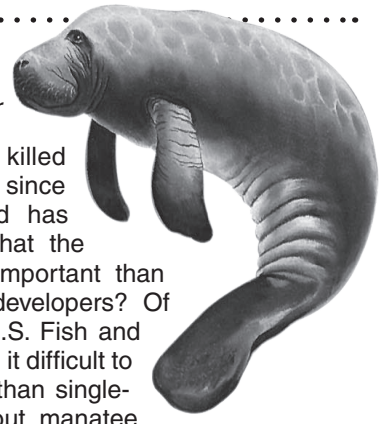


BROWARD COUNTY MANATEE PROTECTION PLAN: SPEAK UP FOR THE MANATEES!

By Pedro Monteiro, Conservation Chair



In 1989 Governor Martinez directed thirteen counties in Florida to prepare Manatee Protection Plans (MPP) due to the high human-related manatee deaths in those counties. The plans were required to have three major components: boating safety, manatee education and awareness, and boat facility siting.^[1] Fifteen years later, Broward County has the shameful distinction of being one of only three counties who did not complete a plan.

The "boat facility siting" part of the MPP is required because watercraft-related manatee deaths increase as the interaction between watercraft and manatees increases. Thus, if boat facilities are sited in locations that result in shorter boat trips, and over waterways with fewer manatees, manatee deaths should level off. However, according to Broward's Biological Resources Division, "The first two components were completed and approved by the County Commission in 1992 following the removal of the boat facility siting component from the Plan." The result of Broward's inaction has been an increasing trend in manatee deaths and increased costs to the county, because now much of the manatee population data is outdated and must be renewed.

So why is Broward now seeking to complete the MPP? Is it because Broward County feels responsible for the thirty-

three manatees that were killed by watercraft in this county since 1989? Is it because Broward has grown a heart and decided that the lives of manatees are more important than guaranteeing more cash for developers? Of course not; it's because "the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has [now] made it difficult to get permits for anything more than single-family docks in counties without manatee protection plans,"^[2] and because the State of Florida is now threatening stronger penalties for counties without an MPP. Thus, one can infer that by implementing the MPP, Broward will again be able to guarantee growth for developers.

So in November 2004, Broward published a draft MPP for public comment. Here are some excerpts:

"It is likely that there will be a 50% decline in the Florida manatee population within the next 45 years."

"In an effort to balance resource protection with the need for siting new boat facilities, several assumptions have been made." Sierra Club comments: There is a need to protect manatees. A need for siting new boat facilities has neither been demonstrated nor justified. This attitude is pervasive throughout the MPP. The developers and the marine industry are opposing restrictions in this plan by claiming that they will hurt the boating industry. Yet the MPP does not call for removing boating facilities; it calls to limit new construction in some areas. While the Sierra Club recognizes that the current marine industry is important to Broward's economy, we don't see the need to continually cram more marinas into our county.

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February & March Programs



"Up the Upper Amazon" is the title of our **February 1st program** at Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood. **Claudine Laabs**, noted Everglades photographer, will bring us the photos of her recent expedition to Peru's Amazon River and the Pacaya-Samiria Nature Reserve.

Claudine's work has been published in World Wildlife Fund books and Audubon calendars. She has been called an artist with a camera and she believes that good photography is "painting with light".

Our **March 1st program** will feature **Roger Hammer**, a native Floridian from Cocoa Beach who has published a masterpiece field guide titled, "Everglades Flowers". It includes wildflowers of the historic Everglades, including Big Cypress, Corkscrew and Fakahatchee swamps. Our outings chair, Jackie Fisher, is working on confirming a field trip with Roger.



Sierra meetings start at 7:00 PM with a social time for conversation and treats. Committee reports at 7:30 PM and program presenter at 8:00 PM. Anne Kolb is located East of U.S. 1 on Sheridan Street in Hollywood.

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We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Why not join us right now? Come along on an outing. Get involved, learn about local issues and how they affect you and your community. Just use the membership form on the back cover.



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FOUNDED 1892

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Broward Sierra News is published monthly for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Membership Corrections - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to:

Member Services, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441. 415-977-5653 or e-mail <address.changes@sierraclub.org> or <membership.services@sierraclub.org>

If further assistance is needed, please contact your local Membership Chair, Andrea Hagen 954-475-9399.

