

# Broward Sierra News

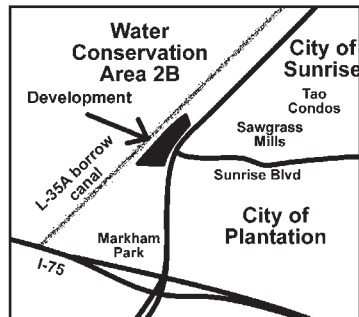


SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

## SUNRISE COMMISSIONERS ENABLE CONSTRUCTION WEST OF SAWGRASS

— By Phil Busey, Broward Sierra Conservation Committee Chair

The City of Sunrise Commissioners appear determined to make Everglades Corporate Park the first development west of the Sawgrass Expressway, on the edge of Water Conservation Area 2B. The Broward Group of the Sierra Club strongly opposes this and all construction west of the Sawgrass, because it would puncture Broward's effective urban development boundary and thereby threaten the protection of the Everglades. Sierra Club's Executive Director Carl Pope has cited the United Nations concern over the threat of urban development to the Everglades. Florida Sierra Club strongly supports the restoration of the Everglades, and we in Broward County see the expansion of Broward's effective urban boundary as a dangerous and unacceptable precedent by the City of Sunrise.



In a late night Commission meeting on April 29, 2009, after taking turns baiting environmentalists in the audience, the City of Sunrise Commission voted 4 to 1 for the developers. The agenda item was the second reading of an ordinance to repair an omission to their new zoning district B-7, created to allow a developer to construct only 10 feet from the property line. Commissioners said that their approval involves mere "rearrangement" of the landscaping, and gives them more control over development.

In fact, the Kentucky owner, Sawgrass Investors, may apply for the new zoning district, created just for them, to build 450,000 square feet of space in a building 10 to 15 stories high, with offices, hotel, commercial space, and 3 restaurants. The 22-acre property is separated from the L-35A conservation levee only by the borrow canal, at the end of Sunrise Blvd. Only Commissioner Sheila Alu pointed out the obvious pro-development stances of her fellow commissioners. She was the only "no" vote.

Other commissioners played down the significance of their vote and the new zoning category, to which Alu asked why, if this is such a small deal, was the developer in the audience? She waved a picture of her fellow commissioners celebrating Earth Day.

After we environmentalists (including Grant Campbell and Audubon South Florida President Doug Young) spoke in opposition to the agenda item, Mayor Roger Wishner challenged us to raise our hands if we were native to Florida, and he spoke at length to say that he was born in Florida and how his commission and staff have "done a wonderful job of balancing environment and development."

Commissioner Joey Scutto told a story of how Ronnie Bergeron had hunted from a boat at University Drive and Oakland Park Blvd.

Commissioner Larry Sofield created a straw man argument by asking city attorney Stuart Michelson how the city could stop the Everglades Corporate Park. The attorney predicted that the city would lose in court if it tried to stop the project, and to a leading question from the Mayor, the attorney predicted damages to the city would be in the millions of dollars if the city opposed the development.

This was a deceptive exercise to create the appearance of inevitability of Everglades Corporate Park which they were, in fact, enabling. The property is currently zoned B-5. Dennis Mele, partner in Ruden

VOL. XXXI No. 3  
JUNE / JULY 2009

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

Graphic design & layout by [carolewalsh@mindspring.com](mailto:carolewalsh@mindspring.com)

Printing by The Press Room

4111 SW 47 Ave. #309, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

(954) 792-6729 • [www.thepressroom.net](http://www.thepressroom.net)



Recycled paper, soy ink

SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY

P.O. Box 350432

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 4189

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, June 10th: Urban Gardening.** Jayne King, from the Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club, (who was very active in the Boynton Beach sewage case, which was our first successful attempt to stop sewage from being pumped into the ocean and destroying our precious reefs), will be giving a presentation on urban gardening and giving us tips on how to grow our own vegetables.



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 1st:** TBA - check our website at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>.

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

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.

McClosky, representing the owner, said the zoning change would actually bring down the elevation to 10 stories, without changing the 450,000 square feet space. Mr. Mele is a gentle and intelligent man who deftly does for developers the equivalent of putting lipstick on a pig.

