

Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB
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BROWARD SIERRA RECEIVES GRANT TO DRAFT A WILDERNESS BILL FOR BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

A version of the following press release announced some very good news for our local Group. Please send a quick email to Mary Bomar, Director of the National Park Service; David Vela, Southeast Regional Director of the National Park Service; and Karen Gustin, Superintendent of Big Cypress National Preserve, and urge that the National Park Service move quickly in designating the Addition Lands as a new federal wilderness area. Whether you've ever joined us on a hike in the Addition Lands or not, please share your thoughts about what having a nearby piece of wilderness means to you.



Mary_Bomar@nps.gov, David_Vela@nps.gov, Karen_Gustin@nps.gov

The Broward Group has received a grant from the Sierra Club's Wild Legacy Committee to draft a bill for consideration by members of Florida's Congressional and Senatorial delegation. At issue is moving the bulk of the Addition Lands of Big Cypress National Preserve from their current status of 'wilderness eligible' to 'wilderness designated' with full and permanent protection from development, commercialization and the use of motor vehicles as a form of recreation.

The Sierra Club fully supports the National Park Service's finding that approximately 109,000 acres of the 147,000 acre Addition meet the criteria for wilderness as defined by The Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 USC 1132). "Through this grant, the club's membership will be assisting the NPS in moving this land from the current status of 'wilderness eligible' to 'wilderness proposed,'" according to Matthew Schwartz, political chair of the Broward Group and the Big Cypress Conservation Working Group chair. He further stated that the Club will be asking the NPS to adopt "Alternative F" (no recreational off-road vehicle use) during the period when their inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System is pending. "By creating a draft wilderness bill, elected officials and the general public will come to better understand this rare piece of still untrammled public land surrounded by 6 million residents," Schwartz added.

Since 1996 when NPS officially acquired this property, the Addition Lands have been completely off limits to recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) use by the general public. Throughout areas of the preserve where they have been allowed, ORVs have been documented to cause broad ranging damage to the Big Cypress ecosystem. This has included the loss of vegetation; destruction of plant roots; compaction and rutting of soil; hydrological changes; spread of invasive plant species; fragmentation of habitats; and changes in animal behavior (particularly avoidance behavior by the extremely endangered Florida panther). The permanent prohibition of such vehicles as well as commercial concessions would be the ultimate goal of wilderness designation. ORV usage, subject to the terms and conditions of the preserve's ORV Management Plan, would continue to take place throughout most of the original 582,000 acres of the original preserve.

The Club's goal in working toward the permanent protection of the Addition Lands would be the creation of a fully-intact remnant of south Florida's once vast Big Cypress Swamp. This area once rivaled the Everglades in size and extent and is still habitat for many federally-listed threatened and endangered species. The new Big Cypress wilderness

continued on page 3

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<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.

Broward Sierra Programs

Tuesday, June 3rd: Our guest speaker will be **T.J. Marshall** from **Florida Coastal and Oceans Coalition**. He will be speaking about "Our Lives, Our Oceans." Join us as we look at the connectivity between our oceans and our human environmental actions, and their effect on global warming, water pollution, development of coastal wetlands and overfishing that are pushing our oceans toward a silent state of collapse. Learn about the National Healthy Ocean Act, a developing tool to face these challenges.



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, July 2nd: Saving Florida's Nature Coast, presented by **Joe Murphy**, the Florida Program Coordinator for the **Gulf Restoration Network**.

The meeting and program will be held at the Anne Kolb Nature Center on Sheridan St. in Hollywood.

Tuesday, August 5th at Fern Forest: Pot luck dinner.

Wednesday, Sept. 3rd: After committee reports, we will be participating in the **Sea Turtle program at Anne Kolb Nature Center**. Pre-registering will be required to participate in the turtle program. See page 3 for more info.

