

## COAL PLANT SLATED FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THE EVERGLADES

– By George Cavros, Conservation Chair

In late December, Florida Power and Light submitted an application to state officials for the construction of a coal-fired power plant to be located in Glades County. At 1,960 Megawatts, it would be one of the largest coal-fired power plants in the nation. The plant would be a 5,000 acre industrial facility in the heart of the Everglades - next to Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee River, 5 miles from the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area and about 65 miles from Everglades National Park. The facility will have a plant life of over 50 years – spewing harmful pollutants (cited below) into the Everglades ecosystem every single day.

While the proposed power plant would be more efficient than older coal plants, serious environmental concerns remain. It's important to note that Broward County's rivers and 1,800 miles of canals are symbiotically linked to water quality in the Everglades. Broward's canals recharge our drinking water aquifer and are used for fishing. Contamination that impacts the Everglades impacts us.

### AIR ISSUES:

#### An Alphabet Soup of Toxins Emitted From the Plant

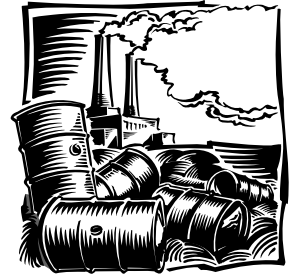
- **Mercury (Hg) 180 lbs per year:** - making it one of the largest emitters of Hg in Florida:

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin emitted when coal is burned. In 2004, EPA indicated that 1 in 6 women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her blood above EPA's safe health threshold. This places children born to these women, and children under age 12, at risk of developmental disorders from eating fish contaminated with mercury. It may also contribute to heart disease in adults.

Florida is under a statewide fish consumption advisory due to mercury contamination – including Broward County water bodies such as the

New River, and Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3. See: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/floridafishadvice/Fish\\_consumption\\_guide.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/floridafishadvice/Fish_consumption_guide.pdf)

FP&L claims that the mercury impacts will be minimal because mercury pollution is a global problem. Actually there is no "minimal" form or amount of mercury for the Everglades that is safe. A lengthy and comprehensive study conducted in 2002 by the EPA and Florida agencies, concluded that there was a direct correlation between local mercury emissions and local ecosystem mercury contamination. Simply stated, mercury emissions from the plant will increase local mercury deposition.



- **Nitrogen Oxide (NOx): 3,049 tons per year:**

NOx is emitted when burning fossil fuels. When combined with Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs – 260 tons per year) and sunlight, ground level ozone (smog) is created. Smog exacerbates respiratory conditions such as asthma. Recently, Everglades National Park Superintendent, Dan Kimball, sent a letter to DEP questioning FPL's modeling techniques and expressing concern about smog and haze in the Park.

See: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/Air/permitting/construction/fplglades/NPSGladesRAI.pdf>

- **Particulate matter (PM): over 1,000 tons per year:**

Particulate matter, or soot (a byproduct of oil and coal combustion) is a cancer causing agent and contributes to regional haze. Many particles of soot are so small that they bypass the body's defenses, lodging directly in the lungs. Stacks of studies have linked soot to lung cancer and heart problems.

*continued on page 4*

## Broward Sierra Programs

**Tuesday, April 3rd: Meet the Wildlife**, a fun and educational hands-on presentation using live animals and artifacts from the Sawgrass Nature Center. They will bring a variety of birds, mammals and reptiles, giving us a unique experience to get up close with nature.



The meeting and program will be held at the Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Rd. S., Pompano Beach (see map on next page).

**Wednesday, May 2nd:** Our guest speaker will be Dr. Richard Weisskoff, author of the book *The Economics of Everglades Restoration: Missing Pieces in the Future of South Florida*. (Rescheduled from Feb.)



The meeting and program will be held at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood (see map on next page).

