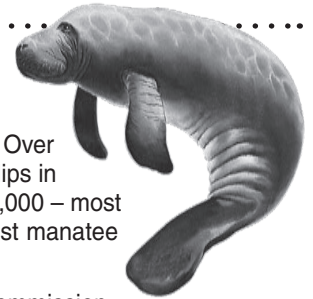


MANATEES GET A REPRIEVE – By George Cavros, Conservation Chair



A plan that would have allowed an additional 7,000 new docks along Broward County waterways heavily used by manatees was recently rejected by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The state agency found it not protective of the many manatees that call Broward County home in the winter months. Last year was one of the deadliest years for manatees in the county, as 7 were killed by watercraft.

Fort Lauderdale is often called the Venice of the Americas because of the many boaters who use its extensive canals and the Intracoastal Waterway. Broward County currently has over 30,000 boat docking facilities, and is one of 13 Florida counties that is mandated by the state to have a Manatee Protection Plan as part of its Boat Facility Siting Plan.

Battle not unexpected

Boaters in Broward are eager to find places to store and launch their boats. Many Broward boat yards have sold out to developers as waterfront property has spiked in value. The boating lobby is influential in Broward County. According to the Marine Industries Association (MIA), boating related activities contribute over ten billion dollars to the regional economy. So how can boats and manatees coexist in Broward?

Actually, a plan was tentatively worked out by the county and state agencies in May of 2006 that was expected to protect the lumbering sea cows. The plan called for an additional 4,200 boat slips – unfortunately

that number was too low for the MIA. Over the summer months the number of slips in the Broward plan quietly jumped to 7,000 – most of them to be sited in areas of highest manatee use.

The Sierra Club argued before the commission that the plan was too heavily weighted towards the boating lobby. Besides the spike in boat slips, another egregious issue was boat “slip pooling.” The implementation of this approach in the south county area would have allowed the county to permit an additional 5,000 slips in one of the most critical manatee habitats in the county – without setting site specific reviews or limits. The Sierra Club and other conservation groups publicly warned the commission that the flawed plan would likely “be sent back” by state officials.

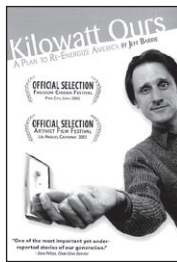
In September, the county submitted the boat slip pooling plan allowing 7,000 slips. The Sierra Club submitted letters to state officials citing the flaws in the plan and calling for a more balanced approach. In January, the state rejected the plan – sending it back to the county for revision.

Balanced plan needed

The stakeholder process to revise the plan is ongoing. This time around the county promises to include more general public input, such as holding evening manatee protection plan workshops. The county is mandated by the Endangered Species Act to prevent even one manatee death. Encounters with boats are an all too common experience for manatees – many of which are identified by their unique propeller scars. The Sierra Club will continue to advocate for a balanced plan that reduces watercraft-manatee encounters. Maybe the county can get it right the second time around! Stay tuned.

Broward Sierra Programs

Wednesday, March 7th: We will be having a screening of *Kilowatt Ours, A Plan to Re-Energize America*, a film by Jeff Barrie, which focuses on conventional and alternative energy. Our Energy Chair George Cavros will field questions and host a discussion afterward.



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

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 Road South, Pompano Beach.

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

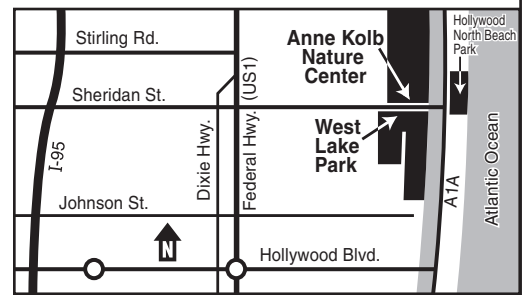
- Executive Committee Chair**
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- Secretary**
Louis Serra 954-442-0880
- Treasurer**
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
- Conservation Chair**
George Cavros 954-295-5714
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Broward Sierra News is published monthly 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). **This month's meeting and program will be held on Wednesday, March 7th at the 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 (About 1/2 mile after the sign for West Lake Park on the right, before the Intracoastal Bridge - 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 Fern Forest 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.

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
Wed., May 2nd: Anne Kolb	Tues., August 7th: Fern Forest	Wed., November 7th: Anne Kolb

FROM THE CHAIR – A message from Barbara Curtis

Hello. I am Barbara Curtis, the new chair of the Broward group and member of the Florida Chapter Ex Com, and I'd like to share some thoughts with you.

The Florida chapter recently voted to donate \$65,000 to Hometown Democracy. If every Florida Sierra Club member could donate \$10 we would raise another \$30,000 and be able to put this important petition on the ballot. Each one of us could have a vote in how our neighborhood and surrounding area is developed. Donations can be made out to Florida Hometown Democracy Inc., and sent to FHD, P.O. Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170. I look forward to meeting you all and recruiting new members to SAVE THE PLANET.

Humanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced.

If that sounds like a recipe for serious gloom and doom -- think again. From director Davis Guggenheim comes the Sundance Film Festival hit, **AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**, which offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on a last-ditch, all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable

change. In this eye-opening and poignant portrait of Gore and his "traveling global warming show," Gore also proves himself to be one of the most misunderstood characters in modern American public life. Here he is seen as never before in the media - funny, engaging, open and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our "planetary emergency" out to ordinary citizens before it's too late.

With wit, smarts and hope, AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH ultimately brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue - rather, it is one of the biggest moral challenges facing our global civilization.

