

Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB
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VICTORY 2008. YES WE DID!

**VOL. XXX No. 10
DEC. 2008 / JAN. 2009**



Broward Outings Chair Judy Kuchta, Political Chair Matt Schwartz, and Outings Leader Patty Widener celebrate the election of Sierra's endorsed presidential candidate Barack Obama, in Plantation on November 4th, 2008. Congratulations to President Elect Obama and his family. And thanks to all you Broward Sierrans who believed that change was possible!

<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra>

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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.

COCONUT CREEK RESIDENTS FILE COMPLAINT AGAINST CITY OVER PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

– By Jim Freeman, Media Liaison, Concerned Citizens of Coconut Creek

The City of Coconut Creek is being taken to court to defend its recent rezoning decision for a proposed commercial development that would be called Cocomar Plaza. Regency Realty Inc. has submitted plans that would replace approximately 42 acres of mixed hardwoods and wetlands with over 300,000 square feet of new retail space featuring Lowes and Kohls anchor stores. Area residents have organized in opposition to the proposed shopping center, citing serious concerns over environmental impact, traffic safety and congestion, effect on already declining property values, and that the project offers no advantage to residents over existing retail spaces in the area. There is also concern over the probability of prehistoric/historic cultural resources within the project area. This has been expressed by Matthew De Felice, Broward County Archaeologist and endorsed by Robert S. Carr, Executive Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. There is a registered prehistoric archaeological site in Fern Forest about a quarter of a mile from the Cocomar site. That combined with topological and hydrological factors at the site lead archaeologists to conclude that similar cultural resources may exist within the proposed project area.

The site is near the southern tip of Coconut Creek, at the northwest corner of Atlantic Blvd. and Lyons Road. The westernmost section of the site, at the northeast corner of Atlantic Blvd. and Banks Road, is in the City of Margate. The property is currently almost entirely surrounded by residential communities.

On September 25, 2008, Creek City Commissioners voted unanimously to grant the zoning change amid strong opposition from City residents. Many residents were not satisfied with the Commissioner's statements that they felt they were acting on behalf of resident's best interests, even though no residents showed any support for the zoning change.

In response, several residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project have engaged a law firm, and filed a petition seeking injunctive relief and an overturning of the City Commission's decision citing: "...the City failed to follow

the essential requirements of law, and issued a development order inconsistent with the City's state mandated comprehensive plan."

For further information see <www.coconutcreekfl.org/coco.html> or email Jim at <freems@bellsouth.net>.

To help cover the legal fees, Lakewood East residents in conjunction with Concerned Citizens of Coconut Creek are planning a very large yard sale on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the corner of NW 6 Street and NW 49 Ave., off Banks Road just north of Atlantic Blvd. (immediately adjacent to the area for the proposed Cocomar Plaza project). The sale is from 7 am until 2 pm and all are invited to donate and attend.

Broward Sierra Programs

Wednesday, Dec. 10th: Holiday Pot Luck Dinner & Silent Auction. Bring a dish to share, and join us for



fantastic food, friends & fun, and our fabulous silent auction (camping gear, art work, books, native plants, collectibles, a kayak, and more). Contact Barbara at 954-946-7359 or <Legalbarb@aol.com> to donate items for the auction or to volunteer to help 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).

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.



The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

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- Treasurer**
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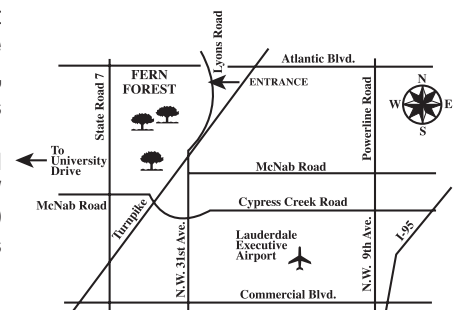
Broward Sierra News is published monthly for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

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 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 Wed., Dec. 10th 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.



GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

We meet at Anne Kolb Nature Center on the first Wednesday of every odd numbered month (with the exception of September, which will be at Fern Forest), and at the Fern Forest Nature Center on the second Wednesday of every even numbered month (plus September). Here is the schedule for the upcoming year:

Wed. Dec. 10: Fern Forest	Wed. Mar. 4: Anne Kolb	Wed. Jun. 10: Fern Forest	Wed. Sep. 9: Fern Forest
Wed. Jan. 7: Anne Kolb	Wed. Apr. 8: Fern Forest	Wed. Jul. 1: Anne Kolb	Wed. Oct. 14: Fern Forest
Wed. Feb. 11: Fern Forest	Wed. May 6: Anne Kolb	Wed. Aug. 12: Fern Forest	Wed. Nov. 4: Anne Kolb

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS

The Broward County Sierra Club regrets to announce that because of financial constraints, starting with this issue, we will only be publishing the Broward Sierra News every other month. To keep you all apprised of current Broward Sierra Club events, we will have them all listed on our website: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>. If you would like to receive reminders of these events e-mailed to you, you will need to subscribe to our Yahoo newsgroup. The address is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra>. Simply click on the blue "Join this Group" and follow the instructions. You may have to create a Yahoo ID first, which is easy and free. This will also allow you sign up for other Yahoo newsgroups, of which there are many.

HERE'S THE BEEF – By Max Goldstein, Broward Sierra Club Treasurer

As we approach the upcoming holidays, we look forward to the large festive meals we'll be having. However, most people don't realize that what we eat has a major impact on the environment. When people talk about greenhouse gases, we usually think of pollution from cars, trains, planes, and boats. However, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization issued a report in 2006 stating that livestock farming generates 18% of the planet's greenhouse gas emissions, compared to the 13% from transportation. And livestock produces a lot of methane, which is 23 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide (CO₂). Livestock also produces a lot of manure, which generates nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that has 296 times the warming effect of CO₂. The manure turns into farm runoff, which can wind up in our drinking water and oceans. This contaminates the water, kills coral by creating algae blooms, which leads to the loss of oxygen. After the depletion of oxygen levels, many organisms in the ocean die from being unable to breathe properly.

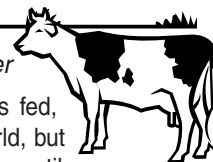
There are other factors at work as well. Each second, a section of rainforest the size of a football field is cleared. (Much of this land is being cleared for livestock.) That's 86,400 football fields of rainforest per day. This means fewer trees to absorb CO₂ and serve as home to a variety of species. And when a tree dies, the greenhouse gas is released back into the environment.

Finally, eighty percent of our grain is fed, not to starving people around the world, but to livestock, who live a miserable life until they're slaughtered. How many animals do we slaughter a year for food? I've heard many estimates, and the smallest is six billion annually. And the water needed to grow this grain? It comes out to 5,000 gallons for each pound of hamburger. Unfortunately, the problem is getting worse, as meat consumption is on the rise in the world.

Many people look to politicians to make the world better. We want them to pass laws to protect the environment and enforce the ones we have in place. But what we can do as individuals? Well, there are over six billion, seven hundred million individuals in the world, so if we each eat less meat, it would make a huge difference. I know it's too unrealistic to expect everyone to become a vegan, but if all Americans skipped just one meal of meat per week, substituting a vegetarian dish, the carbon dioxide savings would be equal to removing over half a million cars from the U.S. roads. And if we eat less meat, the market will adjust according to the demand. Remember, your impact on the environment, your carbon footprint, includes your food choices.

Where do I learn all this? I subscribe to a Yahoo newsgroup called South Florida Vegans <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SoFlaVegans>>. There's a lot of valuable information about nutrition and the environment to be found there.

So, when you're deciding what to serve over the holidays, please replace at least one meat dish with something more environmentally friendly. Everyone will benefit.



Local Sierra Group Outings

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



Nov. 27-Nov. 30, THURS.-SUN. (THANKSGIVING WEEKEND) Thanksgiving at Cedar Key (30 minutes West of Gainesville). We'll stay in a townhouse on the water, cook a turkey dinner, visit the John Muir Museum and the haunted hotel, go kayaking, biking and hiking. Rated easy to moderate. *Cost (including meals): approx. \$150.* (Broward Group)
Leader: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



DEC. 7, SUN. BIG CYPRESS ADDITION LANDS HIKE. Hike and slog the seldom explored regions of the southern Addition Lands of Big Cypress National Preserve. This area is blanketed with cypress forest and contains some of the most pristine areas in the entire preserve. Approximately 5 miles. Rated moderate. Members \$5, non-members \$6. (Broward Group)
Leader: Matt Schwartz, 954-865-4306 <matthew3222@yahoo.com>



