



Broward Sierra Bulletin



VOL. XLIV NO. 1

January 2022

www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward • www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra

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

National Awards Presentation

We are pleased to congratulate Kip Fisher and Max Goldstein as recipients of the National Sierra Club Volunteer Service Award. The nomination letters were presented in the August 2021 newsletter, but we would like to show some photos of the awards luncheon.

Volunteering for your Sierra Club local group can be a lot of work. There are websites to maintain, meetings to organize, tabling events to attend, beautification days to assist with, newsletters to generate, petitions to start, protests to be involved with, social media uploads, camping trips to plan out and SO much more. The only way we can keep on top of all these things is to have good volunteers, and we always need more (the more volunteers, the less work for each of us). So, please review our volunteers needs on Page 5. And thanks again to Kip and Max for all your years of dedicated service.



More pictures on our [Facebook Page](#).

Table of Contents

National Awards Presentation	1
Message from the Chair, Links of the Month, Membership Survey	2
January General Meeting, Hello Stranger	3

Earth Day Celebration	4
Volunteers Needed	5
Political Corner	6
Bird Garden Beautification	7
Outing to Wakodahatchee Wetlands	8

Message from the Chair: Backwards and Forwards

– Leah Weisburd, *Chair*

As you know, the Broward Sierra Group is a strong advocate protecting our environment, not only in Broward County, but all of Florida, and the planet. We cannot do it without your input and help. Please let us know your concerns by clicking on this [link](#) to answer a very short survey. Thank you!

As we close 2021, it is rewarding to know that we have had a remarkably busy, productive year, despite having to meet virtually. Much kudos, and thanks, go out to our committee chairs, vice chairs, co-chairs and the many volunteers who worked diligently to help us do our “good trouble.”

Our journey into 2022 will have us facing even more challenges. We are ready, we are rolling up our sleeves, and looking forward to an exciting and productive year.

The year begins with the special election on January 11, 2022. We must hold our Democratic seat in Washington so that land conservation, climate change, the right to clean air, water quality and quantity are not in jeopardy. Please get out and vote in person, or by mail, and please spread the word that our votes most certainly count.

Finally, we will be able to enjoy the outdoors again! A nature walk at Wakodahatchee, a picnic in the park, our Earth Day celebration --- and that is just the beginning!

We will have challenges to face too.

- We are working towards having single-use plastic and polystyrene banned in all of Florida’s government buildings and parks.
- We are working to have HB1 ruled unconstitutional.
- We are working to ban PFAS from food packaging.
- We are working to protect our beautiful Everglades.
- We are working to protect our green spaces, beaches, and waterways.
- We are working to protect developers from building on protected or restricted land.
- We are working to select the best environmental candidates for the November 2022 election.
- We are working!!! Are you with us? Come and join the “good trouble” with us. Go to our website [Broward Group | Sierra Club](#) and check out our “Get Involved” section. I’m sure you will find a committee, or chair position, which sparks your interest-. Come along with us and have fun too!

Links of the month:

[Sensible decision or gift to sugar industry?](#)

[A northern extension of the Florida Turnpike is moving ahead, despite public opposition](#)

[Sierra Club's major climate and justice victories in 2021](#)

Membership Survey

– Mae Smith, *Membership Chair*

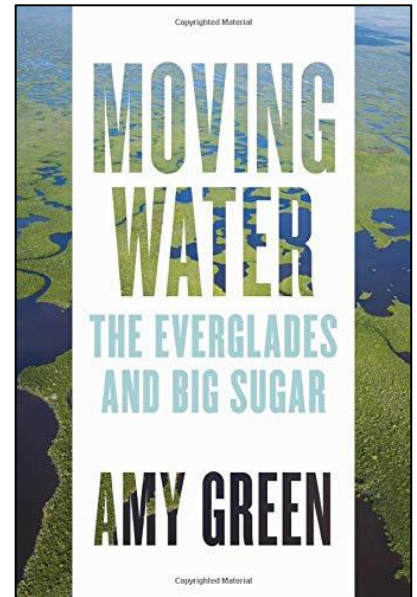
As you know, the Broward Sierra Group is a strong advocate protecting our environment, not only in Broward County, but all of Florida, and the planet. We cannot do it without your input and help. Please let us know your concerns by clicking on this [link](#) to answer a very short survey. Thank you and happy holidays!

January General Meeting

Our first meeting of the new year will be January 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Our presenter will be Amy Green and she will discuss her book: **Moving Water: The Everglades & Big Sugar**.

Amy Green covers the environment and climate change at WMFE (NPR Orlando). She is an award-winning mid-career journalist and author whose extensive reporting on the Everglades is featured in the book **Moving Water**, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, and podcast **Drained**, available wherever you get your podcasts. AMY GREEN, environmental journalist & author (www.amygreen.com).

