

BROWARD SIERRA CLUB AND PUBLIC LANDS – END OF YEAR WRAP UP

– By Matthew Schwartz, Political Chair and Outings Leader

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;

To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;

To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

– Mission Statement of the Sierra Club

This has been a busy year for our Group's efforts to protect wildlands and habitat in Broward County's backyard. A big round of thanks is due all those who wrote in on many action alerts. You had an impact! And to those who were able to donate financially to our efforts, your concern and generosity were very much appreciated.

In the artificial world in which we live, it comes as a surprise to many, how much land surrounds us that is still wild. No less than three units of the National Park Service are only a short drive from downtown Ft. Lauderdale. And a huge assortment of National Wildlife Refuges, including the Loxahatchee in Palm Beach and the Key Deer in the Florida Keys, are close at hand.

The biodiversity is staggering. From the Florida black bears and panthers in the forests of Big Cypress National Preserve, to Florida Bay in Everglades National Park (the only place on earth where alligators and crocodiles are found side by side), wildlife viewing opportunities in South Florida are world renowned.

It was once thought that placing land in the stewardship of the National Park Service was the best means possible to protect natural lands. Unfortunately this is no longer the case. In Big Cypress, off-road vehicles have chewed up vast swaths of marshes and prairies simply for the sake of recreation. The damage to the soil and vegetation, the stress to wildlife and fragmentation of habitat, and the conflicts which inevitably arise when those who come to experience the sights and sounds of nature are instead confronted with 'traffic' are legendary.

In Everglades National Park, power boats have been permitted to destroy thousands of acres of seagrass which serve as the basis of life for countless species. Much of the waters of Florida Bay are simply too shallow to sustain their use without damage to the underlying substrate. In the Gulf Coast, the federally endangered manatee's leading cause of death is collision with power boats. Those who survive are often identified by the unique pattern of propeller scars left behind.

In the northern section of the park (specifically the newly acquired East Everglades Expansion area), no less than three airboat concessions and one private airboat club have completely transformed this beautiful piece of the Everglades in the heart of Shark River Slough into a network of airboat trails with virtually no access for the non-motorized paddler.

Below is a summarized list of actions that the Broward Group and other Sierra Club members have participated in locally with respect to our public lands during the past year.

Big Cypress National Preserve

- **The Addition Lands.** Comprising 146,000 acres of nearly pristine land only an hour from downtown Ft. Lauderdale, it is the most important remaining habitat for the Florida panther. The Sierra Club has called for the establishment of a new federally designated wilderness area to permanently protect this area from vehicles and commercial activities.
- **Eastern Bear Island.** Closed to ORVs by the National Park Service in 2000 to protect vanishing panther habitat and fragile marshes and prairies. The current preserve superintendent re-opened approximately 22 miles of trail

SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY

P.O. Box 350432
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

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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 Programs

Tuesday, Dec. 4th: Holiday Dinner & Silent Auction.

After announcements and meeting business, join us for fantastic food, friends & fun, and our fabulous silent auction (camping gear, art work, books, native plants, collectibles, and more). \$10/person donation for the meal (featuring vegetable lasagna and Barbara's famous gumbo)

The meeting and program will be held at the Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek.

Wednesday, Jan. 2nd: Diana Guidry of NatureScape Broward

will be talking to us and answering questions about creating Florida-friendly landscapes that conserve water, protect water quality, and create wildlife habitats in our own back yards.



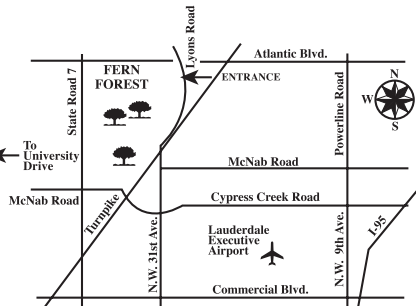
The meeting and program will be held at the Anne Kolb Nature Center on Sheridan St. in Hollywood (see map on next page).

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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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 Holiday Dinner & Auction will be held on Tuesday, December 4th at the Fern Forest Nature Center**, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (between Atlantic and Commercial Blvds., Lyons Road, south of Atlantic is the same street as NW 31st Ave., north of Commercial) (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.



