

## **EARTH-FRIENDLY TIPS FOR THE SUMMER** – *By George Cavros, Conservation Chair*

As we head into the long summer months, there are several simple actions that we can take to protect the quality of life in South Florida and help the planet. Not surprisingly, the steps center on energy and water – two hot topics in the local news lately. But before I expand on those steps, I would first encourage members to become involved with the Broward County Sierra Club executive board.

### **Get Involved**

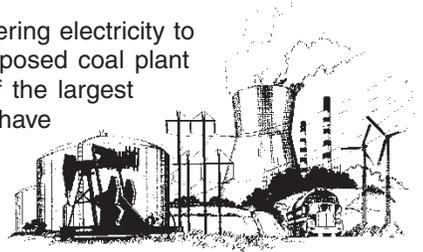
The Broward Sierra Club has over 2,600 members and is managed primarily through the executive committee. We currently have room on the board for committed individuals who want to devote a little time each month in a variety of ways. It can be through our vibrant outings program, aggressive conservation program, newsletter mailings, volunteer coordination, fundraising and much more. Feel free to get more actively involved with the organization by contacting any of the officers listed on page 2, or e-mail me at [gscprop@yahoo.com](mailto:gscprop@yahoo.com). It's your organization, so feel free to contribute to the success of the most successful grassroots organization in the county.



### **Energy**

Some good news on energy: the Public Service Commission determined that the proposed Glades County power plant will not be granted a determination of "need," thereby effectively killing the plant in the middle of the regulatory process. The Commission ruled that building a \$6 billion coal plant was not the most "cost

effective" method of delivering electricity to FPL customers. The proposed coal plant would have been one of the largest in the country and would have been sited just 5 miles from Lake Okeechobee, on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River and 65 miles from Everglades National Park. The plant would have emitted over 180 pounds of neurotoxic mercury per year – making it one of the largest emitters of mercury in a state with a statewide fish consumption advisory due to mercury contamination. Moreover, the plant would have spewed over 14 million tons of CO2 per year – a major global warming pollutant.



Shortly after the decision, Governor Crist stated, "I applaud the Florida Public Service Commission's decision to deny Florida Power & Light Company's petition seeking approval to construct a coal-fired power plant in Glades County. The Public Service Commission today made the right decision for the environment, the right decision for the Everglades and the right decision for Florida." He went on to say, "As we seek to address the challenges presented by global climate change, leadership of the caliber demonstrated today by the Public Service Commission will be essential to our success."

Governor Crist is bringing the "brightest minds" together during a clean energy conference in July to be held in Palm Beach County. The Department of Environmental Protection has been tasked with conducting a state CO2 inventory, which will ultimately lead to a CO2 reduction plan. The governor and legislature are now looking at ways to remove barriers to

*continued on page 2*

## **Broward Sierra Programs**

**Wednesday, July 4th:** No meeting. Happy Independence Day!

**Tuesday, August 7th:** We will be having an **Environmental Affairs Social and Discussion Groups**. Organic vegetarian pizza, wine & other beverages will be served, and door prizes will be offered (\$5 donation). Come on by, have fun, eat good food, meet your fellow Sierrans, learn, be heard!



**The meeting and program will be held at the Fern Forest Nature Center** (see map on next page).

**Wednesday, September 5th: TBA**

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

**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.



## 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**  
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- Legal Chair**  
Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
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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

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held the first Tuesday or Wednesday of every month (see schedule below). **There will be no meeting in July. The August meeting and program will be held on Tuesday, August 7th 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.



September's meeting to be announced.

## 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.

Wed., July 4th: No Meeting	Wed., September 5th: TBA	Wed., November 7th: Anne Kolb
Tues., August 7th: Fern Forest	Tues., October 2nd: Fern Forest	Tues., December 4th: Fern Forest

*Summer Tips, continued from page 1*

our most abundant energy resources: energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Please feel free to contact the Governor and express your gratitude for his forward thinking vision on clean energy.