DEC. 13, SAT. MOONLIGHT YOGA ON HOLLYWOOD BEACH. An hour and a half yoga experience on the beach. This class includes traditional yoga postures and moonlight salutations on a semi-full moonlight night where, as Muir wrote, "nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." This class is open to all levels, including beginners, ages 15 and over. Wear comfortable clothing, and bring water and a beach towel or sheet. We'll meet at 6:45pm on Hollywood Beach Broadwalk, behind the Ramada Hotel & Oceanwalk Mall, between Harrison St. and Tyler St., and walk together to the beach. Metered parking is available. Enrico will be our yoga instructor. Rated easy to moderate. Limit 20. *Cost: \$8 members, \$9 non-members for groups of 1-10, or \$7 members, \$8 non-members for groups of 11-20.* (Broward Group) Leader: Pat Widener, 954-665-7615 <patwidener@yahoo.com>



DEC. 13, SAT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK "101" DAY WALK. Introductory visit and "walk-hike" in the Everglades for beginners and refresher for veterans and guests. We'll preview our experience with film, displays and visiting art show at the Coe Visitor Center, then stroll the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and nearby Gumbo Limbo Trail, followed by a visit to the Pinelands area for a gourmet lunch (included) and walk an unimproved trail there. Time and weather permitting we'll visit Pa-hay-okee Overlook boardwalk. Each trail less than one mile long. We'll look for gators, birds, turtles, fish, maybe a snake or two and bugs in season. Rated leisure. Limit 10. *Cost: \$20.* (Miami Group)
Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 <kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net>
Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>



DEC. 20, SAT. HYPOLUXO SCRUB ECOWALK NEAR LANTANA. 9:00 am. Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle with a leisurely hike in a beautiful natural area. Our walk on the nature trail will take us past many rare plants and the burrows of several threatened gopher tortoises that thrive in this 97 acre preserve. Rated leisure to moderate. Limit 15. *Cost: FREE.* (Loxahatchee Group)
Leader: Sabrina Carle, 561-732-4486 <Carles@bellsouth.net>



JAN. 10, SAT. ECOWALK AT SEACREST SCRUB IN BOYNTON BEACH. 3:30 pm. We'll walk with frequent stops to look, listen and absorb, for about 1-1/2 hours. This natural area has changed quite a bit since the controlled burn in 1996 and three hurricanes. Bring water and binoculars. (There are no facilities in this natural area.) The Seacrest Scrub is located on Seacrest Blvd., one mile south of Bethesda Hospital in Boynton Beach. *Cost: FREE.* Rated leisure, but we will walk in sand. Limit 10. (Loxahatchee Group)
Leader: Lisa Hanley, 561-732-9578 <lisa.hanley@Juno.com>



JAN. 17-18, SAT.-SUN. SW FLORIDA BIRDING AND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL IN ROOKERY BAY. Naples area. We will be camping at Collier Seminole Park (or you can find reasonable motels in the Naples area if you don't want to camp). Loads of birds and wildlife. Kayaking, canoeing and hiking will be available at the Rookery. *Cost: \$30 for festival. Camping and 4 meals estimated at \$75.* (Broward Group)
Leader: Barbara Curtis, 954 946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



JAN. 18, SUN. URBAN CANOE/KAYAK IN THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY NEAR LAKE WORTH. 8:00 am. We'll explore the artificial islands created north of Bryant Park in Lake Worth. Bring your own canoe/kayak. *Cost: FREE.* Rated moderate. Limit 20. (Loxahatchee Group) Leader: Ron Haines, 561-964-1995 <RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>



JAN. 24, SAT. EAST RIVER CANOE FUNDRAISER PADDLE. Approximately 8 - 10 miles. We'll be exploring several mangrove tunnels and small 'lakes', south of Tamiami Trail, just west of Route 29. Learn what inhabits this unique ecosystem. Check out pictures from a previous trip on the Broward Sierra Website, under 'Sierra Tales.' Paddles, life vests and canoes provided compliments of our host, John Judy of Florida Adventures. Bring your own lunch. Rated moderate *Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members.* (Broward Group)
Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 <jfisher@bigfoot.com> Asst. Leader: Kip Fisher (same phone number)



JAN. 24, SAT. HYPOLUXO SCRUB WORK OUTING NEAR LANTANA. 9:00 am to noon. Under the direction of the Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management team, we will remove exotic plants and trash from this urban nature preserve in Hypoluxo. Wear closed shoes and long pants. Hat and sunscreen highly recommended. Snacks, tools and work gloves will be supplied by ERM. Pre-registration required. Limit 20. *Cost: FREE.* Moderate or strenuous tasks available. (Loxahatchee Group)
Leader: Sabrina Carle, 561-732-4486 <Carles@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.

