

APRIL 30TH ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTEST - HOMESTEAD BAYFRONT COUNTY PARK

– by Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Conservation Chair
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On April 30th, 2011, the Sierra Club joined 8 other local and regional environmental organizations, plus elected officials from South Miami (Mayor Phil Stoddard) and Lake Worth (Commissioner Chris McVoy), to say no to the expansion of the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant on the shores of Biscayne Bay and adjacent to Biscayne National Park. The event was held at Homestead Bayfront County Park and began with a mock kayak and canoe rescue in full view of the Turkey Point facility to underline the safety hazards of a nuclear mishap within 50 miles of approximately 3.5 million residents.



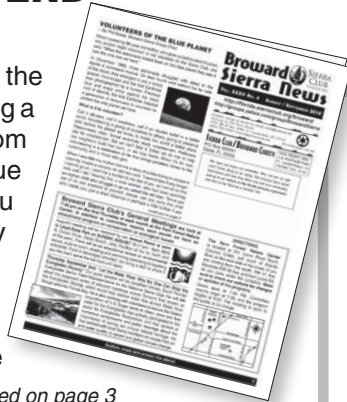
The date of the event was significant for a number of reasons. First, it was the final day of “Earth Month.” Numerous events were held in South Florida throughout the month to both celebrate and protect our abundant natural resources. However the date was also chosen to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl where, to this day, a 20 kilometer “exclusion zone” surrounds the stricken nuclear plant, now buried in a concrete and steel “sarcophagus.” The ongoing events in Japan at the Fukushima

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PAPER NEWSLETTER TO END

– by Phil Busey, Broward Sierra Chair

After the August-September 2011 issue, the Sierra Club Broward Group will stop mailing a paper newsletter. Sierra members for whom we have an email address will continue to receive a newsletter electronically. You will know if this is true if you are currently receiving occasional email notices from me with the recipient address of alert@sierraclub.org. The electronic newsletter will initially be a link to a PDF file. Later we might go to a different system.



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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 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:

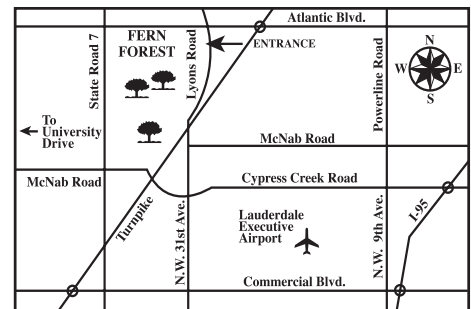
The Fern Forest Nature Center is located at 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (If you are coming from the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave., and then Lyons Rd., as you pass under the turnpike). **Make sure to check our website for changes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

Thursday, June 2nd: “Ecotourism and the conservation of crocodiles and cats in Belize” by Dr. Frank Mazzotti, University of Florida. Frank Mazzotti is a compelling speaker known for his research on endangered species, impacts of human activities on fish and wildlife resources, landscape ecology, and environmental education. But he is known best in the media as the “Croc Doc” for his work on crocodiles, alligators, and the burmese python.

Thursday, July 7th: “Grasses and the grassland biome” by Dr. Phil Busey, University of Florida. Phil Busey, who is our Chair and is retiring after 35 years with the University of Florida, will describe grasses and their importance in world ecosystems, including identification of native and exotic grasses. From the Eurasian Steppe to the Great Plains, grasses are the family of organisms that defines large soil-forming areas important to wildlife and agriculture.

Sunday, August 7th: Annual Picnic at John U. Lloyd Park, Dania Beach - Pelican Pavilion - 11am to 6pm (See Outings on page 3)





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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 <memberships.services@sierraclub.org>

The Broward Sierra News comes out 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.

Anti-Nuclear Protest, continued from page 1

Daiichi Nuclear Plant where numerous nuclear generators recently reached various stages of meltdown (with high levels of radiation and radioactive material being released into the surrounding air, water, and soil) served to dramatically underscore the danger.

While Florida Power and Light (FPL), the owners of the Turkey Point facility, refers to nuclear energy on their website as a safe, clean and cost effective alternative to fossil



fuels, the position of the Sierra Club is that nuclear energy is not the answer. The Sierra Club's policy, still in effect since the near disaster (caused initially by a stuck valve which allowed a large amount of coolant to escape) at Three Mile Island in 1979, states:

Events at Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant reaffirm the validity of the Sierra Club policy on the lack of safety in nuclear plants and in the nuclear fuel cycle. These problems can lead to adverse health and environmental effects. The possibility of human failure dooms the nuclear fuel cycle to unacceptable risks. The Sierra Club continues to oppose construction of any new commercial nuclear fission power plants. Further, the Sierra Club supports the systematic reduction of society's dependence on nuclear fission as a source of electric power and recommends a phased closure and decommissioning of operating commercial nuclear fission electric power reactors.

At the Turkey Point Nuclear Plant, Florida Power and Light is applying for a Combined Operating License (COL) to construct and operate two new nuclear generators of over 1,000 Megawatts each, to join two aging reactors built in the 1970's. While the utility touts the safety record of the plant, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)



when Hurricane Andrew made direct impact in 1992, Turkey Point was without outside electricity for a full five days. At Fukushima Daiichi the cause of the ongoing disaster was a loss of electricity and sea water damage to the backup generators and pumps needed to keep a constant supply of fresh water flowing over the fuel rods in the reactor cores as well as the spent fuel pools. The earthquake itself caused little direct damage to the plant itself. Fortunately, in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, Turkey Point's backup generators and pumps worked. However, in addition to loss of outside power,



all telephone service and radio communication was lost at the plant and the single access road was completely closed. More than 2 million pounds of spent fuel rods now line the shores of Biscayne Bay, growing larger by about 40 tons each year.