Committee Meetings

Executive Committee:

Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, in room 430a of the Broward County Governmental Center. For details call Loren Colburn at 954-761-1355 (or e-mail lorenac1101@hotmail.com).

Broward Sierra Club Social:

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 pm. On Feb 23rd we will be at Gatsby's at 1805 S. University Drive, Davie. ** For further info call Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411.

Carrying Capacity Committee:

Contact Linda Brown, Carrying Capacity Chair at (954) 764-1470 or e-mail lbrown@communityusa.com.

** The Broward Sierra Club will be changing the date and location of the social get together. Starting in February, we will be meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month instead of the 2nd. The February social will be at Gatsby's in Davie at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, Feb. 23rd. The address is 1805 S. University Drive and it's on the southwest corner of University Drive and I-595 (next to the K-Mart and Bed, Bath, & Beyond). We have been having our socials near Riverfront, but we want to try different places around Broward, and Gatsby's has a quieter atmosphere, is indoors, and has free parking. Hope to see you there!

WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF EXCOM AND NEW LEADERS

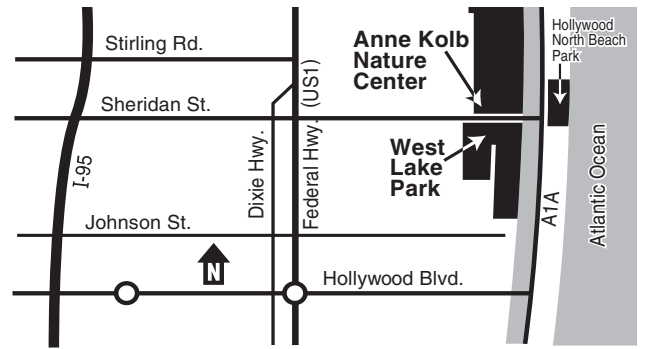
Mara Shlackman (new member to the excom) has been a member of the Sierra Club since 2002, and has become active in the Broward Group during the past year. Her contributions to the Group have included collecting signatures on election days and at community events for the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment, and posting action alerts on the Broward Sierra e-mail listserve.

Mary Rochester (new member to the excom) is taking over the excom seat from Erica Rubio. She is an active supporter of coral reef protection and conservation issues.

Andea Hagen (Membership Chair)

Tina Voci (Fundraising Committee Chair) has been a Broward Sierra member since 2001. She will be spearheading the group's efforts to raise funds for our local conservation and environmental efforts and would like anyone who is willing to join the fundraising committee to contact her (preferably via email) at ttiinnaa@gmail.com or 954-817-3352.

Continued on page 3



Broward Sierra Club General Meetings

Held on the first Tuesday of every month at Ann Kolb Nature Center (954-926-2480). Outings sign-up start at 7:00 p.m. and the general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. All members welcome!

To get to Anne Kolb Nature Center: Take 95 South to Sheridan St. exit. Go East past Federal Hwy. The entrance to Anne Kolb Nature Center will be on your left (After the sign for West Lake Park). The center is before the Intracoastal Bridge.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

By George Cavros

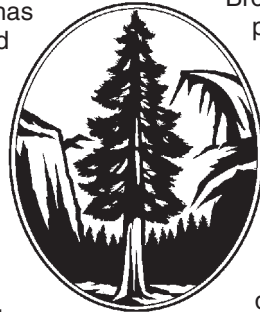
The Sierra Club is the largest grass-roots environmental organization in the United States and the most active and effective environmental group in Broward County. The Broward Sierra Group is a multi-faceted organization. Not only do we fight to preserve the quality of life for Broward County's families through ecosystem protection, but we offer monthly outings that give folks the opportunity to experience the hidden beauty of South Florida.

We present monthly general meetings with engaging speakers; from authors to scientists, discussing a host of fascinating environmental topics. We offer access to a Broward Sierra Email Listserve that alerts you of pending legislative / regulatory decisions that will impact our region – and how you can help. We publish a monthly newsletter

informing our members of current conservation issues and upcoming outings.

We enjoy receiving periodic feedback from our members on your opinion of the positive and negative aspects of the club. Please express your feelings on the general meeting speakers, selected conservation issues, outings, the newsletter, or any other Sierra-related topic. Please email your comments to George at gscprop@yahoo.com.