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

- Executive Committee Chair**
Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359
- Secretary**
Louis Serra 954-442-0880
- Treasurer**
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
- Conservation Chair**
Open
- Marine Issues / Energy Issues Chair**
Pedro Monteiro 954-525-3324
- Political Chair**
Matthew Schwartz 954-865-4306
- Legal Chair**
Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
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- Executive Committee Member**
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- Executive Committee Member**
Leigh Buckner 954-563-0073

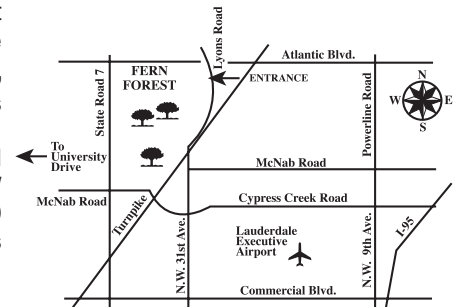
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Membership Corrections - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to:
Member Services, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 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, June 3rd 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., June 3rd: Fern Forest	Wed., Sept. 3rd: Anne Kolb	Wed., Nov. 5th: Anne Kolb
Wed., July 2nd: Anne Kolb	Tues., Oct. 7th: Fern Forest	Tues., Dec. 2nd: Fern Forest
Tues., Aug. 5th: Fern Forest		

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR – By Barbara Curtis, Broward Sierra Chair

Earth Day events were successful in meeting and recruiting new members as well as encouraging existing members to participate more fully in meetings and events. Additionally, we raised some money for the Broward Sierra Group, selling over \$100 in T-shirts, caps and books.



Hopefully our efforts encouraged the public to conserve energy and water, and use products that are not harmful to the environment, and educated people on the importance of protecting wildlife and natural areas such as reefs, mangroves and our very own Everglades.

I would like to thank John Shave, Gerrie DeVoe, Carolina Cabal, Sue Caruso, Mary Rochester, Judy Kuchta, Rita Warren, and everyone else who helped out.

I am excited that we are planning a July meeting with my friend Joe Murphy, the Florida Program Coordinator for the Gulf Restoration Network, a Gulf Coast preservation group. Their efforts to preserve the Gulf Coast from harmful runoff and overdevelopment, and their work to save the mangroves are not that different from the ecological challenges we face here on the east coast of Florida.

In August our meeting will be an informal pot luck dinner, where we can meet people who are starting green businesses, learn about rain barrels and running cars on cooking oil, and exchange tips about conservation.

I hope to start a series of leisurely walks in some of our local parks for families and seniors, and to line up some beginning kayak paddles. These will be held on the second Saturday of each month. On June 14 we'll be exploring Deerfield Island, a spoil island in the Intracoastal which has been restored. On July 12 we'll have a walk in Birch State Park where mangroves are being replanted.

Call me at 954-946-7359 if you are interested. I work during the day, so call in the evening or leave your name and number. Please speak slowly and clearly.

At our May meeting we had our first rain barrel silent auction. We hope to auction off more rain barrels in the future as a way to raise funds.

I am already planning our holiday party with catered food (hopefully donated).

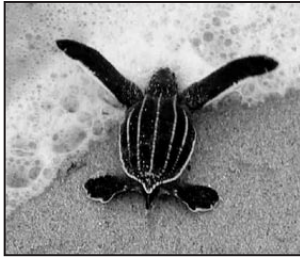
WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!! We need them at meetings to greet people, to set up the food, bring refreshments, clean up and to man booths at events.

TURTLE WALKS: Dania Beach has walks to watch turtles lay eggs at 9pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, from June 4 to July 30. Boca Raton Gumbo Limbo Nature Center has walks from 9-11:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from May 27 to July 3. Anne Kolb Nature Center has walks at 8pm on Wednesdays and Fridays from July 9 to September 5. Sign up for the September 3rd walk at Anne Kolb as part of our regular monthly program (see next page).



SEPTEMBER 3rd SEA TURTLE PROGRAM & RELEASE

We are excited to announce that the September 3rd Broward Sierra Club meeting at the Anne Kolb Nature Center will be held in conjunction with the Summer Sea Turtle release program run by Anne Kolb.



We will meet for announcements and committee reports at 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00) in the main Exhibit Hall, rather than in the Mangrove Hall where we usually meet. After the reports, those who have pre-registered will join the Anne Kolb group in the Mangrove Hall for the Sea Turtle Program.

The program will begin at 8:00pm and feature a one-hour PowerPoint presentation and lecture touching on the following topics: species of turtles found in South Florida, habitat, breeding and nesting, identification of crawls and nests, conservation efforts, past exploitation, current management, and problems now facing sea turtles. There will be a release of hatchlings immediately following the program. Those in attendance will be given directions to the beach area the night of the program.

If you would like to participate in the program, please contact Joanne Howes, Parks Naturalist II, Anne Kolb Nature Center at 954-926-2410 x227 or <jhowes@broward.org>. It is necessary to register and pay the \$5 fee in advance in order to reserve your space for the program. There is a limit of 50 people, so make sure to register early to reserve a spot.

