

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

**Endangered Species Live to Fight Another Day**

It is becoming increasingly likely that no U.S. Senate action will be taken this year on weakening the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. House of Representatives had passed a bill, authored by Rep. Pombo (R-CA), which would have gutted major provisions of the Act, such as eliminating critical habitat designation, effectively opening up federal lands to oil, mining and timber interests, and placing many endangered species at risk. Failure to reach bi-partisan consensus has stalled action in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Although talks continue, the stalemate is welcome news. The House-passed bill is extreme and no matter what the Senate

produced, the final product would likely be unacceptable because of the need to combine the two efforts.

Only nine species have gone extinct since 1973 when the Endangered Species Act was signed into law, while more than 1,250 species have been saved and currently share protection under the law. The Endangered Species Act protects 111 endangered and threatened plants and animals right here in Florida, from the well-known American Alligator and Florida Panther to the less-known Four-Petal Paw-Paw plant.



**Global Warming Reaching Political Tipping Point**

There's been a frenzy of media coverage of global warming over the last month – and not a moment too soon. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists have confirmed that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are changing the chemistry of our oceans. Our oceans have been absorbing enormous amounts of human-induced CO<sub>2</sub> since the Industrial Revolution. NOAA concluded that the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption is making our oceans more acidic. A more acidic ocean makes it more difficult for shellfish and corals to create calcium carbonate skeletons, placing their long term survival at risk.

While our ecosystem may be approaching a "tipping point" from which global warming impacts may be irreversible, it's heartening to see that our Senators are approaching a political "tipping point." The Senate recently held hearings on how to reduce U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through a cap and trade system. Since voluntary measures have failed in reducing U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> levels, we need a credible federal policy that reduces total US CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within a specific timeframe. The Senate hearings are a good first step. It's no longer a question of if we will regulate CO<sub>2</sub>, but merely a question of when. Senator Martinez still allies himself with the shrinking minority that resists

*continued on page 4*

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for Hotline additions, call Harold @ 561-417-0216

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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.

We need a new Program Chair for Broward Sierra as Joyce Tarnow will be moving out of the area this summer. If you are interested in filling this role for the club, call Joyce at 954-942-7278 and she will be glad to teach you her routine made easy.

**Broward Sierra Programs**

**May 2nd: Nature Conservancy**

Laura Geselbracht, Marine Conservation Planner for the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, will describe the acquisitions and protected status of lands in Southeast Florida by the Nature Conservancy.



Laura has over twenty years of professional experience in environmental policy and planning, conservation, and resource management. She has been with The Nature Conservancy for ten years and has worked on Everglades and other South Florida issues as well as marine conservation. She recently headed development of a marine site prioritization framework for Florida and the marine component of Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and is currently coordinating the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy's marine science efforts and Big Bend seagrass action plan.

**June 6th: TBA**

Check <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>> for updates.

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

- Executive Committee Chair**  
Harold Hancock 561-417-0216
- Secretary**  
Louis Serra 954-442-0880
- Treasurer**  
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
- Conservation Chair**  
George Cavros 954-295-5714
- Marine Issues / Energy Issues Chair**  
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Anita Lind 954-983-3709
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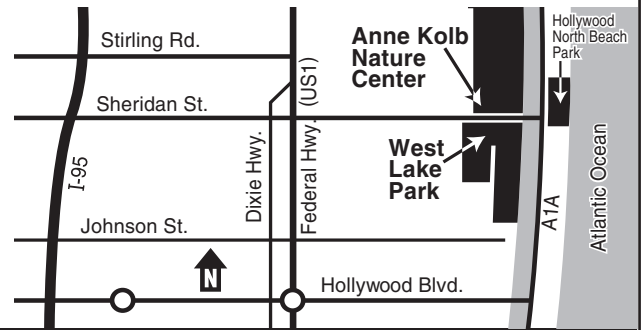
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**Membership Corrections -**  
To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to:  
**Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, 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.



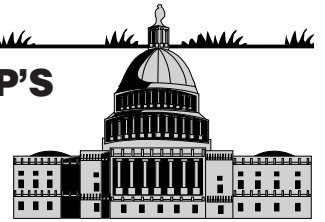
## Executive Committee Meetings

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).

We'd like to send a big THANK YOU to **Casey's Corner Nursery** (31877 SW 197 Ave., Homestead, FL. 33030, 305 -248-7284) for the donation of 3 native plants for the raffle at our April general meeting.

## GREETINGS FROM THE BROWARD GROUP'S NEW POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND A CALL FOR YOUR HELP AND INPUT

*By Matthew Schwartz, Political Chair*



As was announced at the last monthly meeting, the Broward Group's Political Committee is once again in operation. The committee consists of myself as Chair, with committee members George Cavros, also our Group's Conservation Chair, and Brion Blackwelder, an NSU law professor and former director of the Florida League of Conservation Voters.

To help understand what a political committee does, I've included the mission statement from the most recent Sierra Club Political Committee Compliance Guidelines:

The mission of the Sierra Club political program is to preserve the environment through nonpartisan grassroots political action. The principal goals of the program are:

- (1) To elect candidates who will support and promote environmental protection;
- (2) To raise public awareness about environmental issues and elevate the priority of these issues for decision-makers;
- (3) To encourage Club members and other environmentalists to participate in the political process;
- (4) To advance the Club's conservation agenda by building relationships with legislators and other elected officials; and
- (5) To strengthen the Sierra Club's capacity to elect pro-environment candidates at every level of government.

