

# Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

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<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>  
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We need your email addresses in order to contact you about Sierra Club Broward group political endorsements and other important political alerts in the future. The Broward Sierra Club website is completely off limits to information on political candidates and endorsements due to IRS rules on not-for-profit organizations. If you wish to receive updated news and action alerts, please contact Phil Busey at [philip@busey.org](mailto:philip@busey.org) and give him your email address. If your email address has changed since you registered with the Sierra Club it would be helpful if you provided him with a current one.

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.



**Thursday, October 7th: "Protecting the Commons."** Our guest speaker will be City of Sunrise Commissioner Sheila Alu. She voted against the rezoning of an area for a bad development west of the Sawgrass Expressway, and has been our friend on the environment. Her volunteer work supports local nonprofit child welfare organizations, and while with the Broward League

of Cities she has worked on education, criminal justice, ethics, and human development. A graduate of Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center, Sheila Alu is currently an Assistant State Attorney with the Broward County State Attorney's Office for the 17th Judicial Circuit. Sheila Alu is concerned about and works against corruption in government.

**Thursday, November 4th:** Our guest speaker will be William Richards from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He will be talking about the environmental impact we've been having on our waterways

**Thursday, December 2nd: Annual Sierra Club Holiday Party.** We'll have a wonderful time with food and merriment and a raffle with excellent prizes. We're asking for a \$5.00 donation if you can't bring a dish to share. We'll send out an email and post on our website a list of the prizes 2-3 weeks before the party.

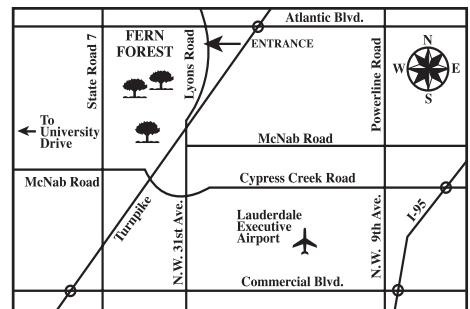


Please contact Phil Busey [philip@busey.org](mailto:philip@busey.org) to make sure you are receiving our twice monthly Sierra Club email announcements sent to [alert@sierraclub.org](mailto:alert@sierraclub.org). You should also check your bulk mail box to make sure your email software is not blocking Sierra Club, and be sure to whitelist mail sent to [alert@sierraclub.org](mailto:alert@sierraclub.org).

#### 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.





## The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

### Executive Committee Chair

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### Newsletter Editor & Web Master

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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.

## POLITICAL UPDATE – by Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Political Chair

With the BP oil disaster in the Gulf still fresh in our minds (and our seafood, beaches, and marine wildlife habitats as well) it is no secret that this has not been a great year for the environment. When thousands of us turned out in June for enormous Hands Across the Sand rallies, we hoped that national energy legislation ushering in a new era of clean energy alternatives would soon be coming. That hasn't happened.

Yet there have been improvements. Under Jon Jarvis, President Obama's pick to lead the National Park Service, the largest land management agency in South Florida has begun to make important changes in how enormous tracts of federally owned public lands are managed. All three NPS units, Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, and to some extent Big Cypress National Preserve, are in the process of tightening up rules and regulations on motorboats, airboats, swampbuggies and

ATVs which have caused enormous damage to south Florida's unique wildlife habitat. Federal money has been made available to finally raise sections of the Tamiami Trail over the Shark River Slough, the lifeblood of fresh water for Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. And while the state's purchase of 28,000 acres of agricultural land in the northern Everglades was not the 180,000 acres we initially hoped for, it is still a very good step in the right direction. The purchase of the largest tract, Southern Gardens, will greatly benefit Broward's Water Conservation Areas as well as the Addition Lands of the Big Cypress National Preserve.

In this election year, important decisions will be made which will impact other future decisions and our political committee has been busy.

*Continued on page 4*

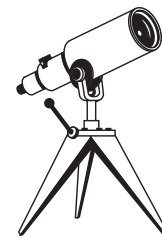
## JACK HORKHEIMER (JUNE 11, 1938 – AUGUST 30, 2010)

– by Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Everglades Chair

With his signature introduction of "Greetings, greetings fellow stargazers" Jack Horkheimer kept us "looking up" for over 30 years. The 'Star Hustler' died of respiratory illness at the age of 72. His popular 5 minute segment on PBS introduced millions to the simple pleasures of naked eye astronomy. Jack's dramatic (some would call them melodramatic) descriptions of the natural world above included this reference to the constellation Lepus (the Hare): "a heavenly rabbit, huddled and cringing in fear in the grass beneath the feet of Orion the Hunter." Noting that in Chinese astrology Lepus was considered a rest stop in the sky, Jack referred to it as a "heavenly outhouse in the sweet by and by."

