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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 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE – By Matt Schwartz, Conservation Chair

Earlier this year, we announced the formation of a new Conservation Committee for the Broward Group. At recent meetings the committee set some priority projects for the near future. Those include:

- Working against the expansion of Port Everglades (involving dredging and widening of miles of the Intra-coastal Waterway) due to impacts on already stressed manatees, sea turtles, corals, and other marine life.
- Supporting the phasing out of Broward's two wastewater outflow pipes responsible for the dumping of massive amounts of semi-treated sewage into local marine waters.
- Promoting mass transit to alleviate traffic on Broward's already overcrowded roads and lowering our county's huge carbon footprint (one gallon of gasoline burned in our gas tanks = 19 pounds of CO₂ released into the atmosphere.)
- Promoting solar energy use in Broward County. With more available solar radiation than any other area in the eastern United States, south Florida's use of the sun as an energy source is practically non-existent. The only significant "renewable energy" source in Broward currently is the burning of garbage.

The Conservation Committee has also decided to begin work immediately on a campaign to reduce plastic bag use in our county. While that may seem an impossible task considering the thousands of local businesses handing out plastic bags like confetti, just this past May, Los Angeles became the first major metropolitan area in the U.S. to ban the use of plastic bags. It can be done. Just a few of the negatives of plastic bag use:

- They are made from petroleum and natural gas (active greenhouse gases) and use additional energy (as well as toxic chemicals) in their manufacture and transport.
- Many plastic bags will eventually end up in landfills where they can take up to 1000 years to disappear (micro-organisms simply do not recognize the polyethylene in plastic bags as "food"). Small fragments and toxic

chemicals found within the plastic can end up in our soils, aquifer and marine waters.



- Plastic bags which end up in the ocean can easily be mistaken by sea turtles to be jellyfish - one of the turtles' principle sources of food. Ingesting plastic bags can lead to choking or even poisoning by the chemicals released in the turtle's digestive system.

Most of us have already made the switch from plastic water bottles to using water filters and reusable stainless steel containers. Bringing cloth bags with us when we go shopping is a habit we can all get used to for the sake of our environment.

Please feel free to send us comments as well as suggestions on other conservation issues our local group can be involved in.

Matt Schwartz, matthew3222@yahoo.com

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. Each month we have an educational program on conservation or ecological issues.

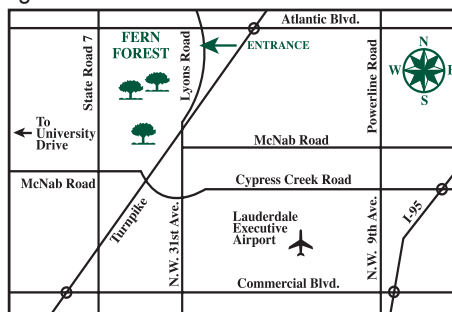
DIRECTIONS: The Fern Forest Nature Center is located at 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (If you are coming from the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave., and then Lyons Rd. as you pass under the turnpike). **Make sure to check our website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

Sunday, August 12: Instead of our regular general meeting, we will be having our annual Picnic at the Beach, at the John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach (see listing on page 3 for details).



Thursday, September 6: "The Value of Urban Forests." Our guest speaker will be John Pippoli, PhD, the Urban Horticulture and Natural Resources Management Extension Agent at the University of Florida-IFAS/Broward County Extension Education Section of the Parks and Recreation Division.





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The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

Executive Committee Chair

Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
marashl@hotmail.com

Vice Chair

Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359
legalbarb2@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Max Goldstein 954-296-3411
maxgold@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

Barbara Ruge 954-328-2165
b-realtor@att.net

Recording Secretary

Tanya Tweeton 954-472-3704
tweeton204@yahoo.com

Conservation Chair

Matthew Schwartz 954-634-7173
matthew3222@yahoo.com

Education / Recycling Chair

Ina Topper 954-722-9944
irtopper2000@cs.com

Legal Chair

Mara Shlackman 954-523-1131
marashl@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor & Web Master

Carole Walsh 954-987-3642
carole@carolewalsh.com

Outings Chair

Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913
judykuchta@yahoo.com

Political Chair

Brian Blackwelder 954-262-6135
blackwelderb@nsu.law.nova.edu

Program Chair

Barbara Curtis 954-946-7359
legalbarb2@yahoo.com

Volunteer Coordinator

Tanya Tweeton 954-472-3704
tweeton204@gmail.com

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.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY, PROMOTING JOBS FOR THE FUTURE, PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT - THE BLUE-GREEN ALLIANCE