Governor Charlie Crist  
Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com  
Phone: 850-414-3300



While we're on the subject of energy, how many of you have replaced your old fashioned incandescent bulbs for the smarter compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)? If you haven't yet, this summer is your opportunity. CFLs use up to 75% less energy and last 8-10 times longer than standard bulbs – and they don't throw off any heat, keeping air conditioning bills lower. So, what are you waiting for?

## Water

Florida is experiencing one of its worst droughts in recorded history. At the time of printing, Lake Okeechobee had reached its lowest recorded level, and parts of the lake bed had actually caught fire. Drinking water needs are now competing with ecosystem needs. The South Florida Management District (SFWMD) is still issuing consumptive use permits for new construction, but is not permitting them to use Everglades ecosystem water. Therefore many municipalities are now forced to consider expensive reuse technologies to expand their source of water. The days of cheap water are over. If the drought continues for another year or two, South Florida will face drinking water woes of significant proportions. Therefore, it's incumbent upon all of us to use less water.

Some simple steps you can take this summer to conserve precious water include:

- **Water your lawn just once a week** – in fact you are limited to once a week under SFWMD restrictions. That's really all you need to keep your lawn green.
- **Better yet, replace all or part of your lawn with native Florida plants.** They use less water; require fewer pesticides; and provide habitat for local critters. Get assistance from the county's acclaimed NatureScape program. NatureScape provides simple, common sense techniques to conserve water and protect our water supply through our daily activities. Learn more about the NatureScape program at <http://www.co.broward.fl.us/naturescape> or call (954) 519-0317.
- **Invest in a low-flow shower head.** Your shower uses around 22 percent of the total water you use in your home. A good portion of that water takes a detour through your water heater, raising your energy bill on its way to soaking your head. You can assume that with an old standard shower head, a 5 minute shower would use about 30 gallons of water.

These three simple water conservation tactics will go a long way to preserving precious drinking water.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Take some time to explore some of Florida's natural beauty – and let's all take a moment to collectively preserve the ecosystem by taking action on the simple steps outlined above.

## FROM THE EDITOR

By Carole Walsh

The Broward Sierra News will be in its summer hiatus next month, and will return in

September. Please check our website <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>> for Broward Sierra Club information. Also, join our Yahoo Group at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra>> to receive e-mail notifications on local environmental issues and action alerts.

### Florida Hometown Democracy



This is a constitutional amendment which will require that any change or rewrite of a comprehensive land use plan will have to go to the voters in that community as a final step. We have 250,000 signatures now and need 611,000 verified signatures of Florida registered voters to get on the November 2008 ballot. This is a last ditch effort to save what is left of our once beautiful Florida from rapacious developers and the elected officials who facilitate their projects. Will you do your part to advance this campaign? Volunteer petition collectors are needed. And of course, donations are needed – \$10 will certify 100 signatures, and \$150 will cover paid collectors to gather 100 signatures. Checks can be made out to Florida Hometown Democracy and mailed to PO Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170, or go on-line to donate by credit card. You can also volunteer or download petitions and information at <[www.floridahometowndemocracy.com](http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com)>.

*"I believe in the Initiative and Referendum which should be used not to destroy representative government, but to correct it whenever it becomes misrepresentative."*

– President Woodrow Wilson

Everyone have a wonderful summer, **get out into nature** and experience our beautiful environment that we are working so hard to protect. Camp, canoe, kayak, swim, picnic, garden, join us on our outings...

*"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."*

– John Muir



## Local Sierra Group Outings

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

**JULY 15, SUN. KAYAK AND PICNIC AT WILTON MANORS PRESERVE.** Excellent for those with basic experience, and families with kids age 7 and older. This 7 mile loop takes about 2.5 to 3 hours to kayak. It is fairly urban and not too difficult to paddle, yet home to birds such as the ibis, herons and ospreys, and occasionally hawks and manatees. We'll have a delightful cookout and lunch afterwards at the preserve. Limit 18. Rated: easy to moderate. *Cost: \$40 members, \$45 non-members. Children riding tandem with parent \$20.* Equipment provided.