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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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

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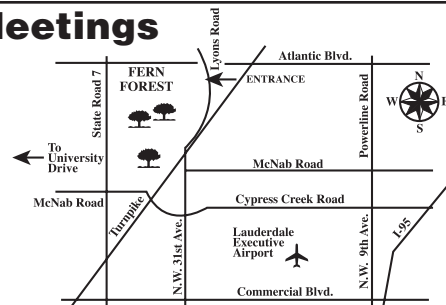
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**Membership Corrections -**  
To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to:  
**Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco,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

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held the first Tuesday or Wednesday of every month (see schedule below). **This month's meeting and program will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd at the Fern Forest Nature Center.** 201 Lyons Road South, Pompano Beach (see map). 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.

Next month's meeting will be back at the Anne Kolb Nature Center.



### 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 Barbara Curtis at 954-946-7359 or e-mail her at Legalbarb@aol.com.

### GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

In order to make our meetings more accessible to members in both the Northern and Southern parts of Broward County, we will be meeting at Anne Kolb Nature Center on the first Wednesday of every odd numbered month, and at the Fern Forest Nature Center the first Tuesday of every even numbered month.

Tues., April 3rd: Fern Forest	Wed., July 4th: TBA	Tues., October 2nd: Fern Forest
Wed., May 2nd: Anne Kolb	Tues., August 7th: Fern Forest	Wed., November 7th: Anne Kolb
Tues., June 5th: Fern Forest	Wed., September 5th: TBA	Tues., December 4th: Fern Forest

## SIERRA MEETING ON THE FLORIDA PANTHER

– By Matt Schwartz, Political Chair and Outings Leader

All Broward Sierrans interested in the plight of the Florida panther are invited to a workshop/meeting on Wednesday, April 4th. We will develop strategies to protect the 80 or so remaining Florida panthers and their very endangered habitat. On February 28, 2007 the National Park Service took us by surprise by re-opening recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) hunting in a protected area of Big Cypress National Preserve. We were given about a week's notice. Eastern Bear Island is an area of vast prairies and beautiful tree hammocks. In spring and summer wildflowers are everywhere. In addition to being considered the best habitat in the original preserve for the panther (and one of the best remaining in the entire state), due to an abundance of both game and tree cover, it is also unfortunately the most popular hunting area in the preserve.

This part of Bear Island was specifically closed to ORVs by the ORV management plan written for the preserve in 2000. The decision was based on solid scientific research conducted over a four year period which showed that panthers move away from areas utilized by hunters on ORVs. The scientists were also concerned that as more and more property outside of the preserve was developed, panthers would have fewer and fewer places to use as "refugia". This has in fact occurred with new development in southwest Florida cropping up everywhere. Eleven panthers were killed in 2006 by motor vehicles. Others were victims of 'intra-species aggression' where panthers, a solitary species, fight it out for the little habitat that remains. The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations are already fighting to overturn this terrible decision by the National Park Service

This workshop is a chance to learn about the Florida panther and the important decisions government agencies such as the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service make in determining whether Florida's only big cat is to have a future. Bring your interest, enthusiasm and skills.

Date: Wednesday, April 4th, 2007  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Stork's Bakery Las Olas  
1109 East Las Olas Blvd. - 954-522-4670

If you can't make the meeting but still want to participate in our efforts in this area please feel free to call or email me at 954-764-2739 <matthew3222@yahoo.com>.



**ORV Damage, Eastern Bear Island**  
Photo by Matthew Schwartz

## POT LUCK PICNIC ON THE BEACH

It's Barbara's birthday, and she invites you to join us for a pot luck picnic on the beach...

Date: **Saturday, April 7**, Time: **2 pm**  
Place: **John Lloyd Beach State Park** 6503 N. Ocean Drive, Dania.

Barbara will arrange drinks and veggie burgers to grill. Everyone bring a salad, dessert, or whatever you would like. (Passover food welcome.) For further information contact Barbara at 954-946-7359.