In order to meet these goals, our new committee would like to have as much input as possible from the membership of the Broward Sierra Group. We want the issues that we advocate and the candidates that we endorse to truly reflect

your hopes and ideas. You can help us do that by taking just a few minutes to send me an email with the following information:

1. What do you believe are the most pressing environmental issues that our County faces today? We asked this question at the last monthly meeting and the responses were interesting and in some cases surprising. Please feel free to write any of your concerns relating to the environment and 'quality of life' here in Broward County.
2. If you know of any candidate running for local office (e.g. State House or Senate, City or County Commission) that you believe is worthy of a Sierra Club political endorsement, please let us know the name of that person. Our committee will research the candidate and come to a decision along with our Group's Executive Committee as to his or her suitability for a Sierra Club endorsement.
3. Let us know if you would be willing to volunteer as a political campaigner, working to actually elect an endorsed candidate by canvassing, phone banking, doing computer or office work, or participating in other activities that may be necessary to a campaign.

As we all know by now, November, 2006 is shaping up to be a very important election. Let's also make it an opportunity to bring environmental concerns and awareness to the political process here in Broward County.

Please address all responses and any questions you may have to: [matthew3222@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew3222@yahoo.com)

Thanks for your help.

## BE A FORCE FOR CHANGE

By Emma McCauley, Sierra Student Coalition  
(the student-run arm of the Sierra Club)

This summer, let the Sierra Student Coalition change your life.

Have you ever seen an environmental problem in your neighborhood or on your campus, but you weren't sure what you could do about it? Want to get involved or be more effective for the environment in your school or community?

Every year, the Sierra Student Coalition runs a series of week-long summer programs for environmentally minded high school and college students. While there, you will meet people who share a common love for the environment and new ideas for how to make things better.

The programs combine rustic settings and outdoor activities with intense training on how to plan and run environmental campaigns, communicate effectively and build campus environmental groups. Guest speakers provide new insights into the problems facing our planet and how all of us can get involved to solve them.

Many past participants have gone on to become leaders in their student environmental groups and Sierra Club Chapters, bringing them to new levels of organization and effectiveness.

Get more information at [www.ssc.org](http://www.ssc.org) or by calling 1-888-JOIN-SSC.

2006 Student Summer Training Program dates and locations:

- June 19-25 North Carolina
- June 26-July 2: Minnesota
- July 17-23: Washington
- July 24-30: Environmental Justice, near LA, CA
- August 14-20 Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico: Dates TBA: (Native Spanish-speakers only, please)

## DON'T DOWNLIST THE MANATEES

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWCC) Biological Review Panel has issued a report recommending that manatees be downlisted from endangered to threatened status on the state level.

Manatees are poised to be downlisted regardless of how they are faring in the wild because of a calculated effort by special interest groups opposed to boat speed zones and restrictions on development.

The FWCC has done its part by adopting listing/delisting criteria so stringent that manatees would have to be at risk of undergoing an 80% decline in population before they could be listed as endangered.

In June, the Commissioners will vote to finalize the manatee's listing status, but we need to act now. We need to flood the office of Florida Governor Jeb Bush with calls and letters. Please call his office at 850-488-7146 to express your concern.



## Broward Sierra Group Outings

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



**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 explore 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. Jackie will pass out cards listing the best seafood choices to conserve our fish population. Rated Easy. *Cost: Mem. \$25; Non-mem. \$30.* (Broward Group)

Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855

or [jfisher@bigfoot.com](mailto:jfisher@bigfoot.com)

Assistant Leader: Kip Fisher (same phone number)



**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)



**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)

## 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](mailto:matthew3222@yahoo.com) for more information about outings or the current status of the General Management Plan for the Addition.



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.

For all Broward Group outings, make your check payable to: Broward Sierra Outings. Include the name and date of the trip on your check. Also include your name, phone number, email and street address. Mail 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>>**

action on global warming. Please contact the Senator and ask him to join mainstream science and exhibit some leadership by supporting mandated caps on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within a specific timeframe. You can send an email to Senator Martinez by visiting <<http://martinez.senate.gov/public>>

### The Year of the Fish

The Magnuson-Stevens Act, our nation's fishery law, first passed in 1976, will likely be reauthorized and strengthened this year. The use of science will play a much larger role in setting catch limits on our fisheries. Overfishing is one of the major threats facing our oceans. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the agency entrusted with managing our fish stocks, admits that 1/3 of our fisheries for which they have information are overfished. That means that fishing boats are pulling fish out of the water faster than they can reproduce. Florida's depleted species consist primarily of snappers and groupers.

Catch limits are set by 8 regional fishery management councils that consult with NMFS, but in reality the councils drive the quota process. The councils have an inherent conflict of interest since many council representatives are commercial fishermen. The reauthorization bill introduced by Senator Stevens would place hard catch limits based on science. If a council surpasses that limit, the overage would be deducted from next year's catch limit. There are senators in the New England area that are trying to weaken that language in order to protect the New England fishing community that finds itself in dire straits because of obsessive overfishing. Please feel free to contact Senators Nelson and Martinez and encourage them to resist attempts to weaken the hard catch limits in the Stevens bill. Our Senators' contact information can be found at <<http://www.senate.gov>>

**Reminder:** If you think you might want to become involved in conservation issues with the Broward Sierra Group, please feel free to contact me at <[gscprop@yahoo.com](mailto:gscprop@yahoo.com)>

## Join the Sierra Club and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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**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.

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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	\$25		Life	\$1000	\$1250
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Contributing	\$150	\$175	Limited Income	\$24	\$32

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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)>