

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS FROM THE 2012 SESSION OF FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

– By Mara Shlackman, Broward Sierra Group Chair



Here is a quick recap on several legislative matters that Sierra Club opposed during the legislative session that ended on March 9, 2012.

SB 604/HB 421 – These bills sought to preempt the nearly 50 strong urban fertilizer ordinances that have been adopted by local governments since 2007 by exempting commercial fertilizer applicators from all summer rainy season bans, which would have gutted the heart of such ordinances and substantially hindered local control of water pollution. These bills did not make it out of committee. For more information on Sierra Club's extensive campaign on this issue, please see <http://www.sierraclubfloridanews.org/2012/02/victory-against-big-fertilizer-big-pest.html>.

SB 724 – This bill would have delayed the implementation of the 2008 ocean outfall legislation that was enacted to phase out the practice of discharging inadequately treated sewage into southeast Florida's coastal coral reef ecosystem. This bill died on the last day of the session.

HB 695/SB 1158 – These bills would have allowed oil and gas drilling on state lands, but fortunately did not pass.

SB 268 – This bill allows advertising on state greenways and trails. Although a compromise was worked out to limit the advertising to 7 specified trails, a late amendment to the bill created a process by which advertising could be permitted on other greenways and trails as well.

HB 1103 – This bill would have taken half a million acres of public land and put it in private ownership by changing the definition of the ordinary high water line, but it died in subcommittee.

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Broward Sierra News



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SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY

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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, April 5: Our guest speaker will be the Director of the Southeast Region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network at FAU, Michele Williams. She will speak about the history of the New River in Ft. Lauderdale



Thursday, May 3: In May our guest speaker will be the Community Outreach Coordinator from the Broward County Aviation Department, Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, Allan Siegel. He will give a presentation on the runway expansion, followed by a question and answer session.





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Executive Committee Meetings

are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Mara Shlackman at 954-523-1131 or marashl@hotmail.com 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 is 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.

B-CYCLES ARE NOT JUST FOR BEACHCOMBERS!

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary and MPO-Community Involvement Roundtable member

BROWARD B-CYCLE LAUNCHED IN THREE CITIES

Broward County has the first county bike sharing system in the nation and the first tri-city system of its kind. Broward B-cycle is an affordable, clean and simple way to get around town. Users can check out a bike from any self service station and return it to any other station nearby. The B-cycles are equipped with a GPS system that tracks mileage, calories burned and carbon offsets. (source: MPO Transportation Transformation, Vol. 11, Iss, 28). To access the bikes register on www.broward.bicycle.com or use a credit card at the self-service kiosks (B-stations). The B-stations connect users from the south end of the Hollywood Boardwalk to as far north as Sample Road at the Pompano Beach Aquatic Center. B-cycles are not just for beachcombers! Although active stations are already westward of Andrews Avenue, coming soon, there will be stations on Lyons Road at Wiles Road and at Coconut Creek Parkway in Coconut Creek. Broward Vice Mayor, County Commissioner, and MPO Board member Kristin Jacobs spearheaded the initiative to bring bike sharing to Broward County, along with the partnership of Trek Bicycle, Crispin Porter+Bogusky and Humana Inc. Healthcare, the sponsor of the project. For more information go to www.broward.bicycle.com, call (954) 467-6822, or become a fan on Facebook. iPhone and Android Apps are also available. The website states that you can receive \$10 off an annual membership at this time.



Florida Legislature, continued from page 1

SB 1986 – An amendment to this bill concerning water management districts would have required the State to lease to Florida International University 350 acres in the Bird Drive Everglades Basin for free for 99 years, and FIU's plan was to allow the Dade County Youth Fair fairgrounds to move to these important wetlands, so that FIU could expand its own facilities on the former fairgrounds. Fortunately, the Bird Drive amendment was removed from the bill before passage.