- By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary

It's official! The Sierra Club Florida has formed a coalition with the Communications Workers of America union (CWA). I had the pleasure of participating in an exciting 2-day workshop in June, which brought together interested volunteers, staff members and leaders from both Sierra Club Florida and the CWA. This comprehensive, rigorous brainstorming fired up 50 plus strangers, exchanging personal, professional and political ideas. I left there totally energized, hopeful, with a plan of action, and a list of great new friends. Both organizations teamed up over the past couple years, presenting the Good Jobs Green Jobs conferences in other states, and decided to bring this experience to Florida. The Sierra Club and CWA are founding members of the Blue-Green Alliance, which advocates for quality jobs in sectors like renewable energy, recycling, efficient transportation, and high-speed communications. On June 7-8, we discussed priorities and coordination strategies. The consensus is that the environmental movement and organized labor have issues in common and, in

2012, share common opponents. Where democracy is threatened, so is the environment. Protecting and preserving vital resources like clean air and clean water has become a political quagmire. Both Sierra Club and CWA have committed resources to build bridges and create strength in numbers to fight the corporate agenda which neither grows jobs in the United States nor protects our precious environment. We will reach out to our members to share issues and information, sign petitions, and attend each other's meetings and events. In order to achieve the best outcomes in the November elections, we plan to engage those candidates running for office who respect American workers and our environment. Stay tuned for upcoming email alerts. The economy and our environment depend on your participation in this coalition. You can log on to <http://sierraclub.org>, under "Goals" click on "Political Programs," and click on the endorsements link to look up the political candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club. This list will be kept updated as it changes. For more information on the CWA, go to www.cwa-union.org.

HANDS ACROSS THE SAND - AUGUST 4TH, AT A BEACH NEAR YOU!



Photo by Ginny Dixon

The first Hands Across the Sand event was in February 2010, to bring people from all walks of life together to oppose efforts by the Florida Legislature and the U.S. Congress to lift the ban on oil drilling in the near and offshore areas of Florida. After the Deepwater Horizon spill, Hands Across the Sand went national and global on June 26, 2010, with events in all 50 states and 42 countries worldwide. Hands Across the Sand gatherings were held again on June 25, 2011.

Given the Obama administration's June 28th announcement of an expanded plan for offshore drilling, including in the Gulf of Mexico as well as in the Arctic, the threat from offshore drilling is not going away anytime soon.

This year's Hands Across the Sand will be held on August 4, 2012. Participants are encouraged to gather at 11 am, and hold hands for 15 minutes

at noon. Using alternate transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transportation, to attend is highly encouraged. Multiple events are happening in Broward County. There are 3 groups in Ft. Lauderdale Beach.

1. Las Olas Blvd & A1A: Meet at 10:30am, join hands at noon. For the 3rd year in a row, you are invited to join hands on Fort Lauderdale Beach at the intersection of Las Olas Blvd & A1A, across the street from the famous Elbo Room. Co-Organizers: Clean Energy Coalition of South Florida (Ana Campos 954-793-3279) and South Florida Wildlands Association (Matthew Schwartz 954-634-7173).

2. The Surfrider Foundation at The Parrot Lounge, located in the plaza on the southwest corner of Sunrise Blvd and A1A: Meet at the Parrot, walk across A1A to the beach, and join hands at noon. There will be a concert at the Parrot immediately afterwards (12:30pm).

3. Hugh Taylor Birch Park: 3109 E. Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale. Take Sunrise Boulevard East to A1A. Entrance to Park is on Sunrise Blvd., 1 block before the ocean. Gathering at Lifeguard Stand #15 - beach tunnel entrance. Organizer: Sea Turtle Oversight Protection (954-404-0025).

For other locations, go to handsacrossthesand.com.



Nearly two years ago, President Obama signed an Executive Order to establish the National Ocean Policy (NOP) to prioritize marine stewardship and better coordinate use of our ocean and Great Lake resources. The NOP is a way to encourage all 27 agencies currently working on our oceans and Great

Lakes to streamline our use and protection of our invaluable marine resources—and the economies and ecological systems that depend on them. What you may not already know is that whatever your local ocean or marine related issue is—whether it is promotion of offshore wind in the right places or preventing offshore drilling in the wrong places—it can be benefited by the National Ocean Policy.

