

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS – By George Cavros, Conservation Chair

As we begin the new year, many of us have made resolutions. Below we've provided several eco-friendly resolutions that are easy to remember and will benefit our quality of life well beyond year's end.

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Here's one New Year's resolution that's easy to keep. Reduce your carbon footprint. That simply means lowering the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions created by your daily activities. CO₂ is the main greenhouse gas leading to global climate change. While a federal law mandating CO₂ emission reductions for power plants will likely be enacted in the next few years, many consumers are already reducing their electricity use by changing their light bulbs.

That's right; it's as simple as changing the light bulbs in your home. The generation of electricity by power plants accounts for about 40% of the CO₂ emitted in the United States. Much of that electricity goes to lighting homes and businesses. As a way to cut energy use (and save money) simply replace your energy hungry incandescent bulbs with light bulbs that use less energy – compact fluorescent bulbs.

A compact fluorescent has clear advantages over the widely used incandescent light – it uses 75 percent less electricity, lasts 10 times longer, produces 450 pounds fewer greenhouse gases from power plants and saves consumers \$30 over the life of each bulb.

It was recently reported that Wal-Mart, the often maligned giant discount retailer, has made a commitment to push them into at least 100 million homes. If it succeeds in selling 100 million compact fluorescent bulbs a year by 2008, total sales of the bulbs in the United States would increase by 50 percent, saving Americans \$3 billion in electricity costs and avoiding the need to build additional power plants for the equivalent of 450,000 new homes.

Start your year off right! Upgrade to compact fluorescent bulbs – it's the easiest way to reduce your carbon footprint, slash your electricity bill, and provide a sustainable environment for the next generation.

NatureScape Your Home

NatureScape is a Broward County program that encourages homeowners to plant native Florida plants to recover wildlife habitat that has been lost to development, protect water quality and quantity, and create a sustainable urban ecosystem. If your lawn, townhouse patio or even condominium balcony meets certain criteria, it can be certified as a NatureScape sanctuary. The goal of the program is to create NatureScape sanctuaries throughout Broward and become a nationally recognized program for environmental stewardship.

The benefit of native Florida plants is their resistance to disease and need for much less water than exotic plants. Therefore, they rarely need pesticides and conserve water. Planting native trees and plants beautifies your home, provides shade and makes excellent habitat for a host of birds, butterflies and other native critters.

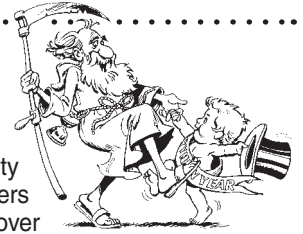
The NatureScape staff offers free classes and will even visit your home to provide advice on how to become NatureScape certified. It's easy – just contact them at: 954-510-0317 or naturescape@broward.org.

Remain Vigilant on Broward Water Quality

The environmental community scored a big victory in December when the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the South Florida Water Management District backed down from a scheme to allow local utilities to dump partially treated wastewater into Broward canals as a method of reuse (see December/January newsletter). Unfortunately, that hasn't stopped those agencies, entrusted with protecting our water quality, from creating other schemes to degrade local water quality.

Broward's 1,800 miles of interconnected canals currently enjoy a Class III status – which means they are of a fishable and

continued on page 3



Broward Sierra Programs

Tuesday, February 6th: 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*. Dr. Weisskoff is an Associate Professor at the University of Miami, teaching economics in the Department of International Studies. His B.A. and Ph.D. are from Harvard, and he has taught at Yale and Iowa State universities. Weisskoff has been a visiting professor at universities in Peru, Puerto Rico, and Mexico, and a consultant at the United Nations and the Interamerican Development Bank.

This month's meeting and program (February 6th) will be held at the Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, Pompano Beach (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.



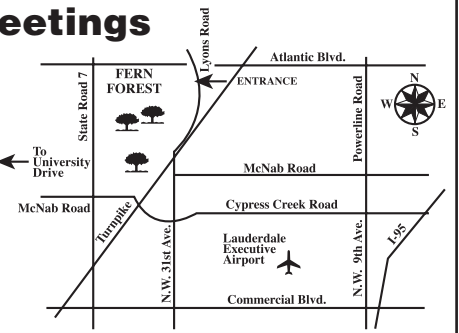
The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

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- Treasurer**
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- 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, February 6th 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.