A riveting story of environmental disaster and political intrigue, *Moving Water* exposes how Florida's clean water is threatened by dirty power players and the sugar cane industry.



Amy's work has been heard on NPR and seen in PEOPLE, Newsweek, The New York Times, The Christian Science Monitor, among many other publications. She began her career at The Associated Press in Nashville, Tenn. Amy grew up in Florida and lives in Orlando with her 7-year-old daughter.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUod-CqrzggE9fBMwQtYKQ38-Gc_vkB_ocI

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

Upcoming Speakers

February 3, 2022: Andrew Werthman of the Pew Charitable Trust will discuss Florida's Right Whales.

Hello Stranger

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

Many of our Sierra members lead, or have led, remarkably interesting lives. We would love to hear your story.

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

This month the deadline for submitting your story is January 9th. Send it to patsierraexcom@yahoo.com. Please put in subject **Getting to Know You**.

We look forward to knowing our members better!



With Climate Change upon us and our planet facing multiple challenges of drought, fires, and extreme temperatures, Earth Day is our time to speak out and educate people about what they can do to address the impacts of a heating planet. Broward Sierra Club is in the process of organizing an Earth Day event that you won't want to miss! Please mark your calendars:

When: Sunday March 6th, 2022 from 10 AM to 5 PM

Where: Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood.

Our Earth Day includes a live band, art exhibits, and fun activities with opportunities to kayak, go on a short hike in the park, explore the museum and activities **All For Free!** And if you're hungry, food trucks will be there with reasonable prices.

You will have a full day with South Florida's most prominent climate activists, published speakers, and exhibitors. Topics will include climate change; local information about manatees, sea turtles, reefs, and the state of the Everglades; plastic pollution; and more. We're sure you'll be inspired to learn more and to get involved. We also are challenging all local high school artists to create art work using plastic trash that will be on display around the Anne Kolb grounds. The top three, by popular vote, will win college scholarship money. Broward Sierra's Earth Day will bring awareness, build community, and ignite activism throughout Broward County. Please join us for a day of knowledge and celebration.

We will be posting this event on our Meet-up page shortly, Be on the look-out for it.

SIERRA ENDORSES SHEILA CHERFILUS- MCCORMICK for US Congress, Florida's 20th Dist.

VOTE
JAN 11



Paid Pol. Advertisement paid for by the Sierra Club Florida PAC,
28 West Flagler St., Suite 300 Miami, FL 33130 independently of any candidate.
This advertisement was not approved by any candidate.



**Can you help your Broward Sierra Group to have more of an impact?
Step Up and Make a Difference!
These are our highest priority volunteer opportunities.**

Communication Chair and Committee Volunteers

Pamela Kondziela (paschieltz@gmail.com). Communication is vital to the success of our other committees. The Chair promotes unified group messaging across all print, broadcast, social media, and IT platforms to keep the membership informed about campaigns, outings, events, and general announcements. Committee members assist the Communications Chair in posting updates to media platforms and emails. They work in collaboration with the Media Chair. **Training will be provided.**

Media Chair-and Committee Volunteers

Pamela Kondziela (paschieltz@gmail.com). The Chair, along with the committee members, will write articles for publication. Duties include sending op-eds to the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald, publishing articles in local city newsletters, writing and publishing in college newspapers, participating in speaking engagements at local organizations (via Zoom for now) to gain new members and volunteers, and speaking on local radio shows. They work in collaboration with the **Communications Chair and Committee.**

Program Chair

Leah Weisburd (excomleah@gmail.com). We need an organized individual to follow up with potential presenters who have been recommended by our members. The Chair will be in contact with the presenters, keep the Speaker Spreadsheet up-to-date, and forward the presenters' information in a timely manner to our editors for the Bulletin, the website organizer to post on our website, and to the individuals in charge of our social media accounts. The Chair will send form emails to General Meeting attendees, those who registered but did not attend, and thank-you emails to our speakers.

Our Political and Conservation Teams need you too!!

Susan Steinhauser (browardsierrapc@gmail.com) or Mae Smith (maesmith2002@gmail.com). Help us elect officials who will propose legislation to protect the environment and help us get that legislation passed into law!

Sue Caruso (susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com). Our Conservation Chair is seeking volunteers: The members of this committee shall work to preserve the natural resources and habitats of the native species of Broward County. That focus can lead to work beyond our county due to the interconnectedness of our vast watershed and human development. The duties will include bringing attention to proposed developments that are unsustainable and partnering with stakeholders to mitigate or stop such projects, working on local issues brought forth by our members, promoting community efforts that foster environmental justice and education, such as our community gardens, exotic plant removal and tabling events. Attending quarterly meetings will be required.

