



# Broward Sierra Bulletin



January 2024

[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](#).



**Welcome and congratulations to our 2024 Executive Committee's (ExCom) 2 new members and to our reelected ExCom member. Thanks for voting!**



**New Member  
Kyle Fisher**



**New Member  
Linda Thomas  
Gonzalez**



**Returning Member  
Pat Turpening**

**The Broward Sierra Group Proudly Presents**  
**JOHN MORALES – NBC 6 NEWS**



**TOPIC - Climate Change in Florida, Impacts & Public Perceptions**

**on January 4, 2024 promptly at 7pm virtually**

**Registration Required –**

**[Click here to register](#)**

**JOHN MORALES is an atmospheric and environmental scientist with a long tenure as a widely respected broadcast meteorologist.**

**He will discuss public perceptions about climate change in Florida and the U.S., what we know about climate change, impacts in Florida, challenges & opportunity.**

**Demonstrating eminence both as a scientist and a communicator, Mr. Morales was elected Honorary Member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS)—their highest distinction—and inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Silver Circle for excellence in broadcasting.**

**He founded and is currently the lead certified consulting meteorologist at ClimaData Corporation, a boutique firm specializing in forensic meteorology and weather consulting.**



Hi, my name is Hanna Neugaard. Participating in the Broward Sierra Group's Awards Banquet this past November 12<sup>th</sup>, as a junior team member, offered me more than just a glimpse into event coordination – it provided a platform to contribute to something meaningful! Volunteering allowed me to witness firsthand the commitment to sustainability and environmental consciousness that was seamlessly woven into the fabric of the event. From eco-friendly plates and utensils, and food compost stations to highlighting the achievements of environmental activists, the banquet underscored the importance of incorporating environmental stewardship into every facet of Sierra Club's work.

The people I encountered during the event, be it fellow volunteers or award recipients, shared a common dedication to environmental activism. I had the opportunity to engage in discussions about the intersection of professional success and environmental responsibility which inspired me to be involved in sustainability no matter where I end up. It became evident that the awards were not just a recognition of individual accomplishments but also a celebration of those who contribute to positive change, emphasizing the crucial role of environmental activism in shaping our collective future. It was especially heartening to see that our own Junior Team Chair Anagha Iyer received the Inspirational New Member award, because it showed me how much of an impact teenagers can have on our community.

Overall, the Awards Banquet became a microcosm of responsible practices and a reminder of the impact each of us can have in promoting a sustainable world. As a junior team member, I took pride not only in witnessing the successful execution of the event but also in being part of an organization that values the hard work and commitment of their volunteers.

Broward Sierra Group's Awards Banquet - November 12, 2023, All our Broward Sierra Group's Executive Committee and our Broward elected officials.

Left to right- Adriene Barmann, Pat Turpening, Max Goldstein, Plantation's Mayor Nick Sortal, Lauderhill's Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn Lauderhill, Lauderhill's Mayor Ken Thurston, Leah Weisburd, Barbara Sharief, Mae Smith, Hollywood's Commissioner Idelma Quintana, Broward County Scholl Board's Debbi Hixon, and Lauderhill's Commissioner Lawrence "Jabbow" Martin







# TRASH ART CONTEST

HOSTED BY  
**SIERRA CLUB**  
BROWARD GROUP

**CALLING ALL BROWARD STUDENT ARTISTS!**

**WANT TO WIN \$1000 FOR YOUR ORIGINAL ART  
MADE FROM TRASH OR RECYCLED STUFF?!**

Here's how it works:

Step 1 – **Be cool.** That means you are between age 14–18, live in Broward County, and have visited the link on the right and registered to enter.

Step 2 – **Help the earth.** Pick up trash or gather recycled materials that usually end up in the landfill or worse.

Step 3 – **Make something amazing.** Use those materials to create an original art piece like a sculpture, mixed media item, installation, etc...

Step 4 – **Show off your art.** Registered entrants will have a chance to display their original artwork at the Broward Sierra Earth Day event on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Contest starts at 9:00am, in Mangrove Hall

Step 5 – **Win cash prize!** Top prize is \$1000, second place is \$500 and third is \$250.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in programs, services, and activities must contact Broward Sierra Group at 954-328-9447 at least seven (7) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event.

