

# SIERRA CLUB SUES TO PROTECT FLORIDA PANTHER

On March 9, 2011, the Sierra Club, in consultation with your Broward Group ExCom, issued a formal Notice of Intent (NOI) to sue The National Park Service (NPS) for plans to allow 130 miles of ORV (off-road vehicle) primary trails, and untold miles of secondary trails, through prime Florida Panther habitat, the Big Cypress Addition Lands.



Photo by Matthew Schwartz

The Sierra Club is supported in our intended lawsuit by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), South Florida Wildlands Association, and the Florida Biodiversity Project. Your Sierra Club Broward Group has contributed significantly to the lawsuit but will need more funding to pay litigation costs in the U.S. District Court.

The Florida Panther is an endangered species protected by the Endangered Species Act. A major part of Florida Panther habitat and prey (white-tailed deer and feral hogs) is in the 147,000 acres of Big Cypress Addition Lands. The natural range of a male Florida Panther has been estimated at about 90,000 acres. Cutting up the Big Cypress National Preserve with ORV trails is likely to harm the Florida Panther, the also endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, and threatened species such as the Eastern indigo snake.

The NPS plans are based on an erroneous Biological Opinion by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This Opinion failed to examine several key threats to the Florida Panther from the NPS ORV plan. Sierra Club is not opposed to hunting in Big Cypress, but the Final General Management Plan allowing ORVs is legally flawed. This is one of the last remaining pieces of Wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains and needs to be preserved.

Please generously support our current litigation and wilderness education by donating to "The Sierra Club Foundation" (which is tax deductible), include a note "For Florida Panther and Wilderness Protection," and mail to:

Sierra Club Broward Group, P.O. Box 550561, Davie, FL 33355.

**Thursday, April 7th: "Water Matters"** What is the real scoop on water in Florida? Cris Costello, a Regional Representative for the Sierra Club, coordinates the Florida Red Tide Campaign to prevent harmful algal blooms in both coastal and inland waters by eliminating point and non-point sources of nutrient pollution. She will be presenting information on this and letting us know how we can positively impact our water resources in our own backyards. There will be time for questions and answers.



**Thursday, May 5th:** We will be having a speaker from the **Loxahatchee Wildlife Preserve**.

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

# Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

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

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## SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY

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Davie, FL 33355

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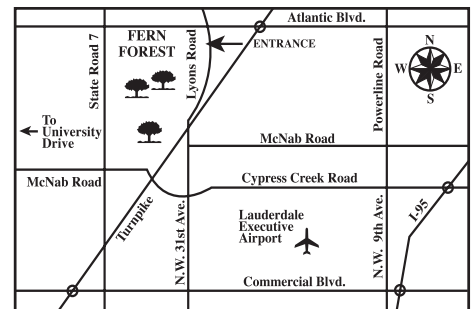
We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Why not join us right now? Come along on an outing. Get involved, learn about local environmental issues and how they affect you and your community. Just use the form on the back page, or go to our website at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>, and click on the "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.

### 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

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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 any of the other numerous Yahoo groups.

## WE MUST TAKE DRASTIC ACTION NOW!

— by Phil Busey, Broward Sierra Chair

### 83 CENTS DOESN'T CUT IT

Broward Sierra wants to continue mailing a paper newsletter to members who need it, which we can do only through your broad and deep financial support. Your immediate help is needed because 60% of our members do not have a listed email address, and therefore cannot receive the newsletter electronically.

- **Broward Sierra receives 83 cents of your member dues per year to support all Sierra Club activities in Broward County.**
- **The paper newsletter costs Broward Sierra \$2.77 per member per year.**
- **Obviously only \$0.83 per member per year is not enough to pay for the newsletter**

Since you understand the problem, I ask for your support to sustain our printed newsletter for those who need it. Please join me in doing several drastic things.