Big Cypress, continued from page 1

area in Broward's backyard would be one of the largest in the eastern United States. It would be available for the full enjoyment and appreciation by all Americans as well as visitors from around the world.

The America's Wild Legacy Committee had chosen the western Everglades/Big Cypress Preserve as the one site within Florida in its 2008 Wild Legacy Report. This designation spotlights the threatened status of these lands and the need to pinpoint them as a Wild Legacy in need of protection.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

E-mail articles you think would be of interest to our members to carolewalsh@mindspring.com in Word or text format. (Articles may be edited for space and clarity.)

Next deadline is Monday, June 2nd (July issue). There is no August issue, but feel free to submit something for September.



Local Sierra Group Outings

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



MAY 23, FRI. WASTE-TO-ENERGY TOUR of the Wheelabrator South Broward facility. We'll observe how Broward County's solid waste (more than 2,000 tons per day) is converted into electrical energy for FPL. The tour takes approximately 1 hour. Wear pants and closed comfortable shoes. Rated easy, but you must be able to climb stairs. We will meet after the organized tour to discuss the Sierra Club's policy on the incineration of municipal solid waste. *Cost: \$2 members, \$3 non-members.* Leader: Pat Widener, 913-832-6363 <patwidener@yahoo.com>



MAY 24, SAT. WEST LAKE KAYAK & HOLLYWOOD BEACH BIKE TRIP. 9AM. This is a two-part trip that includes three hours of kayaking at West Lake (kayaks will be provided), followed by a 30 minute bike trip to Hollywood Beach for lunch. Either bring your own bike, or you can drive to the lunch spot on the beach. After lunch, we will bike back to West Lake for our cars. Payment for this outing must be received at least one week before the trip (by May 16) to reserve kayaks. Rated moderate to strenuous. Must be 18 or older. *Cost: \$17 members, \$20 non-members (plus \$1 park entrance fee, and not including lunch).* Leader: Pat Widener, 913-832-6363 <patwidener@yahoo.com>



JUNE 14, SAT. DEERFIELD ISLAND. (Tentatively scheduled.) A leisurely walk exploring this restored spoil island in the Intracoastal. The heavily wooded 56-acre site includes an eight-and-a-half-acre mangrove swamp, and provides a critical habitat for the gopher tortoise and is a nesting place for squirrels, raccoons, and armadillos. Migratory and indigenous sea birds use it as a roosting and feeding place. Rated easy. Leader: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



JUNE 18, WED. FULL MOON TURTLE TRIP. 8:45 PM. We'll meet at one of the pavilions at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park for a park-led talk on turtles and hopefully we will be able to observe a loggerhead laying eggs. June is a peak month for turtles here. *No fee, except for a park entrance fee of \$3-\$5 per car.* Reserve early as there is a six-person limit per group. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Rated easy. No flash photography. Leader: Pat Widener, 913-832-6363 <patwidener@yahoo.com>



JULY 12, SAT. HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK. (Tentatively scheduled.) A leisurely walk through secluded acres of intracoastal hammock which retain a small piece of what was once the dominant ecosystem along the south Florida coast. Over 200 species of wading birds, hawks, and ducks. Replanted mangroves. Rated easy. Leader: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



JULY 18, FRI. FULL MOON TURTLE TRIP. 8:45 PM. We'll meet at one of the pavilions at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park for a park-led talk on turtles and hopefully we will be able to observe a loggerhead laying eggs. *No fee, except for a park entrance fee of \$3-\$5 per car.* Reserve early as there is a six-person limit per group. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Rated easy. No flash photography. Leader: Pat Widener, 913-832-6363 <patwidener@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 or go to <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.

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				

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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.



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**Sunday, June 8th, 2008, at The Embassy Suites
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The show will feature over 80 Exhibitors (including the Sierra Club), 10 Free Educational Seminars, Speed Dating Sessions, Entertainment & Music, and South Florida's Largest Singles' Dance Party. **Over 800 singles are expected to attend this important community event.**

The show is open to the public. Admission is \$15.00 in advance or \$20 at the door. Exhibit Space rates are \$300 for regular table top exhibits, or \$500-\$1,000 sponsor table packages are available. Please contact: AL BARRY, Show Manager. for details on exhibiting or attending: 305-448-7976, 800-239-9399 or albarry@bellsouth.net

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.