

Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

BROWARD SIERRA – LOOKING AHEAD

– By Phil Busey, Broward Sierra Group Chair

Following our 2009 ExCom election, the Broward Sierra Group ExCom made a few changes. (ExCom stands for “Executive Committee” and it acts according to the Bylaws as the board of directors of the Broward Sierra Group.) Of the four candidates nominated, Brion Blackwelder, Matthew Schwartz, and Ina Topper were reelected, and I, Phil Busey, was elected for the first time. Continuing the second of their 2-year terms are Barbara Curtis, Max Goldstein, and Judy Kuchta.

At our organizing meeting, I was elected Chair, former Chair Brion Blackwelder was elected Vice-Chair, and Max Goldstein was elected to continue as Treasurer. The ExCom has an open Secretary position which is mentioned but not required in the Bylaws, and does not need to be an ExCom member. We do want a Secretary and if you want to volunteer, please call me at 954-579-3932 or write to philip@busey.org

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

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HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

– By Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Everglades Chair



Photo by Ginny Dixon

On Saturday, February 13th, Broward Sierra members joined folks from throughout our community to protest oil drilling off Florida’s shores. The Hands Across the Sand event took place on more than 70 beaches statewide and involved thousands of Floridians determined to protect our waters, wildlife, beaches, and 65 billion dollar a year tourist economy. While it was fun for all to join hands on Ft. Lauderdale Beach on a cold and blustery day, the threat is still there. With shrill cries of jobs and revenue, big oil and its well paid army of lobbyists continues to tout the supposed benefits of offshore oil to our elected representatives. Experience worldwide tells us this is not a risk free industry. Oil spills can and do happen (imagine a category 5 Hurricane in the eastern Gulf with pipelines and oil platforms) and even routine drilling operations would foul our waters, beaches and marine ecosystem with industrial chemicals and drill tailings.

Please help us continue this fight. Here are two things you can do. First – contact your elected state and federal representatives by telephone, fax or email and urge them to vote against any new bill which would open Florida’s waters to offshore oil drilling. You can find all of them by going to www.congress.org and putting in your zip code. A thank you to Senator Bill Nelson for remaining a powerful opponent of Florida offshore oil drilling would also be of help. Second – contact your local municipal government and inquire if they have passed a resolution against offshore oil. If not, urge them to do so. This has already been done by the Broward County Commission and the Commissioners of the City of Ft. Lauderdale. There are many more municipalities in Broward that can take this important step.

For more information on this critical issue, please contact Matt Schwartz, Political and Everglades Chair. <matthew3222@yahoo.com> 954-634-7173

More photos of the Hands Across the Sand event from Ft. Lauderdale resident Dick Eaton can be found at www.tiny.cc/thshj.

Broward Sierra Programs



Thursday, April 1st: “South Florida: Land of Invasive Animals.” A presentation by Dr. Bill Kern, Associate Professor of Urban Entomology, University of Florida, Davie. Dr. Kern’s interests include pythons, Africanized bees, rare and endangered animals, and bats.

Thursday, May 6th: “End of an Error: Biological Control of Melaleuca.” A presentation by Dr. Ted Center, Research Leader, USDA Invasive Plant Research Center, Davie. Dr. Center’s interests include entomology, ecology, birding, and native plants.



The Meetings are 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.



Photos by Dick Eaton



The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

Executive Committee Chair

Phil Busey 954-579-3932
philip@busey.org

Vice Chair

Brion Blackwelder 954-262-6135
blackwelderb@nsu.law.nova.edu

Treasurer

Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
maxgold@yahoo.com

Secretary

Open

Conservation Chair

Brion Blackwelder 954-262-6135
blackwelderb@nsu.law.nova.edu

Education / Recycling Chair

Ina Topper 954-722-9944
irtopper2000@cs.com

Everglades / Political Chair

Matthew Schwartz 954-634-7173
matthew3222@yahoo.com

Legal Chair

Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
marashl@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Andi Saifman 954-817-1749
ahagenandi@cs.com

Outings Chair

Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001
judykuchta@yahoo.com

Program Chair

Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359
legalbarb2@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor & Web Master

Carole Walsh 954-987-3642
carole_walsh@comcast.net

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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:

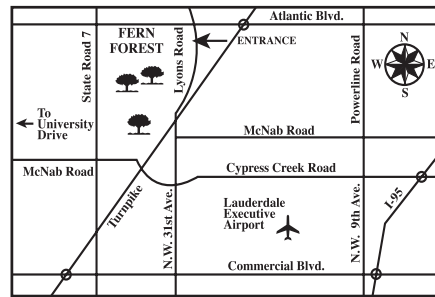
Member Services, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441.