Another aspect of the proposed expansion of the Turkey Point facility concerns new power lines that the plant will require to carry the additional electricity to points north. These include not only a massive high voltage line through densely populated sections of Miami-Dade County, but also three new powerlines (up to 150 feet tall and carrying 500,000 volts of electricity each) across the eastern boundary of what is currently



continued on next page

If you are not receiving email notices from the Sierra Club Broward Group, we might not have an email address for you, or your email address may be incorrect, or your bulk mail filters may be blocking Sierra Club email. In any case, if you are not receiving email notices, please send me your name and email address to philip@busey.org and I will add you to the Sierra Club database and/or try to assist you. If you do not have a computer, please write to me at Broward Sierra, PO Box 550561, Davie, FL 33355 and we will try to take care of you individually.



This is a difficult decision, one that the Broward Group Executive Committee struggled with and tried to remedy, and one that we are not happy with. During the last two months I requested funds to keep the paper newsletter alive. This raised \$252 from members and friends, an average of \$0.13, plus the \$500 that I contributed. If we could raise \$252 every two months, it would pay for only a small fraction of the \$923 it costs to print and mail a paper newsletter (or \$647 cost if we include the \$0.83 that Broward Sierra receives annually per member). If you contributed, your gift did not go in vain, and helped partly finance one additional paper newsletter.

Going forward, by switching to an electronic newsletter, we will save on environmental and financial costs, as well as continue to deliver a high quality newsletter keeping you informed of the activities and concerns of the Broward Group of the Sierra Club.

Anti-Nuclear Protest, continued from previous page

Everglades National Park. Clearly, this was not the intent of Congress when it authorized the expansion of the park's boundary in 1989 to "increase the level of protection of the outstanding natural values of Everglades National Park and to enhance and restore the ecological values, natural hydrologic conditions, and public enjoyment of such area".

If you weren't able to get to this important event, full sound files of all speakers were provided by freelance journalist Stephen Malagodi. They can be listened to at the following website: soundcloud.com/malagodi/sets/turkey-point.

It is not possible to cover all the details of this issue and campaign in this newsletter. Please make sure we have your email address for future action alerts, as well as our newsletter when it goes to a digital format this fall. Also, please join Broward Sierra's Yahoo Group for ongoing information. If you have any difficulties with signup,- please send me your email address to be added to the group. Broward Sierra's Yahoo Group can be found at: groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra.

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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

JULY 8TH, FRIDAY NIGHT 9 - 11 PM. TURTLE PROGRAM AT JOHN U LLOYD STATE PARK. There will be a lecture with dialog, displays and a slide show on nesting turtles in Florida. Afterward, if a turtle appears, we will witness a turtle laying her eggs. This is a breath taking experience to remember! Limit 6. *Cost: free.* Reservation mandatory. Park entrance fee applies: \$4 per single vehicle, \$6 per vehicle with 2-8 persons, \$2 per pedestrian or bicyclist. Contact: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



AUGUST 7, SUN. ANNUAL PICNIC at John U. Lloyd Park, Dania Beach (Pelican Pavilion - 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>



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 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. Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

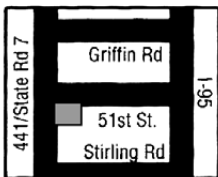
For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>



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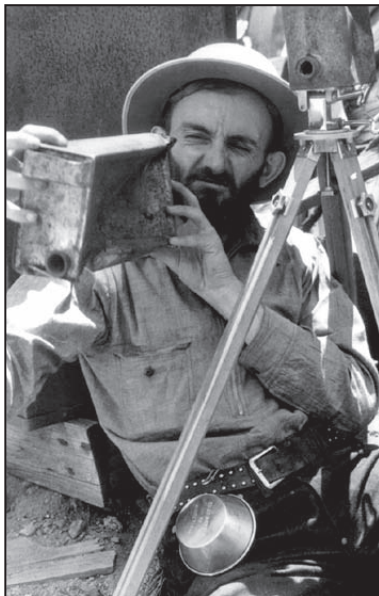
10,000 ISLANDS KAYAKING OUTING

Broward Sierra's April 30th kayaking outing took our intrepid paddlers along part of the Everglades Wilderness Waterway in the 10,000 Islands in the beautiful Everglades National Park.

Included in the photos below are Judy Kuchta, Mary Ann Soltis and Bob Burgholzer (as well as a mother and baby dolphin).



Photos by Manuel Monteiro



Ansel Adams

Most people don't know that Ansel Adams was a member of the Sierra Club for over 50 years. He didn't just photograph the wilderness. He fought for it. Shouldn't your grandchildren have more than photos to remind them of the grandeur of our land? The Sierra Club is dedicated to protecting our wilderness for generations to come. Join us. You'll be in good company.



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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Check enclosed, payable to Sierra Club Mastercard Visa AmEx

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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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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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Enclose check and mail to: **Sierra Club**
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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 gi ft 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