springs Council's Board of Directors and within the Everglades Coalition. McGrath's organizing experiences are underpinned by his experiences in both urban and rural settings.

In recent years, Florida has faced an onslaught of water quality woes across the state:

- Prolonged blue-green algae and red tide blooms bring the stench of dead fish washing up on our shores.
- Record-setting manatee mortality events are caused by staggering losses of seagrasses across the state and in places like the Indian River Lagoon.
- Toxic blue-green algae, red tide, and murky springs threaten public health, our economy, property values, and ultimately our quality of life.

Our state is in the midst of an unprecedented water quality crisis and our ecosystems are on the verge of an irreversible tipping point. To better understand Florida's water quality crisis, we will dive into details of what lies beneath the surface of these "slime crimes" looking closely at the state's failure to regulate and hold polluters accountable, what specifically needs to be done to stop pollution at its source, and how you can be engaged in the movement for clean water.

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking here:

[Loxahatchee Group July General Meeting](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## Website of the Month

[https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/carbon-dioxide-now-more-than-50-higher-than-pre-industrial-levels?fbclid=IwAR0KzOVM0U5kNb\\_bcqYELiy3LTXhkJhdnn33QI8mhVi-l-b2GBUFC0tH8Q](https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/carbon-dioxide-now-more-than-50-higher-than-pre-industrial-levels?fbclid=IwAR0KzOVM0U5kNb_bcqYELiy3LTXhkJhdnn33QI8mhVi-l-b2GBUFC0tH8Q)