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>

OUR PLANET'S CURSE

– By Ina Topper, Environmental Education Chair

My pet peeve: plastic shopping bags.

It has been an exasperating journey, for at least the past decade, to slowly bring about more awareness when it comes to the plastic shopping bag curse, not that I'm unhappy with the recent turnaround in this regard.



Way back when, before plastic bags, it was the most normal thing around the globe to venture out on a shopping trip well equipped with conventional shopping bags, fold-up nets for the veggies when going to the city market, and other assorted containers to use for purchases. In fact, in many old world countries, as well as here in the U.S., we would have those cute wicker baskets attached to our bicycles when running an errand.

Then came the plastic shopping bag... Soon it wasn't necessary to think ahead and plan what one would shop for after work or after school, or bother to quickly stuff a fold-up net into our pocket book, just in case. I do not dare think of the millions, no, make that trillions of modern day plastic bags that now lie buried among our refuse - not to decay for many hundreds of years.

In my own small way, I tried MANY times to reduce the number of bags at the checkout counter, or deposit my OWN receptacle on the moving belt at Publix, Winn Dixie, Walmart or anywhere. All to no avail! Even though I mentioned ahead of time "No bags please, I have my own," or in case of an occasional need (for wet merchandise) "One bag please." It was simply misunderstood, and the friendly bagging person would have nevertheless, used two or three bags, then placed them in ONE bag, stating in a jovial manner, "Here you have it, ma'am, only ONE bag to carry." At other times there simply wouldn't be any choice, when having to discuss a pricing error, answering questions about method of payment, etc., it would be all bagged before I could repeat my request.

So let's discuss what we can do about it. First I must point out that significant progress has been made recently. In fact, within the last six months, most major chain stores have already come up with their own recyclable shopping bags at the checkout counters.

But here's another suggestion... wouldn't it be nice to bring one of those recyclable bags containing a bottle of wine or box of chocolates to the host at the next party you attend? You'd be surprised how pleased they would be, instead of getting a throwaway gift bag - AND you're making friends, colleagues and other acquaintances aware of the message.

In addition, you could mention some numbers, for instance, the time it takes for plastic bags and plastic giftwrap to decay (500-1000 years). And information released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tells us that w lifornia, there is now some level of plastic in all of the seafood we eat.

While this article is meant to raise general awareness (and I know some if it was rehashing what many of us environmentalists already know), it is also meant to give more specific details about this desperate curse.

For instance, the MAIN culprit of plastic bags is the single use plastic bag(s) for collecting kitchen trash, picking up dog or cat refuse, or other one-time uses. The single use High Density Polyethylene bag (HDPE for short) has been called the "national flower" of some countries in Africa, where adequate garbage collection is often poor or nonexistent. Therefore, the life of many a bag continues, eternally flapping in the wind from some high tree branches or rustling in the bushes along country roads. Or, as in Bangladesh, the bags have been known to clog the country's drains and sewage systems.

However, in addition to making the public aware of such catastrophic plastic bag litter problems, I'd like to discuss some of the solutions. Yes, paper bags have been an alternative on occasion, certainly when used for recycling newspapers. Yet, as it turns out, the paper bag solution isn't all what it is made out to be. For one thing, just think about the trees that have been felled to make the bags, in addition to the bags' not insignificant amount of time to fully disintegrate. Therefore, besides re-using, not using, or using less plastic and/or paper bags, how about alternatives? In this regard, significant inroads have been made around the globe, some very creative indeed, AND in developing countries where we'd least expect it.

In the next issue: a look at some of these solutions.



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.

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Address _____

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Phone (optional) (____) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Check enclosed, payable to Sierra Club Mastercard Visa AmEx

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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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CORRECTION ON THE BROWARD SIERRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION BALLOT

Please note that John Shave was erroneously listed as a candidate on the ballot in the November newsletter; he declined to run for the position. Kay McGinn should have been listed on the ballot in place of John Shave.

Thus, the six candidates for the Executive Committee are:

- Phil Busey**
- Barbara Curtis**
- Max Goldstein**
- Judy Kuchta**
- Kay McGinn (not John Shave)**
- Patricia Widener**

Five seats are to be filled on the EXCOM, **please vote for up to 5 candidates from the names above** on the ballot you received last month.

So please cross out John Shave's name on your ballot, and substitute Kay McGinn's name. Then vote for any five candidates.

Only members of the Broward Group of the Sierra Club are eligible to vote. The ballot was included in the November Sierra News which you received in the mail last month.