

## BROWARD SIERRA EXCOM ELECTIONS

All Broward Sierra Club members should have recently received their ballot to vote for our Executive Committee (ExCom) members. The deadline for casting your vote is December 15, 2011. So if you haven't received your ballot by November 15th or 20th, please contact Phil at 954-579-3932. You can return your ballot by mail (follow the instructions on the ballot), or bring it to the December 1st Holiday Party.

## SIERRA CLUB AND ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIES GO TO COURT TO PROTECT ADDITION LANDS

– By Matt Schwartz, Conservation Chair



On November 3, 2011, the Sierra Club joined four other local and national organizations in a lawsuit to protect the Addition Lands of the Big Cypress National Preserve. This comes as no surprise to Broward Sierrans who have fought this battle for years – attending National Park Service (NPS) public meetings, submitting electronic comments, and, more recently, sending emails directly to NPS Director Jon Jarvis. Local Sierrans have also hiked and enjoyed nature in this spectacular piece of public land in Broward County's backyard. Big thanks are due all for the work you have done. The press release below accompanied our lawsuit. We will keep you informed as our lawsuit moves forward.

Washington, DC – A coalition of national and local conservation organizations today filed suit to nullify a plan which would open a previously protected section of the Big Cypress National Preserve to 130 miles of trails for off-road vehicles (ORVs). The lawsuit contends that widespread motorized traffic will degrade the unique natural resources of the 146,000-

*Continued on page 4*

### Thursday, Dec. 1st: Our annual **Broward Sierra Club Holiday Dinner.**

Come one, come all. Join us for fun, conversation, good food, and great raffles. Bring a dish to share and/or \$6. We suggest folks bring main dishes, salads, cheese & crackers, wine or other beverages, etc. Please also bring your own non-disposable plates, cups and utensils. Raffle tickets will be available for \$3 each or 3 for \$5. In addition, **Florida Hometown Democracy's Leslie Blackner will speak to us about the future of land use in Florida.**



### Thursday, Jan. 5th: Steve Malagodi, long-time radio producer with

NPR's WLRN-FM, will present "Petropolis," a video about Canada's Alberta Tar Sands mining operation and the Keystone XL pipeline. Malagodi was one of 1,253 people arrested at the White House in August during a two-week sit-in urging President Obama to deny a permit for the Keystone pipeline.



The mining operation is the world's largest industrial, capital and energy project, intent on mining an oil reserve the size of England from the boreal forests of Canada. NASA's Dr. Jim Hansen has called the Tar Sands operation the 'largest carbon bomb' on the planet, which if allowed, will doom any attempts to halt global warming.

# Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

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

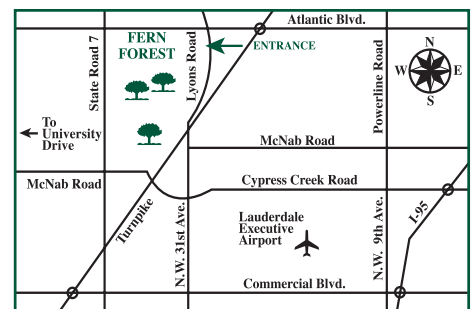
### Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings

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.





**SIERRA CLUB**  
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## 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.

### 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** will be available every other month in electronic format. Additionally, to keep you apprised of current Broward Sierra Club events, they will be 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.

## PERMISSION TO LEVEL SAND DUNE!

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra ExCom Member

A permit has been issued by FDEP to Mayan Beach Club, South Ocean Lane in the Harbor Beach area of Fort Lauderdale beach, which allows the removal of a 150-foot natural sand dune from public beach, without an administrative or public hearing, and without acceptable environmental mitigation. This natural sand dune contains endangered native plants and wildlife, including endangered sea turtle nests. According to the Broward Soil and Water Conservation District there is at least one green sea turtle nest on this dune every year. Both Broward Soil and Water Conservation District and S.T.O.P. (Sea Turtle Oversight Protection) have formally requested an administrative hearing. Per DOAH case number 11-005620, an administrative judge has been assigned to the case, and the court has issued an order instructing the parties to confer on date and location for a hearing. Broward Sierra supports the position of these environmental

organizations. It is alarming that FDEP would so readily grant a request from 43 co-op unit owners, the majority of whom are out-of-state residents, for permission to remove a natural coastal ecosystem, which prevents erosion of the beach and provides habitat for endangered species.

