



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Broward Sierra News



VOL. XXVIII No. 2 MARCH 2006

<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra>

BROWARD COUNTY SHOULD FILL THE FEDERAL LEADERSHIP VOID ON GLOBAL WARMING

By George Cavros, Conservation Chair



There is scientific consensus that atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) – the main global warming pollutant – is rising at an alarming rate and already changing our climate right here in Florida. After the World Meteorological Organization and NASA declared 2005 as the hottest year on record, Dr. Michael Mann, Director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn. State University said, “some of the climate changes associated with global warming already appear to be

having a significant impact on North America and the U.S.

The record-breaking 2005 Atlantic Hurricane season was related to record warmth in the tropical Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico this summer. The evidence increasingly suggests that anthropogenic climate change, not natural factors, is responsible for the warming trend in these regions.”

By all accounts, a federal global warming pollution reduction plan investing in energy efficiency measures and clean, renewable energy would: slow the rate of climate change, produce thousands of jobs, save consumers money, and provide true U.S. energy independence. Therefore, you would think that the federal government would be racing to adopt such a plan. Think again. There is *no* credible federal plan that tackles the growing threat of global climate change. In fact, the Bush administration has squelched any mention of global warming by federal scientists, as evidenced by its removal of any reference to global warming in the 2003 EPA report on the state of the environment, and by its recent attempts to muzzle further statements by NASA’s Dr. Hansen after he stated in the Washington Post: *“It’s not something you can adapt to... we can’t let it go on another 10 years like this. We’ve got to do something...”*

The train has left the station and we’re not on it...

Meanwhile 158 countries, in honoring their commitments to reduce CO₂ under the Kyoto Protocol, have gained a competitive advantage on the U.S. in producing and implementing the technologies of the 21st century. For instance, Germany has committed to obtaining 20% of its energy

continued on page 4

Broward Sierra Programs



March 7th: “The Loxahatchee Refuge and the Everglades System” - Dr. Nick Aumen of the National Park Service.

April 4th: “Barn Owl Prowl” - Dr. Richard Raid of the University of Florida’s Research Center in Belle Glade.



Anne Kolb Nature Center is located in Hollywood 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. For more information contact Joyca Tarnow at 954-942-7278

2006 EVERGLADES COALITION CONFERENCE

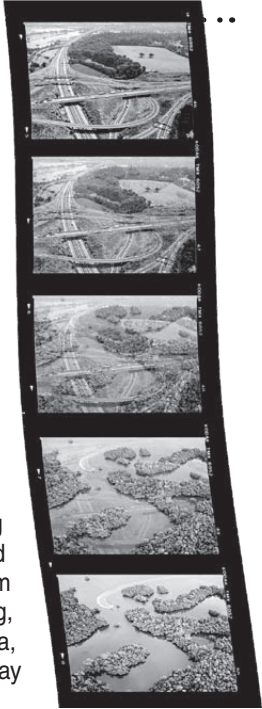
by Rod Tirrell, Everglades Chair

The 21st annual Everglades Coalition (EVCO) Conference was held on Hutchinson Island in January. EVCO is comprised of forty-seven local, regional, and national environmental groups advocating restoration of the great Kissimmee, Okeechobee, Everglades watershed, marsh and fishery. Agricultural and rural lands crucial for water storage are threatened by development. EVCO called on local and state government to assure growth does not foreclose Glades restoration options.

The conference offered a number of interesting panels addressing issues of growth, endangered species, hydrologic cycles, estuary pollution from Lake Okeechobee, Florida Bay, global warming, and restoring the Everglades Agricultural Area, Lake Okeechobee’s former floodplain, where today over 400,000 acres of sugar are farmed.

Previously, scientific panels promoting reclaiming wetlands, increasing “spatial extent” or breadth of marsh, and maintaining urban development boundaries have been ignored by agencies and politicians who service drainage for sprawl. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) issues “dredge and fill” permits (404’s) to fill in wetlands. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) sells “consumptive use” permits to city utilities and developers. Scientific “objectives and goals” must unfortunately compete with real estate demand. Most Floridians know that reflooding the Everglades Agricultural Area floodplain south of Lake Okeechobee is crucial to restoring watershed hydrological cycles and Everglades seasonal flows. When CERP passed Congress in 2000

continued on page 2



Graphic design & layout by carolewalsh@mindspring.com
Printing by The Press Room
4111 SW 47 Ave. #309, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314
(954) 792-6729 • www.thepressroom.net