## WORDS AND DEEDS

– By Joyce Tarnow, Sierra Club member and Broward County Co-Ordinator for Florida Hometown Democracy

There are talkers and there are doers. Too often we have only a few people in our Broward Sierra family doing the work of making a healthier Florida for all of us to enjoy. We joined Sierra looking for outdoor adventures – hiking, biking and canoeing. These are the sociable and not the social aspects of being a Sierran. The social aspects are the activities that protect and defend our quality of life – the natural areas that we visit to gladden our hearts, and the ones that we experience every day.

In this social commitment, there are issues to track and to respond to. These are sometimes complex and require us to stay informed, to attend hearings, write letters and make phone calls. Some of us hesitate to participate in something that requires a fairly large commitment of time and attention.

One of the issues that has been named a primary project this year by Florida Sierra is the Florida Hometown Democracy campaign and this can take just a little of your time or a whole lot. And, you can do it on your own schedule.

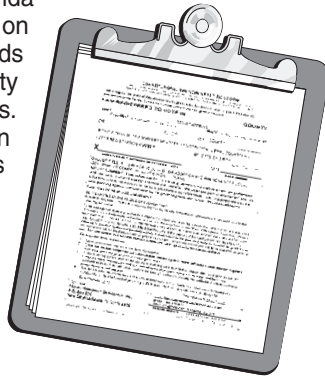
We need folks to collect the signatures of Florida registered voters to get a constitutional amendment on the November 2008 ballot that could save thousands of acres of virgin land and also prevent higher density developments in already overdeveloped communities. We ask each Sierran to think about spending an hour or two a week speaking to friends, co-workers and neighbors about saving what is left of Florida. You can also team up with other Sierrans to solicit signatures at supermarkets, festivals, concerts and baseball games.

We are 1/3 of the way to our goal of 611,000 signatures. We have 250,000 now and we need to get the rest plus a 20% margin of safety for those signatures that are not accepted by the Elections Supervisors.

We also need money, lots of money, so we can use paid collectors and also for printing petitions, shipping them, and paying the ten cents per signature certification. \$10 will cover certifying 100 signatures; \$150 will cover the cost of 100 paid collector signatures.

Will you help? This is our best shot at taking land use decisions away from our elected officials who too often give in to developer influence. The amendment states that any change or rewrite of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan will have to go, as a final step, to the voters in that community.

Florida needs your help. Information and petitions are available at [www.floridahometowndemocracy.com](http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com). You can also call me at 954-942-7278. Checks can be sent to FHD, P.O. Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32170-06736



## FROM THE CHAIR – A message from Barbara Curtis

I would like to thank everyone for all the help that has been given to me as the new Broward Sierra chairperson. I have enjoyed outings with Judy Kutcha and Matt Schwartz. I have assisted Andi Hagen with table topping events where we put out the good word and enlist new members. Carole Walsh has helped me with promoting meetings and events. Judy, Matt, and the other members of the executive committee have all assisted me greatly in my new role.

Lots of events are coming up that we all will want to be involved with. We have the April 3 meeting at Fern Forest with the folks and animals from the Sawgrass Nature Center. We have the April 7 picnic on the John Lloyd Beach. And we have The Earth Day Celebration April 21 on Deerfield Beach.

In my travels around our beautiful Florida, I sense that ordinary citizens don't want to see a power plant or a giant Walmart, in their neighborhood. People are waking up to the facts of pollution of our state by mercury, lawn fertilizers, toxins from industry and human waste which flow into our scenic rivers, the Gulf and the ocean. Reefs are being destroyed and red tide in the gulf is destroying the tourist industry. We can't eat our fish. We can't drink our water. We can't afford to gas up our vehicles. Let us join together and save our beautiful state! I hope to see 50+ faces at the next meeting and at the picnic and other events.