Leader: Howard Helbein

Asst: Judy Kuchta, 954-924-5001 <[judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com)>

**AUGUST 4, SAT. SNORKELING 101 AT KEY BISCAIYNE.** Learn the fundamentals of snorkeling and have a great time doing it! In-water practice to familiarize you with the equipment and techniques. Rated Leisure. Limit 10. *Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members.*



Leader: Ed Zaret, 305-586-3564

Asst: TBA.

**AUGUST 5, SAT. TURTLE HATCHLING RESCUE WALK ON SINGER ISLAND BEACH** (Palm Beach County) with a certified guide. Ideal outing for children. 6:15 AM. Rated Leisure. *Cost: \$10 adults, children FREE.* Limit 20. Optional casual breakfast afterward at a waterfront restaurant.



Leader: Maryvonne Devensky, 561-369-3462 <[marydeven@bellsouth.net](mailto:marydeven@bellsouth.net)>

(Prior to July 20th, please contact Charles Hunt at 561-967-4770 or <[sierra@smartsolutions.com](mailto:sierra@smartsolutions.com)> to reserve your place.)

**AUGUST 11, SAT. KAYAK IN THE KEYS.** Experience mangrove trails, sand flats and (mosquitoes permitting) tour historic Indian Key and Lignumvitae Key (established in 1919). We'll have a leisurely swim and lunch along the way. Limit 18. Equipment provided. Rated moderate to difficult. Dine at Papa Joe's with us afterwards (on you). *Cost: \$45 members, \$50 nonmembers.*



Leader: Howard Helbein

Asst: Judy Kuchta, 954-924-5001 <[judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com)>

**SEPT 1-3, SAT - MON (LABOR DAY WEEKEND). THE CLYDE BUTCHER FESTIVAL, EVERGLADES CITY.** Explore this funky city, "Smallwood's store", the historic Everglades Rod & Gun Lodge, tour the areas near 10,000 Islands on the National Park's fleet, or fish, canoe, kayak or slumber. It's all up to you. Limit 16. *We'll share the rooms and their cost, approx. \$ 25 to \$50 a night.*



Leader: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359

Assist: TBA.

**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](mailto: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>>**

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*Ansel Adams*

Most people don't know that Ansel Adams was a member of the Sierra Club for over 50 years. He didn't just photograph the wilderness. He fought for it. Shouldn't your grandchildren have more than photos to remind them of the grandeur of our land? The Sierra Club is dedicated to protecting our wilderness for generations to come. Join us. You'll be in good company.



**SIERRA CLUB  
 HATS & TOTES**

Sierra Club apparel is created with organic cotton, renewable resources, and technical synthetics produced to have the least impact on the environment!

The Sierra Club black twill cap has a fabric closure, adjustable brass buckle and hideaway closure with the Sierra Club logo embroidered in white on the front. Price: \$7.

The waterproof Sierra Club Excursion/Tote Bag is gray with black trim and is ideal for shopping or camping/beach trips. With convenient top zipper, comfortable shoulder straps and tasteful Sierra Club logo on the side. Price: \$10.

Purchase both cap and tote as a "set" for \$15! Please add shipping and handling costs: \$3.50 for 1st item, \$1 for each additional item (please note that each "set" counts as 2 items). Please allow approx. 10 to 20 days for delivery. Due to incredibly discounted pricing we are unable to offer exchanges; returns accepted only for defective merchandise. Please include your check made out to "Broward Sierra Club" along with this order form, and mail to: Broward Sierra Club, PO Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Item	Price/each	Shipping	Price/total
	Hat	\$7		
	Tote	\$10		
	Hat & Tote Set	\$15		
Total Amount				

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 and receive a  
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 Weekender Bag!**



(While supplies last)

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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**



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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

**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 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>.