Dave Raney, Team Leader of the Sierra Club Marine Action Team (MAT), will conduct an NOP training workshop at a Broward location (TBA) in late September. It will be open on a space available basis to members of the Sierra Club, other environmental organizations and the general public.

The purpose of the workshop is to build grassroots support for implementation of the NOP, and promote coordination and cooperation among South Florida activists on local and state issues related to the NOP. The workshop will take place on a Saturday, but there will be related events over a three day period to encourage networking among southeast Florida Sierra Club Groups.

For more info as available, go to <http://tinyurl.com/marine-action>.

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events *To preserve a place, you must believe in it. To believe in it, you must see it.*



AUG. 4, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK MANATEE BAY. Launch from South Dade Marina, paddle through the mangroves to Short Key. Swim for a while, then paddle back across the bay. Dolphins and manatees are often seen in this area. Suitable for beginners. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, hat, camera and any safety gear you will need to enjoy the day. Carpooling highly encouraged. Rating: Moderate. *Suggested donation: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.* Leader: Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org>. Assistant: Mary Lamazares.



AUG. 11, SAT. BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK BUTTERFLY HABITAT RESTORATION AND PLANTING. We will be helping BNC park rangers plant trees to restore the habitat for the endangered Schaus swallowtail butterfly on Elliott Key. Meet at 8am at Park HQ at Convoy Point, in front of the visitor center. Wear sturdy work boots or old sneakers, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and a hat. Bring sunscreen and bug spray. Pack a lunch and plenty of water. Tools and work gloves will be provided. Be prepared for a hot and buggy but worthwhile day of service. Open to all ages. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous. Leader: Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org>.



AUG. 12, SUN. KAYAK CAPSIZING AND ROLLING WORKSHOP AT VIRGINIA KEY. Bring your own skirted kayak (this doesn't work with sit-on-tops). The workshop will teach how to do self rescue after capsizing, how to do a rescue with the help of another kayaker, and introduce participants to the method of rolling a kayak. All experience levels are welcome. Rating: Leisure to Moderate Location: Causeway Beach on Virginia Key. *Suggested donation: \$10 Sierra Club Members, \$15 non-members.* Leader: Claudia Schmid <schmid111@phreego.com>. Assistant: Mark Walters <mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org>.



AUG. 12, SUN. BROWARD GROUP ANNUAL PICNIC ON THE BEACH! 1 pm to 6 pm at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach (Pelican Pavilion). **HAVE FUN** and enjoy the food, beach, swimming, kayaking, snorkeling, just plain lounging, and socializing with environmentally minded folks. We'll have some environmental education and updates on local and national issues. And we'll have a \$25 prize for the most original reusable eating utensils! Vegetarians, non-vegetarians, adults & kids welcome. **WHAT TO BRING:** You MUST bring your own eating and drinking utensils. This is a serious initiative to stop the use of disposables. If you forget them you can "rent" them from us for \$5. Bring a dish to share if you can. We'll supply the beverages, veggie burgers and dogs and the fixings for them. We'll have a grill to cook your traditional fare. Also, bring your beach paraphernalia if you plan on sun tanning or swimming. Kayaks are for rent on Whiskey Creek at the concession about 1/2 mile from us. *DONATION: \$10 Sierra Members, \$12.00 non members. Kids (16 or younger) \$5. Sorry for the price increase but the cost of food has gone way up from previous years. (Cost does not include the state park entry fee of \$4 per one individual in a vehicle or \$6 for up to 6 passengers in a vehicle, bicycles are \$2).* Contact: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com> for more information.



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AUG. 18-19, SAT.-SUN. "MEET THE ANIMALS" AT THE THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE IN FT. LAUDERDALE. 401 SW 2nd St., Ft. Lauderdale. 954-467-6637. A weekend dedicated to animals, including a Broward Sierra Club exhibit about the conservation efforts to protect the endangered Florida Panther. *Museum admission Adults \$13, Seniors \$12, Children (2-12) \$11, Children (1 & under) no charge.*



SEPT. 13 & 20, THURS. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING 101 TELECOURSE. This Telecourse consists of completing some homework, designing mock trips and completing two ninety-minute conference calls. It is ideal for those who need OLT101 recertification but simply can't attend one in person. Sign up by September 6. Leader: Karen Benton 360-687-6274 <bentonnd@comcast.net>.



