



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

Graphic design & layout by www.carolewalsh.com
Printing by The Press Room
3721 SW 47 Ave. #301, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314
(954) 792-6729 • www.thepressroom.net



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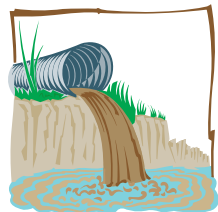
We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Why not join us right now? Come along on an outing. Get involved, learn about local environmental issues and how they affect you and your community. Just use the form on the back page, or go to our website at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>, and click on the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

BROWARD SIERRA AND ALLIES OPPOSE EXPANSION OF COCONUT CREEK CASINO

– By Matthew Schwartz, Broward Sierra Group Conservation Chair

In late October, the Broward Group of the Sierra Club joined a coalition of south Florida environmental organizations in opposing a massive expansion of the Seminole Coconut Creek Casino. The casino is located at Sample Road and SR 441 in Coconut Creek. According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the expansion would consist of "a 1,000-room twenty-story hotel tower adjacent to a resort-type pool and spa area, a conference center, and a 2,500 seat showroom facility." The proposal would also expand the existing 7 story parking facility – currently the tallest building in Coconut Creek and the surrounding area.

While the Broward Sierra Group respects the long history of the Seminole Tribe in south Florida, we are also aware that the rapid build-out of our county has come at an enormous ecological price. The proposed project includes the largest hotel in South Florida and would likely bring tens of thousands of additional visitors and cars to the venue on a daily basis.



Ecological impacts would include: drawdowns of the Biscayne Aquifer, the sole source of drinking water for all of Broward County, with the potential for increased salt-water intrusion; increases in the amount of semi-treated wastewater discharged into the north Broward sewage outfall pipe (empties directly into the Atlantic Ocean); increase in traffic to two roadways (Sample Rd. and SR 441) already deemed to be "at capacity"; increase in polluted stormwater runoff entering both the aquifer and the Intracoastal Waterway; the

high potential for migratory bird collisions with the proposed new hotel - by far the largest structure in the area and only about 6 miles from the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Expected light pollution would also impact birds, while the added sky glow would contribute to sea turtle hatchling disorientations miles to the east.

Broward County has already absorbed a great deal of development including the existing Seminole Hard Rock Resort and Casino in Hollywood. Coconut Creek is the first municipality in Florida certified as a "Community Wildlife Habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation

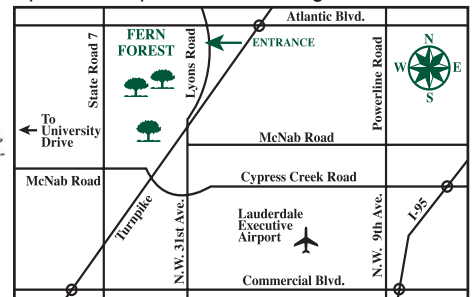
and has won numerous other awards for sustainability. This is the wrong project for the future ecological health of the city, county, and the Greater Everglades.

The Broward Group was joined in its letter of opposition by South Florida Audubon, South Florida Wildlands Association, Reef Rescue, and Sea Turtle Oversight Protection, Inc. The full comment letter can be viewed on our website at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward/index.html> (last link on the bottom left side of the page.)

Also see this TV story on the topic from Channel 10 News: <http://tinyurl.com/8swnrp6>

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, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (From the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave., and then Lyons Rd. as you pass under the turnpike.) Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.



Thursday, Dec. 6: Our annual **Broward Sierra Club Holiday Dinner**

Come one, come all. Join us for fun, conversation, good food, and great raffle. Bring a dish to share and/or \$6. We suggest folks bring main dishes, salad, cheese & crackers, wine or other beverages, etc. Please also bring your own non-disposable plates, cups and utensils. Raffle tickets will be available for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Anyone who wants to donate items for raffle, please contact Judy at 305-308-8913.



Thursday, Jan. 3: Our guest will be Aliki Moncrief, Field Director for the Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign, speaking about the proposed constitutional amendment funding the acquisition and restoration of conservation lands.





SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

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Executive Committee Meetings

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

BROWARD GROUP POLITICAL COMMITTEE REPORT, ELECTIONS 2012

– By Brion Blackwelder, Broward Sierra Group Political Chair

One word sums it up: VICTORY.

