

# Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

## BROWARD SIERRA EXCOM ELECTION

It's that time of year again; time to elect the 2009 Executive Committee (EXCOM) for your Broward County Sierra Club.

Ballots for the EXCOM members will be included in the November newsletter and must be returned by January 1st. In January the ballots will be counted, and the EXCOM members will elect officers and chairpersons.

If you are tired of watching the war on the environment from the sidelines and want to get involved and make a difference, this is your opportunity. All EXCOM members attend the monthly Executive Committee meetings and have a vote on policies, positions and issues of concern to the Broward Sierra Club.

To get your name on the ballot or for more information on how to nominate someone, contact a nominating committee member: Judy Kuchta (954-924-5001 or judykuchta@yahoo.com), Pat Widener (954-929-1410 or patwidener@yahoo.com), or Ina Topper (954-722-9944 or lrtopper2000@cs.com). The deadline to get a name on the ballot is September 30, 2008.

Here are descriptions of some of the Officer and Chair positions filled by the Executive Committee and member volunteers:

The CHAIR is responsible for ensuring the smooth functioning of the group's overall goals, especially as they relate to conservation issues. The Chair is expected to delegate authority to other EXCOM members, Committee Chairpersons, their committees, and the general membership. The Chair is also responsible for keeping the lines of communication functioning within the group, and is the official spokesperson for the group.

The TREASURER is responsible for maintaining an accurate record of the group's expenditures and deposits, and is co-signatory with the Chair on any of the group's bank accounts. The Treasurer makes monthly reports to the EXCOM and an annual report to the Chapter on the financial condition of the group, and is responsible for developing and tracking a budget with EXCOM that anticipates the gross annual receipts and expenditures of the club.

The CONSERVATION CHAIR is the chief environmental "watchdog" for the group, and is responsible for running conservation projects with the support of EXCOM and membership volunteers. The Conservation Chair is responsible for writing a monthly column in the group's newsletter on conservation issues.

The OUTINGS CHAIR develops and coordinates the group's outing schedule with the assistance of the group's Outing Leaders, and is responsible for the safety and welfare of the members who participate in the group's outings, and must be familiar with legal responsibilities such as insurance.

The MEMBERSHIP CHAIR is responsible for recruiting new members to the group and retaining its current members using the Club's promotional materials and membership drives. The Membership Chair responds to inquiries by members and prospective members about the group's programs and activities, greets new and prospective members at the general meetings, and organizes occasional new member parties.

The POLITICAL CHAIR recommends political candidates to EXCOM for official endorsement by the group, and is in charge of making sure the group is following the endorsement process required by the National Sierra Club. The Political Chair keeps the group informed of the environmental voting records of politicians, and should coordinate the group's lobbying efforts with the Conservation Chair and EXCOM.

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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

**Wednesday, Sept. 3rd:** After announcements and committee reports (in the Main Exhibit Hall), those who have pre-registered will join the Anne Kolb group in the Mangrove Hall at 8pm for the **Sea Turtle Program**.



The program will feature a one-hour presentation on the South Florida 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, 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.

**The meeting will be held in the MAIN EXHIBIT HALL at the Anne Kolb Nature Center** on Sheridan St. in Hollywood (see map on next page).

**Wednesday, Oct. 8: Sharks!** Hannah Medd, Marine Biologist and member of Shark Savers, will be giving a presentation on sharks, shark conservation issues and what can be done to save them.



**The meeting and program will be held at the Fern Forest Nature Center.**

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
- Everglades Chair**  
Rod Tirrell 954-202-9263
- Outings Chair**  
Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001
- Environmental Education Chair**  
Ina Topper 954-722-9944
- Environmental Justice Chair**  
Patricia Widener 954-929-1410
- Fundraising Chair**  
Open
- Membership Chair**  
Andrea Saifman 954-817-1749
- Volunteer Coordinator**  
Anita Lind 954-983-3709
- Program Chair**  
Open
- Media**  
Open
- Newsletter & Web Site**  
Carole Walsh 954-987-3642  
carolewalsh@mindspring.com
- Newsletter Mailing Coordinator**  
Open - to volunteer, contact  
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
- Executive Committee Member**  
Brion Blackwelder 954-262-6135
- Executive Committee Member**  
Leigh Buckner 954-563-0073

