

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

– By George Cavros, Conservation Chair

### State Proposes End to Ocean Sewage Dumping

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced recently that it will seek legislative authority to end the practice of piping partially treated wastewater off the South Florida coast. The practice has long been suspected by environmental groups of causing algae blooms that smother and ultimately destroy already stressed coral reefs.



DEP has now also joined the chorus of those concerned about the impacts to our fragile coral reef system. "The weight of evidence on coastal water quality and coral reef health calls into question the environmental acceptability of continuing ocean outfall discharges," states a report from the DEP submitted to the Governor's Office.

About 300 million gallons a day of partially treated sewage is discharged through outfall pipes in Delray Beach, Boca Raton, Pompano Beach, Hollywood and northern and central Miami-Dade County. The South Florida Sun Sentinel reported that it would cost approximately \$2.7 billion to eliminate the six outfall pipes and replace them with a system to recycle water. The size of the investment to recycle the wastewater has alarmed utility managers. But a cost-benefit test leads to the conclusion that investing in technologies that eliminate ocean outfalls is the smart choice.

The DEP conducted a study several years ago that found the coral reef system generated over \$2 billion per year in Broward County from scuba

*continued on page 4*

## Broward Sierra Programs

**Wednesday, Nov. 7th: Ocean Issues.** A presentation by David White, environmental attorney and Director of the



Ocean Conservancy's Southeast Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, where he is responsible for their work on regional fish conservation, recovery of endangered marine wildlife, and ocean ecosystem conservation issues.

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 4th: Holiday Dinner & Silent Auction.** Join us for food, fun and our fabulous auction. (\$10/person)

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

*If you would like to volunteer to help out with the Holiday Dinner & Auction, or if you have any items you'd like to donate for the auction, please contact Barbara Curtis at 954-946-7359 or <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>.*

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.

## BIG CYPRESS LEGAL BATTLE

– By Matt Schwartz, Political Chair & Outings Leader

For many years, members of the Broward Group have been deeply involved in the fight to protect public lands in our backyard. Recently, we have taken strong positions in the preparation of management plans for Everglades National Park and the 146,000 acre Addition Lands of Big Cypress National Preserve.

Another battle the Broward Group has spearheaded is a legal fight over the future of a piece of land in Big Cypress known as Bear Island. Located only an hour west of Ft. Lauderdale, the eastern section of Bear Island was a favorite hiking spot for many, with a parking lot and trailhead right off of I-75. It was closed to motor vehicles by the Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan the National Park Service published in 2000 in order to protect the area's vast marshes and prairies, and to provide undisturbed habitat for the endangered Florida panther. Fifteen panthers have been killed so far this year in traffic accidents – a new record - and studies have shown panthers leave Bear Island during times of heightened ORV activity.

This past February, with virtually no new public hearings or studies, the current superintendent decided to reopen this pristine area to motor vehicle recreation. The Sierra Club along with six other national environmental organizations responded with a notice of intent to sue if these vehicle trails were not closed. This has not happened and we are going forward with a lawsuit.

While much of the funds needed have been raised by the other groups, there is still a shortfall of about \$5,000 from the Sierra Club. Any members wishing to contribute to our efforts in Big Cypress are invited to send tax-deductible contributions made payable to the Sierra Club Foundation to the following address:

Broward Group of the Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Please note "Big Cypress/Florida Panther Project" on your check.



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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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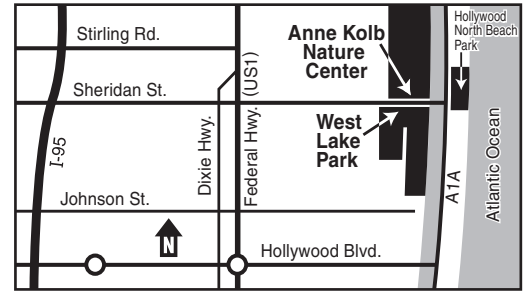
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**Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441. 415-977-5653 or e-mail <address.changes@sierraclub.org> or <membership.services@sierraclub.org> If further assistance is needed, please contact your local Membership Chair, Andrea Saifman 954-817-1749.

## Broward Sierra Club General Meetings

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held the first Tuesday or Wednesday of each month (See schedule below). **This month's meeting and program will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 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). Doors open at 7 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 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.

Wed., November 7th: Anne Kolb      Tues., December 4th: Fern Forest

## ECO-TOPICS

### FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY

The end of the year is almost upon us. Florida Hometown Democracy has now collected close to 500,000 petitions. Not all of them have been verified by the various counties. We still need a total of 611,000 valid petitions to qualify.