January's meeting will be back at 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

We meet 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., Dec. 4th: Fern Forest

Wed., Jan. 2nd: Anne Kolb
Tues., Feb. 5th: Fern Forest
Etc.



EXCOM ELECTION BALLOT

MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 2008

According to the By-laws of the Broward Sierra Group, each Board Member will serve a two-year term, electing 4 candidates one year and 5 the next year.

This year we will vote for up to 5 candidates and 5 people will be elected to the EXCOM board. The Nominating Committee selected 5 candidates. If you have a joint membership, both members should select candidates for office by using the "First Member" and "Second Member" spaces. When you have completed your ballot, **clip on the dotted line** and mail to:

**Broward Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335**

Members may bring ballots to the December meeting.

All valid ballots must have either a printed newsletter mailing label on the reverse side or your membership number in the space provided:

Membership number:



	First Member	Second Member (if applicable)
George Cavros	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew Schwartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Blackwelder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ina Topper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Widener	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Write-in Candidates

_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please print your name in the space of any committees where you would be interested in serving.

Conservation Chair _____

Program Chair _____

Fundraising Chair _____

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator _____

Outings Leader _____

From the Editor

HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY IN THE HOME STRETCH

Well, this is it!! Time has almost run out for the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment. Signed petitions **MUST** be in FHD's possession by Dec. 31, 2007. This is the last newsletter you will receive before that date, so **DO IT NOW!!** You can download the petition from our website <florida.sierraclub.org/broward> (scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on the link) or from FHD's website <floridahometowndemocracy.com> (click on the "Sign the Petition" link).

For those of you who don't know, the Florida Hometown Democracy petition is for an amendment to the Florida constitution that will give voters control over how their area will grow and evolve (see <floridahometowndemocracy.com> for more information). If 611,000 petitions are verified by the Superintendent of Elections, then the amendment will appear on the 2008 ballot. The signed petitions are not votes for the amendment. They are only to place the amendment on the ballot. Then only if Florida voters vote for it, will the amendment become law.

Even though 600,000 petitions have been collected, the state rejects about 25% of them for various reasons (not a registered Florida voter, already has a petition on file, etc.). So far (as of Nov. 11) the state has verified



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

- Executive Committee Chair**
Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359
- 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 954-865-4306
- Legal Chair**
Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
- Everglades Chair**
Rod Tirrell 954-202-9263
- Outings Chair**
Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001
- Education Chair**
Open
- Fundraising Chair**
Open
- Membership Chair**
Andrea Saifman 954-817-1749
- Volunteer Coordinator**
Anita Lind 954-983-3709
- Program Chair**
Harold Hancock 561-417-0216
- Media**
Open
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Open
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Leigh Buckner 954-563-0073
- Executive Committee Member**
Brian Blackwelder 954-262-6135

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 Saifman 954-817-1749.

Local Sierra Group Outings

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



NOV. 24, SAT. WILDERNESS TRAIL HIKE, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. 8 miles on a side wilderness trail of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (about 50 min. 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 prairies. Rated moderate. Bring your own lunch to eat on the hike. *Cost: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.*
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954 627-2665 <katrroad@prodigy.net>
Asst. Leader: Nancy Lunz



NOV. 23-25, FRI.-SUN. JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK/ LOXAHATCHEE RIVER CAMP/HIKE AND CANOE. Canoe the wild and scenic Loxahatchee River. Walk the short Kitchen Creek Trail and/or part of the Florida Trail. Tent camp two nights amidst the pines and the palmettos. Transportation, canoe rental, campsite fees and most meals included. Rated moderate. Limit 8. *Cost: \$110 members, \$130 non-members.*
Leaders: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>
Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>



DEC. 15, SAT. 4 PM. ECOWALK AT FRENCHMAN'S FOREST NATURAL AREA IN PALM BEACH GARDENS. We will walk, with frequent stops, to look, listen and absorb, for about 1½ hours. Bring water, hat, sunscreen and binoculars. There are NO facilities at this natural area. Frenchman's Forest is located on the west side of Prosperity Farms Road, one mile north of PGA Boulevard. *Cost: FREE.* Rated leisure. Limit 10.
Leader: Lisa Hanley, 561-732-9578 <lisa.hanley@Juno.com>



