

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES *By George Cavros, Conservation Chair*

### Help On The Way For Corals

On May 4th, Elkhorn and Staghorn coral, the main reef building corals in Broward County, were officially listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since the 1970s the two corals have declined by more than 97 percent throughout portions of their range in the Caribbean. Coral reefs are a critical ecological asset and a local economic engine.

South Florida is home to the only living coral reef system in the continental United States. While coral reefs only occupy 0.2% of

our ocean floor, they are home to approximately 25% of all marine life. Florida coral reefs provide critical habitat for juvenile fish, thereby helping to sustain healthy fisheries – and Florida's 7 billion dollar recreational fishing industry. Reefs also protect coastlines from erosion and hurricane storm surges, and provide sand for beaches.



The economic benefit to Broward County from reef-related scuba diving and recreational fishing activities exceeds 2 billion dollars per year.

The latest research indicates that coral reefs are facing a one-two punch from carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, the major pollutant responsible for global warming. Scientists have reported a record number of Caribbean coral die-offs in 2005 from coral bleaching, a condition largely due to warming oceans caused by human-induced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But new scientific research is also concluding that CO<sub>2</sub> is changing the chemistry of our oceans – making them more acidic and negatively impacting corals' ability to calcify and grow.

The Endangered Species Act listing process now moves to designating "critical habitat" for the corals. The Sierra Club has been active in the listing process by pushing for the broadest habitat designation. While the entire reef track, from the Dry Tortugas to Martin County, should be considered critical to the corals' recovery, it's likely that only pockets of Elkhorn and Staghorn habitat will be given the increased protection of the critical habitat designation.

*continued on page 2*

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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.

**The Broward Sierra Group needs a new Program Chair** as Joyce Tarnow will be moving out of the area this summer. If you are interested in filling this important role for the club, call Joyce at 954-942-7278, and she will be glad to tell you what's involved and teach you her easy routine for lining up interesting programs.

## Broward Sierra Programs

### June 6th: The Growing Red Tide Scourge

Dr. Larry Brand, Professor of Marine Biology at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, will share with us his review of 50 years of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's red tide data for an historical assessment of contributing factors to this environmental phenomenon.



The red tide algae are typically a single-celled organism which produces a potent neurotoxin that is released into the water and often into the air. Fin fish may be killed as well as marine mammals such as dolphins and manatees. Shellfish are apparently unaffected. However, they do accumulate the neurotoxin and thus pose a human health risk. Florida monitors commercial shellfish beds, closing them to harvesting during red tide outbreaks.

### July 4th: There will be no general meeting or program during July. The next meeting will be August 1st.

We meet in the Mangrove Hall building at Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood. Take I-95 to the Sheridan Street exit, head East past U.S. 1, over the bridge, and on the left within 1/2 mile, look for the lighted Anne Kolb sign. If you go over the Intracoastal, you missed it. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Committee reports begin at 7:30 and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge. For more information contact Joyce Tarnow at 954-942-7278.



## The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

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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

**Executive Committee Member**  
Leigh Buckner 954-563-0073

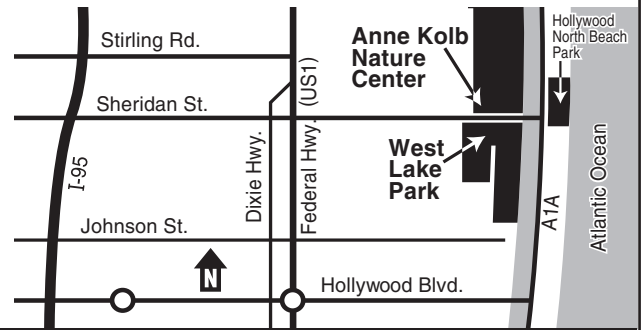
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**Membership Corrections** - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to:  
**Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, 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.

## Broward Sierra Club General Meetings

Held on the first Tuesday of every month at Anne Kolb Nature Center (954-926-2480). Outings sign-up starts at 7:00 p.m. and the general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. The public is 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.



