

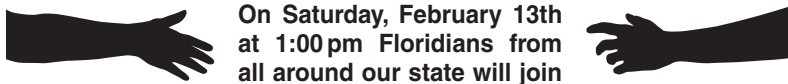
Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

SAY NO TO OIL DRILLING OFF FLORIDA'S COASTS

– By Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Everglades Chair



On Saturday, February 13th at 1:00pm Floridians from all around our state will join

hands on our beaches to say NO to oil drilling in Florida's coastal waters. Legislation is being debated now which could make that a real possibility as lawmakers are courted by oil industry lobbyists promising oil revenues with safe and "virtually invisible" drilling solutions. Our beaches, marine ecosystems and way of life are definitely at risk. Even with the most advanced technology available, spills and accidents are simply a part of this industry. And this is not just a Gulf Coast issue. The 'Loop Current' flows clockwise around the Gulf of Mexico and exits to the east through the Florida Straits.

What you can do: The Sierra Club of Florida is part of a coalition of organizations participating in an event called Hands Across the Sand. The mission is:



Gulf of Mexico Loop Current

1. To raise awareness about pending Florida legislation to drill for oil in our coastal waters.
2. To organize a statewide coastal movement to protest this legislation. This protest will bring thousands of Florida's citizens to our beaches and will draw metaphorical and actual lines in the sand; human lines in the sand against near shore oil drilling in our waters. This event will be held on Saturday February 13, 2010.
3. To convince our Legislators and Governor to drop any and all Legislation that would allow this folly.

Find out more at www.handsacrossthesand.com

As the details for the local event have not been finalized as of press time, to find out more about our action in Ft. Lauderdale please contact Matt Schwartz, Everglades Chair of the Broward Sierra Club Group, at matthew3222@yahoo.com. If you don't have email, you can call 954-634-7173. Please join us.

FOOD, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

– By Phil Busey, Broward Sierra Conservation Committee Chair

Food price inflation and resulting riots have been widely attributed by the media to competition with biofuels for corn and soybean feedstock. There is a limited supply of arable land used to produce food and fuel. One estimate is that expansion of biofuels explained 75% or more of the worldwide price surge in cereals and vegetable oil in 2005-2007.

Food and energy are examples of millennial resource conflicts guiding environmental policy. Poor people and poor nations are hurt worst by food price spikes. Food costs are a large proportional part of poor people's budgets, and food in poorer nations tends to be less highly processed than in rich nations. Thus, food prices in poor nations are large and not well buffered from commodity price fluctuation. For biofuels to be an important part of future green energy production, the coupling with food prices must be carefully considered.

Food prices are also coupled to general economic development, liquidity of financial markets, speculation, and annual production variation, factors that

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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



Thursday, Feb. 4th: Learn About Proposed Transit Service for Southeast Florida!

The South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFECC) Study is developing a Master Plan with recommendations for transit service along the 85-mile FEC Railway corridor from downtown Miami to Jupiter. Environmental and community considerations are major aspects of the planning. The study is considering which types of transit will function best, where stations will be located and what kind of station will best suit each location. Rob McMullen, Director of Environmental Services for the consulting firm conducting the study, will speak and answer questions

Thursday, Mar. 4th: "Ospreys of Pelican Island" Bob Montanaro

is a volunteer at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. Bob's interest in ospreys led to the establishment of OspreyWatch, a multi-year project to document the lives of these birds of prey living in the Refuge. The presentation is a portrayal of a typical nesting season pieced together from several years of observations and photography. Additionally, the program showcases encounters with other wildlife in the Refuge, from river otters and a family of pileated woodpeckers to fighting red-shouldered hawks! For more information, visit www.ospreywatch.org.



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.