Recycled paper, soy ink

Sierra Hotline  **954-567-2841**

for Hotline additions, call Harold @ 954-566-9817

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

Executive Committee Chair
Harold Hancock 954-566-9817

Secretary
Louis Serra 954-442-0880

Treasurer
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411

Conservation Chair
George Cavros 954-295-5714

Marine Issues / Energy Issues Chair
Pedro Monteiro 954-525-3324

Political Chair
Matthew Schwartz 954-764-2739

Legal Chair
Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131

Everglades Chair
Rod Tirrell 954-772-3865

Outings Chair
Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855

Education Chair
Open

Fundraising Chair
Open

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

Executive Committee Member
Leigh Buckner

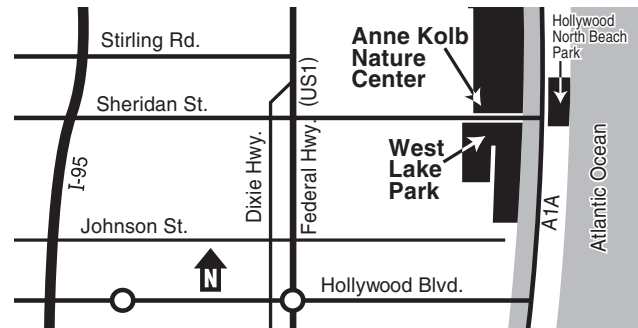
Broward Sierra News is published monthly for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

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.

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. 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.



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 954-566-9816 or e-mail hdhcpa@yahoo.com.

Everglades, continued from page 1

the ACE promised nearly 4 million acre feet of water storage in under ground Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells...negating need for land acquisition. Fraught with problems, ASR will provide a very limited solution and an expensive drain on funds needed to acquire and restore adequate marsh lands.

After surrendering to sugar interests to extend the polluting Everglades Forever Act for 14 more years, Governor Bush erected his own land acquisition program (Accelcor8). He directed the SFWMD to buy land irrespective of the ACE partnership, for impounds and reservoirs which are conveniently sited near agriculture and growth centers. Governor Bush has his own agenda for Everglades. One example, is his project to bring Scripps into East Everglades. With no notice to EVCO, prior to the conference, Bush traveled to Washington to "lobby" the Justice Department to abandon the 14 year old Federal Court "consent decree" which authorized cleanup of Everglades waters. That court order invoked the creation of nearly 40,000 acres of publicly funded Storage Treatment Areas (STA) to reduce sugar's phosphorous runoff into the Everglades. Vastly undersized, some STA's are showing stress from Lake Okeechobee sediment waste (600 ppb) dumped in after last year's hurricanes. Scientists recommend another 31,000 acres of STA's to prevent them from becoming phosphorous "sinks," where plants and soils become too saturated to leach phosphorus from inflows. The SFWMD claims progress in reducing phosphorus entering Everglades National Park, under 30ppb, but the base of the food chain in the Glades, known as "periphyton" algae, is lost to aggressive cattail strands above 10ppb. SFWMD's continued sucrose and farm servitude south and north of Lake Okeechobee maintains this once proud bass fishing empire as a nitrate and phosphorous effluent dump.



Sierra Club's Jon Ullman, led a yeoman's effort to convince Congress and ACE to replace the eastern 11 miles of St. Rd. 41, Tamiami Trail (dam) with a causeway or "Skyway," (<http://build-the-skyway.com>). This \$300+ million project would restore NE

Shark Slough (where one of three populations of the endangered Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow reside) by re-establishing natural flows into Everglades National Park. Removing the Tamiami Trail dam would also restore Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3-B, a deep impound of water north of Tamiami Trail. Water regimes in WCA-3B are so askew, inflows sometimes travel "north" and WCA-3B seepage losses are exacerbated by stacking water vertically. Removing the Tamiami dam, WCA-3B would revert to historical shallow, meandering flows cleansed by Glades vegetation and limerock substrate. Conserving seepage losses might negate needed storage elsewhere and provide more water for the "ridge and slough" system. Percolating through limerock, surface waters would be scrubbed naturally on their way to renourish the Biscayne Aquifer, South Florida's only source of drinking water.

Sadly, at the EVCO conference the ACE dismissed the Skyway as "too expensive." Ironic for an agency that proposes to spend over \$10 billion on pumps and water control structures for CERP's "managed" restoration. The Skyway would take the ACE/SFWMD out of the water management business for these zones and cheaply restore a huge swath of non-managed Glades marsh. So where is the restoration after 5 years of CERP? Nearly \$1 billion into CERP, there is little or no restoration. Where are the new rookeries? Where are phosphorous converted cattail strands reverting to sawgrass marsh? They are still many years away.