Nationally, 2012 is recognized as the best election year for the environment since the era of the original Earth Day in 1970. Sierra Club endorsements on our Broward ballots were Barack Obama, Bill Nelson for the Senate, Congressional races of Lois Frankel, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Deutsch, Alcee Hastings, and Frederica Wilson, County Court Clerk Howard Forman, Property Appraiser Lori Parrish, School Board member Robin Bartleman, and Broward Soil and Water District commissioner Thaddeus Hamilton. None of our general election endorsed Broward candidates lost.

Adjacent counties elected Sierra-endorsed candidates for Congress (Murphy in Palm Beach County, Garcia in Miami-Dade). Voters rejected the significant state constitutional amendment proposals that Sierra opposed, which mainly involved limiting the capacity of both the state and local governments to collect the revenues needed to run an effective government.

Our process has been to notify by email all our members we could, of our endorsements, and to enable endorsed candidates to use the Sierra Club seal on their literature and web biographies, which many did. Each candidate was sent a detailed questionnaire early in the political season, asking details about water quality (such as about solving the nutrient related red tides), energy policy, climate change (such as whether they accept the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), natural areas programs,

Everglades funding, and protection of Florida panthers and sea turtles.

The Broward Political Committee consisted of Phil Busey, Barbara Ruge, Mara Shlackman, Matthew Schwartz, and Brion Blackwelder (chair). They coordinated with a three-county regional committee, the state committee, and the national committee as the Club has a rigorous process for interviewing candidates and evaluating voting records, checking their announced positions, their funding, and poll information. A few solid supporters without major opposition were endorsed, but most of our general election candidates had vigorous, well-funded opponents. Many excellent persons who gained office were not in tight races so there are even more from whom we expect great things for the environment, than just our endorsed list.

Anti-environment forces wanted to have a banner year. They spent huge sums on candidates and ads (such as for "clean coal," or how BP has made the Gulf better). And this was an odd year of voter suppression claims with huge delays at voter check-in computers, short duration for early voting days, giant eight page ballots, and impossible to comprehend residence-checking at the polls.

Each Club member who votes makes a difference, and it is crucial for all our members to get registered and keep making a difference, as we will say again for many years, "like we did in 2012".

PUBLIC MEETINGS & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE I-75 MANAGED LANES PROJECT

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary



The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (Broward MPO) will hold public meetings and consider approval of an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the I-75 Managed Lanes project. The TIP is a federally mandated document that lists transportation projects and programs to be funded by federal, state and local governments and transportation agencies

over a five year period in the Broward area. The purpose of the meetings is to hear public comments and consider actions. The I-75 Managed Lanes project has a total budget of over \$400 million for fiscal year 2013. The public is invited to review and comment on the proposed amendment, which can be viewed at <http://www.browardmpo.org/programs/transportation-improvement-program>. The scheduled meetings below provide the public with opportunities to make verbal comments:

Technical Coordinating Committee: Mon., Nov. 26 at 2:15 pm; Community Involvement Roundtable: Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 6:00 pm; and Broward MPO Board on Thursday, December 13 at 9:30 am. (Final Action Taken)

All meetings are held in the Broward MPO Board Room, in the Trade Centre South Building, 100 West Cypress Creek Rd., #850, Ft. Lauderdale. Entrance is from Andrews Ave., just south of Cypress Creek Road. You can also submit email comments to ener@browardmpo.org.

Why is this important for Sierra Club members? Getting people out of their cars, efficient movement of people, air pollution, water pollution and consumption, overdevelopment, destruction of land and trees, threatened wildlife, are all Sierra Club issues for the future of Broward County. Sierrans must be informed and be ready to take action when necessary. Transportation planning

continued on page 4

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



DEC. 1ST, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. Approximately 8 miles on a wilderness trail, off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (about 50 minutes from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). We will walk at a leisurely pace through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie, allowing for identification of birds, wildflowers, plants and butterflies. Bring your own lunch, to eat on the trail. Rated moderate, due to distance and uneven footing. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jsf812@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Kip Fisher 954-434-2855.