415-977-5653 or e-mail: <address.changes@sierraclub.org> or <membership.services@sierraclub.org>

Broward Sierra Club General Meetings

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month 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). **Make sure to check our website for changes.**

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.



Executive Committee Meetings

Second Tuesday of each month. Contact Phil Busey at 954-579-3932 or philip@busey.org 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.

Looking Ahead, continued from page 1

The ExCom appointed Brion Blackwelder as Conservation Chair, added Recycling to Ina Topper's appointment as Education Chair, and reappointed Barbara Curtis as Program Chair, Judy Kuchta as Outings Chair, Andi Saifman as Membership Chair, Matthew Schwartz as both Everglades and Political Chair, and Mara Shlackman as Legal Chair. Carole Walsh will continue as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

These are but a few of the people who are helping the Broward Sierra Group lead in conservation and wilderness protection. Former Outings Chair Jackie Fisher is continuing to do a great job helping Judy with Outings, former Conservation and Energy Chair George Cavros continues to be an important resource person on local conservation issues and energy, former Energy and Marine Chair Pedro Monteiro keeps us informed of marine issues and gave us a great presentation last year, as did a number of our members such as Art Joseph and Gene Massagee. A number of our associates in Sierra Club and other environmental groups, such as Brenda Lee Chalifour, former Conservation Chair Rod Tirrell, Lisa Baumbach, Michael O'Brien, and Grant Campbell and Doug Young of Audubon continue to work with us on local Broward issues, show up at protests, speak at public hearings, and keep us informed.

Although this is not a statement of Sierra Club policy and positions, it may help to remember some of the top environmental initiatives that Broward Sierrans have been working to accomplish during the last year or two:

Local

- conserve and protect water resources including the Everglades and Biscayne Aquifer
- educate elected leaders and candidates on important environmental concerns
- ensure transparency in government and environmental decision making
- manage growth and oppose invasive developments in Broward such as Davie Commons and Cocomar

- oppose development west of Sawgrass Expressway and US-27, e.g., City of Sunrise proposed Everglades Corporate Park
- oppose the negative environmental effects of airport expansion
- protect coral reefs from expansion of Port Everglades
- protect local threatened species, such as the burrowing owl, sea turtle, and manatee
- stop sewage outfalls that cross our beaches
- support Broward County natural areas
- support environmental education in Broward schools
- support environmental justice and protection of communities
- support Broward County's greenways, bikeways, and mass transit

Regional

- oppose coal fired power plants in South Florida
- oppose expansion of FPL's Turkey Point nuclear reactors
- oppose offshore oil drilling along Florida coastlines
- protect the Florida panther and other species by protecting the habitat
- reduce, reuse, and recycle waste, and support Florida's recycling policy
- restrict or abolish ORVs in Big Cypress Addition Lands
- support Miami-Dade Urban Development Boundary
- support passage of Florida Hometown Democracy, Amendment 4
- support research on pollution, conservation, and ecological restoration
- support sensible, appropriate green energy

National and global

- support international climate and other treaties
- oppose the importation of invasive species
- oppose the importation of threatened species and resources
- protect marine animals and habitats
- support economic policies that provide global environmental protection
- support environmentally sensitive tourism and travel

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TOWN OF DAVIE ADOPTS STRONG CLEAN ENERGY RESOLUTION

Thanks to Broward Sierra Group Political Chair Matt Schwartz and others, the Town of Davie adopted a very strong clean energy resolution opposing all new nuclear plants in the US, opposing expansion of oil and gas drilling, and opposing new coal technology. The resolution is being delivered to Governor Crist, the Congress, and Florida Legislature. The March 3rd decision by the Town Council specifically supports clean energy which it defines as solar, wind, hydrogen, and waste biofuel and which the Town says are practical today. The Town of Davie, one of the largest cities in Broward, has worked hard to preserve what's left.

Big Cypress "Muck Walk" with Matt Schwartz

Jan. 24, 2010 – Photos by Nancy Lunz

To see more or Nancy's terrific photos in color, go to <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>, click on Sierra Tales, and then on Big Cypress, Jan 2010.