REGISTER NOW to  
learn more important info



SCAN HERE

or visit here:

[https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?  
formcam-paignid=7013q000002HhX7AAK](https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcam-paignid=7013q000002HhX7AAK)

# Road trip!

*The Sierra Club, Florida Chapter, is partnering in this year's*

## Reclaiming Florida's Future

This exciting event is a great way to meet with our state Senators and Representatives in person in Tallahassee and make sure they understand what we need:

**CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR,  
AND CLEAN ENERGY!**

**Join us on January 23 & 24, 2024**

**January 23: Ride to Tallahassee and train to do lobbying / January 24: Advocacy Day at the Capitol**



RFF is an opportunity to come together for a day of impactful discussions and meaningful action. Participants collaborate, learn, and contribute to the shaping of a better future for Florida.

Need more info? Click [here](#)

Ready to be part of this inspiring day? [Register here](#)

*We're looking forward to having you with us in Tallahassee!*

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## **An update on the Right to Clean Water Campaign**

Joseph Bonasia, Chair of the Florida Rights of Nature Network

To date, FloridaRightToCleanWater.org has collected 115,000 signed petitions, all due to the amazing efforts of the volunteers that worked on the campaign. Unfortunately, there were not enough petitions to qualify for the 2024 ballot. RTCW needed 900,000!

But there is little disappointment among the RTCW board members and ambassadors. They are quite excited about the prospects for 2026. They've been talking to professionals in the campaign business who think collecting 115,000 petitions through low budget volunteer efforts is extraordinary. This is a testimony to the passion and commitment of our volunteers and to the efforts of supporting organizations and individuals like you.

RTCW feels good about the prospects for 2026 because this time they will be starting with a volunteer infrastructure and level of public awareness that did not exist at the start of this campaign in 2022, and because they will be employing professionals to provide campaign guidance and fundraising. RTCW understands without their crucial involvement, RTCW will not achieve success. For more detail go to this recent [op-ed](#) announcing the 2026 campaign publicly.

Thank you for all the support you provided RTCW during this first campaign. We appreciate it greatly! For more information about the Right to Clean Water visit our website: [Florida Right to Clean Water](#).

I'll keep Sierra Club Broward Group updated as we move forward.

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## **Three upcoming fun outings!**

### **Adventure Out in the Woods at the CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Trail**

#### **Hosted by Max Goldstein and Adriene Barmann**

Broward Sierra Group Is Happy to announce an "Adventurous Day Hike Out in the Swamp"

**Where:** CREW Bird Rookery Swamp (BRS)  
1295 Shady Hollow Boulevard, Naples, FL 34120

**When:** Saturday, December 30th, 2023 at 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Details: We will meet at the entrance of the park at the kiosk where our guide will take us out on the hike onto the trail. There is ample parking at the trailhead, picnic tables, and public portable toilet facilities. Be sure to stop by the kiosk for trail maps and additional trail information.

CREW Bird Rookery Swamp is 12 miles of hiking and biking trails, including a 1400-ft. boardwalk with wheelchair accessibility, which will take you along a hiking trail originally constructed in the mid-20th century as a logging railroad tram for the logging of old growth Bald Cypress. Regardless of how much of this trail you explore, you'll discover something new with every visit.

CREW BRS' cypress, maple and pop ash dominated strand swamps are teeming with life, including a large variety of wading birds, Roseate Spoonbills, Great Egrets, and Little Blue herons, and raptors like Barred Owls, Red-shouldered Hawks, Short-tailed Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Swallow-tailed

Kites. Undoubtedly, you'll see otters, an abundance of different kinds of turtles, and of course, alligators. Lucky visitors have even been known to spot elusive Florida panthers, Florida black bears, and bobcats.

After the hike we will have lunch at the picnic area. Participants will learn about conservation and efforts to preserve our Green Spaces, and how to take action to preserve these special places.

**Note:** Please inform Leader Adriene Barmann (Registered Nurse) if you have a medical condition, any food allergies, or carry an EpiPen.

Cost: \$10 Members and \$15 Non-Members (Cash will be collected at the site when we meet at 9:00 AM.)

Leaders: Adriene Barmann, 954-328-9447, email: adrienesierraleader@gmail.com

Max Goldstein, 954-296-3411, email: maxgold@yahoo.com

Alfredo Aguirre, email: Ironmanaguirre1@gmail.com

Hike Difficulty: easy

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT YOU MUST REGISTER ON THE SIERRA CLUB SITE, AGREE TO THE WAIVER AND LEAVE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION. DO NOT SIMPLY RSVP HERE AND EXPECT TO ATTEND!