DEC. 2ND, SUN. BARLEY BARBER SWAMP TOUR. Indiantown, FL. Leisurely guided tour of the Barley Barber Swamp, hosted by the Treasured Lands Foundation. The majority of the walk is on boardwalk; fully handicap accessible. Optional, delicious brunch (\$25) at the Seminole Inn after the tour. Also optional, make your own arrangements to spend Saturday night at the Inn. Rated leisure. Limit 12. *Suggested donation: \$5 members, \$10 non-members.* Pre-registration required, and picture ID required to board the bus. Co-leaders: Sabrina Carle and Lisa Hanley 561-732-4486, <sabrinacarle@gmail.com> or <lisa.hanley@juno.com> to register.



DEC. 8, SAT. CANOEING NINE-MILE POND CANOE TRAIL. Everglades National Park - approximately six miles on the abbreviated loop. Lunch in our canoes. Rated moderate/strenuous. *Suggested donation is \$20 members, \$25 non-members.* Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Mark Walters.



DEC. 15, SAT. FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT. We'll be giving back to the park, as they so kindly allow us to hold our monthly general meetings at this urban forest treasure. This is an opportunity to learn about some of the challenges of maintaining and upgrading a natural area. No experience or tools necessary. Bring a hat, water, sunscreen and substantial footwear and clothing for working outdoors in the brush. Meet downstairs at the nature center at 9am and we'll be out by lunch time. *Free.* Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



DEC. 15, SAT. EVERGLADES ECOLOGY 101. Fall is a great time to visit the Everglades National Park. We'll tour the visitor center, explore the Anhinga Trail boardwalk, the Gumbo Limbo trail and more. This trip is great for beginners or veterans looking for an easy walk (a few miles total). Rated leisure. Contact the outing leader for more information and directions. *You will have to pay your own admission to the park. Bring your own food and drinks.* Leader: Mike Matthews <everglades.ecology@gmail.com>.

DEC. 28, FRI. BIG CYPRESS HIKE. Three mile hike North on the Florida Trail from Oasis Visitor Center on Tamiami Trail, a leisurely lunch and hike back the same trail. Rated moderate. *Suggested donation for this fundraiser: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.* Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.



DEC. 29, SAT. MOONLIGHT BIKE RIDE AT SHARK VALLEY, EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. Enjoy the feeling of being away from the hustle and bustle, crowds, traffic, city lights and noise. This 15 mile ride on flat paved terrain is moderate, but we take our time to enjoy the moonlight, stars and wildlife along the River of Grass. We'll have delicious snacks at the tower (half way point.) Age limit 14 and over. Max 15 people. *Suggested donation: \$5 members, \$10 non-members.* Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, Asst. Leader: TBA.



JAN. 5, SAT. TURNER RIVER TO EVERGLADES CITY ENP RANGER STATION CANOE/KAYAK. Bring your own lunch and plenty of water. Afterwards we'll have a well deserved dinner at the Camilla Street Grill on the Baron River (on you). Rated moderate to difficult. *Suggested donation: \$40 includes canoe rental, \$20 if you bring your own canoe/kayak.* Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, Asst. Leaders: Mark Walters 305-773-995 and Manuel Monteiro 954-815-6230.



JAN. 12, SAT. LOXAHATCHEE RIVER SCENIC PADDLE. 8.5 mile paddle from Riverbend Park to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Rated moderate, experienced paddlers only. Limit 12. Bring your own lunch. *Suggested donation: \$10 if you bring your own boat, plus \$50 if you rent a canoe or kayak.* Leader: Karen Bulkowski 954-612-5459 <karenowski@att.net>, Asst. Leader: TBA



JAN. 13TH, SUN. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. Approximately 8 miles on a wilderness trail, off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (about 50 minutes from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). We will walk at a leisurely pace through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie, allowing for identification of birds, wildflowers, plants and butterflies. Bring your own lunch, to eat on the trail. Rated moderate, due to distance and uneven footing. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jsf812@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Kip Fisher 954-434-2855.



JAN. 18-20, FRI. - SUN. FLAMINGO EVERGLADES NAT'L PARK CAMPING. Hike one day and a canoe in the Bay on the other day. (Must rent canoe from ENP concessionaire). *Suggested donation: \$65 members, \$80 non-members (includes all meals).* Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>.



JAN. 27, SUN. KAYAK/CANOE PEANUT ISLAND and see the manatees that congregate at the FPL plant that's under construction. We'll launch from the Riviera Beach Marina, paddle for a while, land on Peanut Island for lunch and possibly visit the Maritime Museum and the Kennedy Bunker. Bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent in advance from Adventure Times <<http://www.kayakkayak.com>> 561-881-7218. Single kayak \$25, double kayak \$50. Limit 20. Rated moderate. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Chas Hunt 561-967-4770 <loxoutings@comcast.net>.



