

**IMPORTANT:** The Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment has been changed due to a May 2005 Florida Supreme Court ruling. So you need to sign a new petition now even if you signed a petition before June 2005. You can download the petition at <http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com>. If you don't have access to the internet, call (386) 424-0860, or write to: FHTD, P.O. Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32170.

## IT'S TIME FOR FLORIDA'S HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY AMENDMENT

By Lesley Blackner, Growth Management Vice Chair, Sierra Club Florida Chapter



Too many local politicians just won't say no to bad development. The truth is that the current political structure has no intention of protecting Floridians' quality of life or Florida's future from bad development – the power brokers are making too much money today for the future to matter. So uncontrolled, willy nilly growth continues unabated, even though our schools can't take it, our roads can't take it, our water supply can't take it, our remaining beautiful places can't take it and most locals don't want it.

If you actually complain to the politicians about bad growth too often you are told that any and all growth is "natural" and "inevitable" and

*continued on page 2*

## Broward Sierra Programs

**SEPT 6th: "Broward County Greenways Program".** Mark Horowitz will bring us a powerpoint program on the Greenways System, a countywide network of safe, clean, bicycle and equestrian paths, native trails and waterways.



Greenways provide alternate modes of transportation by connecting each neighborhood to conservation lands, parks and recreation facilities, cultural and historic sites, schools and business areas.

**OCT 4th: "Five Years of CERP"; Where's the Restoration?,"** Rod Tirrell, Broward Sierra's Everglades Chair. Join us for Sierra's Everglades slide show followed by a frank discussion of why CERP (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program) fails to provide the natural structural basis to restore clean Everglades seasonal flows. Growth and urban sprawl compete with sugar for the lifeblood of the Everglades. Growth riddles Naples, 6000 homes in FL City, the once touted East Everglades "Buffer" squandered by backdoor deals like (Scripps). CERP's failure to acquire a portion of Lake Okeechobee's floodplain (EAA) exemplify missing natural components crucial to restoring one of the world's great wetlands/fisheries.



Anne Kolb Nature Center is located on the North side of Sheridan Street, East of U.S. 1. Doors open at 7:00 PM. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

## INTRODUCING ESCRIP: Raise Funds For Broward Sierra With the Purchases You Already Make

By Mara Shlackman, EXCOM Member

eScrip ([www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)), is a fundraising program in which participating merchants donate to the non-profit organization of your choice a percentage of whatever you spend on your Master Card, Visa, American Express, Discover, or debit cards that you have registered with eScrip. There is no surcharge for using your card at an eScrip participating store. Broward Sierra has just signed up with eScrip, providing another way for members to help fund the Club without spending any money you would not otherwise be spending.

eScrip was introduced in 1999 by Electronic Scrip Incorporated (ESI), a San Mateo, California, based corporation, and so far has distributed over \$120 million to organizations across the country. ESI takes care of all the bookkeeping, depositing merchant donations monthly through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). As an individual participant, you will be able to go online to find out how much you have contributed to Broward Sierra through eScrip, and Club leaders also will be able to access reports online regarding contributions received through eScrip, which will show the amount contributed in your name and in the name of each Club member who chooses to participate. You can also ask friends and family to enroll to support Broward Sierra through eScrip.

Any frequent flyer miles, reward points, or other incentives provided by your credit card company will be unaffected by participation in eScrip. ESI also protects the privacy and security of your personal information, so that you need not have any fears about enrolling.



*continued on page 4*

Graphic design & layout by [carolewalsh@mindspring.com](mailto:carolewalsh@mindspring.com)

Printing by The Press Room

4111 SW 47 Ave. #309, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

(954) 792-6729 • [www.thepressroom.net](http://www.thepressroom.net)

Recycled paper, soy ink

**Sierra Hotline** **954-858-0160**

for Hotline additions, call Kip @ 954-434-2855

**SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY**

P.O. Box 350432  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 4189

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.