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., February 6th: Fern Forest	Wed., May 2nd: Anne Kolb	Tues., August 7th: Fern Forest
Wed., March 7th: Anne Kolb	Tues., June 5th: Fern Forest	Wed., September 5th: Anne Kolb
Tues., April 3rd: Fern Forest	Wed., July 4th: TBA	Tues., October 2nd: Fern Forest

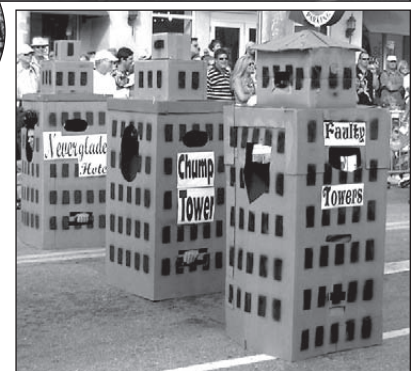
KING MANGO STRUT – By Max Goldstein, Treasurer

The annual King Mango Strut parade celebrated its 25th year in 2006. The parade runs through Coconut Grove and is the annual protest to government waste, political scandal, corporate greed, and everything else we've been fed up with all year. The paraders present a satire of the issues, which is why you will see environmental groups and others apparently condoning uncontrolled growth and global warming.

Anyone who has seen the Miami skyline recently, knows that the Florida state bird is no longer the early bird. It's the crane. (We can't build out much more, but we can build up, hence the vertical sprawl). More people moving to South Florida will mean more traffic jams, more resources strained, and fewer tourism dollars as the reefs die a slow and inexorable death from the millions of gallons of partially treated sewage

we pump into the ocean every day. (This was the subject of our first general meeting of 2007, held on January 3.) Note to politicians: issuing building permits for huge condominiums will get us more tax revenue (if people can afford to move into these concrete Christmas trees), but it won't offset the billions in tourist dollars we will lose if vacationers go elsewhere.

As in many previous years, the Sierra Club made an impressive show. The Broward and Miami groups combined forces to show what uncontrolled growth is doing to the Gold Coast and elsewhere. By dressing up as buildings, cars and cranes, we sent the message that we are already beyond capacity and more people will only make a bad situation worse. I encourage everyone to attend the parade next year, and even participate if you have the time.



Thanks to Max and Judy for their great photos.

HOLIDAY PARTY

– By Max Goldstein, Treasurer

The Annual Broward County Sierra Club Holiday party and auction was held in December, and it was a huge success. We dispensed with the usual meeting format of announcements and speakers and enjoyed a 2-hour social event with food and drink brought by the attendees.

During the evening, we also held a silent auction from donated items which raised \$160.00 for the group! Many thanks to all who donated items and bid on them, we appreciate your contributions. We have many expenses throughout the year (mostly related to the printing and mailing of this newsletter), and we can always use the extra money.

And speaking of the newsletter, I'd like to thank all my helpers who get together once a month to label the 2500 plus newsletters. It's a tedious job but with the right group of people, it goes very smoothly. Of particular mention: Anita Lind, Joe Sciolino and his two sons, Ina Topper, Sonia Lai, and Shala Ranjbar. I hope you'll all continue to participate this year.

*New Year's Resolutions,
continued from page 1*

swimmable quality. They flow into our ocean, the Everglades and recharge our drinking water aquifer. DEP recently created a Policy Advisory Board tasked with reclassifying bodies of water to increase water reuse. Their preliminary discussions indicate that they intend to reclassify some Broward canals as "ditches." This classification would make it easier for utilities to dump partially treated water into our canals.

To their credit, the Broward County commission voted unanimously for a resolution to make it a legislative priority to fight this possible designation. Broward County will increase its level of water reuse. Water is too valuable a commodity in south Florida to use once and then dispose, but degrading our canals to reuse cesspools is not the answer.

Make an effort to stay informed on the water quality issue this year. It's an issue that strikes at the heart of our quality of life – and one that we may be fighting for quite some time. As always, the Sierra Club will keep you informed of any new developments and how you

Local Sierra Group Outings

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



JANUARY 20-21, SAT-SUN. FLORIDA TRAIL/BIG CYPRESS PRESERVE BACKPACK.

Backpack carrying all your gear, food, water, and tent on the at times rugged Florida Trail, wet or dry, north of the Tamiami Trail amidst cypress, pine and prairie. Rated strenuous. Limit 6. *Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.*

Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net>
Assistant: Alan Nowell 305-270-5262 (days) <alan.nowell@sfcu.org>



JAN 28, SUN. JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK HIKE.

