

Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

EVERY FISH COUNTS: BYCATCH AND OVERFISHING

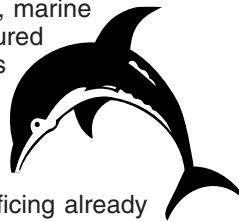
— By Kristina Jackson, Organizer with Sierra Club's Gulf of Mexico Sustainable Fisheries Campaign

Overfishing and careless destruction of habitat and wildlife in the Gulf of Mexico are jeopardizing the future of the ecosystems found there. Overfishing occurs when an unsustainable amount of fish is harvested or destroyed. Unfortunately, even with fish management plans in place, many catch limits are routinely exceeded and there is little accountability for managers to enforce sustainable take levels. Bycatch, unintentional take of fish or wildlife when something else is targeted, contributes to these unsustainable catch numbers.

The Gulf of Mexico has unique animals and habitats of great intrinsic value and economic benefit to surrounding communities. The Gulf is a vitally important source of U.S. seafood. Unfortunately, the Gulf suffers from effects of pollution and wetland loss. There is additional uncertainty about how climate change will affect the system. Sierra Club believes we should manage this natural resource with precaution: where there is a lack of data or understanding we must err on the side of greater protection.

The biggest hurdle to ending overfishing of some species is that managers have not required collection of adequate data on bycatch and its mortality. Without these numbers, they cannot create realistic policy to sustain populations. When catch limits are calculated, failing to account for bycatch mortality is failing to end overfishing. Some methods of reducing bycatch are gear changes, establishing areas closed to fishing, and bycatch quotas that, if exceeded, require a fleet or fishery to halt for a set amount of time.

Bycatch is not limited to fish species; sea turtles, marine mammals and sharks are captured and injured or killed in fishing gears. When any species is severely impacted the loss ripples through the rest of the system. The Gulf cannot have healthy ecosystems without big predatory fish like sharks or without tiny filter-feeding menhaden. Which of us can be satisfied knowing that we are sacrificing already endangered mega-fauna, like dolphins, to discarded fish traps, or sea turtles to long-line gear?



Since July 2005, Sierra Club has been organizing public input in the Gulf of Mexico federal fishery management process. We have had some success pursuing the primary goals of improving the Gulf Council's composition and accountability, and increasing the effort to reduce bycatch and overfishing. Conservation groups have worked on policy for many years in the Gulf. The Sierra Club is helping to bring more public participation to the management process and it is making a difference.

The Gulf of Mexico is a public resource – akin to a National Park – it should be managed by all of us and for all of us, not just for sometimes short-sighted user groups. We hope you will join us to help protect the Gulf for the future!

What you can do right now!

Participate in the process. Write, email or call your Governor and representatives on the Gulf Council. Go to www.gulfcouncil.org or call 888-833-1844 for contact information. Tell them we must decrease bycatch. Ask them to set science-based catch limits that include bycatch to end overfishing.

Buy only sustainable seafood. Use the Monterey Bay Aquarium lists of sustainably caught or farmed seafood. Bycatch and overfishing

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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.

Sierra Hotline  954-567-2841

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

Broward Sierra Programs

Wednesday, March 5th (Rescheduled from January): Diana Guidry of NatureScape Broward will be talking to us and answering questions about creating Florida-friendly landscapes that conserve water, protect water quality, and create wildlife habitats in our own back yards.



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

Tuesday, April 1st: TBA

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

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.

status are part of their criteria for "sustainability." See www.seafoodwatch.org.

Join Sierra Club's Gulf Sustainable Fisheries listserve. We will provide you with information and action items so you can make a difference. Contact Kristina Jackson at 352-375-1441 or kristina.jackson@sierraclub.org.



The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

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- Secretary**
Louis Serra 954-442-0880
- Treasurer**
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
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Open
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Pedro Monteiro 954-525-3324
- Political Chair**
Matthew Schwartz 954-865-4306
- Legal Chair**
Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
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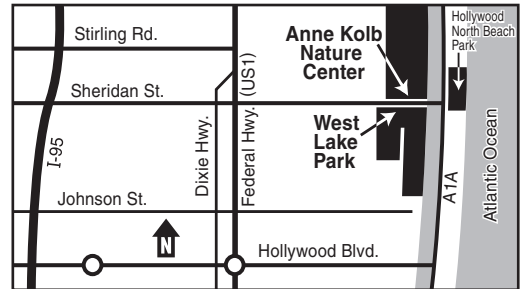
Broward Sierra News is published monthly for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

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 each month (See schedule below). **This month's meeting and program will be held on Wednesday, March 5th 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

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

FINDING OUR PLACE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

– By Carter Lord

Turn on the TV, open a newspaper or read a magazine and you're bound to hear or read about living green. Hollywood is going green, politicians are going green and even big business is going green. And that's a good thing.

Minimizing our impacts to the environment is one of the most important things we can do – especially here in Florida where we are in the midst of an historic drought. When we add to this drought, continued population growth, degradation in water quality, loss of wildlife habitat and air quality concerns, we find that living green is less an option and more of a necessary way of life.

As an actor, director, producer and Floridian, I feel the need to share with people how important it is to protect our uniquely Florida ecosystem.



Alligators, springs, cypress trees and oak canopies are the original Floridians, and I believe creating a sense of place – connecting our local landscape with people – is essential in protecting these Florida natives. That's why we must continue educating people about the cumulative impacts of our actions, and encourage everyone to make simple lifestyle choices that result in monumental environmental changes.



Barry Lopez, an American essayist, poet and fiction writer, states, "There are people for whom the land is alive. It feeds them, directly, and that is how and why they learn its geography."