- 1. I am writing a check to Broward Group of the Sierra Club for \$250.00** for Broward Sierra activities and to help cover the costs of the newsletter.
- 2. For every Sierra Club member who does the same, I will match you dollar-for-dollar, up to another \$250.00, \$500.00 in total.** Please make your check out to Broward Group of the Sierra Club\* and mail it to: Sierra Club Broward Group, P.O. Box 550561, Davie, FL 33355
- 3. To help cut costs, I am having my name removed from the paper newsletter distribution,** and asking that I be emailed a PDF or link to the electronic newsletter in the future. Go electronic along with me, write to me at philip@busey.org and let me know.

**Also consider placing an ad in the newsletter.** You will not only be helping us keep the newsletter in production, but your ad will be seen by our members who get the paper newsletter, as well as anyone who downloads the newsletter from our website. If we go to an electronic version of the newsletter, your ad will be included in the electronic version. You can either send or email us your business card or ad layout, or email us the information and our talented layout artist (yours truly), will layout the ad for you. The ad rates are as follows:

	1 issue	3 issues	6 issues
Business card size ad (3-3/4" x 2")	\$55	\$150	\$270
Double size ad (3-3/4" x 4")	\$95	\$255	\$720

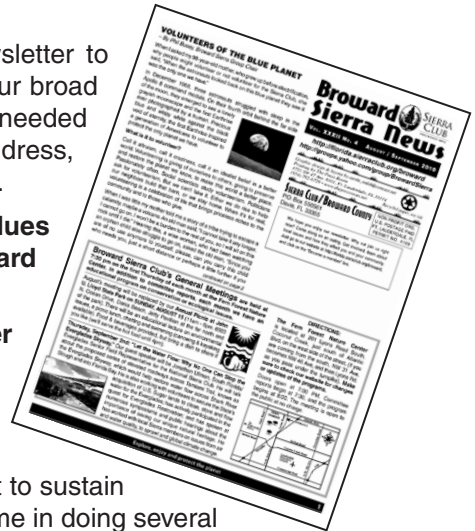
If you would like to place an ad, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or email him at <maxgold@yahoo.com>

\*not tax deductible

## FLORIDA PANTHER AND WILDERNESS PROTECTION



See article on page 1. Please write a second check made out to **The Sierra Club Foundation** (which is tax-deductible) and include a note "For Florida Panther and Wilderness Protection," and also mail to Sierra Club Broward Group, P.O. Box 550561, Davie, FL 33355.



## EARTH DAY EVENTS

### Ft. Lauderdale

#### People & Planet Day

April 2, 10am - 3pm  
*Esplanade Park, 400 SW 2nd St., Ft. Lauderdale*  
 Kick off Earth Month and celebrate the city's green initiatives. Learn about the latest green technologies, services and products that will help to sustain our environment for the next 100 years.

It will be a fun free day for the whole family featuring:

- Green businesses
- Nonprofit organizations
- Arts and crafts vendors
- A Kids Eco-Zone

### Sawgrass Sanctuary Earth Day Festival

April 9, 10am - 4pm  
*237 North New River Circle, Sunrise, FL*  
 Celebrate green living at Sunrise's third-annual Earth Day Festival! This day of outdoor fun for all-ages will feature:

- Free admission
- Live music
- Children's activities
- A farmers' market
- Festival foods and ethnic specialties
- Unique, eco-friendly goods
- An eco-chic fashion show
- Gourmet food trucks and festival fare
- Information about green and healthy living

### Fern Forest

#### Earth Day Workday and Lecture: Growing Green

April 23, 9am - 3pm  
*See map on page 1.*  
 Celebrate Earth Day by removing exotic plants and learning how to create your own edible-bearing Eco-Yard. For all ages (under 12 accompanied by an adult). Free, although donations are encouraged.

# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



**MARCH 26, SAT. WILD EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANT WALK.** Join us for a naturalist guided walk at the Fern Forest Nature Center to learn what you CAN and CAN'T eat in the wild. The walk is less than 2 miles and approximately 1 hour long. Rated easy. \$4 members, \$5 non-members. Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jsf812@bellsouth.net>



**APRIL 2, SAT. 9:30AM. DAY KAYAKING/CANOEOING** at St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park near Stuart. This is one of the State Parks on the closure list. This classic Florida barrier island is accessible only by boat, but it is worth the ride. A 3300-foot boardwalk takes visitors across mangrove forests and hammocks of live oaks, cabbage palms, paradise trees, and wild limes, to a neatly preserved Atlantic beach. We will paddle across the Intracoastal and then explore the tidal creeks. Afterwards, we'll have lunch and go for an ocean swim on a pristine secluded beach. \$3 members, \$5 non-members if you bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent a double kayak for \$40/person. Bring a lunch to share. Rated moderate. Leader: Chas Hunt <loxoutings@comcast.net> 561-967-4770



**APRIL 9, SAT. KAYAKING LESSON FOR BEGINNERS.** Cost \$45.00 (includes the cost of all equipment). Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



**APRIL 15-17, FRI.-SUN. DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK CAMP/SNORKEL.** We get a Friday start and overnight at a hotel near Key West, where we'll sample local restaurant fare. Saturday we camp after our boat ride to Dry Tortugas National Park aboard Yankee Freedom II. Saturday and Sunday we snorkel and visit Fort Jefferson, host to the infamous Dr. Mudd. Car pool option. Rated leisure. Cost: \$250, including boat ride, camp and snorkel fee and some meals; not included: Key West hotel, Miami to/from Key West transportation, road meals. Limit: 6. For information/reservation, please email: Leader Kaatje Bernabei <kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net> 305-223-6551 or Assistant: Alan Nowell <mrhitnmiss@aol.com> 305-253-4250



**APRIL 16, SAT. HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE.** Tour Broward County's only lighthouse with us. We will meet 10am Saturday in Pompano, take a boat ride, climb the lighthouse for a magnificent view of the Hillsboro Inlet Intracoastal and the neighborhoods of Lighthouse Point. We'll discuss the recent dredging of the inlet and its impact on the reefs. And we'll hear the story of the Barefoot Mailman, a legendary mailman who walked barefoot from Palm Beach to Miami, delivering the mail. He vanished at the inlet and no one knows for sure whether drowning, a shark or alligator, or foul play was to blame. We will walk about the property including the Coast Guard cottages and gift shop. Bring water, sunscreen, \$10 donation to Sierra Club. Optional lunch (not included) nearby. Leader: Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359 <legalbarb@aol.com>



**APRIL 30, SAT. KAYAK DAY TRIP** in and out of Chokoloskee (near Everglades City). We'll paddle a loop through part of the beautiful Everglades National Park's 10,000 Islands and learn about mangrove and tidal flat ecology. The trip is rated moderate to strenuous depending on the wind conditions. We'll stop for lunch at the Lopez River camp site. Cost approximately \$50 and includes kayak rental. (\$7 if you bring your own kayak). Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, Assistant Manuel Monteiro. Please RSVP by April 21st.



**MAY 14TH, SAT. CIRCLE THE CITY PADDLE, FOOD AND FUNDRAISER.** Join us for a 7.5 mile roundtrip on the 'Island City Waterway' (Middle River), in Wilton Manors. You'll learn to appreciate the difference preservation of native habitat makes, even in an urban area. Canoes, assistance and expertise will be donated by John Judy and Bob Samson, in support of the Broward Group. Sumptuous lunch provided. Rated moderate, due to distance. Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members (join in your own boat for \$15). Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or jsf812@bellsouth.net.

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>.

Unless otherwise stated, the costs for each outing represent a best estimate of actual shared expenses, for food and transportation and other direct expenses.

**For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.**

**LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE:**

**<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>**

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

# EARTH DAY, LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD – by by Phil Busey, Broward Sierra Chair



On the eve of the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, I attended a debate at the auditorium of the University of Illinois. Just two weeks later our campus would be brought to a standstill by rioting over the Kent State killings. We would be occupied by the National Guard. But on that night we were thinking of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, and how the Cuyahoga River had caught fire in Cleveland the year before, and what was the one thing our generation could do to save the world.