The proposed Everglades Corporate Park is significant because it would be the first construction, other than utilities,

*continued on page 4*



## The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

- Executive Committee Chair**  
Brion Blackwelder 954-262-6135
- Secretary**  
Louis Serra 954-442-0880
- Treasurer**  
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
- Conservation Chair**  
Phil Busey 954-579-3932
- 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**  
Matthew Schwartz 954-865-4306
- Outings Chair**  
Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001
- Education Chair**  
Ina Topper 954-722-9944
- Fundraising Chair**  
Open
- Membership Chair**  
Andrea Saifman 954-817-1749
- Volunteer Coordinator**  
Anita Lind 954-983-3709
- Program Chair**  
Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359
- 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

**Broward Sierra News** is published every other month 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

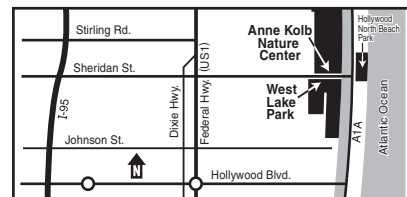
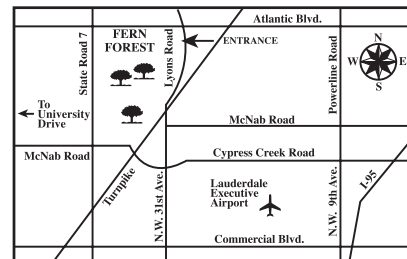
**Membership Corrections** - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to: **Member Services**, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441. 415-977-5653 or e-mail <address.changes@sierraclub.org> 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 on either the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of each month (see schedule below). **This month's meeting will be held on Wed., June 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).

**Next month's meeting will be on July 1st 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, before the Intracoastal Bridge (about 1/2 mile after the sign for West Lake Park on the right).

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.



## 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. Jun. 10: Fern Forest	Wed. Sep. 9: Fern Forest	Wed. Nov. 4: Anne Kolb
Wed. Jul. 1: Anne Kolb	Wed. Oct. 14: Fern Forest	Wed. Dec. 9: Fern Forest
Wed. Aug. 12: Fern Forest		

## Executive Committee Meetings

First Tuesday of each month. Contact Brion Blackwelder at 954-262-6135 for time and location.

The Broward Sierra News is published every other month. To keep you 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" icon 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.

## THANK YOU WHOLE FOODS

In honor of Earth Month, the Whole Foods Market in Plantation honored the Broward Sierra Club Group with a "5% Day" on behalf of our group's work preserving habitat for the Florida panther. The contribution from Whole Foods amounted to more than \$3,800 and will go a long way in our ongoing struggle to protect panthers' and other critters' rapidly shrinking habitat here in south Florida. Thank you, Whole Foods, for helping out.





## 5 CONGRESSMEN PLEAD THE CASE FOR THE PANTHER HABITAT TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

– By Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Political and Everglades Chair

The drive to protect Florida panther habitat is rapidly gaining steam. Following on the heels of a petition from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to finally designate 'critical habitat' for the panther, five Florida Congressmen, including three from Broward County, backed up this request with a direct letter to President Obama. This was followed by a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar from a coalition of local, state and national organizations requesting the same. Broward Sierra members and our supporters can help in this fight as well. The Sierra Club has placed an action alert on the national website <[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)>. Click on 'Take Action', then click on "See All Current Actions", and scroll down the left hand side to "Save Critical Habitat for the Florida Panther." Or just paste this URL into your browser's address bar: <<http://tiny.cc/4mcpH>>.

With all the attention the panther is now getting and a new administration in Washington D.C., this is a great opportunity to finally gain some protection for our beloved state animal. Five panthers have already been killed by cars this year, and there is no end to the desire of developers to continue to build new roads and communities in areas utilized by the panther.

Thank you all for your help. For more information on this project, please contact Matt Schwartz, Broward Sierra Political and Everglades Issues Chair - <[matthew3222@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew3222@yahoo.com)>. The letter to President Obama follows:



April 7, 2009

Dear President Obama:

The Florida panther is one of the most endangered species in the world, as only 80-100 of them survive today. As you know, the two greatest threats to the Florida panther are the loss of habitat and automobile-related deaths, both of which are caused by increased development in environmentally sensitive areas. The best available science suggests that current lands in conservation do not provide enough suitable habitat area to support even the limited number of existing panthers. Further, in just the first month of 2009, three panthers were killed by cars.

