



Broward Sierra News



VOL. XLIII NO. 6

June 2021

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

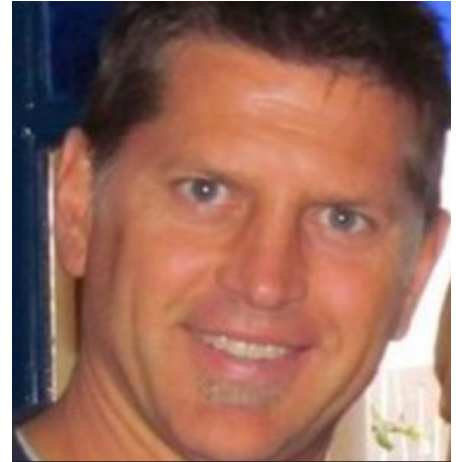
(That's right, we now have a Twitter account – check us out!)

Broward Sierra Club General Meeting

Time: June 3, 2021 at 07:00 PM EST

For our June 3 general meeting we welcome Mr. Dennis Wise from Recyclops.

Do you want to know where your recycling really goes? Why are some Broward cities suspending recycling pick up? For the answer to these and other questions, join us for our June 3 general meeting. Dennis Wise of Recyclops will update us on the state of recycling in Broward County, and why his company, Recyclops, is offering an opportunity to make sure your efforts will actually lead to recyclables becoming new products.



Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsceqsqDirGd1Msm3pgSLi5WzIYO7N6gsS>

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

Meetup.com: <https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/278160671/>

Upcoming speakers:

July 1, 2021 – Kerry Babb from Paradise Technology Solutions will discuss urban food hubs and sustainable circular farming that protects the environment while producing healthy food.

August 5, 2021 - Lorna Bravo will be our presenter. Lorna is currently serving as UF/IFAS Extension Broward County Director / Urban Horticulture Agent. She is presently leading Broward County's Master Gardener Volunteer Program, the Florida Friendly Landscaping Program, and the Sustainable Urban Food Production Short-Course.

Link of the month: Panthers & Oil Don't Mix

An Action Documentary by Susan Perz, Ph.D.

There are now fewer than 230 Florida Panthers left. I was shocked to realize how much of the wildlife that I filmed in Florida in March 2020 was endangered, threatened, or imperiled.

Two big oil and housing development project proposals further threaten Florida panthers, wildlife, and drinking water. Here's what's happening and who to call to express your concern to protect Florida panthers, wildlife, and the drinking water in Florida.

Watch Dr. Perz's documentary here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWQz2mvW51U>

Thanks for watching and for caring!

We've just begun!

Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*
Adriene Barmann, Vice Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

Take a look outside and enjoy the fresh smell of flowers blooming and plants growing greener as summer now approaches. We hear the sounds of birds chirping and guarding their nests while some baby birds have matured enough to make the big jump to go out into the wilderness.

During the summer we have always taken the time to settle down and relax and enjoy the sounds of nature.

When we look back at all our positive accomplishments this year, even though some of them did not come out the way we wanted them to (of course, referring to most of the legislative bills that passed during the 2021 session).

What we can say is that we are making a difference. We have had a huge number of new members join Broward Sierra Group, and we hope they take the next step to join one of our committees.

Our Political Committee had great success working with the local and state candidates that Sierra endorsed. They are pro-environment, support clean energy and recognize clean air and water as a priority, as well as standing up for environmental justice. Kudos to the Political Chair Susan Steinhauer for organizing and getting the word out for us to mobilize and send emails and make phone calls.

Our Conservation Committee had some good wins to stop development in some Broward County communities, thankfully to our Conservation Chair Sue Caruso's hard work. Sue also worked with high school students, as part of the Broward Young Naturalist Program, to assist them understanding the role of nutrients in the soil.

Additionally, several community gardens in underprivileged communities were started, with the help of Dan Godston, our Membership Chair.

Our monthly general meetings have taken us to the next level! We have had innovative speakers that presented on a multitude of interesting subjects. Their presentations educated our members and encouraged them to step up and act. We even include the opportunity to win a lovely prize by answering the speakers' question correctly at every general meeting!

Our Outings Chair, Adriene Barmann, along with our Treasurer, Max Goldstein, took us on a virtual outing into the Cypress Swamp, as well as a canoe ride down Fish Eating Creek at a recent monthly meeting too! We all felt as if we were there with them! Going forward, we have lined up some extremely timely, and informative speakers, that we are so excited to present to all of you!

All this success during a pandemic! We managed to get the word out and meet by Zoom. We had a huge jump in our membership, and we had quite a few members step up to become more involved. In the end I would say this was a challenging year, and we learned to adjust to the restrictions of Covid. We can all look back before the pandemic and say we made a difference and we evolved! Cheers to a superb year! Imagine just how much we will accomplish, while having fun, once we can all gather together hopefully very soon!