DEC. 15, SAT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DAY HIKE. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We'll walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the nearby Gumbo Limbo trail, and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch (included) and walk a trail there. Time permitting, we'll go on to Pa-hay-okee Overlook. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll see gators, birds, turtles, fish, insects and maybe a snake or two. Rated leisure. Limit 10. *Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.*
Leaders: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>
Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>



DEC. 22, SAT. HIKE THE WILDERNESS TRAIL, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. (See Nov. 24)
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954 627-2665 <katrroad@prodigy.net>



JAN. 6, SUN. HELL'S BAY CANOE ORIENTEERING. Enjoy a challenging day of orienteering with map and compass while canoeing through mangrove-lined channels and islands in Everglades National Park. Rated strenuous depending upon wind/wave conditions. Limit 16. *Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members.*
Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401 <JMGross3013@aol.com>



JAN. 12, SAT. EAST RIVER DAY CANOE FUNDRAISER. Paddle approximately 8-10 miles, while exploring mangrove tunnels and small 'lakes', south of Tamiami Trail, just west of Route 29. Learn what inhabits this unique ecosystem. Check out pictures from a previous trip on the Broward Sierra Website, under 'Sierra Tales'. Paddles, life vests and canoes provided compliments of our host, John Judy of Florida Adventures. Bring your own lunch. Rated moderate to strenuous. *Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members.*
Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855
Asst. Leader: Kip Fisher (same number)



JAN. 12, SAT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DAY HIKE. (See Dec. 15)
Leaders: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>
Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>



JAN. 19, SAT. ECOWALK AT HIGH RIDGE SCRUB NATURAL AREA IN DELRAY BEACH. 4 pm. We will walk, with frequent stops to look, listen and absorb, for about 1½ hours. Bring water, hat, sunscreen and binoculars. There are NO facilities at this natural area. *Cost: FREE.* Rated leisure. Limit 10.
Leader: Lisa Hanley, 561-732-9578 <lisa.hanley@Juno.com>



JAN. 25 - 26, FRI. - SAT. MUIR TREK THROUGH J. W. CORBETT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA. 7pm-7pm. Experience the Muir-inspired qualities of zest, celebration, joy, and adventure. A dawn to dusk, cross-country hike includes readings from John Muir's journals, leader inputs which explore perceptions in nature, and time to sit, watch and reflect on the natural world. Rated moderate... step over branches, sit on the ground, cross through shallow marshes. Limit 10. *Cost \$35, includes tent/bunk fee and food shared dawn to dusk on Saturday.*
Leader: Joan Hourican, 561-306-2462 <hourican@fau.edu>
Asst. Leader: Judy Kuchta, 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



JAN. 26, SAT. BIG CYPRESS WILD ORCHID DAY WALK/SLOSH. Get your feet wet and your senses filled. Discover wild orchids in a pristine corner of Big Cypress National Preserve. This spectacular trail experience ends at the Three Graces. Rated moderate. Limit 4. *Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.*
Leaders: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>
Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>



FEB. 2, SAT. HIKE THE WILDERNESS TRAIL, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. (See Nov. 24)
Leader: Kathleen Rhoad, 954 627-2665 <katrroad@prodigy.net>



FEB. 3, SUN. 15-MILE BIKE RIDE, SHARK VALLEY IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. See <www.florida-outdoors.com/9trail-sv.htm>. Meet at 10 am. Bike rentals are available. Lots of wildlife to be seen and halfway through the ride, a tower to climb with a terrific view of flat Florida Everglades terrain. We'll find somewhere tacky and funky for lunch afterwards and then head home. Shark Valley is about an hour and 40 minutes from Lantana. *Cost: FREE except for bike rentals and park admission.* Moderate. Limit 19.
Leader: Ron Haines, 561-964-1995 <RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>

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 or go to <www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>.

For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader. Check the Sierra Hotline for updates at 954-567-2841

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>

355,000 petitions, and FHD is submitting more each week. However, if we are to succeed in putting the amendment on the ballot, we need to have approximately 125,000-150,000 more petitions signed and sent to FHD by the end of December.

