



Broward Sierra News



Vol. XXVIII No. 8 Oct 2006

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

NOVEMBER MASS TRANSIT SALES TAX VOTE: What You Need to Know

By George Cavros, Conservation Chair

On the November 7th ballot, you will be asked to cast a vote on whether to approve an increase in your sales tax from 6% to 7% to fund mass transit in Broward County. The funds projected to be raised over a 30 year time period will total \$12 billion dollars. \$5.5 billion dollars is earmarked for construction while \$7 billion dollars will cover operation and maintenance of the constructed projects.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS WILL YOUR TAX DOLLARS FUND?

The plan adopted by the Broward County Commission is a hybrid of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Broward Transit Inventory Plan. The plan is being promoted by a private consulting group called People for Progress with a website at: www.keepbrowardmoving.com.

The need for improved mass transit within Broward County and connectivity to Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties is imperative. The county commission is expected to permit housing for another 1 million people in Broward County by the year 2030. While our community will experience a 50% increase in traffic, it is expected that there will only be a 12% capacity improvement to our roadways. The establishment of a trust fund has been proposed to handle the revenue with a Citizens Oversight Committee to administer the trust fund.

It is important to note that only 65% of the monies raised will be specifically earmarked for mass transit. Twenty five percent will be funneled into road improvements and another 10% will be split among Broward's 31 municipalities to use on transportation related projects.

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POLITICAL REPORT

By Matt Schwartz, Political Chair

As the very critical midterm elections draw near, Broward County and the Broward Group of the Sierra Club are right in the thick of it. In the entire state of Florida, there is only one U.S. Congressional race deemed 'competitive' – the contest in U.S. House District 22 (mainly the Atlantic coast straddling both Broward and Palm Beach Counties), which pits Florida State Senator Ron Klein, a 14 year member of the Florida State Legislature (Democrat - State Senate District 30) against Representative E. Clay Shaw (Republican - U.S. House District 22), a 24 year, 12 term incumbent.

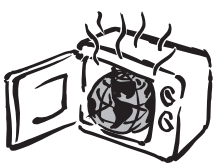
Senator Ron Klein has received the Sierra Club's full endorsement. While we appreciate the commitment E. Clay Shaw has shown to Everglades restoration over the years, regrettably that record of accomplishment has been overshadowed by his numerous anti-environmental votes which have often been in stark contrast to our Club's positions. To mention only a few examples, Representative Shaw is completely committed to oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and voted many times to support it. He has made numerous votes in favor President Bush's National Energy Policy with its complete dependence on increased fossil fuel production, virtually no development of alternative energy sources, and weakening of national environmental regulations in the pursuit of energy. Congressman Shaw stands against roadless areas in our National Forests and even voted against an amendment which would have prohibited the use of Federal dollars to pay for commercial logging roads in the Tongass National Forest (America's largest National Forest and the world's largest remaining old-growth temperate rainforest). Finally, E. Clay Shaw voted against a bipartisan amendment which would have banned snowmobiles from Yellowstone National Park. This vote was made in spite of studies which demonstrated negative consequences to both wildlife and visitors. With about half of all of south Florida's lands managed by the National Park Service, the issue



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October Broward Sierra Program

October 3rd: Global Warming and the End of Petroleum: Physics and Economics by Dr. Robert Messenger



A presentation covering simplified physics of global warming, who uses energy for what, some renewable energy examples, and the economics of renewable energy and energy efficiency – what makes good economic sense and what does not?

Dr. Messenger is Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering at FAU, a registered professional engineer in Florida and a certified electrical contractor in Florida. He designs PV systems and does his best to educate the public, the construction industry, city hall and the legislature about the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

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.