To me, there was no real debate that overpopulation was the world's one big environmental problem. Since high school, I had heard of Thomas Malthus, who showed that populations grow exponentially, until we will kill ourselves off, while running out of resources. Looking at the world of 1970, what else mattered as much to environmentalists as overpopulation?

The Ehrlichs predicted in *The Population Bomb*, that "In the 1970s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death." There was urgency for our action, if it wasn't already too late. Dissenter Julian Simon, who spoke that night in Illinois (the Ehrlichs did not), called overpopulation a doomsayers' argument. Simon presented a cornucopian economic argument. When commodities are scarce, he said, technology improves per capita output, and resources become more abundant. When people populate, they innovate, and commodity prices go down, not up. It seemed like heresy.

The *Population Bomb* predicted enormous human starvation and rapidly increasing prices, for example, for copper and other commodities used in communication networks and other purposes. That prediction was disproved by technology when

fiber optics were developed as a faster and better substitute for copper communication lines. Julian Simon won an actual monetary bet from Paul Ehrlich over Ehrlich's doomsayer prediction on commodity prices. After copper and four other metals went down in price, not up as Ehrlich had predicted, the argument was settled with Ehrlich mailing a check to Simon.

The first *Population Bomb* prediction was sort of true. Hundreds of millions of people did starve, but over several decades, not in one decade. And the cause was not overpopulation but war and maldistribution of food. There is still plenty of food in the world, so much so that some of us are dying of obesity. But in the most poorly organized countries, there is great human suffering, and there would be great suffering at any population level, because of corruption and poor distribution of resources. In the most well organized countries, e.g. Japan, Germany, and Taiwan, quality of life is high, and people live long lives, while population density is at the top of the charts. Ignoring the gnatty subargument of externalities (resources extracted elsewhere through trade), Malthus and overpopulation have long vanished as a central premise of modern environmentalism.

The environmental movement received a great boost of excitement from Ehrlich and others who predicted bad things that did not happen. Which is a good thing. What happened to overpopulation, that was not predicted, was that reproductive rates would halve as women moved to cities and got educated. In most of the developed world, population growth is essentially flat. Some countries now have a natural population decrease. There was also a Green Revolution, and not too surprisingly technology helped make more efficient some resource uses such as energy. For the mistake of doomsbelieving, those of us from 1970 do not need to apologize to anyone. The point is, we made a positive difference.

The environmental movement has made enormous strides since 1970. Catalytic converters on cars have cut down on air pollution, DDT was banned from the US in 1972 and the bald eagle was saved from extinction, nuclear power safety was increased after Three Mile Island, the Endangered Species Act was adopted in 1973 along with the international treaty CITES in 1975, Big Cypress became the first US National Preserve in 1974, Florida's Growth Management Act was adopted in 1985, ultrathin plastic bags were banned in China in 2008, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project trickles forward relentlessly, world bicycle production has increased, and, in the last few years, photovoltaic, wind, and biofuel power have surged.

The great debates since 1970 have helped spawn free-market environmentalism, a hopeful though not perfect belief that property rights laws can spawn economic incentives to protect the environment. Meanwhile, other human caused or assisted disasters remind us that more urgent actions are still needed. Disasters since 1970 have included Bhopal (1984), Chernobyl (1986), Exxon Valdez (1989), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Cote d'Ivoire toxic waste dump (2006), the TVA Kingston coal fly ash slurry spill (2008), and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (2010).

While greenhouse warming and climate change are the big issue today, much as overpopulation was the big issue of 1970, let us not miss that other continuing issues demand our strong efforts, such as habitat loss, mountaintop removal, soil conservation, exploitation of tropical rainforests, the continued poisoning of our air, land and water, and a major issue for environmental justice in America, the increasing gap between rich and poor.

## 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.

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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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Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25		Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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