## The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

- Chair**  
Harold Hancock 954-566-9817
- Vice-Chair**  
Loren Colburn 954-761-1355
- Secretary**  
Louis Serra 954-442-0880
- Treasurer**  
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
- Energy Issues Chair**  
George Cavros 954-295-5714
- Conservation Chair**  
Pedro Monteiro 954-525-3324
- Everglades Chair**  
Rod Tirrell 954-772-3865
- Outings Chair**  
Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855
- Education Chair**  
Open
- Fundraising Committee Chair**  
Tina Voci 954-817-3352  
ttiinnaa@gmail.com
- Political Chair**  
Open
- Carrying Capacity Chair**  
Linda Brown 954-764-1470
- Membership Chair**  
Andrea Hagen 954-475-9399
- Volunteer Coordinator**  
Anita Lind 954-983-3709
- Programs**  
Joyce Tarnow 954-942-7278
- Media**  
Open
- Newsletter Editor**  
Carole Walsh 954-987-3642  
carolewalsh@mindspring.com
- Newsletter Folding Coordinator**  
Loren Colburn 954-761-1355

**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:

We'll be taking the summer off for socials. The socials will start again in the fall on the 4th Wednesday of the month. If you would like to help out in organizing the socials or you have a great idea for a place to hold a social somewhere in Broward please contact 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.

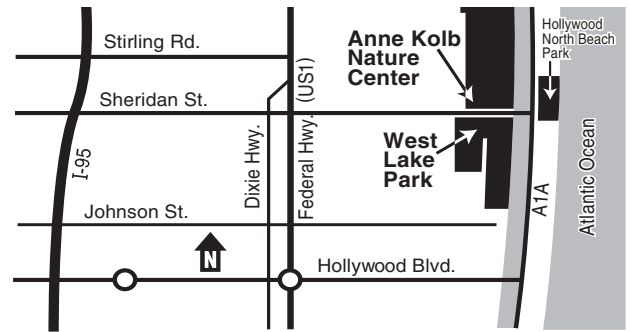
### Hometown Democracy, continued from page 1

opposition by mere mortals is futile – like trying to stop the sun from coming up in the morning. Or you are told that if the proposed land use changes are not granted the heavens will open and a deluge of developer lawsuits will rain down, bankrupting local government.

Believing that destructive growth is “natural” and “inevitable” and that there is nothing you can do about it is like believing that the earth is flat. And it simply isn't true that saying no to requested land use change will bankrupt local government. It's time to tell the truth, set the record straight, and reform our political structure to stop the madness.

We all have a strong interest in protecting the health, safety, beauty, quality of life and future of our communities. The law reflects that concern. Indeed, that's why the State of Florida decided that growth must be managed and controlled through the creation of comprehensive plans that address the long-range implications of growth on community resources. Comprehensive plans were supposed to make sure that growth doesn't overwhelm and ruin Florida, our quality of life and our future. But we all know that growth management just isn't working. Comprehensive plans can't protect us when they are subject to frequent, arbitrary changes. And that is what has happened in Florida.

When someone seeks to change a comprehensive plan, the law presumes that the change should not be granted unless it benefits the public. You wouldn't know that when you attend a city or county commission public hearing on a proposed plan change and hear homeowners begging their elected officials not to approve the proposal because of the ruin it will wreak on roads, traffic, municipal services, the tax base, the schools,



## 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 I-95 to the 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.

the environment, their quality of life, etc. The sad truth is that too many of Florida's elected officials only define the “public interest” as keeping the development industry happy.

And what about the threat of developer lawsuits? The fact is that nobody is legally entitled to a comprehensive plan change. The law is clear that so long as a land use regulation does not deprive a landowner of all economically viable use of his property, he has no legal claim against the government. A hypothetical example: a comprehensive plan designates a density of one house per acre on a parcel of land. The landowner wants to put five houses per acre. The application for the plan change is rejected. Has local government violated the landowner's rights? No. The owner may still make reasonable use of his property by building one house per acre. That's what the law says and it's been that way for a long time.

Both the United States Supreme Court and the Florida Supreme Court have ruled that proposed land use changes can be made directly by the voters. Both courts have held that the power to approve or reject land use changes has always been the people's power and they can take that power back if they want to. This makes sense because people care about the place where they live. For most of us our home is our biggest financial investment. We move to a place because we like it. Our kids go to school there. We should have the final say over proposed comprehensive plan changes in our communities because, for better or worse, we will be stuck with those changes for many years to come.