County



Broward County is considering a poly-styrene and single-use plastic ban on government property.

Learn more: Visit Plasticfreefl.org

Take action: Ask your county commissioner to eliminate the use of polystyrene and single-use plastic on government property. Find your commissioner’s contact information [here](#).

State



In Tallahassee, legislation threatens Net Metering, a policy that encourages people to install rooftop solar. The bills are SB1024 and HB741.

Learn more: Read [this handout about solar jobs](#)

Take action: [Tell the Florida legislature to preserve solar net metering and do not pass SB1024 and HB741](#)

Federal



In D.C., the House passed the Build Back Better Act (BBBA) that would reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and slow climate change. Now we need the Senate to pass it.

Learn more: Read [this blog](#) about the BBBA.

Take action: [Tell Congress to Pass the Build Back Better Act -- Transformative Investments in Climate, Jobs, & Justice](#)

What’s happening in your neighborhood? Environmentally positive things are happening in cities around Broward County. If something’s happening in your city, e-mail browardsierrapc@gmail.com to let us know! Coral Springs hired a Sustainability Manager and the city will develop a sustainability plan. Lauderhill is considering a ban on single-use plastic/foam on public property as well intentional balloon releases.

New Year Contest Drawing

WHO SITS ON YOUR CITY COMMISSION/COUNCIL?

Any Broward Sierra member who provides us with the names and e-mail addresses of their city’s Mayor, Vice-mayor, and Commission/Council members will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Visa gift card (drawing to take place at the January 20th Political Committee meeting) Two ways to enter:

- E-mail the names and e-mail addresses to browardsierrapc@gmail.com
- Fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/jKKcnKAPy4>

Bird Garden Beautification Needs Your Help

– Sue Caruso, *Conservation Chair*



In May of 2019, the Broward Sierra Group, as part of Broward County’s Connectivity Project, supplied and installed over 100 native plants, including trees, which give migrating and native birds a respite in the overdeveloped area east of the Everglades. Several volunteers continued to help water and weed the garden to help establish the fledgling plants. In March of 2020, we received the NatureScape Emerald Award for maintaining this Florida-friendly landscape as an exceptional project that demonstrated visible ecological practices. Unfortunately, Covid 19 restrictions forbade any group meetings / outings, including those to maintain our bird garden. As nature has taken its course, several invasive species have become a problem, overwhelming park staff.

With a letter of endorsement from the Broward Sierra Group, Park Ranger Sara Jarossy applied for, and won, a grant that will help us rejuvenate this wonderful natural area. Even better, it will be a collaboration with the Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA). The grant is set to begin the end of January 2022. We can use your help volunteering to remove the exotics and interact with youth in our area. Although no specific dates for this work have been set yet, please look for updates in our February Bulletin, FaceBook page, and website. If you would like to be contacted for this volunteer opportunity, please email Sue Caruso at susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com

Nature Walk at Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands

– Adriene Barmann, *Outings Chair*



When: January 2nd, 2022, Sunday

What better way to connect with nature and to see it up close than by walking on a boardwalk! Broward Sierra Club Outing leaders Adriene Barmann and Max Goldstein will take you on an adventure you will never forget!!! We will meet in front of the Wakodahatchee Wetlands park located at 13270 Jog Road, in Delray Beach. We will walk leisurely on the Wakodahatchee Preserve boardwalk with our binoculars and cameras in hand to learn about these amazing constructed wetlands, as outing leader Adriene explains about the importance of the natural wetland ecosystem that supports plants that filter and clean the water, and its positive impact it has on our water supply. When we walk along the boardwalk, we will see wild birds, animals, and plants up close, and interacting in their natural environment.

When we finish our walk at Wakodahatchee, we will break for lunch in the parking lot, and talk about our experiences. Then off to Green Cay which is 2 miles away at 12800 Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach. We will meet in front of the Green Cay Wetlands Nature Preserve and walk the 1.5 mile boardwalk and explore the 100 acres of constructed wetlands and unique habitats. We will see plenty of wildlife, and have a good understanding of the plants and animals that live in these wetlands. Our list of participants is growing each day, so please sign up. Once you sign up on the Broward Sierra website you will receive further instructions by email. Be prepared for a true adventure!

Wakodahatchee Wetlands (where we'll start): 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Beach, FL 33446

Green Cay Wetlands (where we'll end up): 12800 Hagen Ranch Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Rated: Easy. Participant limit is 20 people.

Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Reserve your spot by registering here:

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/282096679/?isFirstPublish=true>

Any questions, contact:

- Adriene Barmann, adrienesierraleader@gmail.com, 954-328-9447.
- Max Goldstein, MaxSGoldstein@gmail.com, 954-296-3411.