

VOLUNTEERS OF THE BLUE PLANET

– By Phil Busey, Broward Sierra Group Chair

When I asked my 98-year-old mother, who grew up before electrification, why people might volunteer or not volunteer for the Sierra Club, she said, “When the astronauts looked back on this blue planet they saw it was the only one we have.”

In December 1968, three astronauts struggled with sleep in the Apollo 8 command module. On their fourth orbit behind the far side of the moon, they emerged to see a lonely grayish moonscape and the first Earthrise ever photographed by a human. Precious blue and wispy white against the black void of eternity, the first Earthrise inspired a generation of Americans to volunteer to protect the only planet we have.



What is it to volunteer?

Call it altruism, call it craziness, call it an idealist belief in a better world. Volunteering is giving of ourselves to others, giving to preserve and restore the planet we know, to make this world a better place. Passionately often. Social scientists study volunteerism. Politicians ask for volunteerism. But we can't fake it. Either we do rise to help our neighbors build that barn, or we stay home. When it's for real, volunteering is a celebration of life that brings priceless riches to the community and to those who give.

When I was little my mother told me a story of a tribe trying to escape a calamity, maybe a volcano. An old man said, “I cannot take it any longer. I cannot go on. I won't be a burden to the rest of you, so I will sit on this rock until I die.” Hearing this, a wise woman, who had been watching an orphan child also struggle to go on, asked the old man, “Since you are of no use anymore to yourself, please, can you carry this child who needs you, just a short distance or perhaps a little further if you

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Broward Sierra News



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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 go to our website at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>, and click on the “Become a member” link.

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Fern Forest Nature Center. In addition to committee reports, each month we have an educational program on conservation or ecological issues.

August's meeting will be replaced by our **Annual Picnic at John U. Lloyd State Park on SUNDAY, AUGUST 15** (11am - 6pm. 6503 N. Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, Jetty Pavillion at the far north end of the park). There will be an educational lecture on environmental issues, a picnic lunch, chatting and swimming (canoeing & kayaking available). Food & beverages provided, but bring a dish to share if you like (we'll serve the hot food until 4pm).



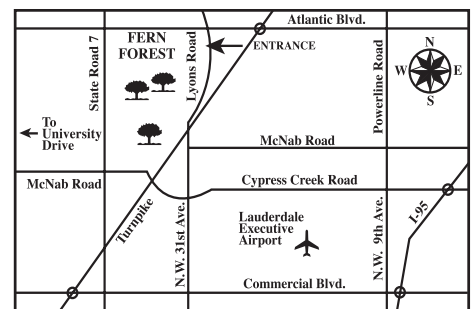
Thursday, September 2nd: “Let the Water Flow: Why No One Can Stop the Everglades Skyway.” Our guest speaker will be Jonathan Ullman, South Florida/ Everglades Senior Field Representative for the National Sierra Club. He will talk about the proposed series of elevated roadways across Tamiami Trail, known as the Everglades Skyway, which would help restore water flow across Shark River Slough and into Florida Bay. He is also working with volunteers to secure the State's acquisition of U.S. Sugar lands to clean, store and flow water for the Everglades; has actively participated in the quest for Everglades Restoration; and has spoken at numerous symposiums and public hearings about the importance of saving our unique natural heritage. He has worked with local Sierra members on issues from air and water quality, to sprawl and global climate change.



DIRECTIONS:

The Fern Forest Nature Center is located at 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (If you are coming from the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave, and then Lyons Rd. as you pass under the turnpike). **Make sure to check our website for changes or updates of the programs.**

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.





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Executive Committee Meetings

are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Phil Busey at 954-579-3932 or philip@busey.org for time and location.

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 550561, Davie, FL 33355

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

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 to sign up for other Yahoo newsgroups, of which there are many.

Volunteers, continued from page 1

possibly can, and be of use to someone else." So the old man, in great pain and exhaustion, picked up and carried the child. And they all made it to safety.



With oil spilling tragically into the Gulf of Mexico, glaciers melting, sea levels rising, and sustainable life receding in South Florida, we should all be worried if we will make it to safety.

I've been thinking much about this because Sierra Club is an almost all volunteer organization. We are strong when each of us individually feels a personal call to action, or feels a tug from someone else calling us to action. Lone rangers or buddies, we each come to Sierra inspired in different ways for different interests. And each of us gives something special to humanity and the blue planet. One person may be more inspired to protect the wilderness, another to teach to children, and someone else may help build sustainable communities.

I honor those who come to our work parties to weed out invasives in the dank of Fern Forest. I honor those who give as Outing Leaders, and those who protest on the streets for clean energy and for Amendment 4 and for environmental justice. I honor those who talk elected officials into protecting Big Cypress and the Everglades, and those who ask their neighbors to come to the Sierra Club picnic at Lloyd State Park on Sunday, August 15.