SEPT. 29, SAT. FULL MOON BIKING AT SHARK VALLEY, EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. 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 - you must be able to bike 15 miles. Limit 15, no one under 16. Yes, you will see alligators and other wildlife. Directions will be provided. Rating: Moderate to Strenuous. *Suggested donation: \$3.* Leader: Judy Kuchta, 305-308-8913 <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.

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

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

CCA VICTORY!

– By Mara Shlackman, Broward Sierra Chair



The Broward Group has accomplished an important conservation victory with the cancellation of a massive immigration detention center proposed in southwestern Broward County, in close proximity to Broward's Everglades.

In February, the Broward Group Executive Committee approved a resolution opposing the planned placement of an immigration detention facility in the Town of Southwest Ranches, which would have been constructed and operated by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The resolution was based on three grounds: (1) the proposed 1500 bed facility would have utilized enormous quantities of water when the Everglades and the wildlife it supports are dying of thirst; (2) substantial wastewater would be generated, which would be disposed of by deep-well injection, posing risks to our drinking water supply and waterways; and (3) the facility would be in close proximity to Broward's Everglades and Everglades Holiday Park, and such a large structure so far west reduces the buffer zone around public lands. Broward Sierra's resolution received press coverage from the Sun-Sentinel, the Broward-Palm Beach New Times, and the Florida Independent.

A month later the Pembroke Pines City Commission voted to cancel a contract with the Town of Southwest Ranches, to provide water and sewer services to Southwest Ranches.

On June 15, ICE announced that the Town of Southwest Ranches was no longer being considered for an immigration detention center.

This victory could not have been accomplished alone – this facility faced substantial opposition from a variety of community groups for a variety of reasons, especially nearby residents who did not want this facility in their community, but also immigrant rights groups, civil libertarians, and opponents of privatization of public services – and provides a great example of what can be accomplished when environmentalists can form alliances with others in the community to accomplish a common goal.

BEAR ISLAND VICTORY!

– By Matt Schwartz, Broward Sierra Conservation Chair

The Broward Group has just learned that we won our lawsuit in the Bear Island section of the Big Cypress National Preserve. It was five years of very hard work, but off-road vehicle trails that were re-opened in 2007 in sensitive wetlands and Florida panther habitat (in complete violation of the preserve's own Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan) are to be re-closed as a result of the ruling by the United States District Court in Ft. Myers.



Some Broward Sierrans have enjoyed swampwalks in the prairies and hammocks of this section of Bear Island. Easily accessible from a pull-off at Mile Marker 70 of I-75, we will plan further outings to this unique and beautiful area as soon as the weather cools down.

The Sierra Club was joined in this successful lawsuit by Defenders of Wildlife, The Humane Society of the United States, National Parks Conservation Association, The Florida Biodiversity Project, The Wilderness Society, and Wildlands CPR. Big things can be accomplished when groups work together. Hopefully we will get a similar result in the Addition Lands lawsuit now underway.

SEVEN 50 IS UNDERWAY!

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary

While many of us are disgusted and feel helpless about the gridlock in the US Congress, please note that local communities and innovative, energetic minds close to home are meeting and brainstorming ideas for a "blueprint for ensuring economic prosperity and the best-possible quality of life for Southeast Florida." The Seven 50 (seven counties, 50 years) summit was held on June 27-28th in Delray Beach. Approximately 650 people attended this workshop of municipal lawmakers, community leaders, transportation specialists, environmentalists and other civic-minded individuals, to form a 50 year plan of sustainability for our Southeast Florida Region. Common challenges identified: aging population and infrastructure, sea level rise, and debilitating cycle of economic boom and bust. The regional plan offers "development guidance to Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties. The plan is meant to ensure the preservation of the environment, identify desirable development patterns, establish a broad range of transportation options, and foster a vibrant and resilient economy." The plan must determine the best use of allocated federal and other funding sources. Through the past 50 years, the 121 municipalities within the region have taken a competitive "one-upmanship" approach, resulting in a "hodgepodge" of development to the detriment of the region. The purpose of the summit is one of unity, to formulate plans for the next 50 years that create efficiency and effectiveness to the benefit of the entire Southeast Region for its economic and environmental sustainability.



The Seven 50 summit is a project of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership, funded by a \$4.5 million federal grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Initiative. You can find out much more at <http://seven50.org>.

Source: A brief condensed summary of content and information located on the seven50 website, and contains quotes from newspaper articles and reports by Christopher Romano of Streetwise and Ben Wolford of Sun-Sentinel published on the website.

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