Like any grass-roots organization, the Broward Sierra Group is only as good as the members that volunteer in making the club a success. If you wish to get a little more involved with the club on conservation issues, outings, membership, or political activities, please send an email to me at the address above – no experience required!



The MPP divided Broward County shorelines into geographical regions named Zone A through Zone G. Each Zone has different boat facility development designations based on "Manatee data, habitat information, existing speed zones, waterway configuration, boat traffic, marina inventory, and other miscellaneous information."

Zone E: Middle River area "...limitations with the available aerial [manatee population] survey data"

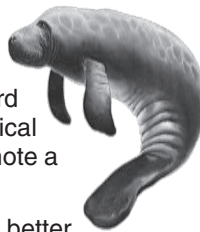
Zone E Outcome: "it is recommended that *an unrestricted level of development be allowed for all types of facilities...*" The Sierra Club feels that it is irresponsible to make unrestricted development recommendations in the absence of data.

Zone F: The Hillsboro Beach, Pompano Beach, and Stranahan River area "... are believed to be the highest areas of probable boat/manatee overlap in the County. However, in order to balance the needs of development with manatee protection, it is recommended that an unrestricted level of development be allowed for the expansion of existing facilities..."

The Sierra Club supports the "1:100" rule, which states that "the number of powerboat slips at a boat facility must not be greater than single-family density, or one powerboat slip for every one hundred feet of shoreline owned or controlled by the applicant. Density limit does not apply to single-family residences."

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Manatees cannot attend public hearings and write public comments, but *YOU CAN*. Please contact your Broward County Commissioners and the Broward County Environmental Protection Department, Biological Resources Division (954-519-1230). Ask them to promote a plan that will protect the manatees:



1. Place a moratorium on further development until better manatee data is collected
2. Don't allow "unrestricted development," especially in zones that have high boat/manatee overlap, such as essential habitats and manatee corridors
3. Expand the "1:100" guideline to more zones.

Timeline:

Post Revised Draft.....January 28, 2005
 Receive public comments..... February 28, 2005
 Prepare Final Draft BFSP..... March 15, 2005
 Convene Public Workshop III..... April 12, 2005
 Present Final BFSP
 to County Commission late April/May, 2005

For updated information regarding the plan, please visit the webpage at: <http://www.broward.org/bri00601.htm>

[1] Broward County Biological Resources Division

[2] Sun-Sentinel, January 6, 2005 "Broward Plan To Save Manatees Making Waves in Boating Community"

Welcome, continued from page 2

Anita Lind (Volunteer Coordinator) has been a member of club since 1998 and has been the Volunteer Coordinator before. She is looking forward to hearing from anyone that would like to get out and help the club.

Carole Walsh (Newsletter Editor) has been a member of the Sierra Club since 2000 and has been doing the layout and graphics for the newsletter since 1997. Anyone who would like to comment on or contribute to the newsletter can email carolewalsh@mindspring.com.

Broward Sierra Group Outings

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

SATURDAY, JAN 29TH. BIG CYPRESS DAY HIKE CANCELLED

SATURDAY, FEB. 12TH. ANNE KOLB RESTORATION DAY

An opportunity to give something back to the community, your Sierra Group and Mother Nature! Yep, we're talking volunteer work here, doing whatever is needed on the grounds of Anne Kolb Nature Center-West Lake Park to restore it to its natural beauty. Help keep it wild, clean and natural. It is 3 or 4 hours on Saturday morning. No experience is needed. Bring water and sunscreen. Get out and enjoy the park in the cool winter months. *Cost: FREE*
Leader: Loren Colburn 954-761-1355
lorenac1101@hotmail.com



SATURDAY, FEB. 19TH AND MARCH 5TH. FAKAHATCHEE STRAND STATE PRESERVE HIKE

This hike replaces the 'monthly' hike in Section II of the Florida Trail in Big Cypress, because of a recent prescribed burn. It will be a dry hike. Located between Tamiami Trail and Alligator Alley, west of 29. Bring your own lunch. Rated moderate. 'Back country' trails. *Cost: Mem. \$3 donation; Non-mem. \$5.*
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954- 627-2665



SATURDAY, FEB. 26TH. EAST RIVER DAY CANOE FUNDRAISER

Paddle approximately 8 - 10 miles through the mangrove tunnels, south of Tamiami Trail, compliments of our host John Judy of Florida Adventures.
Rated: Moderate to Strenuous.
Cost: Mem. \$25; Non-mem. \$30.
Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855



We would like to invite you to come on one of our fine outings! If you have any questions about an outing, you can check with the certified Broward Sierra Outing Leader in charge of the outing. Some of the outings need no experience; others require some level of proficiency. All participants in Sierra Club outings 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.

