

# Broward Sierra News



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## PROPOSED LIMESTONE MINES NEWEST THREAT TO EVERGLADES RESTORATION

– By Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Political Chair / Outings Leader

In a legal trial which lasted more than 6 months and pitted the Sierra Club and its environmental allies against some of the largest producers of limestone, concrete and cement products in the state, Federal Judge William Hoeweler ruled last summer that an expansion of new limestone mines in the Lake Belt District of Miami Dade County would not proceed. These same proposed mines had already been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2002. The judge's 177 page opinion blamed the corps for its "ongoing disregard" for the huge environmental risks posed by these mining operations and cited the discovery of benzene in the well fields of Miami-Dade County. Judge Hoeweler's opinion of the Army Corps' actions in permitting these new mines could not have been more blunt - "In three decades of federal judicial service, this Court has never seen a federal agency respond so indifferently to clear evidence of significant environmental risks related to the agency's proposed action."

Unfortunately, any celebrating of the judge's ruling was premature. The millions of tons of limestone which are mined annually in the Lake Belt District just outside of Everglades National Park are a significant percentage of the state's total, and are used throughout Florida as roadbed material as well as being the major ingredient in concrete. Mined limestone is an absolutely essential ingredient in the growth and sprawl we have all seen.



Florida East Coast Railroad cars filled with crushed limestone from the Everglades cross Broward Blvd. in downtown Ft. Lauderdale.

Fearing the loss of a material the Florida Department of Transportation refers to as a 'strategic asset', the limestone mining industry has recently moved the front lines of this battle northward to the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) just south of Lake Okeechobee - the very beginning of the historic Everglades. No less than 6 new mines totaling thousands of acres are in various stages of application and permitting. Mining results in the introduction of chemicals into the aquifer and the ripping away of its protective ground cover. Moreover, water entering the open pits created by mining becomes mineralized, alkalized and deoxygenated (spells MAD if you put the initials together). The open pits can never be restored as Everglades because the water entering them is unsuitable for either consumption or habitat without extensive (and still unknown) methods of restoration. Added to this is the porous nature of the limestone which underlies our entire region, and the threat to south Florida's drinking water as well as its major ecosystem becomes obvious.

The Sierra Club's position on new limestone mines in the EAA is clear. Having fought against the pollution of this same land and water by the agricultural industry for decades, we are absolutely opposed to any new limestone mines in the flow way of the historic Everglades. These mines would be completely contrary to the aims of the multibillion dollar Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and would put south Florida's water supply at risk. We are also urging Governor Crist, as well as other state and local agencies, to begin the work of designating the Everglades Agricultural Area an 'Area of Critical State Concern' to give this vital area the protection it deserves.

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

Sierra Hotline  954-567-2841

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

## Broward Sierra Programs

**Tuesday, April 1st: Brian Lewis** (a previous Broward Sierra Conservation Chair) of Diaper Duty, and Vicky Rogers of Mother Nature's Paint Store will be speaking on the challenges and rewards of starting green companies. Bring your questions, concerns, and green business ideas. Other Green Business Leaders may join the conversation as well, so don't miss out!

**The meeting and program will be held at the Fern Forest Nature Center**, 201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek (see map on next page).

**Wednesday, May 7th at Anne Kolb: 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.

This fight is only beginning. Still, there is no time like the present to make your voice heard on this critical issue. Please contact Governor Charlie Crist today and ask him to do what is necessary to protect the Everglades: allow no new mines in the EAA., and designate the EAA an Area of Critical State Concern.

The Governor's email address is [charlie.crist@myflorida.com](mailto:charlie.crist@myflorida.com). His office can also be reached by phone at 850-488-7146.