The best way to protect our communities is to give

continued on page 3

the power over proposed comprehensive plan changes to the people who live there. That's the goal of Florida Hometown Democracy, a non-partisan, non-profit group organized to amend the Florida Constitution. The Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment will ensure that changes to comprehensive plans are genuinely supported by a majority of the community. If voters decide a proposed plan change will make their community a better place to live they will approve it. Voters will reject bad plan changes that wreck their hometowns and unleash all the problems Floridians know only too well. Voting at regularly scheduled elections on a handful of plan proposals will help Floridians reclaim responsibility for Florida's future.

To get the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment on the ballot, we must collect approximately 600,000 petitions from registered Florida voters as soon as possible. If you are a registered Florida voter, we urge you to sign a petition yourself and help us collect more signed petitions. You don't have to be a registered Florida voter to collect signatures: everybody needs to help. You can learn all about our effort and download the petition at <http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com>.



If you don't have access to the internet, call or fax us at (386) 424-0860, or write to us for petitions at: P.O. Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32170.

Make your own copies or contact us and we will send you all the petitions you need. Petitions are also available at the Sierra Club monthly meetings.

**Please join with us today! Time is of the essence. Florida's future depends on it.**

*Lesley Blackner, an attorney, is an organizer of Florida Hometown Democracy, and Growth Management Vice Chair of the Sierra Club Florida Chapter*

## ECO TIDBITS



The AFL-CIO said that the U.S. lost 3.3 million manufacturing jobs in the last five years.

A lawnmower pollutes as much in one hour as a car does driving 350 miles.

In the U.S. 30-60 percent of the drinkable municipal water is used for maintaining lawns.

Since 1990, 84,000 acres of Florida wetlands have been lost.

About one-third of the gross weight and half of the volume of America's solid-waste stream is composed of packaging materials – at least 300 pounds per person per year.

Nationwide, the estimated 60 million barbecues held on the Fourth of July alone consume enough energy – in the form of charcoal, lighter fluid, gas, and electricity – to power 20,000 households for a year.

With encouragement from the Sierra Club, both North Hempstead, Long Island (NY), and Charlotte, NC, recently took steps toward converting their municipal fleets to hybrid cars, joining cities such as Denver, Seattle and Madison, WI.

## COMMON CRITICISMS OF THE FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY AMENDMENT:

*By Pedro Monteiro, Conservation Chair, Sierra Club Broward Group*

As you might expect, developers are up in arms opposing the people's ability to have a say in how land is used in their communities. They have a cozy deal with the politicians, and they know that they can't influence us with their campaign donations and backroom deals. Below are some common myths that they try to circulate:

**Myth:** Land use plans are too complicated for the general public to understand

**Fact:** The general public understands the impact of squeezing thousands of residential units into their neighborhood.

**Myth:** We elect public officials so that we do not have to bother making these decisions

**Fact:** Many public officials are reelected in unopposed elections whose outcomes are assured by custom tailored district boundaries that guarantee their reelection. Moreover, many public officials are elected with developer money, and their contributors expect something in return. The officials don't have the same priorities as you do when it comes to deciding what your surroundings will be like.

**Myth:** This amendment will take away the government's ability to make land use decisions

**Fact:** The local government staff and county or city commissioners will continue to advise and vote on land use plan amendments as they have before. However, if they approve a change, it must then be placed on the ballot and also approved by the constituency for the change to take effect.

**Myth:** The public will be flooded with special elections and a deluge of proposed land use amendment referenda

**Fact:** No special elections are necessary. The colossal number of land use changes will decrease substantially once the growth machine realizes it must get public approval for proposed changes to take effect.



### The unspoken cost of "development:"

**Fact 1:** A University of Florida professor published a report that estimates that Florida will lose nearly 3 million acres of rural land to "development" by 2020.

**Fact 2:** With increased urban sprawl and the aid of so-called "free" trade agreements, the U.S. is now becoming a net importer of food.

**Fact 3:** Transportation accounts for roughly half the cost of food.

**Fact 4:** Experts admit that the world will reach peak oil production in the next four to five years, and oil will only get more expensive from here on.