HB 4003 – State Senator Eilyn Bogdanoff, representing a district that includes a substantial portion of eastern Broward County, introduced an amendment to this bill that would have precluded any municipality from adopting a supermajority vote requirement on land use matters through either ordinance or city charter, and would have eliminated existing supermajority provisions. The significance of this for southeast Florida is that Miami-

Dade County has a supermajority provision that has effectively prevented extensions of the Urban Development Boundary that provides a protective buffer between suburban development and Everglades National Park. Just a few days before Senator Bogdanoff's proposed amendment, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez had proposed a change that would require an even larger supermajority for certain land use decisions. After a torrent of e-mails and calls in opposition to Senator Bogdanoff's amendment, Senator John Thrasher, Chair of the Senate Rules Committee, determined that Senator Bogdanoff's amendment was not sufficiently related in subject matter to the bill to which it was attached, and the amendment was removed from the bill.

Sierra Club members who wish to receive action alerts during the Tallahassee legislative session can sign up for the Florida Report by sending an e-mail to FL-FLORIDA-REPORT-Request@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG.

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



MARCH 24, SAT. TURNER RIVER KAYAK/CANOE TRIP. Learn about one of the most biologically diverse areas in the Everglades during this 6 hour paddle. We'll start at the Tamiami Trail in the Big Cypress National Preserve, and paddle in a fresh water environment amongst cypress trees into sawgrass prairies and a tight squeeze thru mangrove tunnels. There will be some open water paddling as well. We'll finish in Everglades City and have a well deserved dinner at the Oyster House (not included). Experienced paddlers only. Rated moderate to difficult (due to wind and/or tide). *Suggested donation: \$15 members, \$20 non members. Boat rentals and their transport to the trail head approximately \$76 to \$86 (we are still negotiating these prices).* Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>. Assistant Leader: Manuel Monteiro <manuel_monteiro@yahoo.com>. Second assistant: TBA.



MARCH 31, SAT. HALFWAY CREEK CANOE TRIP. Halfway Creek offers a unique opportunity to learn about the hidden world of mangrove tunnels. This canoe trail passes through both Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. Paddling time is about 7 hours round trip. Bring your own water and lunch. With little dry land for a lunch stop, we'll have a lunch-break in our canoes. A park ranger will accompany us as a guide. The Halfway Creek canoe trail can be accessed via Seagrape Drive, just to the west of the Preserve Headquarters on Tamiami Trail. Rated strenuous. Limit 8. *Suggested donation: \$10.* For information/reservation, contact Leader: Kaatje Bernabei <kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net> 305-223-6551, or Assistant Leaders: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com> or Vern Burkhart 305-888-3680 <vern999@bellsouth.net>.



APRIL 8, SUN. CANOE/KAYAK THE SNOOK ISLAND WETLANDS AREA, Lake Worth (with possible extension to Lake Osborne). We'll find out the difference that wetlands reconstruction can make, as we leisurely canoe and kayak in the newly created Snook Islands wetlands area north of the Lake Worth Bridge. Must have your own boat, but those without can also sign up in case someone has an open slot in their boat. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Rated moderate. Limit 20. Leader: Ron Haines 561-315-0528 <mailto:RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>.



APRIL 21, SAT. JOHN D. MACARTHUR BEACH STATE PARK KAYAKING. Learn what it's like when a park preserves the natural heritage of subtropical coastal habitat that once covered southeast Florida. We'll enjoy the pristine beach and nature trails, and we'll kayak to Munyon Island. *Kayak rentals \$40 to \$50 or bring your own kayak. Suggested donation \$15.00.* Bring your own lunch. Rated moderate. Leader: Karen Bulkowski 954-612-5459 <karenowski@att.net>. Assistant Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



APRIL 21, SAT. EARTH DAY AT HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK. 10am - 5pm. Public speakers will be presenting cutting-edge environmental and sustainable topics throughout the day such as Sea Turtle Conservation and volunteer opportunities, Alternative Energy workshops and much more. There will be live entertainment throughout the day and holistic workshops on such topics as Permaculture and Deep Ecology as well as on healing arts such as Yoga and Reiki. The City of Ft. Lauderdale is facilitating an extensive dune restoration project there, which includes the planting of protected sea oats. Native plants will be given away to volunteers who help participate in the restoration. For more information on speakers, entertainment, or how to volunteer, please visit EarthDayHughBirch.com. And make sure to stop by the Sierra Club booth and say hi.