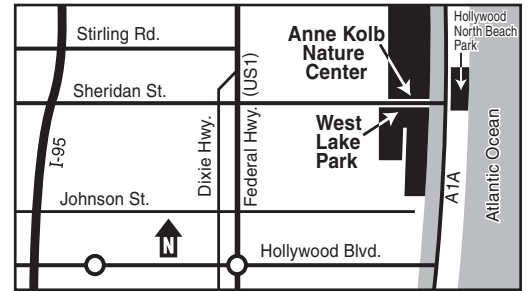
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**Membership Corrections** - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to: **Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, 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 each month (See schedule below). **This month's meeting and program will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd 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 on every even numbered month:

**PLEASE NOTE: Fern Forest will now be closed on Tuesdays, so we are unable to meet there on our usual Tuesdays. So the October and December meetings will be at Fern Forest on Oct. 8th and Dec. 10th. The dates and locations are listed below.**

Wed, Sept 3rd: Anne Kolb    Wed, Oct 8th: Fern Forest    Wed, Nov 5th: Anne Kolb    Wed, Dec 10th: Fern Forest

## UPDATE ON BIG CYPRESS ADDITION LANDS

– By Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Political Chair

In the spring of 2007, many Broward Sierrans wrote to the National Park Service (NPS) and asked that the 146,000 acre Addition Lands of Big Cypress National Preserve be designated as a new federal wilderness area free from motor vehicles and development of any kind. Sadly, in the waning months of the current administration, the NPS appears to have decided on a very different course of action. In a 720,000 acre preserve that already contains hundreds of miles of off-road vehicle trails, making most of the original preserve easily accessible by motor vehicle (for less than 2,000 permit holders!), the NPS is in the final stages of presenting a management plan to the public that would open up one of the last pristine remnants of the once vast Big Cypress swamp to all of the negative effects of motorized recreation. As is well known, this usage has already seriously degraded huge swaths of the original preserve, destroying vegetation and soils; facilitating the spread of invasive plant species; changing the natural hydrology of the terrain; and causing avoidance behavior in a range of animal species from frogs to Florida's state animal—the Florida panther.

After years of conflict with the NPS, it seems that we are now also battling the state's own Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on this issue. On June 11, 2008, the FWC voted unanimously to pass a resolution which would encourage the NPS to provide motor vehicle access to these lands to the maximum extent possible. What the public heard from the commissioners at that pivotal meeting was that unless people have the right to drive trucks and ATVs on these fragile wetlands they are somehow 'locked up' and closed to public access. Nothing could be further from the truth. Easily accessible by three walk-in access points directly off both sides of Interstate 75 (at mile markers 51, 63 and 70), many locals and visitors alike enjoy the Addition Lands on foot for the purpose of hiking, art, photography, native plant identification, bird and animal watching, or star watching under dark skies. For others, it's just a place to get away from the most densely populated section of our state and experience the peace and beauty of a Florida that



Courtesy of the FWC. The FWC's website ([www.floridaconservation.org/c-w-tag](http://www.floridaconservation.org/c-w-tag)) explains that 85% of the funds collected from the sale of this plate are to be used for "education and programs to protect the endangered Florida panther."

existed long ago. As many Broward Sierrans know, the Addition Lands are less than an hour from downtown Ft. Lauderdale and wet feet (just bring a change of shoes and socks!) are a small price to pay.

For many of us it is difficult to understand how our state and federal government agencies could even contemplate a decision that they know will degrade the quality of one of our last remaining wild lands. A clue to the current administration's thinking on this topic was provided in an interview which Lynn Scarlett, now Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, gave to Grist Magazine in 2004. When asked why the Bush administration did away with former President Clinton's decision to ban snowmobiles from Yellowstone National Park, Scarlett replied, "You have a national park statute that requires that parks are managed to both protect the resources of the park and, on an equal plane with that, provide recreational opportunities and visitor enjoyment of the parks."