## Local Sierra Group Outings

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

### APRIL 21, SAT. HIKE THE WILDERNESS TRAIL, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE.

We'll hike 8 miles off a section of the Fla. National Scenic Trail north of Alligator Alley (about 50 minutes from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). You'll learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora as you trek through cypress forest, hammocks, and prairie. Rated moderate (water can be ankle deep). Bring your own lunch to eat on the hike. *Cost: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.*

Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954-627-2665  
<Katrroad@prodigy.net>



### APRIL 28, SAT. SUNSET CRUISE ON A TALL SHIP IN BISCAYNE BAY FUNDRAISER.

Enjoy a sunset sail on a 3-masted schooner, out of Miami, 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: Leisure. *Cost: \$25 members, \$30 on-members.*

Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855  
<jfisher@bigfoot.com>

Assistant: Kip Fisher (same phone & e-mail)



### MAY 5, SAT. SHARK VALLEY MOONLIGHT BICYCLE.

Rated moderate to difficult. Limit 20. No children age 18 or less. *Cost: \$5 members, \$7 non-members.*

Leader: Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001  
<judykuchta@yahoo.com>



**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 (954) 924-5001 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 sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.

**You may call the Sierra Hotline for updates at 954-567-2841**

**LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE:**

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

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>): 3,049 tons per year:**

SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a power plant in the Everglades would feed the bacteria which are responsible for converting mercury to its dangerous, methylated form. It is also a precursor to "acid rain" that deposits into water bodies – transforming our waterways into a more acidic, inhospitable environment for local plant life, animals and fish.

**Carbon dioxide: CO<sub>2</sub> – 16 million tons per year:**

Carbon dioxide emissions are a global warming pollutant. The warming of the planet is changing the climate. The Florida ecosystem is on the front line of impacts - rising sea levels would threaten the Florida coast with substantial impacts on human populations and ecologically sensitive areas. Power plants emit 40% of US CO<sub>2</sub> totals. This power plant will be the largest coal plant in Florida and one of the largest in the country. Therefore, it will likely be the largest point source emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution in the entire state.

**A BETTER WAY**

Progressive policies at the state and federal level can make 18th century technology, such as coal plants, obsolete. For instance, energy efficiency policies can offset most of the electricity demand growth in the state over the next 15 years – investment in renewable energy sources will further reduce the need for conventional coal power plants. These policies can serve over 45% of projected needs for electricity in 2023 – eliminating the need for the Glades coal plant. (See Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Potential for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to Meet Florida's Growing Energy Demands, February 2007). Bills increasing Florida's energy efficiency and creating a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction plan are already circulating through the legislative halls of Tallahassee this year as part of a push for a clean energy future. The proposed coal plant contradicts those efforts.

The Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Power Plant Siting Board may ultimately decide the fate of this polluting dinosaur later this year.

We will keep you informed as we may need your help in getting the message to the Governor and Cabinet that the Everglades, Broward County and the state deserve more progressive energy options.

Members wishing to learn more can contact me at: gscprop@yahoo.com

**EARTH DAY 2007**

Join us at the beach on Earth Day. The City of Deerfield Beach will hold the 9th annual Free Earth Day Festival at the Deerfield pier from 9am to 5pm Saturday April 21.

- Oceanwatch Pier cleanup
- Free Prizes, Crafts, Games & Raffle
- Community Art project
- Live Music
- Free Recycled Paint
- Free composting bins
- Free paper shredding (4 boxes per vehicle)
- .....and much more!!



Admission on the pier is free this one day only.

**OTHER EARTH DAY EVENTS**

**Saturday, April 14 Earth Day Festival at Birch State Park**

**Sunday, April 15 Earth Day at Anne Kolb Nature Center**

**Sunday, April 22 Earth Day/Work Day at John U. Lloyd Park.** Pot Luck BBQ, free admission at gate if you are there for the Work Day. (Parking Lot #2)

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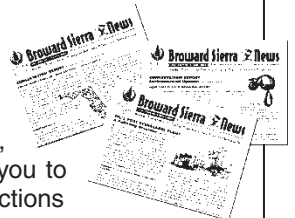
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Placing an ad in the Broward Sierra News does more than reach thousands of local, environmentally sensitive readers. It also helps to offset the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, making it possible to continue to alert you to issues of 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>.

**Join the Sierra Club 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.

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