**Prediction:** When discussing over-development, we usually only hear about the traffic, pollution, rising property taxes, and loss of greenspace. However, as we pave over our farmland we must transport food from ever greater distances. Consequently, we can expect our food costs to increase ever more as we become more dependent on oil. These imported foods are likely to have pesticides that are not subject to domestic laws, or carry invasive pests that threaten our own food crops and environment.

**Alternative:** Fortunately, we can help stop this trend and preserve our quality of life by being proactive and helping collect signatures for Florida Hometown Democracy! To help with this effort, please contact the Sierra Club officers in this newsletter either by phone or in person at the monthly meeting.



Broward Sierra can receive donations when you shop at participating stores, as well as when you shop at eScrip's online mall. Among the participating businesses you can shop at directly are AAMCO Transmissions, American Airlines, Avon, Budget Rent-A-Car, Eddie Bauer, Office Max, Pep Boys, MCI/The Neighborhood, Spiegel, Merry Maids, Maaco Auto Paint and Bodyworks, ServiceMaster, GreenPoint Mortgage, Sierra Trading Post, Terminix, Clubcruise.com (including Carnival, Celebrity, Disney, Princess, and Royal Caribbean cruise lines). The online mall at eScrip has a far wider array of over 700 merchants, including Best Buy, Circuit City, The Vitamin Shoppe, Office Depot, Home Depot, Foot Locker, Dell, Gateway, Blockbuster, Adidas, Ace Hardware, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Thrifty Rent-A-Car, Payless Shoe Source, Travelocity, Radio Shack, United Air, AT & T Wireless, H & R Block, and Neiman Marcus. The percentage of sales that merchants contribute to participating non-profit organizations varies from merchant to merchant. Some merchants also may have certain restrictions on what purchases qualify toward a contribution.

If 50 Club members spent an average of \$400 per month at eScrip merchants, based on an average merchant donation of 5%, a chart on the eScrip website estimates the approximate contribution to the Club would be \$12,000. Thus, eScrip can be a significant revenue source for the Club and help cover some of our annual expenses.

**If you wish to sign up, you must register on-line:**

- Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).
- At the registration section, click where it says **(Sign Up, It's Free)**.
- Select **Group Name** and enter **Broward Sierra Club Group**. Then continue with the registration. It's easy!

They have a FAQ (frequently asked questions) link that will address and questions you may have. You can also contact Max Goldstein or Tina Voci. Sign up today for this easy, painless way to raise funds for Broward Sierra!

## ADVERTISE IN THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS

Placing an ad in the Broward Sierra News does more than reach thousands of local, environmentally sensitive readers. It also helps to offset the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, making it possible to continue to alert you to issues of local importance and the actions you can take, as well as inform you of events, outings and meetings of the Broward Sierra Club group.

RATES		
Size	1 month	3 months
Business card size ad (3-3/4" x 2")	\$55	\$150
Double size ad (3-3/4" x 4")	\$95	\$255
1/2 page ad (7-3/4" x 5")	\$195	\$525

If you would like to place an ad, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or email him at [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com).

**Please support these fine  
businesses that help bring you  
the Broward Sierra News**

### Coats & Associates

Certified Public Accountants

Jesse F. Coats

Certified Public Accountant

5200 N.W. 33rd Avenue, Suite 218 • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
Office: (954) 731-0011 • Fax: (954) 731-0018

### 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  AmEx

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"/> \$47	Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	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

F94Q

W3302 1

Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Computer Technical Support Services and Consulting

**SEAN ATKINSON**

technology analyst

[immediate@bellsouth.net](mailto:immediate@bellsouth.net)

Tel: 954.394.4828

Fax: 954.212.0204

[www.immediatetech.net](http://www.immediatetech.net)

## SUNCOAT

organic beauty products



#### Pure and clean organic make-up

- Based on food grade materials and earth pigments
- No additives, and talc free

#### Nail Polish

- Water based (solvent free) ~ Virtually odor free
- No FD&C Dyes (Colored by earth pigments)

#### Nail Polish Remover

- Non-Toxic, Non-Carcinogenic
- No Petroleum Products (100% biodegradable)

[suncoatproductsfl.com](http://suncoatproductsfl.com)

**Order today!**

*Be Happy  
Be Healthy  
Live Chemical Free!*

**Perfectly safe for Children!**