Please do your share to make this happen! Organize a petition drive and spend a weekend morning collecting petitions. Go to football games, art festivals, your public library, public hearings (where our "representative government" is busy representing the developers). Get your neighbors and friends involved. If you can't collect petitions, then send money.

One or the other, heck both if you really care! Get the petition from this month's Pelican or from <floridahometowndemocracy.com>.

Time is not on our side, but with your help, we can get the numbers we need to get on the ballot.

### THE KIDS ECOLOGY CORPS

The Kids Ecology Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives and of the lives of those around them. KEC has reached over 58,000 young people from Pre-K through high school, offering unique hands-on presentations and eco-action programs that educate children and youth about keeping our oceans clean, the importance of trees, the role of re-planting our coastal wetlands in beach conservation, water conservation, pollution prevention, global climate change, energy conservation, and protecting local natural habitats for native wildlife. To find out about upcoming children and family oriented eco-events or to find out how you can help, go to <www.kidsecologycorps.org>.

## SOUTHERN ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes responsible energy choices that solve global warming problems and ensure clean, safe and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. Visit their website at <<http://www.cleanenergy.org>> to find out what you can do to help.

### 1 SKY FLORIDA

1 Sky Florida is a collaborative initiative of SACE, Step It Up, & the Southern Energy Network to coordinate and elevate global warming work in Florida. We'll be focusing on pressuring presidential candidates on global warming until Florida's primary on January

29. It's up to us. We need to be the voice, and be active! When they visit our home state, the candidates need to know that we care, and that we demand a strong platform for leading us to a clean energy future. For more information see <<http://1skyfl.org>> or contact Nikki at 727-501-5513 or <nikki@1skyfl.org>.

### YOU TUBE DEBATE

<[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)> is requesting questions for the Rep. National Debate on November 28, with the deadline being November 25. We need to be a major voice in that debate. We need to address clean energy and global warming concerns, relative to our personal lives. All of us are affected by climatic changes and need to reiterate the importance of being good land stewards. We need to have multiple, but distinctly unique, submissions. SACE is compiling "how to" sheets for those that need instructions on creating and uploading their videos (the You Tube site has excellent and user friendly tips, too). For more information contact Nikki at 727-501-5513 or <nikki@1skyfl.org>.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

– By Barbara Curtis, Broward Sierra Chair



I can't believe it's already been six months since I volunteered to chair the Broward Group. I have enjoyed my first six months immensely, and hope that my small contribution has made a difference in our fight to protect and preserve the environment.

I have participated in news letter labeling parties, Earth Day tabling events, and monthly meetings at Anne Kolb and Fern Forest. I have swamp walked with Matt in the Addition Lands, paddled kayaks with Judy in Wilton Manors, watched a launch of Apollo in Sebastian, and a turtle laying its eggs on the beach. I led an outing to Clyde Butcher's annual Swamp Romp, and had a great time. I have sent in comments on the Addition Lands and Everglades Park, I attended a meeting at the Everglades Park library with Matt, showcasing the Addition Lands that are in danger of being destroyed by all terrain vehicles, and the wild life (such as the panther) that is being driven away.

On November 18th, we will have a table at the Get Green Today Expo at the Westin Cypress Creek Hotel (400 Corporate Drive, Fort Lauderdale). The admission is \$5 or Free with 1 recyclable item. (See [getgreentodayexpo.com](http://getgreentodayexpo.com) for more info.) And Get Green Today Expo pledges to donate \$1 to a favorite charity of each attendee at the Expo. For each person who tells them that their favorite charity is the Sierra Club, they will donate \$1.

I am sad to report that George Cavros, our very hard working conservation chair, after serving for two years, is unable to continue after the end of this year. Conservation is the core of the Sierra Club! **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WORK TOGETHER ON SELECTED CONSERVATION PROJECTS**, as well as someone to take over as the Conservation Chair. Call me at 954-946-7359 if you can spare a couple of hours a month.

I hope you noticed that in this month's *Pelican* was the registration form for the upcoming Conservation Conference on November 2-4 in Groveland, Florida. If you want to attend and haven't registered already, contact Ben Fusaro at 850-297-2052 or [fusaro@math.fsu.edu](mailto:fusaro@math.fsu.edu).

Also in this month's *Pelican* is your ballot for the 2008 Florida Executive Committee election. The eight candidates were chosen from the various groups around the state, and there is a statement from each candidate. You can vote for up to 5 of the 8. These are the people who will represent you to the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club, so if you haven't voted yet, make sure to mail your ballots in right away (they must be received by Oct. 26th).

And don't forget our December 4th holiday dinner and auction at Fern Forest Nature Center. Bring donations of items to auction off (value should exceed \$10) and bring your checkbook. Please try to get your donations to me prior to the event.