SEE "AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH"

Whether you missed it the first time around or just want to see it again, join us for the Broward Sierra Club's presentation of Al Gore's double Oscar-nominated movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

March 20th, 7:00 pm at the Cinema Paradiso
503 SE 6th St. in downtown Ft. Lauderdale (between SE 3rd Ave. and U.S.1) (954) 525-3456

General Admission: \$8
Sierra Club members: \$5

We'll be gathering at a local pub afterwards for a discussion of the movie.



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.



SIERRA CLUB BACKS FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY PUSH

– By Ron Haines,
Loxahatchee Sierra Club

The Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club has donated \$65,000 to the campaign to get hundreds of thousands of Florida Hometown Democracy petitions signed to get the measure on the ballot in 2008.

We need every Sierra member to match that financial commitment with an energy commitment to get these signatures. Some 200,000 petitions have been collected, but over 600,000 are still needed by the end of 2007. We all need to work hard to get this huge ball up the hill.

continued on page 4

CORRECTION

In last month's issue, we listed the incorrect phone number for NatureScape. To inquire into becoming NatureScape certified, contact them at 954-519-0317.

Local Sierra Group Outings

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



MARCH 3, SAT. FULL MOON BIKE RIDE AT SHARK VALLEY. This ride is well-loved by all. Rated moderate to strenuous. Cost: \$6 members, \$8 non-members.
Leader: Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



MARCH 3, SAT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DAY HIKE. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We will walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the Gumbo Limbo trail and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch and walk a trail there. Rated leisure. Limit 8. 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@sfcfcu.org>



MARCH 4, SUN. ADDITION LANDS BIG CYPRESS WILDERNESS DAY HIKE. Hike through some of the more pristine and unmarked back trails of the beautiful Addition Lands of Big Cypress National Preserve. We will meet at 1pm and should be returning around sundown - good for birding and scenery. Bring your own lunch and water - and a change of footwear. Your feet will get wet! We're hiking in a swamp anyway - so this trip goes rain or shine. There are some beautiful open vistas - don't forget a camera. About 5 to 6 miles. Rated moderate. Limit 15. Cost \$5.
Leader: Matt Schwartz 954-764-2739 <matthew3222@yahoo.com>



MARCH 10, SAT. BIG CYPRESS NOBLES GRADE BIKE. 10 miles round trip, off and on road trek. Rated moderate to strenuous. Cost: \$5 members, \$7 non-members.
Leaders: Ron & Elena Reese 954-443-7423 <elenaron2225@comcast.net>



MARCH 11, SUN. SHARK VALLEY BIKE RIDE. 10am. 15-mile bike ride about an hour and 40 minutes from Lantana. Bike rentals available. Lots of wildlife to be seen and a tower to climb halfway through with a terrific view of flat Florida everglades terrain. We'll find somewhere for lunch afterwards and then head home. *FREE except for bike rentals.* Rated moderate. Reservations must be made by March 1. Limit 19.
Leader: Ron Haines 561-964-1995 <RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>



MARCH 17, 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>



MARCH 18, SUN. LOXAHATCHEE RIVER CANOE. Paddle the Loxahatchee River from near where the river crosses Indiantown Road near Jupiter to Trapper John's Camp for lunch. Then canoe leisurely to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Join us in this adventure, hopefully observing lots of wildlife and gators as we go. Rated moderate. Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Limit 16.
Leader: Jim Gross 305-665-2401 <JMGross3013@aol.com>



MARCH 31, SAT. ECOWALK AT FRENCHMAN'S FOREST NATURAL AREA in Palm Beach Gardens. 4pm. We will walk, with frequent stops to look, listen and absorb, for about 1-1/2 hours and hopefully, see some of the spring migration. Bring water, hat, sunscreen and binoculars. There are NO facilities at this natural area. *FREE.* Rated leisure. Limit 20.
Leader: Lisa Hanley 561-732-9578 <lisa.hanley@Juno.com>

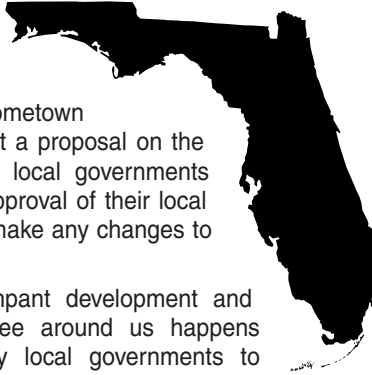
Outing Leaders Wanted. Outing Leaders get involved, get active, meet new people, have fun, and attend their outings for free. (Assistant Leaders attend for half price.) If you are interested, contact Judy at (954) 924-5001 or <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.

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>>**

Are you ready to take back your right to decide what your community is going to look like?



The goal of the Florida Hometown Democracy petition drive is to get a proposal on the 2008 ballot that would force all local governments (cities and counties) to get the approval of their local electorates BEFORE they could make any changes to their comprehensive zoning plans.

As you know, most of the rampant development and environmental destruction we see around us happens because developer dollars sway local governments to amend their comp plans, which were drawn up and approved by everyone years ago in the hopes that the sprawl we are seeing all around us would be prevented.

Right now, citizens are powerless to stop this. Passage of the Florida Hometown Democracy measure would change that.

We in the Sierra Club spend lots of money in court and on the streets seeking to undo developer-driven changes to our comp plans. This measure would be a proactive move to stop those changes before they are made, so we wouldn't be fighting these after the fact battles.

Get a copy of the petition. Sign it and send it in. Make copies to take around to your churches, homeowners' groups, PTA meetings, Boy Scouts, parents, neighbors, office, etc. In addition to signed petitions, the campaign badly needs donations to enable the hiring of people to canvass neighborhoods for signatures. Ask those signing your petition to toss a dollar in the hat. Donations can be made out to Florida Hometown Democracy Inc., and sent to FHD, P.O. Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170. For much more information and petitions go to <<http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com>>.

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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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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>.