Make your check payable to: Broward Sierra Outings. Include the name and date of the trip on your check. Include your name, phone number, email and street address.

Mail all checks to:
Jackie Fisher, 4992 S.W. 105 Way, Cooper City, FL 33328.

You may call the Sierra Hotline for updates at 954-858-0160.

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>

SEA SHEPHERD CREWING *By Joyce Tarnow, Program Chair*

Having been a supporter of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society for several years, retirement afforded me the opportunity to offer my services as a volunteer crew member. I wrote to the office in Friday Harbor, Washington last Fall to let them know I was available and I could offer skills in writing – and I could cook.



The call came in mid-November and they were desperate for a cook – immediately.

The Farley Mowat, a 180 foot ship, was in Curacao and was heading North to lay over in Bermuda before going to the Grand Banks to protest illegal cod fishing in a badly depleted fishery and then on to Canada in March to interrupt the slaughter of Harp Seals. After scrambling to make some adjustments to other obligations, I signed up for the month of December.

Since I knew from past association that Capt. Paul Watson and his wife Allison are vegan/vegetarians, I forewarned the home office that I came from a different food history and had some trepidation about providing fare for a crew that was about half vegan and another member who was lactose intolerant. I was assured that other crew members would assist me.

Capt. Paul Watson, a licensed merchant marine, started Sea Shepherd thirty years ago after forsaking Greenpeace, which he had co-founded.. Greenpeace had become too politically correct and abandoned interception strategies in favor of fundraising and media campaigns. Sea Shepherd operates on a shoestring and has an all-volunteer policy, including Paul who supports himself by lecturing and writing.

The crew in Curacao totaled nine and included two Canadians, six Americans and one Dutch, the first mate, who spoke four

languages. The only language problem I encountered was the labels and directions on some of the food stocks that were in Portuguese, and some of the recipes.

It took six and a half days to reach St. George, Bermuda and the ocean offered little in the way of sightings of fish, birds or marine mammals. Crew members told me the Atlantic Ocean has become so

empty they were not surprised that there was little to see other than a few flying fish and a couple of Masked Boobies as we were passing Hispaniola.

Sea Shepherd relies on donations of food and other supplies as much as possible and all crew members are asked to hustle potential donors as much as possible. Sometimes we would hit a bonanza as at the Saturday Farmer's Market in St. George and a grocery store in Hamilton. We also made several friends who treated us to lunch (hooray for the cook's respite) and a couple on St. David's who had most of the crew over for Boxing Day, a traditional British celebration on December 26th.

I was able to solicit a few bags of canned goods from the Salvation Army and four trays of prepared food from the St. George Club. Unfortunately the trays of food were not vegan so the current crew was not impressed. However, the engineers were delighted with the donation of towels since they always need rags for wiping up oil as they oiled the open engines every twenty minutes while the ship is underway. The food trays were divided up and put into the freezer for future crew members in the coming campaigns—there would likely be some carnivores in a crew of twenty and another dozen media types. My cooking chores were relieved periodically by three other vegan crew who would take a turn at one of the meals. That allowed me to stand bridge watch a couple of times. I also escaped the galley as a scuba diver who could give a hand to scraping barnacles off the hull of the ship.

Between walking all over St. George and up and down between three decks from the bridge to the galley level to my cabin level, I dropped eleven pounds. I think Sea Shepherd should use weight loss as a hook to get more crew volunteers. Adventure attracts some, a love of marine mammals attracts others, and getting fit without paying a gym membership may be a winner.

If Sierra folks think they would like to consider volunteering, I would suggest going to the web site, www.seashepherd.org, and reading Paul Watson's early book, "Ocean Warrior". You can also talk to me at the next Sierra general meeting. Would I do it again? Yes, but only in warm oceans and as an assistant cook.

Join the Sierra Club now and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag! (While supplies last)



Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage and receive a free Sierra Club Weekender Bag. My payment is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) (____) _____

Check enclosed, payable to Sierra Club Mastercard Visa

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Membership Categories



	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT		INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47	Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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