The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

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- 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 954-634-7173
- Legal Chair**
Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
- Everglades Chair**
Matthew Schwartz 954-634-7173
- Outings Chair**
Judy Kuchta 954-924-5001
- Education Chair**
Ina Topper 954-722-9944
- Fundraising Chair**
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- Membership Chair**
Andrea Saifman 954-817-1749
- Volunteer Coordinator**
Anita Lind 954-983-3709
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- Newsletter & Web Site**
Carole Walsh 954-987-3642
carole_walsh@comcast.net
- Newsletter Mailing Coordinator**
Open - to volunteer, contact
Max Goldstein 954-296-3411

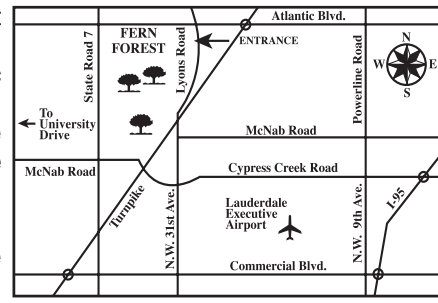
Broward Sierra News is published every other month for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

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 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 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.

Food, Energy & the Environment, continued from page 1

should have a degree of self-regulation. Some of the food riots in Asia and Africa were related to undersupply of rice, generally not produced in the same soils as biomass fuels. Thus the coupling of food and biofuel is complicated and does not entirely fit the media stereotype. However, government price support for biofuels stands out as a continuing concern.



Sugarcane harvesting in the Everglades Agricultural Area, a practice that may be a part of Florida's efforts in renewable energy development

Unlike economic factors that can be self-regulating, price supports are subject to political control and can cause over-correction, market inefficiencies, and downright waste.

For example, in the U.S., government price support for corn-based ethanol has been popular politically in corn belt states. But Cornell's David Pimentel has described corn-based ethanol as "unsustainable subsidized food burning." His argument is based on the idea of "net energy" which subtracts, from the energy yield, the energy costs in fertilizer, water, and pesticides to produce the corn. In a detailed analysis in 2005 in *Natural Resources Research* (Vol. 14:1, 65-76), Pimentel and Tad Patzek showed that "ethanol production using corn grain requires 29% more fossil energy than the fuel produced." Paul Rauber wrote in the January-February, 2007 *Sierra Magazine*, "Replacing just one-eighth of U.S. gasoline consumption would require the country's entire corn crop."

Switchgrass, touted as an environmentally friendly alternative to corn, and which is not used for food or feed, was reported by Pimentel to

have a negative 45% efficiency, while wood biomass drops the energy efficiency to a negative 57%. For biodiesel production, soybeans require 27% percent more fossil energy than the fuel produced, and sunflowers require 118% more. So beyond the question whether biofuel causes starvation, America will not grow its way to energy independence if the efficiency of production is a negative 118%. Other scientists have presented what they say are newer and more relevant data

that contradict Pimentel. It is reasonable to expect that under the right circumstances biofuel will be net energy positive, but to be aware that the rush to energy independence may cause some stupid outcomes.

Florida has a State Energy Program Grant based on money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Governor Crist has demonstrated strong commitment to biofuels expansion and to maintain Florida's leadership in renewable energy, but there are potential environmental blowbacks. For example, an earlier Hendry County project proposed to plant 15,000 acres of a giant reed, *Arundo donax*. This project went under the radar, referring to *Arundo* by the code-word "E-grass." Adverse effects on local vegetation would result if the *Arundo donax* were invasive in Florida. In California, *Arundo* is very invasive, costing millions of dollars annually to control, however it has not shown strong invasive characteristics in Florida.

A 96-acre cellulosic ethanol production project was proposed for Highlands County, which in October

Continued on next page

NEW YEAR'S RECYCLING RESOLUTIONS

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Education Chair

Looking back at 2009, great strides have been made in terms of preserving our environment, nationwide and here in South Florida. Over the past year we finally saw the proposal of the Tamiami Trail project to restore waterflow in the Everglades becoming a reality. In the Everglades, there was a noticeable increase in woodstork chicks. In the effort to increase public transportation options, the Florida East Coast corridor rail project is now taking hold. (Read about an upcoming Sierra Meeting program on this subject on page 1.)

As well as making progress in preserving our environment, we've also seen improvements in recycling efforts. Actually, that's redundant – improving our recycling efforts IS preserving our environment. In any case, in the recycling department there was great news as well. This past year saw the introduction of reusable bags on a massive scale, in supermarkets and drugstores, etc. Finally... the greater public is getting used to the idea of drastically limiting the use of the indestructible plastic bag!