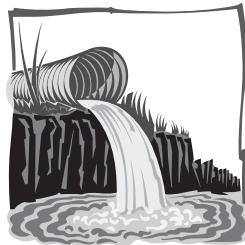
**There will be no General Meeting during July. We will resume meeting on August 1st. See you then.**

## Executive Committee Meetings

Held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, in room 430a of the Broward County Governmental Center. For details call Harold Hancock at 561-417-0216 or e-mail [hdhcpa@yahoo.com](mailto:hdhcpa@yahoo.com).

*Environmental Update, continued from page 1*

Additionally, under its "threatened" status, the lead federal agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), can forbid detrimental activities in and around the corals. The club is appealing to NOAA to end local practices that bury reefs that are near the shore (such as beach widening projects), and demanding advanced wastewater treatment for all sewage pumped out to sea or underground, which is currently chock full of nutrients – causing algae growth that often smothers coral reefs.

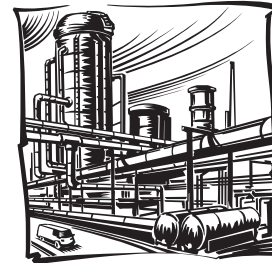


At the most recent stakeholders meeting, it was encouraging to see a diverse group of citizens in attendance speaking in support of the highest level of protection for the corals. The Sierra Club will continue to keep you informed as events unfold in the efforts to save our remaining Elkhorn and Staghorn corals.

## Florida Legislature Passes An Energy Bill

There are a host of states that have "stepped up" to fill the federal leadership void on energy policy and global warming. New York and California have aggressive solar energy policies and are two of 21 states that mandate a percentage of in-state energy be produced from renewable energy sources by a certain date.

After the recent passage of Florida's underwhelming energy bill, it's clear that Florida will not be joining other progressive states



in filling the federal leadership void.

The 162 page bill that sailed through the Senate 39 to 0 on the last day of the legislative session promotes coal burning power plants, streamlines the sit-

ing process for all power plants, and exempts nuclear power plants from bidding rules that require utilities to examine whether less expensive plants can be built.

The more eco-friendly provisions include 5 million dollars in incentives for companies that produce alternate energy sources like ethanol and bio-diesel, and a paltry 2.5 million dollar solar energy rebate program. It creates a year-round rebate up to \$5,000 for homeowners who buy solar-energy heating and cooling systems. It also authorizes a sales tax holiday Oct. 5-11 on all energy-efficient appliances, like refrigerators and dishwashers.



The one beacon of hope in the bill is the creation of an "energy commission" tasked with making energy policy recommendations, including a comprehensive state greenhouse gas reduction plan.

While state energy initiatives are important, the Florida energy bill, which becomes law in July, exemplifies the need for a credible federal plan that caps global warming pollution, invests in clean, renewable energy technology, and mandates energy efficiency measures – actions that will lead to real US energy independence.



# HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE ADDITION LANDS

By Matthew Schwartz, Political Chair

Join us on Saturday, June 10th for another Sierra Club hike in the beautiful Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Lands. As we're coming into the rainy season, our trail will be determined by water conditions. Trail conditions are very dry as I write this, but be prepared for wet ground. Bring normal outback equipment - hat, sunscreen, walking stick (or find one on the trail), comfortable long pants (no denim - too hot), closed walking shoes, water and food (required - no dieting in wilderness - food is fuel). Also bring at least a change of socks and footwear, so you don't worry about getting your feet wet. The trail will be moderate difficulty - about 4 to 5 miles. Older children who can walk this distance are welcome. Don't forget your camera!