And I honor those of you who cannot come right now because you are busy working or taking care of yourself and your family or a friend in need. Life calls. You will come when you are ready. Conventional wisdom is that healthy volunteers come out of healthy people who, more or less, have their personal affairs in order.

But is it that simple?

Your affairs may never be in perfect order, you may never be able to pull yourself from last

episode of True Blood (a brilliant story with bloody social irony), and you may never be totally ready to give. So, is there really anytime other than now, to give? Most of us must work for food and shelter, most of the time, and much of the time our lives are in chaos. Sometimes those ready to give the most have the least to give or come from unlikely places.

A suffragist socialite from New York, Rosalie Edge had grown up with little contact with nature. After she helped women win the right to vote in 1919, Rosalie took up bird watching and soon she stood up to hunters on Kittatinny Ridge in Pennsylvania, who came to slaughter hawks and eagles. After protecting the raptors, she went on to lead the campaign to establish Olympic National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, and additions to Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. Rosalie took on the male leadership of the then National Association of Audubon Societies which she almost destroyed. She fearlessly challenged the experts and was so militant within the environmental movement that she made many enemies. Long forgotten, Rosalie carried the environmental mantle almost from John Muir who had died in 1914, until she herself died a few weeks after Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* in 1962. The *New Yorker* magazine called Rosalie Edge, "the most honest, unselfish, indomitable hellcat in the history of conservation."

"No one makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he can only do little"

— Edmond Burke

We are not all alike in the Sierra Club. Not every one of us is called to action all of the time. We are hellcats and poodles, and a lot of us somewhere between, inspired by others or inspired by our own vision. Some are inspired by the positive to make this world a better place, and others are pissed as hell and not going to take it anymore. Whatever brings you here, both as a species living on a fragile blue planet and as volunteers in the Sierra Club, Pogo had it right when he said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Whatever brings you to a blue planet in peril, is there a better time than now to volunteer for Sierra Club?

If you believe in Earthrises, call me at 954-579-3932 or email philip@busey.org

OUR HOMES, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VOTE!

When your quality of life and your taxes are at risk, you deserve a vote! Frequent amendments to long-range comprehensive land use plans are too often being approved for developments that cause traffic congestion, polluted waterways and destroy Florida's unique natural areas. Taxpayers deserve a vote before taxes go up to pay for municipal services extended outside of the long range plan. Over 130 environmental and civic organizations have endorsed Florida Hometown Democracy's Amendment 4.

Find lots of information at www.floridahometowndemocracy.com

**Vote YES on Amendment 4
in November, 2010.**

DEERFIELD ISLAND PARK

— by Barbara Curtis,
Program Chair



On Saturday, July 10, an enthusiastic group of 8 walked the 56 acre Deerfield Island park. Two trails, the mangrove and the Coquina trail, gave us a view of Florida as it must have been 50 years ago – before development destroyed much of the natural mangrove areas. In spite of the heat, the sea breeze canopy kept us cool, as we learned about the gopher tortoises, foxes, armadillos, and raccoons that live there, the birds who wade in the shallows, as well as the gumbo-limbo, white stopper, wild coffee, cabbage palms and other native plants. The short boat trip to the island creates a feeling of deja-vu. In the 30s and 40s the Riverview restaurant was a speakeasy joint, and Al Capone eyed the place for a waterfront home.

Local Sierra Group Outings



AUGUST 15, SUN. ANNUAL PICNIC AT JOHN U. LLOYD PARK, Dania Beach (Jetty Pavilion at the North end of the park - 11am to 6pm). There will be an educational lecture on environmental issues, a picnic lunch, chatting and swimming. Food & beverages provided, but bring a dish to share if you like (we'll serve the hot food until 4pm). *Cost: \$5 (+ park entrance fee of \$4 per single person vehicle, \$6 per vehicle with 2-8 people, \$2 per pedestrian or bicyclist, kids under 5 free).* Contact Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



AUG. 21, SAT. WEST LAKE KAYAK. 9:30am - 12:30pm. Enjoy a 2 hour kayak in West Lake (Hollywood), while learning about the wildlife that inhabits this unique mangrove estuary. Experienced paddlers only. Max 8 people. Rated moderate. *Cost: \$35.00 members, \$40 non members if renting kayaks, \$5 members, \$7 non-members if you bring your own kayak. (There is also a \$1.50 park entrance fee.)* Delicious lunch is included. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, Assistant: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jsf812@bellsouth.net>



SEPT. 3-5, FRI.- SUN. OUR ANNUAL LABOR DAY EVERGLADES CITY WEEKEND. Many activities including hiking, canoeing, kayaking, biking (bring your own bike), touring and learning about the 10,000 Islands on the Nat'l Parks fleet. We'll stay in a rustic cabin. Rated moderate. Limit 6. *Tentative Cost: \$85 for 4 meals and two nights in cabin.* Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