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# FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY SURGES

— By Joyce Tarnow

Yogi Berra once said, "It's not over 'til it's over" (Whatever that means in baseball.) It does apply, however, to the surge by Florida Hometown Democracy volunteers and leaders who refuse to throw in the towel on accessing the November 2008 ballot. Our petition to give Floridians the final yea or nay on comprehensive land use changes in their counties is a remedy to overdevelopment that Florida desperately needs.

As of August 1st we have achieved 612,230 validated signatures, including the 13,247 revoked signatures that were given back in a state appellate court ruling that the opposition has appealed to the Florida Supreme Court. Plus, there are several thousand in the pipeline that Supervisors of Elections have not bothered to validate or report. We need 611,009 to get on the ballot. If the opposition wins its appeal, we will once again be short of the required signatures. We also need 13 Congressional districts supplying 8% of their registered voters (another violation of the equal vote mandate in our democracy). We particularly want Congressional District 21 to continue collecting signatures throughout August. This is Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart's district which covers parts of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

Petitions can be downloaded at [www.floridahometowndemocracy.com](http://www.floridahometowndemocracy.com) and mailed to the New Smyrna Beach post office box shown on the petition.

On June 11, 2008 Lesley Blackner, co-founder and President of FHD, filed a complaint in federal court in West Palm Beach on the many violations of constitutional rights that have been perpetrated by the State of Florida. Secretary of State Kurt Browning is named as the Defendant, and eight volunteer petition collectors (including myself), as well as FHD, are the Plaintiffs. The suit can be reviewed at U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, Case No. 08-CV-80636-KAM.

Lesley also was able to locate and retain a national ballot access expert, Gary Sinawski, to sharpen her draft complaint and to represent FHD in the federal court.

In a rare move, Judge Kenneth A. Marra scheduled the Complaint for oral argument on Wednesday, August 6th in West Palm Beach. The hearing went on all day, and the judge said he would rule swiftly, acknowledging that ballot preparation deadlines were looming.

While media coverage of this five-year struggle to put the brakes on rampant and negligent development has been generally good, too many citizens are unaware of the FHD effort. To remedy this, a coalition of volunteers, including Florida Sierrans, has prepared a Media Kit and distributed it this past week to dozens of media outlets. It includes extensive background on the issues, supporting editorials and columns, contact information for both sides of the debate, and examples of the dismal Florida track record on holding fair and

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# Local Sierra Group Outings

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



**AUG. 24, SUN. OUTINGS LEADER POW WOW.** Broward Group's outings leaders will plan fall and winter outings. Non-leaders welcome. *Cost: free.* Hollywood Beach.

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



**AUG. 30-SEPT. 1, SAT.-MON.** (Labor Day weekend) **THE CLYDE BUTCHER FESTIVAL AND SWAMP WALK MUCK ABOUT.** We'll stay in a lodge in historic Everglades City on Sat. and Sun. nights. There are multiple activities including sightseeing, canoeing or kayaking (provided), biking (bring your own), touring the 10,000 Islands on the National Parks fleet. Rated easy to moderate. *Cost: members approx. \$120 - \$130, non-members approx. \$135.*

Leader: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>  
Asst: Judy Kuchta, 954-924-5001 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



**SEPT. 13, SAT. AFTERNOON, WEST LAKE KAYAK.** Experience mandatory. Rated moderate. *Cost: \$17 members, \$20 non-members.*

Leader: Judy Kuchta, 954-924-5001 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>  
Asst: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>

**SEPT. 13, SAT. 7:45PM, MOONLIGHT YOGA ON HOLLYWOOD BEACH.** This yoga class is open to all levels, including beginners, for ages 15 and over. Wear comfortable clothing, bring water and a yoga mat, beach towel or sheet. Rated easy to moderate. Limit 30. *Cost: \$8 members, \$9 non-members.* Contact Pat for meet-up location.