## The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

- Executive Committee Chair**  
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- Secretary**  
Louis Serra 954-442-0880
- Treasurer**  
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- Conservation Chair**  
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- Executive Committee Member**  
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Leigh Buckner 954-563-0073

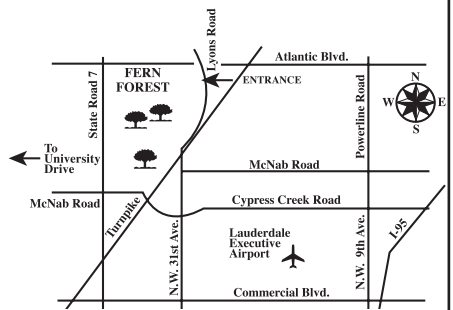
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**Membership Corrections** - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to: **Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, 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 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). **This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1st 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.

Next month'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

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:

Tues., Apr. 1st: Fern Forest	Wed., July 2nd: Anne Kolb	Tues., Oct. 7th: Fern Forest
Wed., May 7th: Anne Kolb	Tues., Aug. 5th: Fern Forest	Wed., Nov. 5th: Anne Kolb
Tues., June 3rd: Fern Forest	Wed., Sept. 3rd: Anne Kolb	Tues., Dec. 2nd: Fern Forest

## SAVE THE WETLANDS

As part of the proposed Port Everglades Expansion, the Broward County Commission is considering approving an element of its Port Master Plan that would destroy approximately 12 acres of high-quality tidal mangrove wetlands for a "turning notch". Here's the twist: Broward County pledged to protect the threatened wetlands in the 1980's as part of an earlier port expansion that wiped out 18 acres of adjacent wetlands.

The wetlands in the "turning notch" have a "conservation easement" over them that is intended to protect them *in perpetuity* from any further development. The endangered wetlands were pledged as mitigation to offset the earlier development at the Port. But now County officials are trying to swap that Port wetlands for other speculative wetland protection in northern Broward County.

### KEY CONCERNS:

The County made an agreement in the 1980's and it should honor its pledge.

The practice of trying to "remitigate" wetlands that are set aside as previous mitigation from wetland destruction turns the whole wetland mitigation principle on its head. The wetlands in the port play an important ecological function in the Port.

How much further does the Commission want to industrialize Broward County?

Wetlands play an important function in south Florida. They provide flood control in heavy rain events and cleanse storm water that runs off into our waterways. Furthermore, tidal wetlands provide critical habitat for juvenile game fish and endangered species.

These wetlands are considered high quality and the "vegetation is predominately mangrove with little or no exotic vegetation."



Port Everglades

The proposed impacts are more damaging than just the acreage lost. The impacted mangroves include a tidal creek that has a direct link to the FPL discharge canal, and therefore has created significantly greater mortality to the endangered manatee population. Additionally, the proposed construction will reduce the flushing action of the tidal creek and will ultimately degrade and destroy the functionality of the remaining forty acres of wetlands.

There is no evidence to indicate that the Port could not be designed in a manner that will not impact any more wetlands.

Negotiations are now taking place with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the County to release the conservation easement. Please let DEP Secretary Mike Sole know that it's improper and dishonest to let the County keep swapping these wetlands out for endless mitigation schemes. A deal is a deal, and the County and the State should honor the deal that they made in the 80's!

A decision by the DEP and the County Commission will happen soon, and the wetlands CAN be saved - simply by DEP rejecting the release of the easement (but they need to hear from you).

So please take a moment to send an email to Sec. Sole <Michael.sole@dep.state.fl.us>.

Additionally, email the County Commissioners:  
kjacobs@broward.org, jrodstrom@broward.org,  
kkeechl@broward.org, lwexler@broward.org,  
sgunzburger@broward.org, sritter@broward.org,  
and ilieberman@broward.org.