In this time of increased environmental awareness, we must capitalize on each and every avenue available to us to show

how alive our land is. We must continue to educate people about Florida. A movie I recently completed, *Lithium Springs*, provides viewers with a story about an offbeat adventurer, his dog, Fred, and the Fountain of Youth. It's set among Central Florida's crystal clear springs and stunning oak canopies. It teaches the importance of stewardship, having compassion for the environment, and finding your place in Florida's landscape.

However, this is just one option out there. From trips to local parks and environmental education centers to participating in river clean-ups and practicing energy and water conservation, it's up to us to provide people with examples of how we expect our environment to be treated. Let's provide that stewardship model to our children, our visitors and our leaders. Let's show them that green isn't a new thing. Rather, it's inherent to Floridians everywhere.

To view segments of Carter Lord's movie, *Lithium Springs*, please visit <www.lithiumsprings.com>. You can also contact Lord at 1-863-647-2469.

UPDATE ON SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL PARKS

– By Matthew Schwartz,
Political Chair and Outings Leader

Two small victories were won recently on National Park issues that the Broward Group has fought long and hard over. The administration of Big Cypress National Preserve canceled an early release of their 'preferred alternative' for the Addition Lands of Big Cypress, while the administration of Everglades National Park announced a delay in their release of 'revised alternatives' for the marine waters of the park. We're not sure if Sierra's recently filed federal lawsuit on off-road vehicles in Big Cypress (on trails previously closed to protect endangered Florida panthers and fragile wetlands) had anything to do with these delays, but the management of Everglades National Park did say that they were now reviewing 'the science'.

This is a key demand that we have made repeatedly. Our Florida National Parks are precious to all of us. Science that patiently looks at how human activities affect the natural resources of these special places should always be at the core of our government's decision making.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

– By Barbara Curtis, Broward Sierra
Executive Committee Chair

We had a wonderful turnout at the February 5th meeting at Fern Forest. Over 50 people were there for the great presentation on solar technology by Nansea Cross from the Energy Store. And a big thank you to Max and Andrea for refreshments.

I joined other local Sierrans on the February 3rd Shark Valley bike ride. It was a beautiful day, and we saw lots of birds, alligators, and two legged visitors as well. I met some folks from the Loxahatchee group as well as from the Miami and Broward groups. I hope more of you join us for future outings and events.

If this gets to you in time, I am looking for volunteers for the Discover Natural Florida and Green Careers event on Sunday, February 24th, from 11 to 4 at Fern Forest Nature Center in Coconut Creek. Representatives from various environmental organizations will have tables, and there will be a guided nature walk at 1 pm for \$3 per person.

I am also seeking volunteers for at least three Earth Day events in April, to introduce people to the Sierra Club. Please call me at 954-946-7359 if you'd like to help out at any of these events. Speak slowly and loudly, and make sure to leave your phone number. It is a fun way to meet others who share our concern for the environment.



Local Sierra Group Outings

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



FEB. 23, SAT. SHARK VALLEY MOONLIGHT BIKE TRIP. Rated leisure. Limit 18. *Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members.* Leader: Ken Smith, 305-758-3121 <Kpsmith@gate.net>



FEB. 23, SAT. GREYNOLDS PARK NATURE HIKE & PICNIC. An easy 2 hour hike through picturesque Greynolds Park (trails encircle a mangrove wetland, Oleta River, and hammock forest). It is a great park for kids and families, with a hill to run on, and slight inclines in terrain. (No baby buggies on hike). We may see iguanas, raccoons, alligators, egrets, anhingas, ibis, tricolored herons, little blue herons, green herons and double-crested cormorants. Bring your cameras. A healthy picnic lunch will be provided. Rated easy. Limit 20. *Cost: \$6 members (\$4 children), \$8 non-members (\$6 children).* Plus park admission of \$4 or \$5 per car.

Leader: Nancy Lunz, 954-658-8531 <a101nunzie@aol.com>
Asst: Kathleen Rhoad, 954-627-2665 <katrroad@prodigy.net>



MAR. 1, SAT. HIKE THE WILDERNESS TRAIL, BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. 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 <katrroad@prodigy.net>



MAR. 2, SUN. URBAN CANOE/KAYAK IN THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY near Lake Worth. We'll explore the artificial islands created north of Bryant Park in Lake Worth. Bring your own canoe/kayak. Rated moderate. Limit 20. *Cost: FREE.* Leader: Ron Haines, 561-964-1995 <RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>



MAR. 9, SUN. 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>



MAR. 9, SUN. LIGNUM VITAE KEY CANOE. Canoe to Lignum Vitae State Park to view one of the last tropical hardwood forests that used to cover the entire Florida Keys. Rated moderate. Limit 16. *Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members.* Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401 <JMGross3013@aol.com>



MAR. 15-16, SAT.-SUN. PRAIRIE LAKES BACKPACKING. Overnight trip to Prairie Lakes for backpacking. Easy fun trip for all. Rated leisure. Limit 8. *Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members.* Leader: Dan Cruse, 305-661-2975



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. 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>

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.

**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! (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

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

THE NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB ELECTION IS COMING UP



The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

You can visit the Club's election website at www.sierraclub.org/bod/2008election. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

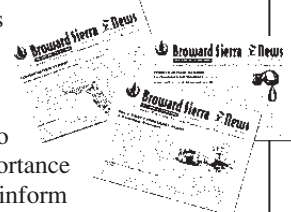
The Florida Chapter recommends a vote for Clark Buchner, Jim Dougherty, Larry Fahn, Jerry Sutherland and Lane Boldman. However, you should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail. A growing number of members find the user friendly Internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage.



California Slough, Big Cypress National Preserve - December swamp walk led by Matt Schwartz and Michael O'Brien from the Green League of Broward. - Photo by Matthew Schwartz

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.