While Jack will certainly be missed, the night sky is still out there. On Saturday, October 16th, the Broward Group will visit the Fox Observatory at Markham Park, home to our friends at the South Florida Amateur Astronomers Association. We will gather at the observatory at 6 PM (park anywhere on the grass) and begin the evening with a sunset walk on the nearby levee. This is a truly great place to see the night sky come alive with the Everglades on one side and the

City of Sunrise on the other. We'll walk about 2 miles out to the proposed site of the Everglades Corporate Park where folks can get a first hand look at what development in this area would look like, and what it would do to what's left of our dark, night sky.



We'll finish up with some celestial viewing through the SFAAA's fantastic telescopes. My Farmer's Almanac tells me that the moon, Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus will all be up and should be visible. Only a hurricane stops this outing from going, so join us rain or shine. Markham Park is located just west of the 136th Ave exit of 595. Exit onto SR 84 and go west (about 2 miles) to the park (entrance on right hand side). Make a left after the gatehouse and then the first right to the observatory. Hope for good skies – and "keep looking up."

No limit on the number of folks who can come out. Observatory is free – suggested donation for the levee walk is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Join us for one or both activities. Call or email for more information: [matthew3222@yahoo.com](mailto:matthew3222@yahoo.com), 954-634-7173.

# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



**OCTOBER 10, SUN. SIERRA CLUB WORK PARTY** to clean up Fern Forest Nature Center. 9am-12:00 noon. 201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek. We'll meet Park staff in the museum area downstairs at 9am. This is an opportunity to give something back to the community, your Sierra group and Mother Nature, picking up trash, learning about and removing invasive plants - doing whatever is needed at Fern Forest Nature Center to restore it to its natural beauty. Help to repay our debt to the park system for use of our beautiful meeting room. No experience or tools needed. Bring water, sunscreen and substantial footwear and clothing for working outdoors in the brush. Contact: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



**OCT. 16, SAT. NIGHTTIME OBSERVATORY AND LEVEE WALK.** Jack Horkheimer memorial outing to the Observatory at Markham Park in Sunrise. Sunset walk on the nearby levee, learning about the night sky, and looking through the fantastic South Florida Amateur Astronomers Association's telescopes. (See article on previous page.) *Cost: \$5 non-members, \$3 members.* Leader Matt Schwartz. <matthew3222@yahoo.com> or 954-634-7173



**OCT. 16 & 17, SAT. & SUN. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING** at TY Park in Hollywood. Do you already lead outings for the Sierra Club? Want to find out what it takes to lead Sierra Club outings? Then this Outings Leader Training is for you! It will teach the requirements for leading Sierra Club outings. Training will be given 9am to 5pm on Saturday. The lead instructor will be Rudy Scheffer, Florida Outings Chair. At 9am Sunday, there will be a first aid class. All current and prospective leaders for Loxahatchee, Broward, and Miami Groups should attend. *Cost \$50 or less plus park entrance fee. Free (except for park entrance fee) to those who have led an outing in 2010. Those leading outings at the end of 2010 or in 2011 will be completely reimbursed after their first outing.* Limit 30. Contact: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



**OCT 23, SAT. FULL MOON BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER AT SHARK VALLEY.** If you've never experienced this 15 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.



**OCTOBER 24, SUN. FIRST SWAMPWALK OF THE YEAR** in the beautiful Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Lands. Weather will hopefully be a bit cooler by then. We'll walk about 6 miles and learn about the prairie, cypress slough, and pinewoods. Be prepared to get wet! Open to the first 20 folks who sign up. Leave Broward at 10am and return by about 6pm. Rated moderate. *Cost: Members \$3, non-members \$5 (plus park entrance fee).* Leader Matt Schwartz. <matthew3222@yahoo.com> or 954-634-7173.