Broward Sierra Political Corner

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*

Food for Thought – Collaboration

Broward Sierra and Sierra Loxahatchee are working together to elect an environmental/climate-forward candidate for US FL Congressional District 20. We need all hands on deck! To help us endorse the right candidate and get them elected, e-mail browardsierrapc@gmail.com and put “US FL 20” in the subject line.

Local Successes

Congratulations to our very own Adriene Barmann, Broward Sierra Ex Comm Vice Chair and Outings Chair, who is now a member of the Broward County Climate Change Task Force. Adriene and her colleagues will monitor the state of resiliency in Broward County and will recommend strategies to mitigate the causes of climate change as well as address its impact.

Action of the Month

June’s environmental action is EASY! Click [here](#) to tell Senators Rubio and Scott that you want them to pass the For the People Act, legislation that will expand voting rights, reduce the influence of money in politics, and limit partisan gerrymandering. We need this legislation to pass if we want nature to have as much of a legislative voice as corporations.

Broward Sierra Sponsors Outdoor STEM Education

– Sue Caruso, *Conservation Chair*



Our own Logan Saenz designed and organized the Broward Young Naturalists Program to help teach youth about the use of science in solving environmental problems. For five sessions over a 10-week period, dozens of diverse students joined us to create and carry out their own experimental design. They investigated how to create ideal growing conditions for a food crop, Swiss chard, in this case. Data collection, soil testing and project analysis were just some of the skills the students used in this project.

Each week the students were also introduced to environmental issues, such as sugar cane burning, sustainable farming, toxic algal blooms and water quality. To encourage students to grow their own plants at home, there was a choice of vegetable, herb or flowering plant seeds to be grown in compostable pots or planters made from recycled containers and taken home. The grand finale was the opportunity for students to create their own Swiss chard salad, while also enjoying pizza, music and poetry with an environmental theme.

This project was made possible by funding from the Broward Sierra Club and collaboration with the Pembroke Park Community Garden. Guidance from Howard Clark and Myriam Jacque of the City of Pembroke Park and Sue Caruso, Broward Sierra Conservation Chair, helped make this project a success.

Last Chance to Name our Newsletter

We are so fortunate to have creative, enthusiastic Sierra members in our Broward Group! Please name our newsletter before our meeting on June 3rd. Think you might have a great name for our newsletter? It could be anything preferably reflecting the “nature” of the Sierra Club and our group.

Send your idea for a name to maxgold@yahoo.com (please put **Newsletter Contest** in the subject line). If we adopt your name for the newsletter, there’s a gift in it from us to you! Please help us, at long last, to have a name! Thank you so much!

Broward County Sierra Club Needs YOU!

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

Our members are our Backbone!

Political Co-Chair - Susan Steinhauser: browardsierrapc@gmail.com

Susan Steinhauser, Political Chair, is seeking a Co-Chair:

- Lead the Broward Sierra Political Committee in candidate endorsement and campaigning.
- Lead the Broward Sierra Political Committee in legislative lobbying.
- Prepare the Political Corner for the monthly newsletter.
- Provide a Political Committee Report for the General Meeting.
- Hold monthly Political Committee Meetings – publish agendas and notes for same.

Conservation Committee - Sue Caruso: susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com

Sue Caruso, 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, promote 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.

Media Chair – and 1 Committee volunteer – Leah Weisburd: excomleah@gmail.com

Chair:

- Write and publish articles and op eds in the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald.
- Write and publish in local city newsletters.
- Write and publish in college newspapers.
- Perform speaking engagements at local organizations (via Zoom for now).

Committee - To assist Media Chairperson.

Broward and Loxahatchee Sierra Clubs Join Challenge to 30 Story Tower on Hollywood Beach

– Sue Caruso, *Conservation Chair*



Related Group wants to build a multifamily building at 1301 S. Ocean Drive in Hollywood.
ARQUITECTONICA

Sun Sentinel April 2, 2021

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/hollywood/fl-ne-hollywood-tower-ss-prem-20210402-smwgro5f7jg4np515vizv5bazu-story.html>

When a resident of Hollywood beach reached out to Drew Martin of the Loxahatchee Sierra Club, he wasted no time attending a Hollywood City Commission meeting and contacting our Broward Club about this egregious development.

Currently, this land is owned by the City of Hollywood, or more appropriately, the residents of Hollywood. Anyone of any age or social status can use this part of the beach, as well as the community center, library and park, that provide quality of life services. Unfortunately, in December of 2020, the city commissioners gave the Related Group the green light to plan a 30-story residential project on this very spot. The development will have a 99-year lease agreement, essentially giving the land to the developer. The units are expected to sell for up to \$2 million.

Once these exclusive condos come in, the availability of beach access will be gone. The threat to the dune system, the resulting increased flooding and storm surge, as well as the loss of the quiet, peaceful character of this area of the beach are all issues that the commissioners have dismissed.

If you want to give an impact statement or support our challenge in any way, please contact:

Sue Caruso – susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com

Adriene Barrman – adrienesierraleader@gmail.com