## PHOTO GALLERY



March 3, 2008  
Big Cypress  
Hike

Photos by  
Nancy Lunz



2007 Tall Ship Cruise  
Photos by Jackie Fisher



2005  
Tall Ship  
Cruise  
Photo by  
Jackie  
Fisher



More photos at  
<[florida.sierraclub.org/broward/SierraTales.html](http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward/SierraTales.html)>

## Local Sierra Group Outings

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



**MAR. 22, SAT. OCEAN TO LAKE TRAIL DAY HIKE.** We'll hike from Riverbend Park, west of Jupiter, to the Jonathan Dickinson State Park marina. The total distance is 11 miles. More details are available at [http://lox.floridatrail.org/html/ocean\\_to\\_lake.html](http://lox.floridatrail.org/html/ocean_to_lake.html). Rated moderate to strenuous. Limit 20. *Cost: FREE.*

Leader: Donna Brown, 561-317-8288 <cips07@comcast.net>



**MAR. 30, SUN. OFF ROAD BIKE TRIP ON THE ORIGINAL ROAD TO FLAMINGO.** See gators, birds and wildflowers. See the "hole in the donut." Park admission not included. Includes lunch. Rated moderate to strenuous. *Cost: \$10 members, \$12 non-members.*

Leaders: Diane Jacobs, 305-667-6962 <diane@cobb-ebin.com>  
Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962 <eeljac@earthlink.net>



**APR. 12, SAT. TREE TOPS PARK HIKE & PICNIC.** 9 AM. An easy 2 1/2 hour hike, following by a picnic lunch at picturesque Tree Tops Park. 23 acres of restored freshwater marsh, boardwalk, natural setting, birds, small animals, and butterflies. Rated easy. Bring drinking water for hike. Picnic lunch and drinks supplied. Further details by e-mail, the week of the hike. Sign up early, please. *Cost: \$8 members (\$4 members' kids), \$10 non-members (\$6 non-members' kids).*

Leader: Nancy Lunz, 954-658-8531 <a101nunzie@aol.com>  
Asst: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



**APR. DATE TBA. BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE ADDITION LANDS SWAMPWALK.** Join us for a quiet 6 or 7 mile walk through a mix of pinelands, prairie and cypress swamp. Expect to see lots of animal tracks (hopefully Florida panther) in this very beautiful and still wild part of South Florida. Rated moderate. *Cost: \$5.* Contact Leader Matthew Schwartz to sign up: 954-865-4306 <Matthew3222@yahoo.com>



**APR. 27. SUN. ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB MIAMI GROUP PICNIC.** Join your friends for a fun day at the Miami Group's annual picnic. Details: TBA.

Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401 <JMGross3013@aol.com>



**MAY 10, SAT. SUNSET CRUISE ON A TALL SHIP IN BISCAYNE BAY.** Enjoy a sunset sail on a 2-masted schooner, out of Miami, around northern Biscayne Bay. The 2 hour sail includes snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own. Bring your mother, wife (Mother's Day is Sunday), a friend or group of friends and enjoy conversation with 'like-minds' or just sit back and take in the fresh, salt air. Rated easy. *Cost: \$27 members, \$30 non-members.*

Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 <jfisher@bigfoot.com>

Asst: Kip Fisher, 954-434-2855 <jfisher@bigfoot.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)>. Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

**For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.**

**Check the Sierra Hotline for updates at 954-567-2841  
LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE:  
<<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>**



## 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				

**Join the Sierra Club and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**  
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**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.

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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.



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Regular	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$39		\$47	
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75		\$100	
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150		\$175	
Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1000			<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$24			<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$24			<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$24			<input type="checkbox"/>

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

## EARTH DAY EVENTS

April 19-20, 10-5PM and 12-6PM  
Museum of Discovery and Science, Downtown Ft Lauderdale:  
Speakers on energy, organic food, etc.

April 19, 9AM-1PM  
Sandy Ridge Sanctuary, Coral Springs:  
Whole Foods will furnish goodies, and there will be lots of plants and animals to see.

April 26, 10AM-3PM  
Anne Kolb Nature Center  
Give Thanks to the Environment Day:  
Audubon, speakers, displays and tour  
Watch the Broward group site  
<<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>  
for other Earth Day events.

Volunteers are needed to help table various Earth Day events. If you would like to help cover a Sierra Club table for a couple of hours, contact Barbara at 954-784-8992, cell 954 804-2060 or <[legalbarb2@yahoo.com](mailto:legalbarb2@yahoo.com)>, or John Shave at 954-557-3759.



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We Borrow it from our Children.**

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## 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 issue	3 issues
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](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com)>.