As members of the Florida delegation, we are writing to request your support in establishing a critical habitat designation for the endangered Florida panther. The Florida panther was listed as an endangered species 42 years ago, but critical habitat has never been established, even though the Endangered Species Act includes a requirement for the designation of critical habitat for endangered species. In other words, the Florida panther is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, unfortunately its home is not.

It is of great importance to designate a critical habitat not only because it would preserve and encourage the growth of the current population of Florida panthers, but also because it would help to protect other valuable environmental resources, such as wetlands, aquifer-recharge areas, drinking water supplies and the habitat of other endangered species. Moreover, a designation of critical habitat does not mean that no further development is allowed in an area, it simply requires additional review when projects requiring federal permits would impact habitats considered essential to preventing the Florida panther from going extinct.

We urge you to ensure the continued existence of the Florida panther and the preservation of Southwest Florida's natural resources and unique character by supporting the designation of critical habitat for the endangered Florida panther. Thank you for your time and consideration. The decision to take action now will provide a historic opportunity for protecting the Earth's most endangered "umbrella species" – the Florida panther.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings  
Corrine Brown  
Robert Wexler  
Alan Grayson  
Ron Klein

## Local Sierra Group Outings

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

**JUNE 13TH, SAT.**

**LEISURE WALK AT DEERFIELD ISLAND PARK.** We'll meet at 8am and take the boat shuttle to the island for a leisurely walk in the park. *Cost: \$5 (plus cost of lunch at a restaurant afterwards).* (Broward Group)

Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <[legalbarb@aol.com](mailto:legalbarb@aol.com)>



**JULY 11TH, SAT.**

**LEISURE WALK AT BIRCH STATE PARK.** We'll meet at 8am for a leisurely walk in the park. *Cost: \$5 (plus cost of lunch at a restaurant afterwards).* (Broward Group)

Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <[legalbarb@aol.com](mailto:legalbarb@aol.com)>



**AUG. 8TH, SAT.**

**PICNIC BRUNCH AT JOHN U. LLOYD BEACH STATE PARK.** Join us for our annual picnic on the beach. Bring a dish to share, and a swimsuit if you'd like to swim. (Broward Group)

Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <[legalbarb@aol.com](mailto:legalbarb@aol.com)>



We're winding down our outings for the summer, but if any more get scheduled, they'll be posted on our website.

(Click on "Outings and Events" at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>)

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)>.

**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>>



# 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				

Sunrise Construction, continued from page 1

west of the Sawgrass Expressway and north of Markham Park. Although Broward County does not have an officially designated Urban Development Boundary, the Sawgrass Expressway and US-27 are the limits of development. Holly Lake in western Pembroke Pines is the only permanently occupied development west of Broward's long respected urban boundary.

This project is not a done deal. The Broward Group of the Sierra Club will oppose the rezoning to the new B-7 category, will demand transparency of the Sunrise Commissioners (this includes their campaign treasurers' reports and contributions from Ruden McClosky), and will oppose re-platting, oppose a development permit, oppose a water use permit, and oppose interchange reconstruction.

If you would like to help us keep Broward within its urban footprint, call me at 954-579-3932 or email philip@busey.org.

DAN S. ARNOLD III

**DAN S. ARNOLD III, P.A.**  
**ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR**

One Financial Plaza, Suite 2500  
100 S. E. Third Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394

Phone: (954) 764-4849  
Fax: (954) 462-1335  
dan@danarnoldlaw.com

## ADVERTISE IN THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS

	<u>1 month</u>	<u>3 months</u>
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>.

## 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, July 6th for the August/September issue.

## DONATE TO THE SIERRA CLUB BROWARD GROUP



You can donate directly to our environmental work here in Broward County. Your donation will support our county-wide environmental programs, including our efforts to protect Florida panther habitat in South Florida. Contributions and gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Please make your check payable to: Broward Group of the Sierra Club  
Mail your donation to: Broward Group of the Sierra Club, PO Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

## 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

F94Q

W3302 1

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