This hike will be on a 7 mile loop that is part of the Florida Trail and the Sand Pine Scrub Nature trail. Rated moderate. *Cost: \$6 members, \$8 non-members.* Bring your own lunch.

Leader: Ron Reese 954-443-7423
Assistant: Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



FEBRUARY 3, SAT. SHARK VALLEY MOONLIGHT BIKE (BYO bike).

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



FEBRUARY 10, SAT. EAST RIVER DAY CANOE FUNDRAISER.

Paddle approximately 8-10 miles, while exploring several 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
Assistant: Kip Fisher 954-434-2855



FEBRUARY 17TH, SAT. HIKE THE WILDERNESS TRAIL, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE.

We'll hike 8 miles on a wilderness trail off a section of the Fla.Nat'l 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>



FEBRUARY 17TH - 19TH, Sat. - MON. MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK CAMPING TRIP.

Myakka River St. Park, near Sarasota, protects one of the State's most diverse natural areas. We'll enjoy camping, hiking, scenic tours, and canoeing or kayaking. Rated leisure to moderate. *Cost: \$100 members, \$120 non-members. (Boats will be available for rent and cost is not included.)*

Leader: Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>
Assistant: Ken Smith 305-801-6876 <kpsmith@gate.net>



MARCH 10TH, SAT. BIG CYPRESS NOBLES GRAND BIKE.

10 miles roundtrip, on and off-road trek. Rated Moderate to Strenuous. *Cost \$ 5 members, \$7 on-members.*

Leader: Ronald Reese 954-443-7423 <rsreese@usgs.gov>
Assistant: Elena Reese 305-321-5897

MARCH 17TH, SAT. BIG CYPRESS HIKE. See for Feb 17th.

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 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>>

FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY

– By Leslie Blackner, President of Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc.

The Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment was approved unanimously by the Florida Supreme Court for placement on the 2008 ballot. IF we collect 611,000 petitions from registered Florida voters. The “IF” is the hard part - right now we are at about 150,000 petitions.

What is Florida Hometown Democracy? A state constitutional amendment mandating that all comprehensive plan amendments that are approved by a city or county commission must be submitted to the electorate for final approval or rejection.

Why is this so revolutionary? Because comprehensive plans determine the density and intensity of land development. Developers constantly want to cram as much development as they can onto a parcel of land. And under the current regime, all a developer has to do is persuade a majority of the commission to grant the requested comprehensive plan change.

It's just TOO EASY to get your comp plan change when you are a wealthy, politically connected developer with a stable of attorneys, engineers, and consultants doing your bidding. The whole system of government is rigged for the development industry. To hell with the neighborhood.

Here's the other thing you need to know: comprehensive plan amendments are POLITICAL decisions. That's why they are voted on by commissioners. If comp plan changes were pre-ordained, a developer would submit his application for a change and if the requirements were met, the reviewing bureaucrat would issue an approval.

But that's not what is happening in Florida. Comp plan amendments that should not be approved are nonetheless voted up by commissions. Most county and city commissions just can't say no. Why is this? Because the chief goal of local and state government is to promote the growth machine. Florida has government “of the developer, by the developer and for the developer.”

The solution is simple, it's honest and it is purely American: **LET THE**

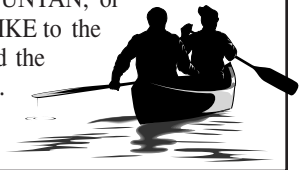
PEOPLE VOTE. Let's bring some accountability back to the process: do your part to put the Florida Hometown Democracy amendment on the 2008 ballot.

If you haven't signed the petition, do so now. If you signed the petition before July 2005, you must sign this new petition. Please get other registered Florida voters to sign the petition to. You can download it at www.floridahometowndemocracy.com or call us at 866-779-5513 for petitions. We also need donations. Tell everyone you know about this important, historic reform.

Do your small part to save your community and your state from further ruin. Florida's future depends on you.

Environmentally conscious roommate needed to share my beautiful waterfront townhouse.

On A1A just north of Sheridan Street. On the intracoastal directly across from West LakePark/Anne Kolb Nature Center. Kayak or watch manatees and dolphins off my dock. Lounge in the swimming pool just off the back door. Go to the beach across the street and SNORKEL, SUNTAN, or SNOOZE, and afterward RIDE YOUR BIKE to the Hollywood boardwalk to enjoy dinner and the free concerts. All for \$1,500 per month. Large boat space available too! Contact Judy at 954-924-5001.



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