Furthermore, for those concerned with reducing the government's tax burden, this appears counter-productive to the thousands of dollars taxpayers spent to refurbish our beaches. The beauty of our beaches is the mainstay of our tourism industry. This natural sand dune enhances the views, enjoyment, and value of the landscape, for the benefit of all citizens, while naturally preventing erosion. Looking for your help to stop this terrible assault on a beautiful stretch of Fort Lauderdale beach. Please write to your Broward County commissioner. Email letters to the editor of the Sun-Sentinel at [letters@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:letters@sun-sentinel.com).



## BROWARD SIERRA CLUB RESOLUTION ON PORT EVERGLADES

The Broward Sierra Club ExCom passed the following resolution, and delivered it to the Broward County Commission:

**WHEREAS** Sierra Club Broward Group has been involved for decades with the protection of Florida coastal habitats, including at Port Everglades; and

**WHEREAS** the protection of the Florida coastline is essential to the South Florida economy and jobs in the marine industry including sports fishing, charter boats, dive shops, tour operations, beach going, and tourism generally; and

**WHEREAS** a proposed deepening of Port Everglades channel would involve underwater dredging, blasting, and dumping of six million cubic yards of dredged debris over a large area a short distance offshore; and

**WHEREAS** underwater dredging, blasting, and dumping are likely to degrade the quality of marine waters and harm or kill corals, snook, sea turtles, and reef fish, as well

the marine flora and fauna necessary for a sustainable marine industry and tourist economy; and

**WHEREAS** the federally-protected West Indian Manatee is an endangered species that regularly utilizes the waters and sea grass beds directly in the vicinity of the project and congregates in winter near the warm-water discharge of the FPL power plant surrounded on all four sides by Port Everglades, where underwater blasting is planned to occur, and underwater blasting causes a noise that can travel long distances underwater, disorienting and harming marine animals; and

**WHEREAS** blasting and dredging may increase taxes to pay for beach nourishment, to repair the effects of sand migration from channel deepening, and, in addition, cause higher insurance costs for protection against storm damage; and

**WHEREAS** in addition to channel deepening there is a plan to destroy approximately 12 acres of high-quality tidal mangroves in the construction of the turning notch, something that Sierra Club has consistently opposed; and

**WHEREAS** in the 1980s after strong opposition by the Sierra Club against wetland destruction at Port

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# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



**DEC. 3, SAT. 'GLADES 101' EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DAY WALK.** An introductory visit and "walk-hike" - a sampler in the Everglades for beginners and refresher for veterans, guests and families. Film, displays and art show at the ENP Coe Visitor Center then stroll the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and nearby Gumbo Limbo Trail followed by a visit to the Pinelands area for a gourmet lunch (included) and walk an unimproved trail there. Rated Leisure/Moderate. *Members \$15, Non-members \$20. Children under 12 are free with a paying adult.* Limit: 8. For information/reservation, please email or call: Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or [kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net), or Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 or [mrhitmiss@aol.com](mailto:mrhitmiss@aol.com).



**DEC. 10, SAT. SHARK VALLEY MOONLIGHT BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER.** Enjoy the spectacular view of the sun setting and minutes later the moon rising. 15 mile ride on flat paved terrain is moderately strenuous, but we take our time and enjoy the birds and alligators in the River of Grass. No fancy buffet this time, so we encourage you to bring your own snack (and if you like, something to share). Suggested donation: *\$5 members \$6 non-members.* All proceeds go towards our "Save the Panther Fund." Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 or [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com). Asst: Hawk Arachy 954-802-0618 or [climateresearch@live.com](mailto:climateresearch@live.com).



**DEC. 11, SUN. SIERRA CLUB 3 HOUR BEAUTIFICATION PARTY** to keep Fern Forest Nature Center at 201 Lyons Rd., Coconut Creek as pristine and 'native' as possible. A great Community Service project. We'll meet downstairs in the nature center at 9am and we'll be out by lunchtime. This is an opportunity to learn about some of the challenges of maintaining and upgrading a natural area, while returning something to the park for the beautiful meeting room they provide to us. No experience or tools needed. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and substantial footwear and clothing for working outdoors, in the brush. Contact: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or [jsf812@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsf812@bellsouth.net).