Broward County is also home to WCA 2B, the only water body to come up "red" in every CERP run and currently abandoned for restoring historic flows. Where WCA 3B is rife for restoration, the city (dam) of Weston will require WCA 2B waters to be drawn down by pumps. All in all, there is very little to cheer about for long term recovery. Congress has appropriated funding this year to begin building the ACE's recommended two bridges along Tamiami Trail which will channel waters rather than flow them over a wide area. Channelized waters don't meander or percolate; they require a heightened unnatural head, just to flow. With Governor Bush lobbying for polluters and cities abutting Everglades, let's hope science re-enters the CERP plan someday...before Congress gets wind of Bush meddling and slashes future Glades funding.

HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE ADDITION LANDS



Matt Schwartz will continue to lead groups out to new areas of the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Lands. Due to scheduling difficulties, these trips are not listed in the current newsletter. However, check out the 'Outings and Events' section of the Broward Sierra Club Group's website for future hikes (<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>)

You can also contact Matt directly at matthew3222@yahoo.com for more information about outings or the current status of the General Management Plan for the Addition.

BROWARD SIERRA CLUB TURNS 30!

It's hard to believe that it was 30 years ago that our Broward group had their first meeting and began organizing. We have come a long way since then, and many different faces have emerged in the club. In our early days, we had a core of active members that spent a lot of weekends hiking, canoeing, and camping all over Florida.

If you were one of those early members, you will be interested to attend a 30th reunion that is being planned for the weekend of May 20th.

Lucy Turner was one of our first presidents, and she is the instigator of this bash. Currently we're thinking about a picnic in a local park on May 20th. If you would like to be a part of the celebration, you can contact Lucy via e-mail at: LTURNER744@aol.com or Sharon Beal at 954-467-8528

The Sierra Club Miami Group Cordially invites you to the rescheduled "Harvest Moon" Dinner and Dance Fundraiser with Special Guest Speaker Jim DeFede

Date: Friday, March 24, 2006

Location: The Rusty Pelican Restaurant
3201 Rickenbacker Causeway, Key Biscayne

Time: 7:00 PM to Midnight

Attire: Business Casual/Cocktail
*Open Bar, Buffet Dinner & Dancing,
Door Prizes & Silent Auction*

\$100.00 per person

RSVP by March 17th, 2006 Maria Papazian
at 305-519-0877

All previously made reservations will be honored for this date

Broward Sierra Group Outings

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



MAR 5TH, SUN. RESTORATION DAY AT FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER – CYPRESS CREEK. An opportunity to give something back to the community, your Sierra group and Mother Nature! We're talking volunteer work here, doing whatever is needed at a local park to restore it to its natural beauty. Help keep it wild and clean, while repaying our debt to the park system for the generosity of our beautiful meeting room. Only 3-4 hours on a Sunday morning. No experience needed. Bring water and sunscreen. *Cost: FREE!!!*
Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or jfisher@bigfoot.com



MAR 11TH, SAT. WILDFLOWER BIKE RIDE IN EVERGLADES NATL. PARK WITH ROGER HAMMER. Take a leisurely bike ride on Long Pine Key, in ENP to Pine Glades Lake and back, approximately 12 miles. Entire trip takes about 4 hours. Learn about the 'native' wildflowers and how they lure their pollinators, in this unique ecosystem. Bikes available for rent or bring your own. Rated Moderate, due to distance. *Cost: Mem. \$25 (bring own bike), \$30 (rent trec bike); Non-mem. \$30 & \$35. PLUS \$10 per car entrance into park.*
Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or jfisher@bigfoot.com
Assistant Leader: Kip Fisher same phone number



MAR 12TH, SUN. 4 PM – ECO-WALK AT WAKODAHATCHEE WETLANDS west of Boynton Beach - www.pbcwater.com/wakodahatchee. Rated Leisure. Limit 20. *Cost: FREE.*
Tom Poulson, 561-630-3643 or tomandliz@adelphia.net
Sponsored by the Loxahatchee Group