[Register here](#)

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## **Broward Sierra Hiking in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park**

**Hosted by Max Goldstein and Adriene Barmann**

Date and Time:

Sat, Jan 6, 2024; 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Location:** 33000 Tamiami Trail E, Ochopee, FL 34141

**Details:** The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is Florida's largest state park. When exploring this 85,000 acre wilderness, you will discover a habitat supporting wildlife that you may have thought vanished. The Fakahatchee Preserve is more than a swamp, it's a mosaic of cypress forest, wet prairies, tropical hardwood hammocks, salt marsh, mangroves, sloughs, and majestic royal palms.

This trail follows an old tram road that was cleared when the cypress in the area was logged in the 1940's-1960's. Lush marsh vegetation featuring giant sword ferns, royal palms, bald cypress, and beautiful wildflowers is one of the main attractions. The park is the only place in the world where the bald cypress trees and towering royal palms share the forest canopy. You may see alligators and possibly deer, bear, and numerous species of birds such as egrets and herons. Maybe even an Everglades Mink and Florida Panther.

We will board the Tram at the visitor's center where the experienced guide will lead the 2

and 1/2 hour tour, pointing out interesting aspects of the preserve. We may stop and take a walk down an old logging trail to see air plants and a variety of ferns and seasonally blooming orchids.

**Cost:** \$20 Members and \$25 Non-Members. (Cash will be collected at the site when we meet at 9:00 AM.)

**Leaders:** Adriene Barmann, 954-328-9447, email: [adrienesierraleader@gmail.com](mailto:adrienesierraleader@gmail.com)  
Max Goldstein, 954-296-3411. Email: [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com)

Carpooling is at the sole risk of the participants, both drivers and passengers. You are advised that the Sierra Club is not insured for carpooling and assumes no responsibility for it.

**Lunch after the tram ride:** We will then drive 10 minutes to Everglades City and meet at **Camelis' Grill on Camelia Street**. They will be busy in January so patience is required! Lunch is a separate cost and will be covered by the participants.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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### [Three-Day Backpacking - Florida Trail, Ocala National Forest](#)

Start: Saturday, February 17, 2024, 8 am

End: Monday, February 19, 2024, 4 pm

#### [BACKPACK FLORIDA!!!](#)

Join us for a three-day hike along the southern section of the Ocala National Forest on the Florida National Scenic Trail, one of the most beautiful areas of the Trail, and the site of its earliest section. Our route will begin in classic Florida longleaf pine habitat, with pines that rise like columns to the sky and a slight roll to the landscape.

Our journey will continue past Alexander Springs, a first-magnitude spring. Hiking beyond the Springs, we will be immersed in the unique ecosystem of the Big Scrub encountering sand pine stands of various ages, with an occasional dense understory of Florida rosemary. Beyond the scrub, after passing one of the more beautiful lakes in the Ocala National Forest, we join the edge of the vast Farles Prairie. In wet seasons, the prairie can fill up and simply expand the lake. In drier seasons, prairie grasses rim the edges of lily-dotted ponds in depressions in the vast expanse. After having traversed the Prairie, we will finish our trek at another first-magnitude spring, Juniper Springs.

We will be primitive camping for 2 nights in designated sites in the Forest. Hikers must bring all shelter, food, cooking stove, fuel and water supplies for 3 days. There are natural water sources for water resupply along the route. Water should be filtered or purified, and each hiker will be responsible for bringing their own filter or water purification chemicals. In Ocala National Forest, a bear bag or bear canister is required for all hikers, so each participant will be responsible for bringing a bear bag with rope for hanging, or bear canister. We will hike a total of 30.5 miles over 3 days.

RSVPs to this event must be received by January 26, 2024.





**General Meeting:  
Everglades Coalition Conference  
Jan 26-27, 2024**

**Please join us virtually for the  
39<sup>th</sup> Annual Everglades Coalition Conference**

**As the largest forum for discussing Everglades restoration progress, challenges, and opportunities, the conference brings together diverse stakeholders including conservation groups, elected officials, business leaders, local, state, tribal and federal partners, scientists, and students to engage in meaningful dialogue about restoring America's Everglades.**

**For additional information: Go to: [Conference | Everglades Coalition](#)**

**When: Friday, January 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

**Saturday, January 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Where: VIRTUALLY or at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, 5001 Coconut Rd. Boynton Springs, FL 34134**

**[Register Here](#)**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Proudly Presents**

**DR. JENNIFER JURADO**

**BROWARD COUNTY DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER,  
RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



**TOPIC - Planning for Resilience in Broward County**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**On February 1, 2024 promptly at 7pm virtually**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**[Click here to register](#)**

Dr. Jurado's presentation will provide an update on county-wide and regional resilience initiatives, with a focus on planning for flood and heat risk and on the development of the Broward Community Resilience Plan.