**DEC. 17, SAT. ECOWALK ON THE SWA GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM.** Tucked away in the SWA Conservation Area in West Palm Beach is a large wading bird rookery that harbors thousands of Florida wading birds, including two endangered species, the Snail Kite and the Wood Stork. Bring your hat and water. No facilities. Limit 10. Rated Moderate. *\$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Lisa Hanley 561-732-9578 or [lisa.hanley@juno.com](mailto:lisa.hanley@juno.com). We walk at 3:30 (timed to watch the birds fly in to roost for the night) for two miles. Where to meet directions will be provided to attendees upon registration.



**DEC. 27-29, TUES.-THURS. FLAMINGO EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK CAMP AND CANOE NINE MILE POND.** Arrival time at the campsite is flexible, option to car pool exists, and can be arranged by phone through the leaders. There is also an option to camp one night (fee will be adjusted). Rated Moderate/Strenuous. *Members \$65, Non-members \$75: includes park entry, canoe rental, campsite fees and most meals.* Limit: 8. For information/reservation, please email or call: Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or [kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net), or Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 or [mrhitmiss@aol.com](mailto:mrhitmiss@aol.com).



**JAN. 8, SUN. SIERRA CLUB 3 HOUR BEAUTIFICATION PARTY** to keep Fern Forest Nature Center at 201 Lyons Rd., Coconut Creek as pristine and 'native' as possible. A great Community Service project. We'll meet in the nature center, downstairs at 9 and you'll be out by lunchtime. This is an opportunity to learn about some of the challenges of maintaining and upgrading a natural area, while returning something to the park, for the beautiful meeting room they provide us. No experience or tools needed. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and substantial footwear and clothing, for working outdoors, in the brush. Contact: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or [jsf812@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsf812@bellsouth.net).



**JAN. 21, SAT. LOXAHATCHEE RIVER SCENIC PADDLE.** Experience one of the best runs in the state as we paddle the river from Riverbend Park to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The 8.5 mile section of the slow flowing river is federally designated as a "Wild and Scenic River." Rated moderate to strenuous, experienced paddlers only. Limit 12. *Cost approximately \$50. Canoe or kayak rental at Riverbend Park requires a \$100 cash or credit card deposit. If you are bringing your own boat \$10. The state park entrance fee is approximately \$2.* Snacks included. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 or [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com). Asst: Karen Bulkowski 954-612-5459 or [karenowski@att.net](mailto:karenowski@att.net). Please RSVP as soon as possible, or at least by January 14th



**FEB. 4, SAT. WAKODAHATCHEE AND GREEN CAY NATURE WALKS AND BIRDING ADVENTURE** (located in Delray). Bring your binoculars and cameras because we are going to see the cutest baby great blue herons and egrets. There are also usually spoonbills, black bellied whistling ducks, teals and more! Rated easy. We start early - 7:30 am. *Cost \$4.* Leader: Karen Bulkowski 954-612-5459 or [karenowski@att.net](mailto:karenowski@att.net). Asst: TBA



**FEB. 11, SAT. WALK AT DEERFIELD ISLAND.** (9:30 am) We'll take a boat to this historic island in Deerfield Beach, east of US 1, north of Hillsboro Blvd. The island once belonged to Al Capone, and is now a large nature preserve, with native plants and species being restored. See birds, gopher turtles, maybe a fox. We'll walk around the island and have lunch at the Brothers Restaurant (not included) in the Cove shopping center. Beautiful view of Intracoastal. *\$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Call Barbara Curtis 954 804-2060 in advance to reserve your place.



**FEB. 12, SUN. SIERRA CLUB 3 HOUR BEAUTIFICATION PARTY** to keep Fern Forest Nature Center at 201 Lyons Rd., Coconut Creek as pristine and 'native' as possible. A great Community Service project. We'll meet in the nature center, downstairs at 9 and you'll be out by lunchtime. This is an opportunity to learn about some of the challenges of maintaining and upgrading a natural area, while returning something to the park, for the beautiful meeting room they provide us. No experience or tools needed. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and substantial footwear and clothing, for working outdoors, in the brush. Contact: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 or [jsf812@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsf812@bellsouth.net).



**MAR. 17-18, SAT.-SUN. JUNIPER SPRINGS PRIMITIVE CAMPING AND CANOEING.** We'll camp at the Juniper Springs Campground (part of the Ocala National Park system), and paddle the wild, scenic and challenging Juniper Springs Run on Saturday. We'll visit manatees at Blue Springs on Sunday. Limit 5-8, car pooling necessary. *\$30 (plus \$33 if renting a 2-person canoe).* Call Barbara Curtis 954-894-2060 to make reservations.