The controversy surrounding the Big Cypress Addition Lands has received a lot of local news coverage lately from both local newspapers and television. The land is administered by the National Parks Service, and the ongoing debate is between those who feel that the area should be opened up to off road vehicles and hunting, and those who feel that this last piece of the once vast Big Cypress wilderness (only about one hour from downtown Ft. Lauderdale) should be left as is. The position of the Sierra Club in this debate is that the 146,000 acre Addition Lands should be left as it is - off limits to both motorized vehicles and to hunting. As we have seen on previous hikes, the very endangered Florida panther is at home in this area as well as the Florida black bear and numerous other plant and animal species on either Federal or State lists of species that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Many of you wrote in to the National Park Service with your concerns about the Addition. Thank you very much for your help. Another round of comments will be solicited by the NPS in the near future as it refine its choice of a 'preferred alternative' for this land. If you haven't been out there yet, please join us on June 10th and find out 'what the fuss is all about'.

To ask questions about the Addition Lands or to sign up for the hike, please contact Matt Schwartz at 954-764-2739 or email at matthew3222@yahoo.com



Brian Scherf of the Broward Sierra Group tries to get his hands around one of the last old growth cypress trees left in the Preserve. On the left is Lyle McCandless of the Big Cypress Sportsmen's Alliance. Photo by Matt Schwartz at a joint outing aimed at improving communication between groups with varying opinions concerning the use of the Addition Lands.

## Broward Sierra Group Outings

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



**JUNE 10TH, SAT. SNORKELING 101 AT KEY BISCAYNE.** Learn the fundamentals of snorkeling and have a great time doing it! In-water practice to familiarize you with equipment and techniques. Rated Leisure. Limit 10. *Cost: Mem. \$25; Non-mem. \$30.* For further information, registration and payment contact: Leader: Ed Zaret, 305-586-3564 (Miami Group Outing)



**JUNE 10TH, SAT. MOONLIGHT CULINARY CANOE FUNDRAISER.** Enjoy an evening under the full moon on Biscayne Bay, with the delights of good company, delicious food, exquisite wine and a skyline view. No special diets. Rain or shine. Rated Leisure. Limit 18. *Cost: Mem. \$45; Non-mem. \$50.* For further information, registration and payment contact: Leader: Ken Smith, 305-275-0180 (Miami Group Outing)



**JULY 15-16, SAT. - SUN. LOOE KEY SNORKELING.** Snorkel on beautiful Looe Key Reef in the Florida Keys. Trip to Key West for dinner. Overnight stay at Looe Key Resort. Visit Key Deer Refuge on Sunday. Rated Leisure. Limit 14. *Cost Mem: \$125; Non-mem. \$135.* For further information, registration and payment contact: Leader Ed Zaret 305-586-3564 (Miami Group Outing) Assist: TBA



**AUG. 19-20, SAT.-SUN. WILDERNESS FIRST AID TRAINING FOR OUTINGS LEADERS.** This course is mandatory every 3 years for outings leaders who are leading overnight outings in remote areas, and interesting and educational for any outing leaders. T-Y (Topee Keegee Yugnee) Park, 3300 North Park Road, Hollywood, FL. Easily accessible by Florida Tri-rail (Sheridan St. exit). For further information contact Judy Kuchta at 954-924-5001, or 305-308-8913.

We would like to invite you to come on one of our fine educational outings! If you have any questions about an outing, you can check with the certified 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.

The Broward Sierra Group outings are over for the season. We may have some special summer outings, and we will resume our regular outings in the Fall, and introduce Judy Kuchta, our new Outings Chair.

**Call the Broward Sierra Hotline for updates at 954-567-2841.  
LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE:  
<<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>**



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Purchase both cap and tote as a "set" for \$15! Please add shipping and handling costs: \$3.50 for 1st item, \$1 for each additional item (please note that each "set" counts as 2 items). Please allow approx. 5 to 10 days for delivery. Due to incredibly discounted pricing we are unable to offer exchanges; returns accepted only for defective merchandise. Please include your check made out to "Broward Sierra Club" along with this order form, and mail to: Broward Sierra Club, PO Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335.

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Qty	Item	Price/each	Shipping	Price/total
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	Tote	\$10		
	Hat & Tote Set	\$15		
Total Amount				

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