APRIL 28, SAT. ARBOR DAY / EARTH DAY EVENT IN DEERFIELD BEACH at the Deerfield Beach Recycling Center, 401 SW 4th Street, Deerfield Beach. Environmental specialists and vendors will be giving educational demonstrations on current technologies that better our environment, including tours of our Green Demonstration Building, rain barrel demonstrations and sales, City Shred (the first box is free for city residents), sea turtle conservation, Gumbo Limbo specialist, water conservation - City Utilities Department and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. There will also be a Tree Giveaway (for residents of Deerfield Beach only). We hope to be having a Sierra Club table too, so look for us there.



MAY 19, SAT. DAVIE BIKE AND BRUNCH. A leisurely 7-8 mile bike ride. After a 9 o'clock brunch at Robbins Park, off Hiatus Rd., we'll ride to Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area. We'll enjoy a brief visit to learn about this archaeologically and environmentally rich area, before returning to our origin point. Rated easy. *Members \$17, non-members \$20.* (A minimum of 10 participants are required for the trip.) Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jsf812@bellsouth.net>. Assistant Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.

Become an Outing Leader. 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.

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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary

If every household in the U.S. replaced just one bottle of 25 oz. petroleum-based dish liquid with a 25 oz. plant-derived product, WE COULD SAVE...

127,000 barrels of oil, which is enough to heat and cool 7,300 U.S. homes for a year! *

I find this fact amazing. My household uses approximately 4 bottles of dish liquid per year. And, to think that just one simple action can make a real difference, brings me a special little joy every day. My daughter clued me in to using plant-derived household products. They work great! Although we have always practiced recycling, from the time my first asthmatic grandchild arrived, we had to start paying a lot more attention to what's inside those packages.

Please share with us a product or idea that makes you happy to make a difference. Call or email Barbara Ruge at 954-328-2165 or b-realtor@att.net. Help us keep spreading the word, Sierrans!

*Source: Seventh Generation, Inc., Burlington, VT, makers of dishwashing liquid, household cleaners, laundry soaps, paper products, feminine care, diapers & wipes.

GOING, GOING, GONE?

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.



Help protect our animal friends; because once they're gone, they're gone.

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



	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT		INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25		Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49	Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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

RECYCLING IN FLORIDA

– By Debbie Matthews, Sierra Club Florida Waste Minimization Committee

Is waste to energy (WTE) really recycling? What we can do to meet our 75% recycling goal and have true recycling.

Many cities and municipalities across our State and Country sell garbage by the ton. Yes, there is money to be made in trash and recycling. There are many companies out there that bid for contracts on the garbage that we produce. These companies turn the garbage around and sell whatever they can. Usually that means whatever the market demands. That could mean recycled glass, aluminum, paper, yard waste, and food waste. Much of the waste also goes to waste-to-energy plants to burn, to make electricity. Sounds like a great way to get rid of our trash, and help our energy problem, right? Well, no, not exactly. Did you know that it takes 2 - 3 times the energy to burn that waste to create new energy than it does to truly recycle the waste? Burning garbage to produce energy is like making ethanol from corn – it takes more energy to produce than is obtained by burning it. The EPA has calculated that the energy saved by recycling is three to five times that produced using waste as a fuel. Energy saved by recycling is the greenest available. So why are we burning our trash?

In this day and age of massive budget cuts, shouldn't the economic benefits of true recycling be the choice over "recycling" garbage to use as a fuel? The EPA data on jobs through recycling at 75% indicate that waste-based industries could support over 100,000 additional jobs in Florida with an annual payroll of up to \$6 billion. Materials recovered in recycling programs in Florida would have a value of \$600 million for recycling at 75%. Increasing recycling would provide many of the jobs needed to reduce the unemployment rate in Florida.

We should be composting food and other organic waste such as is being done in San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto and numerous other cities. We already do this with yard waste. This could be done at educational facilities for the educational value, and because it would be cost effective. Instead of paying to haul away food waste, you can turn it into money by composting and then selling the by-product, nutrient rich dirt. This could be a revenue source for money-strapped schools.

What can we do? Write a letter to the editor, write your Florida Representative and Senator. Let them know we want True Recycling in Florida.

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