**MAR. 24, SAT. WEST LAKE PADDLE.** (Hollywood) Paddleboards, canoes and kayaks are all welcome. Enjoy a 2.5 hour paddle while learning about the wildlife that inhabits this unique mangrove estuary. Experienced paddlers only. Limit 10 people. *Approx. \$40 (\$5 if bringing your own boat).* Includes lunch afterwards. Leader Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 or [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto: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 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

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>>**

acre "Addition Lands," create conflict with non-motorized users and fragment one of the last major wilderness areas in the eastern United States.

Acquired through the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Act of 1988, these lands became publicly owned in 1996. They have been closed to both ORV use and ORV-assisted hunting ever since. Of the thousands of species of flora and fauna found in the Addition Lands, nearly 100 plants are listed by the State of Florida as endangered or threatened while 29 animal species have federally protected status.

"These lands are a treasure trove of biodiversity," said Matthew Schwartz, Executive Director of the South Florida Wildlands Association, noting that the animals at risk include many of Florida's most iconic species, such as the critically endangered Florida panther (with an estimated 120 remaining in the wild), Cape Sable seaside sparrow, wood stork, red-cockaded woodpecker, Everglades snail kite, eastern indigo snake and the American crocodile. "They are owned by and are a part of the natural heritage of all Americans. The National Park Service is prioritizing motorized recreation over the protection of an irreplaceable resource here, contrary to both law and its mission."

Filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, the suit charges the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior with violating the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, the Park Service Organic Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, among other authorities. Plaintiffs, the Sierra Club, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), South Florida Wildlands Association, Florida Biodiversity Project and Wilderness Watch, are represented by the Washington, DC public interest law firm of Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal.

In its own analysis of the "key impacts," the NPS admits that its decision will likely have adverse impacts on the Addition Lands' hydrology, soils, vegetation, and several listed species. It will also facilitate the spread of invasive and exotic plant species throughout the Addition

Lands by disturbing native plants and soils and dispersing seeds. The visitor experience for the current non-motorized users will deteriorate through negative impacts to the natural soundscapes and landscapes.

After announcing in their 2009 Draft General Management Plan for the Addition that approximately 109,000 acres were "wilderness eligible," the NPS subsequently conducted a "re-assessment" completely outside of public view which suddenly concluded that only 71,000 acres were eligible and recommended just 47,000 acres be proposed to Congress as future wilderness. The effect of this quick re-assessment would allow much of the Addition to be fragmented by a network of off-road vehicle trails.

"This suit is necessary because the Park Service improperly rewrote wilderness mapping to produce a result which had been decided behind closed doors," said Jeff Ruch of PEER. "We expected better of the Park Service under this administration and, thus far, we have been sorely disappointed."

"This decision is politically, legally and environmentally unsustainable," said Sierra Club representative Bradley Stark, pointing out that the overwhelming majority of the public comments received on the project urged the Obama administration to minimize resource degradation and instead preserve the historical and non-damaging recreational uses enjoyed by the public. "It needlessly alienates a large number of Floridians who seek to enjoy the Addition Lands for bird watching, hiking, and other purposes consistent with the Park Service's mandate to protect the treasured resources of the Addition Lands. This is one of the last pieces of South Florida a parent could show to their child and say 'This is what our home looked like before settlers arrived over a hundred years ago.'"

*Port Everglades, continued from page 2*

Everglades, Broward County agreed to make that 12 acres of mangroves a conservation easement in perpetuity (forever); and

**WHEREAS** there is no fully documented economic benefit to such actions, nor is there a fully documented need for the increase in port capacity, compared with the economic and environmental harm that would be caused;

**NOW THEREFORE**, we as the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Broward Group met on November 1, 2011, relating to the proposed deepening of the Port Everglades entrance channel, and by unanimous vote the Sierra Club Broward Group hereby resolves to oppose the plan to deepen the entrance channel to Port Everglades and opposes any modification of the turning notch that would involve the destruction of mangroves.

**DONATE TO PROTECT THE FLORIDA PANTHER**



You can help protect the Florida Panther and wilderness through litigation and education. This is fund of The Sierra Club Foundation created by your Broward Group. Your tax-deductible gift will support our lawsuit challenging the National Park Service plan to put 130 miles of off-road vehicle (ORV) trails in Big Cypress National Preserve, habitat of the Florida Panther.

Please make your check payable to:  
The Sierra Club Foundation  
In the notes, write "for Florida Panther"  
Mail your donation to:  
Broward Sierra, P.O. Box 550561, Davie, FL 33355

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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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