Local Sierra Group Outings

MAY 8TH, SAT. SUNSET CRUISE ON A TALL SHIP IN BISCAYNE BAY. Enjoy a sunset sail on a 2-masted schooner, out of Miami, around northern Biscayne Bay. The 2 hour sail includes snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own. Bring your mother, wife (Mother's Day is Sunday), a friend or group of friends and enjoy conversation with 'like-minds' or just sit back and take in the fresh, salt air. Rated easy. Cost: \$30 members, \$35 non-members. Must fill the boat with 45 people, for the trip to go, so register early with Jackie. Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 <jsf812@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Kip Fisher

At press time, there were no other outings scheduled for April or May. So please keep an eye on our website for newly scheduled outings. (Click on "Outings and Events" at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>)



Sierrans on the Tall Ship in 2008.
(Photo by Jackie Fisher)

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

Outing Leaders Wanted. Outing Leaders get involved, get active, meet new people, have fun, and attend their outings for free. (Assistant Leaders attend for half price.) Contact Judy at (954) 924-5001 or <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.

East River Canoe Fundraising Outing

Feb. 20, 2010 – Photos by Sharon Fischer

To see more or Sharon's beautiful photos in color, go to <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>, click on Sierra Tales, and then on East River Canoeing, Feb 2010



DAN S. ARNOLD III

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

One Financial Plaza, Suite 2500 Phone: (954) 764-4849
100 S. E. Third Avenue Fax: (954) 462-1335
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33394 dan@danarnoldlaw.com

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In 2010 our members will continue to press the conservation agenda on many of these same issues, and to adapt to new issues that come up. One continuing issue on which we are intensifying our efforts is Florida Hometown Democracy, Amendment 4 (www.floridahometowndemocracy.com), which was put on the ballot as an amendment to the Florida Constitution after many years of great effort by Lesley Blackner, the Florida Sierra Club, and all of us who contributed time and money.

Amendment 4

Passage of Florida Hometown Democracy, Amendment 4, needs much more effort locally than it is getting, to get it passed. There is much controversy – much fake controversy intended to muddy the waters, about what the Amendment will actually do.



Amendment 4 will not stop development, will not take away development rights from property owners, and will not gum up the works by requiring voters to vote on every little thing. Amendment 4 will not even take away from the idea of representative democracy, where we vote for people who then vote for our issues. (In direct democracy the people vote on every little thing.) Under indirect or representative democracy, we the people vote for bond issues, annexations, and charter or constitutional amendment changes, things with long term permanent effect.

Amendment 4 will add land use amendments to the type of long term things we already vote for. Our city Commissioners or Council members and local Advisory Boards will continue to be responsible for writing local ordinances and day to day business of granting variances, plats, and rezoning. Only land use is affected by Amendment 4. Amendment 4 is simple.

Here is the title and summary. The proposed amendment is called, "Referenda Required For Adoption And Amendment of Local Government Comprehensive Land Use Plans." And the ballot summary says, "Establishes that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, the proposed plan or amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum, following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body and notice. Provides definitions."

What Amendment 4 will do is to protect the property rights of property owners who bought into an area understanding what the local land use would be. Amendment 4 is friendly to business because it will reduce uncertainty in future land use and land values. Amendment 4 is friendly to democracy because it will make it impossible to buy Commissioners to vote on land use. Those are three good reasons to tell your neighbors, family, and friends, to vote for Amendment 4 on November 2, 2010.

A lot changed since I joined the Sierra Club in the early 90s. For one thing, we shrank. The combination of changes in demographics and leisure time have caused declining membership in most organizations. We must respond by being more assertive in membership recruitment and services, especially to welcome younger environmentalists, and to improve our digital presence. Another challenge to our members was the March, 2008 suspension of the Florida Chapter, which is currently undergoing reorganization under a Steering Committee. At the Broward Group's ExCom meeting in February, we were joined by Steering Committee Member Betsy Grass of Miami and we received a report of the progress in reestablishing the Florida Chapter.

The next year requires heavy lifting from all of us to spread the environmental message, pass Amendment 4, and Grow the Group. Too often candidates and elected officials do nothing more than pay lip service to environmental causes. Too often those looking for short term profit portray environment as blocking economy and jobs. Don't believe them. In truth, jobs and a sustainable economy require a forward look. A healthy environment is the friend of a healthy economy.

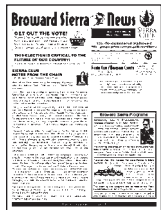
If you can help us, call me at 954-579-3932 or email philip@busey.org.

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



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

E-mail articles you think would be of interest to our members to carole_walsh@comcast.net in MS Word or text format. (Articles may be edited for space and clarity.) Next deadline is Monday, May 3rd for the June/July issue.

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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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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