– Barbara

## Local Sierra Group Outings

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



**OCT. 27-28, SAT.-SUN. JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK CAMPING.** Join us for car camping, hiking and canoeing and BBQ. Rated leisure. Limit 10. *Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members.* Leader: Ed Zaret, 305-586-3564



**NOV. 4, SUN. TURNER RIVER CANOE.** This beautiful river goes 8 miles through very narrow channels from the Tamiami Trail, starting as fresh water and becoming increasingly salty as it flows into Chokoloskee Bay. Rated moderate...BUT the last hour may be strenuous depending upon open water wind/weather/tide. Limit 16. *Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members.* Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401 <[JMGross3013@aol.com](mailto:JMGross3013@aol.com)>



**NOV. 10, SAT. HYPOLUXO SCRUB OR WAKODAHATCHEE ECOWALK.** Leader: Sabrina Carle, 561-732-4486 <[Carles@bellsouth.net](mailto:Carles@bellsouth.net)>



**NOV. 24, SAT. HIKE THE WILDERNESS TRAIL, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE.** We'll hike 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 <[katrhoad@prodigy.net](mailto:katrhoad@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 <<mailto:mrhinnmiss@aol.com>> Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <<mailto:kaatjebnabei@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 <<mailto:lisa.hanley@juno.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 or go to <[www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms)>.

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>>**

diving and fishing related activities. Miami-Dade County, Palm Beach and Monroe counties had similar economic benefits. Coral reefs act as nurseries for juvenile sport fish and protect beaches from storm surges. It is clear that when all the benefits of healthy coral reefs are tallied, public investment should be focused on protecting them.

Coral reefs are impacted from many sources. The biggest threat they face is warming waters caused by global climate change and ocean acidification from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. They also face impacts from boat anchors and overuse by divers. While mitigating global warming will require national and international action, the single biggest step local government can take to ensure the survival of our threatened reefs is to eliminate the unseemly practice of using ocean outfalls for wastewater disposal.

Please send an email to Governor Crist and let him know how you feel about ocean outfalls. Governor Crist can be reached at <Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com>.

**Clean Energy Future up for Vote**

The U.S. Senate is debating and voting on an energy bill this month that will require utilities to procure 15% of their energy from renewable resources by the year 2020, although 4% of the energy could be obtained through energy efficiency. This is commonly referred to as a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). It's a compromise bipartisan plan that sets the country on solid footing towards a clean energy future.

Unfortunately, Senator Nelson, who is typically very strong on progressive energy issues, has been quiet on supporting the bill.

The Senator's office has been besieged by some Florida investor-owned utilities that would rather continue "business as usual." They argue that the Southeast is not rich in renewable energy resources. A closer inspection of renewable energy potential in the Southeast reveals that every state in the Southeast, including Florida, has renewable energy supplies that can help reduce fuel imports and increase energy independence. Governor Crist has mandated similar progressive measures and Senator Nelson should follow the Governor's lead.

The Union of Concerned Scientists reports that several Southeast states have found substantial wind resources off the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic. Additionally, in most of the region, the potential of solar photovoltaic (PV) technology to help meet peak demand is equal to the best or second best in the country, and much better than many regions, such as the Northeast, that are doing much more to develop solar.



FPL Group is the first Florida-based utility to make a substantial commitment to tap the potential of solar energy in Florida. The Palm Beach Post reported that FPL Group Inc. will invest \$2.4 billion on major solar-energy projects, primarily in Florida, including a 300-megawatt solar-thermal operation as well as a program that lets consumers buy renewable-energy credits to counter their carbon emissions. FPL Group Chief Executive Lew Hay III made the announcement alongside Florida Gov. Charlie Crist at the 2007 Clinton Global Initiative in New York in late September. The projects include \$1.5 billion for a 300-megawatt solar-thermal generating operation in Florida as well as one in California. FPL is working with Palo Alto-based solar-thermal startup Ausra Inc. on this project.

Florida can become a manufacturing leader in the U.S. renewable energy industry. An RES has the potential to create well over 4,000 jobs in Florida and over \$1.7 billion in investment in solar and wind alone according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. For example, there are hundreds of General Electric employees in Pensacola, FL involved in the design, assembly, and service of wind turbine generators.

Please let Senator Nelson hear your voice on the importance of moving forward with a clean energy economy. The Senator can be reached at: (202) 224-5274, or at <www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>.

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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 issue	3 issues
Business card size ad (3-3/4" x 2")	\$55	\$150
Double size ad (3-3/4" x 4")	\$95	\$255
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If you would like to place an ad, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or email him at <maxgold@yahoo.com>.

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