In my humble (and hopefully erroneous) opinion, it seems like a long

shot. But it's up to us. If you haven't signed and sent in a petition yet, DO IT NOW. If you already have, make copies of the petition and give them to all your friends, neighbors, acquaintances, family, etc. Stand outside your local post office, library, mall, etc., collect signatures, and send them in.

It's our state! Do we want to save it, or pave it?

at the request of ORV enthusiasts. The Sierra Club helped organize a national coalition to re-close these trails. A lawsuit will be filed imminently in federal court.

- **Turner River.** At nearly 200,000 acres and spanning the area from Tamiami Trail to I-75, this is the largest unit of Big Cypress. It contains a network of ORV trails and small private properties. The Sierra Club has called for the creation of substantial no-motor zones to allow visitors a chance to experience the beauty of this area undisturbed.

Everglades National Park

- **The East Everglades Expansion Area.** With airboats everywhere, The Sierra Club has called for the scaling back of these activities in this heartland of the Everglades. This area is also directly south of Tamiami Trail, which for years has acted as an artificial dam to the flow of water into the park. The Army Corps of Engineers has recommended an eleven mile elevated 'Skyway' as the best way to allow the water to flow. The Sierra Club is a strong backer of this project.
- **Florida Bay.** The Sierra Club has called for the creation of no-motor zones in the shallowest and most damaged sections of Florida Bay. Along with education and licensing, research has shown no-motor zones to be essential to the protection and recovery of seagrass beds. Two endangered species – the Florida manatee and green sea turtle – depend directly on this irreplaceable resource.
- **The Gulf Coast and Ten Thousand Islands.** This area consists of miles of mangrove channels and brackish water inland bays. It is prime country for manatees which, as mentioned, are frequently hit by passing motor boats. Sierra has called for no motor zones in the shallows and in areas identified as significant habitat for manatees.

From its origin as a small mountaineering group, today's Sierra Club is engaged in a huge variety of conservation initiatives. However the protection of wilderness is still a central part of our Club's efforts. With so much irreplaceable land at our doorstep, we in Broward County have a special responsibility to act as stewards of this land. Let's keep our efforts going in 2008 and make sure that in this important election year, all candidates running for office hear about our concerns. **Loudly.**

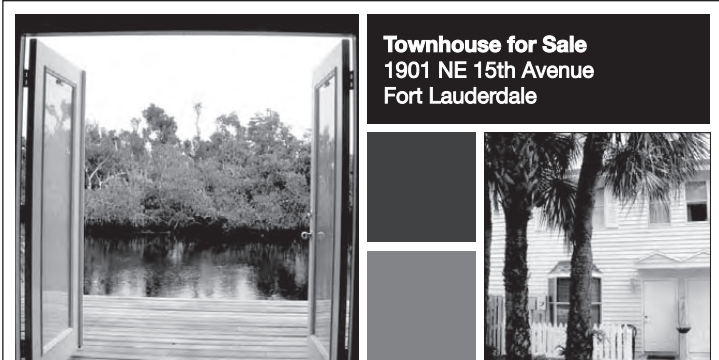
Please note: The Broward Sierra News will be on Winter vacation next month, so there will be no newsletter in January. Keep up with club news at our website <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>. We will be back in February.

Everyone have a wonderful holiday season, and may the coming year bring peace.

DAN S. ARNOLD III

**DAN S. ARNOLD III, P.A.
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR**

One Financial Plaza, Suite 2500 Phone: (954) 764-4849
100 S. E. Third Avenue Fax: (954) 462-1335
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394 dan@danarnoldlaw.com



Townhouse for Sale
1901 NE 15th Avenue
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Great Location in Beautiful Edgewater Townhomes! 2/1.5 Townhouse overlooking South Fork Middle River. Serene river views and views of Colohatchee Park from LR, DR, BR, & Kit. Ready to move in. Pool, pet-friendly, gated complex, fishing, and gardening. Seller is guardian/agent.

Price \$279,000

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Commercial Real Estate Please call**

Information believed accurate but not warranted

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ADVERTISE IN THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS

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 issue	3 issues
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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) (_____) _____

E-mail (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		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

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