SEPTEMBER 24-26, FRI.- SUN. KORESHAN STATE PARK. A colorful cult believing that man was controlled by astrological forces owned this property on the Estero River just south of Ft. Myers in the 1800's. The park maintains the heart of their 'New Jerusalem' as it would have appeared more than 100 years ago. Eleven buildings on the National Register of Historic Places are located throughout the landscaped grounds that include the Victorian Gardens. We'll also canoe the Estero River to the Calusa Burial mound in the gulf, observing and identifying wildlife along the way. (We may spot bobcats, grey foxes, river otters and alligators, as well as swallow-tail kites, bald eagles, bobwhites, belted kingfishers and other species of birds). Rated moderate. Tent camping. Limit 8. *Tentative cost includes 4 meals and camp site (canoe rental extra): Members: \$65, Non-members: \$75.* Leader: Nancy Lunz 954 658-8531 <A101nunzie@aol.com> Assistant: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



OCT 23RD. SAT. FULL MOON BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER AT SHARK VALLEY. If you've never experienced this 10 mile ride you are in for an exhilarating experience. Learn about Everglades ecology as well as the benefits of the elevated sections of the Tamiami Trail. Sierra Club has been working hard for years to see this Everglades restoration project come to fruition! You MUST have a bike with a front and rear light (in case the moonlight is obstructed by clouds). Helmets are strongly recommended. Wear clothing that is appropriate for the season. We'll have healthy and hearty snacks at the lookout tower. Rated moderate to difficult. Limit 15, no one under 16. Yes, you will see alligators and other wildlife. Meet at the park entrance at 4:30pm. Directions will be provided. *Cost \$15.00.* Leader Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>; Assistant TBA.



MID JAN. 2011. SOUTHWEST BIRD FESTIVAL AT THE ROOKERY, MARCO ISLAND. (Exact dates to be announced). Camp at Collier Seminole Park on Tamiami Trail. View and learn to identify flocks of birds, including roseate spoon bills, sandhill cranes, many species of herons, ibis and egrets. Hiking, kayaking and biking. Rated moderate. Limit 8. *Tentative Cost \$50 for 2 nights camping and 4 meals. Kayak rentals available at extra cost.* Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



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.) If you are interested, contact Judy at 305-308-8913 or <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.

We would like to invite you to come on one of our fun and educational outings! If you have any questions about an outing, please check with the certified Broward Sierra Outing Leader. Some of the outings need no experience; others require some level of proficiency. All participants 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>>**

HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

– By Matt Schwartz, Political & Everglades Chair

On June 26th, Broward Sierra Club members joined thousands of individuals and groups taking part in Hands Across the Sand on beaches throughout our county. While the first event back in February was confined to Florida, this past event went truly global. Hands Across the Sand was held in 924 different locations and 39 countries. Tens of thousands participated.

As of this writing it is day 84 of the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history. It is unfortunate that it required a catastrophe like the one we are now witnessing – tens of millions of barrels of crude oil and millions more gallons of potentially toxic dispersants spreading throughout the Gulf and beyond – to get our complete attention. The question now is what to do next.

Sierra Club and others are calling for a complete ban on new offshore oil development and a rapid transition to clean energy technologies that are already available. More research will surely bring improvements as they do to all industries, but solar, wind, ocean current, geothermal, and others are ready to go right now with the proper investment and incentives. If a new generation of electric cars is going to plug into the grid, new technologies must produce that electricity in better ways.

Conservation can also help a great deal. Most of the 20 million barrels a day of oil that we currently use in the United States is converted into gasoline and diesel fuel. Here are a few simple tips that can cut back tremendously on fuel consumption while we push for non-fossil solutions for energy and transportation:

1. Drive less – do all of your week's shopping at once instead of multiple trips to the store.
2. Car pool – two people driving to the same destination will save 50% of the fuel you would have used to go separately.
3. Don't idle your car – turn it off when stopped at a train crossing or waiting for your partner to exit the store.
4. Drive smart – the faster you drive over the speed limit the greater the wind resistance and the more fuel you will burn to get to your destination.



Photos by Philip Busey

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In accord with Sierra Club Broward Group Bylaws, the ExCom appointed the following Nominations Committee members who will nominate Sierra Club members to run for elected office as members of Sierra Club Broward Group ExCom, which is our Executive Committee. Nominations Committee members are:

Phil Busey, 954-579-3932 or philip@busey.org
 Kay McGinn, 954-781-6525 or kaymcginn@aol.com
 Ina Topper, 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.com

There are three ExCom positions to be filled and the Nominations Committee is required to attempt to nominate at least five candidates for the three positions, to be elected by secret ballot of the members, not later than December. To conform to other deadlines required in the Bylaws, the closing date for name submissions by the Nominations Committee is not later than August 31, 2010.

So if you would like to nominate yourself or or another Sierra Club member, please contact one of the members of the Nominations Committee by August 31st. It is hoped that anyone who runs for election and is not successful will remain engaged and active in a leadership position.

Sierrans and other environmentalists protest BP and educate passerbys at a local BP station in June



Photos by Philip Busey



Photos by Amy Werda