

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

– By George Cavros, Conservation Chair

### No backpumping for Lake Okeechobee

South Florida water quality got a huge reprieve last month as the “new majority,” on the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board (SFWMD), largely appointed by Governor Crist, refused to pump polluted farm runoff into Lake Okeechobee. The vote was a setback for Big Sugar, an industry that has traditionally had their way with water management policy. Historically, polluted runoff water from the sugar fields has been backpumped into the Lake when cane fields had too much water.



“For me to vote for this would be indefensible,” said Charles Dauray of Lee County, a board member of the SFWMD, during a sometimes sniping debate. “I’m not about to vote for sacrificing the quality of water in South Florida to raise the level of Lake Okeechobee by 4 inches,” reported the Palm Beach Post. The supporters of pumping were largely board members appointed by former Gov. Jeb Bush.

The board rejected even limited pumping from one set of pumps near South Bay, which growers’ advocates had said would provide cleaner water than a second set of pumps near Belle Glade. Environmentalists said the runoff still would contain far more pollution than the already chronically contaminated lake can stand.

The vote against pumping was 4-3, with Dauray joining Melissa Meeker of Stuart, Shannon Estenez of Plantation and Chairman Eric Buerman of Miami in opposing it. Thornton, Patrick Rooney of West Palm Beach and Nicolas Gutierrez of Miami voted for limited pumping.

Despite the victory, the SFWMD continues fighting in court for its legal right to pump runoff into the lake without federal permits. A federal judge in Miami ruled last year that the district has been violating the Clean Water Act by backpumping water into the Lake without a permit.

### Florida Hometown Democracy surpasses 300,000 signatures



Florida Hometown Democracy is a proposed constitutional amendment that would require a vote on any land use changes that conflict with a local government’s plan for growth. If a developer wanted to put a Wal-Mart Superstore in a spot designated for agriculture, it would ultimately be the voters, not the local officials, who have to approve it. (For more info, see page 3.)

The referendum needs 609,000 signatures and is now well over 320,000. The petition is meeting stiff opposition from the development lobby, including confusing websites by the same name encouraging voters to not sign. If you haven’t filled out the petition and sent it in, please do so today. To download the petition and learn more about Florida Hometown Democracy, please visit: <http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com>

### Turtle Season Continues Until October 31st

Each year marine sea turtles nest on Broward County beaches from March 1st to October 31st. Five species of sea turtles are found swimming in Florida’s waters and nesting on Florida’s

*continued on page 2*

## Broward Sierra Programs

**Tuesday, Oct. 2nd: Wilderness 99.** An exciting and stunningly beautiful video presentation by Pat Welsh, on his 2005 solo kayak trip along the 99 miles of rivers and bays of the Wilderness Waterway in the Everglades.



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

**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.

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.

Graphic design & layout by [carolewalsh@mindspring.com](mailto:carolewalsh@mindspring.com)  
Printing by The Press Room  
4111 SW 47 Ave. #309, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314  
(954) 792-6729 • [www.thepressroom.net](http://www.thepressroom.net)



Recycled paper, soy ink

**Sierra Hotline**  **954-567-2841**  
for Hotline additions, call Harold @ 561-417-0216

**SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY**  
P.O. Box 350432  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 4189

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**  
Matthew Schwartz 954-764-2739
- 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
- Newsletter Editor**  
Carole Walsh 954-987-3642  
carolewalsh@mindspring.com
- Newsletter Mailing Coordinator**  
Open
- Executive Committee Member**  
Leigh Buckner 954-563-0073
- Executive Committee Member**  
Brion 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.

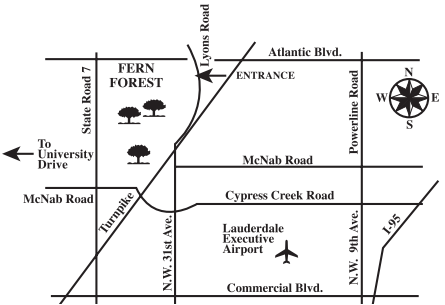
## Broward Sierra Club General Meetings

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held the first Tuesday or Wednesday of every month (see schedule below).

**The October meeting and program will be held on Tuesday, October 2nd 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.

November's meeting will be back at Anne Kolb nature Center.



## Executive Committee Meetings

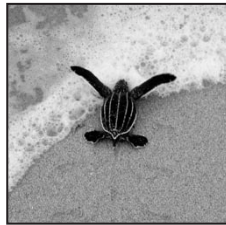
Held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, in room 430a of the Broward County Governmental Center. For details call Barbara Curtis at 954-946-7359 or e-mail her at Legalbarb@aol.com.

## GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

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., October 2nd: Fern Forest    Wed., November 7th: Anne Kolb    Tues., December 4th: Fern Forest

*Environmental Updates, continued from page 1*



beaches – all are protected under state and federal laws. While illegal harvesting and pollution are some of the things sea turtles must fight against to stay alive, beach development is their biggest threat in Florida.

In the natural environment, turtle hatchlings are drawn to the ocean by the lighter horizon. They have energy to make it to the ocean tide line and swim out to sea. Unfortunately, they're drawn to artificial lighting on Broward's heavily developed beaches. In July, there was a major turtle hatchling mortality incident in Deerfield Beach. Many hatchlings were drawn by the lights of beach condo lights, parking lot lights, and business lighting and met their demise along Route A1A.

Additionally, there were turtles hatchling deaths reported in Lauderdale by the Sea as new-born turtles were drawn by the lights of the city hall. All cities in Broward County are required to have beach lighting ordinances in place that restrict artificial lighting on the beach. Hollywood is the only city that has not complied with the county ordinance and many other cities do little to enforce the ordinances that are in place. Sierra Club is attempting to work with the cities to ensure that ordinances are in place and properly enforced. If you've seen blatant artificial lights shining on your city's beach, feel free to contact me at <gscprop@yahoo.com>.

### Hollywood Sewage Outfall Meeting Resistance

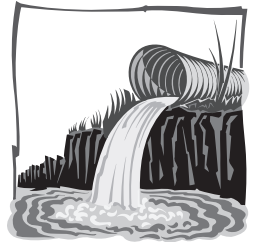
There are 6 outfalls in South Florida that dump partially treated sewage water into the ocean. The six outfalls combine for a total of 300 million gallons per day, the City of Hollywood being the largest of the Broward outfalls. The permits to pollute must

be renewed every five years under the Clean Water Act. This unseemly practice is meeting strict resistance from organizations concerned about the continued survival of Florida's coral reef system – the only coral reef system in the continental US.

The City has tried to renew its permit in March, April and July of this year – but each time the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has rejected the application asking for additional information. The application expands the dumping from 47 million gallons per day to 55.

The response by the DEP states: "Under the Clean Water Act and Florida law, wastewater discharges must not degrade the receiving water. The Department needs additional monitoring data to have reasonable assurance that the discharge is not causing or contributing to algae blooms and subsequent harmful impacts on the reef system. Therefore, we are requesting the utility to propose a monitoring program in the receiving waters that will provide additional information to evaluate the potential impacts of the outfall. The program shall consist of routine sampling locations near the outfall and reef system at various locations and depths."

The environmental community will continue to monitor the permit process and may challenge the permit as there has been adequate studies performed on other nearby reef systems to conclude that the outfalls add harmful nutrients to the water that harm coral reef systems. As always, we'll keep you updated on the permit process.



## FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY

We have until January, 2008 to collect 609,000 verified Florida Hometown Democracy petitions in order to make the November 2008 ballot.

### SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Q: What is the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment?**

**A:** This amendment (if adopted) will give you, the Florida voter, the right to decide whether your city or county Comprehensive Land Use Plan should be changed. Currently, city councils and county commissions make those decisions

**Q: Why is this amendment needed?**

**A:** Currently, it's just too easy for wealthy developers to obtain comprehensive plan amendments. All they have to do is persuade a majority of a city or county commission to grant a change. Because comprehensive plan amendments determine the destiny of a community for generations to come, it is vital that changes to a comprehensive plan truly reflect the concerns of the voters. This will be accomplished through the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment.

**Q: How does the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment work?**

**A:** City and county commissioners will continue to hold public hearings on proposed comprehensive plan amendments and vote whether to approve or reject a proposal, just as they have always done. Commissioners will still have the power to kill bad proposals. But... Florida Hometown Democracy will give voters a veto over bad proposals that a commission insists on passing.

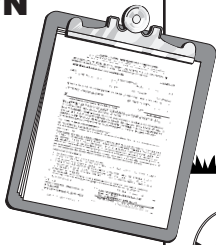
Each comprehensive plan amendment will be listed as a referendum election item and scheduled for the next regular election. By having the issue addressed at the same time as the general election, there is no need for a special election or any cost of doing so.

The amendment gives the keys of stability back to the voters, allowing the will of the people to lock or unlock changes to existing land use categories.

In summary, with the Florida Hometown Democracy amendment, the voters will decide if a proposed change will make their community a better place to live. If the majority votes yes, then the change happens. If the majority votes no, then the change doesn't happen. It's as simple as that.

The amendment will clean up the corrupt local politics of growth. Developers will no longer be able to buy off a simple majority

*continued on page 4*



# Local Sierra Group Outings

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

**SEPT. 29, SAT. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING 101 AND 102.** 9:30am to 5:30pm. These are the mandatory classes required to become a Sierra Club Outings Leader. It's also a refresher course for leaders to update their certifications, and is open to members from all counties in South Florida. *Cost: free, lunch included.* Central Broward location to be announced.