Leader: Pat Widener, 954-929-1410, 954-665-7615  
<patwidener@yahoo.com>



**SEPT. 14, SUN. NORTH BEACH PARK SERVICE PROJECT.** Help pull invasive plant species from the sand dunes. Rated moderate. *Cost: free.*

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

**OCT. 11, SAT. 7:45PM, MOONLIGHT YOGA ON HOLLYWOOD BEACH.** This yoga class is open to all levels, including beginners, for ages 15 and over. Wear comfortable clothing, bring water and a yoga mat, beach towel or sheet. Rated easy to moderate. Limit 30. *Cost: \$8 members, \$9 non-members.* Contact Pat for meet-up location.

Leader: Pat Widener, 954-929-1410, 954-665-7615  
<patwidener@yahoo.com>



**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.*

Leader: Barbara Curtis, 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@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](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.**

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

The FUNDRAISING CHAIR coordinates fundraising events and activities with the support of EXCOM and member volunteers. The Fundraising Chair is responsible for assisting with the Club's attendance at community festivals, and planning/implementing special fundraising events such as dinners and auctions.

**VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:** The club always needs help in one of the positions listed above, or the volunteer committees listed below.

- **NEWSLETTER ADS:** We need help in obtaining and processing newsletter ads to help offset the cost of the Broward Sierra News. (If you would like to volunteer, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or maxgold@yahoo.com).
- **NEWSLETTER MAILING COORDINATOR:** This group meets once a month to attach address labels to the Broward Sierra News and sort for mailing. (If you would like to volunteer, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or maxgold@yahoo.com).
- **PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** Lines up and coordinates speakers and programs for our general meetings. (If you would like to volunteer, please contact Barbara Curtis at 954-946-7359 or legalbarb2@yahoo.com).

*Florida Hometown Democracy, continued from page 3*

honest (as well as verifiable) elections. Contact janestan@bellsouth.net for a download of the Media Kit.

Each of you could send in more signatures, and each of you can help get our story into major newspapers by calling the political reporter or environmental reporter at your daily and weekly newspapers. Ask if they received the Media Kit. Did they review it and will they run a major story? When we get on the November 2008 ballot, we will need a major publicity campaign to gather a 60% vote of the electors across the state. That will require a great deal of money and volunteer effort. Come on board!

While these words appear to be well intended, on a closer look they are simply not in accord with the mission of the National Park Service which was established by the Organic Act of 1916: "The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This objective was spelled out even more clearly with regard to Big Cypress National Preserve when the NPS settled a 1995 lawsuit with Broward Sierran Brian Scherf and agreed to write a management plan to control how and where motor vehicles would be operated inside the preserve. According to the plan, "In all situations involving conflicts between resource protection and resource use, the National Park Service would decide in favor of resource protection."

**What can you do?**

Last year, Governor Charlie Crist designated the third Saturday in March as Save the Panther Day. Although no critical habitat has ever been designated for the panther, the Addition Lands have long been known as one of the most important pieces of habitat which remain for the only large cat in the eastern United States. The adverse effects of motor vehicles in panther habitat have been well documented. A 1999 study in the Bear Island unit of the preserve showed a significant decrease (30 to 40 percent) in panthers' use of the area during times of heightened vehicle activity. An earlier NPS review completed in 1994 considered the effects of opening up motor vehicle access to the preserve directly off I-75. The agency reached the following conclusion:

*It is the determination of the National Park Service that the proposed action may affect the Florida panther and its habitat. Any action that decreases the wilderness qualities of the Everglades region impacts this species. The existing threats to the panther are interrelated and cannot be separated. The primary threat to the Florida panther has been human encroachment into panther habitat.*

Please send a message to Governor Charlie Crist today. Let him know that if he is truly concerned with the survival of this species, how important it is that panthers be allowed full and undisturbed access to the little habitat they have remaining. Unlike other sections of the Florida Everglades, the Addition Lands require no multi-billion dollar experimental restoration program or expensive buyout of private lands. They are a national treasure that is untrammled and already belongs to the people. They require only our protection.

Governor Crist can be reached at the following email address: Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com

You can also reach the Governor by phone (even better) at (850) 488-4441. Faxes can be sent to 850-487-0801.

**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 Tuesday, September 2nd for the October issue.

**ADVERTISE IN THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS**

	1 month	3 months
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>.

**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