Looking forward towards 2010 (aside from many of us just wanting to lose a couple of pounds which were gained over the holidays), let our most profound resolution be to truly recycle all we can, use less than we did in 2009 in terms of packaging, plastic tumblers, paper plates, and disposable items in general. Also, be an environmental advocate to all who can hear us – neighbors, friends & family. And talk to those who can REALLY turn the tables: our local politicians!



Let's hear a big hurra for Hollywood! In February Hollywood will be the first city in Broward county to start a program which will supply each resident with a 96 gallon recycling bin, to be filled with every recyclable item imaginable, in exchange for points! Yes you heard it right

– in exchange for POINTS – to be redeemed at supermarkets, home improvement stores and many more businesses. From what we understand, on average, a resident may be able to redeem between \$20 - \$40 per month. How's THAT for a win-win situation? Especially because, as Hollywood's Mayor Bober points out, the significantly reduced garbage ALSO saves the city pickup costs as well as fuel.

So here's our major New Year's Recycling Resolution: Let us tell the leaders of our communities to follow the example of Hollywood this coming year. And maybe follow Pembroke Pines' lead in incremental water usage billing. It is up to us to tell our local governments that there are solutions that benefit the environment AND help the communities in this difficult economic time.

Food, Energy & the Environment, continued

2009 received a State of Florida preliminary determination of compliance with applicable Federal air pollution requirements. It is not known whether *Arundo donax* would be one of the feedstocks, however, based on high biomass yield, I believe that sugarcane would play more heavily in this and other biomass energy developments in South Florida.

The food and other issues surrounding biofuel are not unlike environmental issues surrounding other renewable energy strategies, such as wind power and photovoltaic. There are reasons to be optimistic and reasons to ask careful questions.

Local Sierra Group Outings

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



JAN. 24, SUN. HIKE AND SWAMPWALK IN THE SELDOM EXPLORED ADDITION LANDS SOUTH OF I-75. This is an area of marshes, sable palm hammocks and of course cypress – one of the most pristine areas remaining in all of South Florida. As in the December hike, water conditions will depend on how wet it's been - but expect to get wet. About 5 - 6 miles. Rated moderate difficulty. *Cost: \$4 members, \$5 non-members.* (Broward Group)

Leader: Matt Schwartz <matthew3222@yahoo.com>

FEB. 6, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. We'll hike 8 miles on a wilderness trail off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (about 50 minutes from Downtown Ft. Lauderdale). You will learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora, as you trek through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie. Rated leisurely w/ identification of birds, wildflowers and butterflies. Bring your own lunch, which we'll eat on the trail. *Cost: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* (Broward Group)

Leader: Kathleen Rhoad 954-627-2665

<katrhoad@prodigy.net>

FEB. 20TH, SAT. EAST RIVER DAY CANOE FUNDRAISER. Paddle approximately 8-10 miles, while exploring several mangrove tunnels and small 'lakes,' south of Tamiami Trail, just west of Route 29. Learn what inhabits this unique ecosystem. Check out pictures from a previous trip, on the Broward Sierra website, under 'Sierra Tales.' Paddles, life vests and canoes provided compliments of our host, John Judy of Florida Adventures. Bring your own lunch. Rated moderate to strenuous. *Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members.*

Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jsf812@bellsouth.net>

Assistant: Kip Fisher (same phone)



Check our website for changes or newly scheduled outings. (Click on "Outings and Events" at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>)

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 (954) 924-5001 or <judykuchta@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>.

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				

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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 Group of the Sierra Club.



	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>.

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

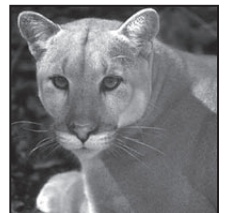


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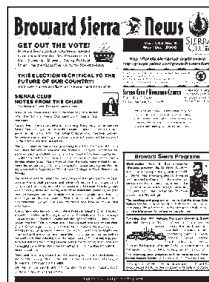
Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club**
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

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, March 1st for the April/May issue.