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SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY

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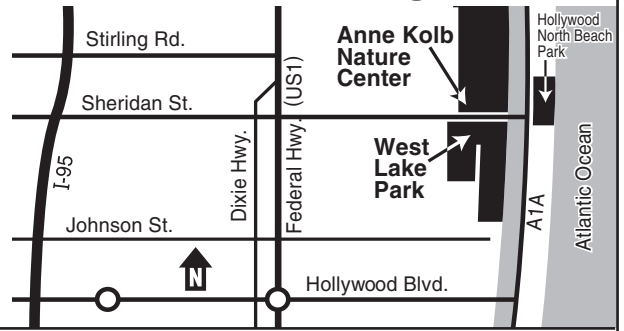
Broward Sierra News is published monthly for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

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. 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 on the right). 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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP – GET INVOLVED!

The Broward group still needs to fill the important positions of **Program Chair** (lines up the programs for our general meetings), **Newsletter Mailing Coordinator** (coordinates labeling, sorting & mailing), and **Fundraising Chair**. If you have questions about a particular position or want to get involved, please contact Harold Hancock at 561-417-0216 or Louis Serra at 954-442-0880.



Political Report, continued from page 1

of recreational vehicle usage (not snowmobiles, but airboats, off-road vehicles and personal watercraft) damaging these very vulnerable lands is central to the Broward Group's mission.

In contrast to this record, Ron Klein is committed to ending our nation's dependence on fossil fuels and sees the threat of global warming as one of the most serious obstacles to the survival of our entire civilization. He is committed to a "21st Century energy policy" which uses science and technology to help develop alternative sources of energy which do not add to either the problem of global warming or the soaring profits of America's energy corporations. On a recent trip to Israel with Congressman Robert Wexler, Ron Klein noted enormous use of solar energy panels on individual homes and would push hard for the 'Sunshine State' to become the new 'solar energy capital' of our country. He is completely against oil development in ANWR and off the coast of Florida. Finally, Senator Klein is committed to maintaining our remaining public natural areas in as pristine a condition as possible without the damaging effects to land and wildlife caused by the introduction of motorized recreational vehicles.

The race for District 22 is predicted to be one of the costliest and most closely watched House races in the country this year. Both President Bush and Vice-President Cheney have each held very successful local fundraisers for E. Clay Shaw. As they and the rest of the country are aware, this race may well be the one which determines who controls the U.S. House of Representatives. And with committee chairs like Richard Pombo of the House Committee on Natural Resources (which actually managed to pass a revision to the Endangered Species Act

which removes 'critical habitat' protection from the Act on the basis of it being too costly to landowners), we in the Sierra Club want a say in who controls the U.S. House of Representatives as well.

The Klein campaign is seeking out volunteers for door to door canvassing, answering phones, helping with mailings, etc. Whether or not you live in District 22, if you are interested in helping out please contact Field Director Julie Petrick at (954) 941-2965 or email her at julie@ronklein2006.com.

There are a number of Sierra endorsements still to be made, including local races and the Florida race for Governor. While these were not available at press time, they should be ready by the time you receive this newsletter.

Please – we need your email addresses in order to contact you about these and other important alerts in the future. *The Broward Sierra Club website is completely off limits to information on political endorsements due to IRS rules on not-for-profit organizations.* If you wish to receive updated news and action alerts, please contact our webmaster Carole Walsh at carolewalsh@mindspring.com and give her your email address. If your email address has changed since you registered with the Sierra Club it would be helpful if you provided Carole with a current one.

Also, if anyone still needs to register to vote here in Florida, please contact the Broward Supervisor of Elections Office at 954-357-7050 or www.browardsoe.org. The deadline is October 10th for the November election.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have with regard to this article at 954-764-2739 or matthew3222@yahoo.com.

OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING

The South Florida Outings Groups do what needs to be done! Twenty-three Outings Leaders and future OL's from South Florida attended the course at TY Park in Hollywood, earning credentialing for trips away from civilization. Pictured are members learning how



to rescue the wounded, ill or misbehaved back into safety's arms. Eight of the participants were from the Broward Group. Special thanks to Jim Gross of Miami and Jackie Fisher of Broward.

Some of the participants at the Advanced Outdoor Activities Leadership training held outside of Tampa from September 8th through 10th. From left to right, Judy Kuchta (Broward Outings Chair), Matt Schwartz (Broward Political Chair), Sascha Paris (National Outings Training Manager), and Eduardo Gonzalez (Outings Chair) and Linda Commander (Outings Leader) both from the Sierra Club's newest and fastest growing Chapter - Puerto Rico.