**OCTOBER 30, SAT. ROBERT STRAND DAY HIKE ON FLORIDA TRAIL.** We'll gather in town to share rides and take the Tamiami Trail to Oasis Ranger Station. We'll hike south wet or dry about 3.4 miles, have lunch and back-track to Oasis. We may get our feet wet and slosh through a pond on this section of the orange-blazed Florida Trail. So bring hike stuff and your own lunch for this potentially strenuous and varied walk amid cypress trees, slash pine, tall grass, saw palmetto, hammocks, wild flowers, orchids, air plants. We'll look for bald eagles and other natural sightings. Rated moderate/strenuous. *Cost: \$10.* Limit: 8. Contact Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-332-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net> or Assist: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>



**NOVEMBER 7, SUN. APOXEE PARK ECOWALK IN WEST PALM BEACH.** The trail system winds through hammocks, wetlands (mostly on boardwalks) and shaded roads along canals. Deer, wading birds, gators and other wildlife are regularly seen. Bromeliads abound! If it has been rainy, you might get your feet wet. We'll spend a couple of hours on the four-mile hike. Bring water and a snack. Limit 10. Rated leisure. *Cost: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Contact Sabrina Carle 561-732-4486 <sabrinacarle@ymail.com>



**NOVEMBER 14, SUN. SIERRA CLUB WORK PARTY** to clean up Fern Forest Nature Center. 9am - 12:00 noon. See Oct. 10. Contact: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@yahoo.com>



**NOVEMBER 26, FRI. 'GLADES 101' EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DAY WALK.** (Day after Thanksgiving) Introductory visit and "walk-hike" sampler in the Everglades for beginners and refresher for veterans and guests. We'll preview our experience with film, displays and visit art show at the ENP Coe Visitor Center then stroll the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and nearby Gumbo Limbo Trail followed by a visit to Pinelands, area for a gourmet lunch (included) and walk an unimproved trail there. Time and weather permitting, we'll visit Pa-hay-okee Overlook boardwalk. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll look for gators, birds, turtles, fish, maybe a snake or two and bugs in season. Rated leisure/moderate. *Cost \$15.* Limit: 8. Contact Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-332-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net> or Assist: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>



**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 spoonbills, sandhill cranes, many species of herons, ibis and egrets. Hiking, kayaking and biking. Rated moderate. Limit 8. *Tentative Cost \$50 for 2 nights of camping and 4 meals. Kayak rentals available at extra cost.* Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb2@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 Sierra Outing Leader listed for the outing. 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](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>>**

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

In accord with Sierra Club Broward Group bylaws, the Annual Election of ExCom members will occur in December 2010 by secret written ballot of the members, which will be mailed to each member in the December 2010/ January 2011 newsletter. Each member is allowed to vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled, which is three.

The Nominations Committee, consisting of Phil Busey, Kay McGinn, and Ina Topper is recommending these candidates for consideration: Barbara Curtis, Max Goldstein, and Judy Kuchta, who have agreed to serve, if reelected. The name of any additional Group member, who gives consent, may be submitted in writing by petition of at least 20 Group members prior the December 1, 2010 deadline. Bylaws also allow for ballot issue petitions.

**We need your email addresses in order to contact you about Sierra Club Broward group political endorsements and other important political alerts in the future.** *The Broward Sierra Club website is completely off limits to information on political candidates and endorsements due to IRS rules on not-for-profit organizations.* If you wish to receive updated news and action alerts, please contact Phil Busey at philip@busey.org and give him your email address. If your email address has changed since you registered with the Sierra Club it would be helpful if you provided him with a current one.

## A DAY AT THE BEACH

Over 60 Broward Sierra members and friends celebrated the end of the summer at our annual beach party and picnic at John Lloyd State Park. Thanks to the tremendous work of Outings Chair Judy Kuchta, we shared good food, played frisbee, blew bubbles, and bobbed in the surf. Broward County Commissioner Sue Gunzburger took time off from campaigning to join us. Sue was one of two environmental candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club, both of whom won their elections. Matt Schwartz updated us on conservation successes and work still ongoing on offshore drilling. Some new members joined us, there was some environmental education, but mostly, we had fun.



## COME HELP OUT AT OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER LABELLING

A big "thank you" to all the folks who help bring you this newsletter - from the people who write the articles to keep you up to date on what we're doing and what we're concerned about, to the members who take the great photos, to the Press Room who does such a great job on the printing, and of course yours truly, the tireless editor, but ESPECIALLY to Max Goldstein and the rest of the folks who meet every other month to chat, snack, put the mailing labels on the newsletters and get them ready for mailing. Join them and be part of the process. The next labelling get together will be Thursday, November 18th. Contact Max at 954-296-3411 or maxgold@yahoo.com for the exact time and location.