MAR 18TH, SAT. HIKE, WILDERNESS TRAIL, BIG CYPRESS NAT'L PRESERVE. From 8:15 am to approximately 4 pm. we'll hike 8 miles on a wilderness trail, blazed blue, off Section II of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley where you'll learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora, as you trek through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie. Some of the trail follows overgrown roadbeds, but most is over the natural terrain of Big Cypress. Water can be ankle deep. Bring your own lunch to cook, which we'll eat on the trail. Rated moderate to strenuous, due to distance and 'back country' trails, with trees downed by Wilma. *Cost: Mem. \$3 donation; Non-mem. \$5.*
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954-627-2665 or Katrhead@prodigy.net



NEW DATE/LEADER FOR CORKSCREW SWAMP!!!
MAR 19TH, SUN. CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY. A casual 2.25 mile trek on a raised, wheelchair-accessible boardwalk allows you to experience 4 distinct environments: pine upland, wet prairie, cypress forest, and marsh. A park naturalist will accompany us so you can learn the wide variety of birds, reptiles, mammals, and plants that inhabit this area from a comfortable vantage point. Rated: Leisure. *Cost: Mem. \$15 donation; Non-mem. \$17*
Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or jfisher@bigfoot.com



MAY 13TH, SAT. SUNSET CRUISE ON A TALL SHIP IN BISCAYNE BAY FUNDRAISER. Enjoy a sunset sail on a 3-masted schooner, out of Miami and around northern Biscayne Bay. The 2 hour sail includes snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own. Bring a friend or group of friends and enjoy conversation with 'like-minds' or just sit back and take in the fresh, salt air. Rated: Easy. *Cost: Mem. \$25; Non-mem. \$30.*
Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or jfisher@bigfoot.com
Assistant Leader: Kip Fisher (same phone number)

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 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 954-567-2841.

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE:

<<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>

needs from renewables by the year 2020 (the U.S. has no such plan). It is leading the world in the production of wind energy with 14,609 MW of wind power. The German investment in renewable energy has paid off: it has over 60,000 people employed in the design, manufacture and installation of wind and solar energy systems. It is also uniquely positioned



to export its expertise to other countries. Other examples abound. The largest wind turbine production company is in Denmark, while Japan has grabbed half the global market share of solar photovoltaic (PV) cells production. On the drawing board: Sharp and Sanyo PV factories right here in the United States.

Luckily, states and municipalities aren't sitting idly by in the face of federal inaction. *Twenty one* states have implemented Renewable Portfolio Standards mandating that their public utilities provide a certain percentage of their energy from renewables by a certain date. Unfortunately, Florida has no such plan yet, even though we're home to one of the county's premiere solar research facilities: the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa, Florida. What can be done at the local level here in Florida?

Miami-Dade County is a shining example of how a *county* can fill the federal leadership void by leading at the local level. The county has adopted a detailed, comprehensive CO₂ reduction plan that is today reducing CO₂ emissions produced within the county by measures that include: energy efficiency improvements to municipal buildings and water treatment facilities, streetlight retrofits, public transit improvements, installation of renewable power applications, and methane recovery from waste management. Miami-Dade County has also created a Climate Change Adaptation Task Force to incorporate anticipated climate change (such as rising sea levels) into public policy decisions (www.miamidade.gov/derm/globalwarming/home.asp).

Alachua County has a similar comprehensive global warming pollution reduction strategy. Leon County has resolved to implement a plan this

year that reduces county global warming emissions. Broward County should do the same.

As stated recently in a Sun Sentinel editorial, it's disheartening that the United States, the world's largest producer of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, has no national leadership on global warming. But if others follow Miami-Dade's lead, perhaps America can join the community of responsible nations without going through Washington.

SPOTTED DURING THE BIG CYPRESS HIKE LAST MONTH!

You just never know what you'll see...



Jackie Fisher took this photo during the Feb. 11th hike with Kathleen Rhoad off Section II of the Florida National Scenic Trail. The next Big Cypress hike will be on March 18th. (See Outings on the previous page for details.)

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"/>	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

F94Q

W3302 1

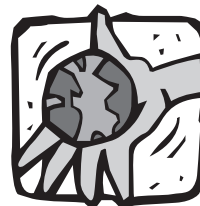
Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club**
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968



Computer Technical Support Services and Consulting

SEAN ATKINSON
technology analyst
immediate@bellsouth.net

Tel: 954.394.4828
Fax: 954.212.0204
www.immediatetech.net



You CAN save the world AND protect your health

Toxin-Free Products

Combine Ancient Wisdom & Modern Technology

Call 1-888-864-9923 (Toll Free)

ADVERTISE IN THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS

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>.