Speaking of which... At the end of January 2007, we'll be welcoming in the New Year in Puerto Rico for 4-5 days. We're working in conjunction with the new Sierra Club Puerto Rico Chapter. If you are seriously interested, contact Leader Judy Kuchta at judykuchta@yahoo.com for further details.

Mass Transit, continued from page 1

The reason provided for the 25% diversion to highway construction is that Broward's \$100 million per year road building/maintenance budget is under-funded by some \$30 million dollars per year and a dedicated source of funding is needed to apply for federal matching highway monies to fill the gap.



MORE MASS TRANSIT FUNDS

- Nearly \$2.7 billion is programmed for major Light Rail (LRT) and high capacity transit lines. Another \$780 million is budgeted for Bus Rapid Transit projects on major corridors throughout the county.
- \$170 million will be spent to develop new and upgrade existing bus garages.
- \$180 million will be spent to upgrade the existing transit centers, develop 8-10 new centers, and develop park-and-ride lots.
- \$136 million is budgeted for passenger amenities such as upgrades to bus stops, shelters, sidewalks, and information systems.

Broward County lacks an effective mass transportation system. The sheer spatial extent of Broward County and the poor land use decisions of the past that permitted urban sprawl have created monumental challenges to developing a county-wide integrated mass transit network. Given the nature of the challenge, *the Sierra Club will advocate that a larger percentage of the sales tax be dedicated to legitimate mass transit projects.* In the meantime, be sure to cast your vote on a host of issues and candidates in what is shaping up as a critical election cycle.

Local Sierra Group Outings

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

OCT 14, SAT. NOBLE HAMMOCK CANOE.

Paddle an interesting canoe loop trail in Everglades National Park located just north of West Lake. We will attempt to find the hidden canoe trail to West Lake. Join us in this adventure, observing lots of wildlife and gators as we go. Rated Moderate. Limit 16. *Members \$35, non-members \$40.* Contact Leader Jim Gross at 305-665-2401 <JMGross3013@aol.com> (Miami Group)



OCT 15, SUN. OUTINGS LEADER POWWOW.

All outings leaders are invited/needed to help plan our annual calendar of outings. Assistants and general membership welcome. 1-5pm. *FREE.* Location TBA. Leader Judy Kuchta (305) 308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com> (Broward Group)



OCT 21, SAT. WEST LAKE KAYAK. Let's use those advanced skills! No lessons-just pure kayaking for 4 hours at our own pace. Enjoy the beauty and learn about the ecology of this mangrove estuary and saltwater lake. Prerequisite is the intermediate lesson or previous kayak experience. Rated Moderate. Limit 18. *Members \$25, non-members \$30. Lunch included.* Leader Judy Kuchta (305) 308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com> (Broward Group)



OCT 21-22, SAT.-SUN. JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK CAMPING. Near Jupiter. Join us for camping, hiking, canoeing and BBQ. Rated Leisure. Limit 10. *Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.* Contact Leader Ed Zaret (305) 586-3564 (Miami Group)



NOV 11-12, SAT.-SUN. CANOEING AND PRIMITIVE CAMPING ON FISHEATING CREEK. West of Lake Okeechobee. Rated Moderate. Limit 20. *\$65/person includes canoe rental, transport, and 4 meals. \$40/person with own canoe. No charge for children under 12 in parent's canoe.* Contact Leader Charles Hunt (561) 967-4770 <sierra@smartsolutions.com> or Mike Baird (561) 965-7237 <GSDad@bellsouth.net> (Loxahatchee Group)



Outing Leaders Wanted. Outing Leaders get involved, get active, meet new people, have fun, and attend their outings for free. (Assistant Leaders attend for half price.) If you are interested, contact Judy at (305) 308-8913 or judykuchta@yahoo.com

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 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: Judy Kuchta c/o 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>>**



STATE SENATOR RON KLEIN

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE ~ FLORIDA'S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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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



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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
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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.



	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>.