Leaders: Charles Hunt <sierra@smartsolutions.com> and Judy Kuchta, 954-924-5001 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>

**OCT. 7, SUN. BROWARD GROUP OUTINGS LEADER PLANNING DAY.** 10:30am to 2:30pm. Outings Leaders get together and plan the Group's outings for the rest of 2007 and into the summer of 2008. Non-leaders are welcome too. Location TBA. *Cost: Free.*

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

**OCT. 6 - 8, SAT. - MON. DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL OLETA RIVER STATE PARK.** Paddle down the river towards the bay plus enjoy a leisurely trail walk at nearby Greynolds Park. Camaraderie 'round the campfire and spend cool nights in the air-conditioned group cabins. Rated moderate. Limit 8. *Cost: \$100 members, \$130 non-members.*

Leader: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>

Asst: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>

**OCT. 13, SAT. URBAN BICYCLING IN THE LANTANA AREA.** 8am. Rated leisure. Limit 20. *Cost: Free.*

Leader: Ron Haines, 561-964-1995 <RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>

**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>

**NOV. 10, SAT. HYPOLUXO SCRUB OR WAKODAHATCHEE ECOWALK.**

Leader: Sabrina Carle, 561-732-4486 <Carles@bellsouth.net>

**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:mrhitnmiss@aol.com>

Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <mailto:kaatjebernabei@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.

**You may call the Sierra Hotline for updates at 954-567-2841**

**LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE:**

**<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>**



of a city or county commission. Example: two Palm Beach County Commissioners have been indicted in the past few months regarding their corrupt land use votes in exchange for secret payoffs from developers. Imagine how many city and county commissioners have been bought, but not caught!

**Q: What are the costs associated with Florida Hometown Democracy?**

**A:** Negligible. A little extra ink on the already scheduled ballot. But Florida Hometown Democracy will save Floridians untold billions of dollars. You already know that most new construction does not pay its way: the tax revenue assessed and impact fees on new construction does not begin to cover the costs associated with putting in new roads, schools, water and sewer, not to mention essential services including fire, rescue, police, garbage, etc. Taxes are rising fasted in the fasted growing areas. For too long Floridians have suffered the double calamity of both watching their state ruined by bad development and paying for it too.

**Q: What role will the Florida Legislature play under Florida Hometown Democracy?**

**A:** None. The Legislature will have no role to play. It is not required to pass any implementing legislation or allocate any funds. The genius of Florida Hometown Democracy is that it is a fully self-executing law. The day it is enacted by Florida voters is the day it takes effect.

**Q: Will I have to "Vote on everything?" - like 200 land use changes every year?**

**A:** Absolutely NOT! This is a ridiculous scare tactic by the growth machine trying to trick you. Under Florida Hometown Democracy, you will vote ONLY on comprehensive plan amendments approved by your local government. Florida Hometown Democracy will stop the growth machine from proposing outrageous comp plan amendments, because it will know that the electorate will reject

them. The number of comp plan amendments that actually make the ballot will be significantly reduced.

So remember, you won't vote on rezonings or variances. You won't vote if the lady down the street wants to repaint her house. You will vote on only those few comp plan amendments that actually get approved.

**Q: What impact will the Florida Hometown Democracy have on construction?**

**A:** A 1999 study added up the residential density allowed by all the town, city and county comprehensive plans and determined that the sum total of all the plans allow enough residential development for over 100 million people. Currently, the state has about 20 million residents. That study was conducted eight years ago. Imagine how much density has been authorized since then, as Florida went through the biggest developer driven boom in its history! Under Florida Hometown Democracy, even if voters reject most future comp plan amendments, there is so much growth built into the plans that development will continue. Developers will just have to live within the parameters of the plans.

The United States is the bastion of democracy. It's time to bring democracy back to where it really matters - *to the places where we live.*

The Florida Hometown Democracy amendment seeks to *put the people back in charge of the places where they live.*

It is never too late for the future! If you haven't yet signed the FHD petition, you can print the petition from the FHD website <www.floridahometowndemocracy.com>. Please sign the petition, make or print out copies, and get at least 4 friends or family members to sign them (if they are registered Florida voters). Return the signed petitions, and please make even a \$10 donation, to:

Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc.  
P.O. Box 636  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170-0636

**This chance to save Florida from another 50 years of developer ruin will not come again.**

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

**Law & Mediation, LLC  
Stuart Reed, Attorney and Mediator**

3595 Sheridan St., Suite 202 Tel: 954-964-8107  
Hollywood, Florida 33021 StuReedEsq@aol.com

**Resolving business, family, and immigration concerns.**

**www.LawAndMediationLLC.com**

*The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisements. Before deciding, ask me for free written information about my experience and qualifications.*

**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

F94Q

W3302 1

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