FEB. 2, SAT. HALFWAY CREEK CANOE TRIP. The hidden world of mangrove tunnels. 7 hours round trip. Bring your own water and lunch. (We'll have a lunch-break in our canoes). A park ranger will accompany us as a guide. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.



FEB. 9, SAT. WAKODAHATCHEE AND GREEN CAY NATURE WALK AND BIRDING ADVENTURE. (Delray) Bring your binoculars and camera because we will see nesting blue herons, egrets and cormorants with their chicks. Also spoonbills, whistling ducks, hawks and more. Leader: Karen Bulkowski 954-612-5459 <karenowski@att.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.

Florida Seller of Travel
Ref. No. ST37115

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

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



The Grand Picture, in more ways than one – environmental movies. A recent online remark, loosely quoted: “Is Hollywood exploiting environmental disasters?”

While it may be true that there has been an increase of environmentalist movies, it is just as true that we are more and more forced to face the basic facts of real global climate change, as well as much bigger environmental disasters.

The Miami Sierra Club alerted us to the movie *The Big Fix*, which was shown at Miami Beach Cinematheque during the last week of October. The movie takes an in-depth look at the Deepwater Horizon debacle, not just from an environmental angle, but it also exposes the big-business profit related factors, the many political aspects and, ultimately, the self defeating denial of the many role players involved. Both Josh Tickell as Director and Peter Fonda as an Executive Producer, show us how BP circumvented all safety features for faster oil production. It was this policy which resulted in one of the biggest oil spill disasters in history. Besides the immediate demise of marine life in the Gulf of Mexico, the film now tells us that, NO, at present all is NOT well in the Gulf of Mexico. Even though Big (Oil) Business wants us to believe so, and is currently spending millions on TV ads trying to convince us of the Gulf’s present day pristine, prompt recovery, we are informed of the increasing marine/wildlife mutations, and a gigantic ominous layer of ‘oil debris’ on the sea bottom where the Gulf seems to be all but dead.

Another movie several Sierra ExCom members attended was “Who Bombed Judi Bari,” an account of environmentalists who, during the 90’s, stepped up to the plate to stop giant lumber companies from radically razing every remaining Redwood forest stand on the West Coast. The matter of fact quick and naive conclusion of law enforcement at the time, was to simply state that the car bombing, which critically injured Judi Bari, must have been due to its occupants transporting explosives in their vehicle. Only recently, after years of a lengthy lawsuit winding its way through the court system, were both activists completely cleared.

We also had the pleasure to meet with the film’s producer, Darryl Cherney, one of the major movement participants, who was in the car when the explosion took place. He took the time to answer questions after the movie. We know that there have been some environmentalist excesses, causing injuries and even loss of life. But as the movie accurately points out, to simply group all environmental activism under the heading, ‘dangerous tree huggers,’ is naively prejudicial, if not outright malicious slander.

Both movies did a superb job of showing the difference between

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

lopsided, negative activism and the far greater majority of environmentalists who go the extra mile (even in the face of personal danger) to bring public awareness to the urgent need of preserving our environment for future generations.

So, the question still remains, which is it: the Hollywood exploitation of environmental disasters, or a major increase in environmental Armageddons, now bringing these issues more to the public eye.

Those of us interested in supporting these consciousness-jarring environmental cinematographic ventures, should try to see both these movies. And there are more to come! I was just reading a press release about a full length Deepwater Horizon movie with a list of top class Hollywood actors, to be released some time next year for the mainstream cinema-going public. And I recently heard that *Chasing Ice*, a documentary on global warming, will be shown this month in mainstream cinemas.

SAVE THIS “FLORIDA CHAMPION”

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary

Developers want to move a 100-year old Champion Tree, the largest and oldest Rain Tree in the state of Florida! Most arborists agree that moving a tree this size will certainly kill it.



The Rain Tree is on the Broward County docket for public hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 11th at 2:00 pm to discuss designating it as “historic,” which would give it added protection. Sierrans, if your schedule allows, please consider attending this hearing to save this irreplaceable tree. The Sun-Sentinel article below provides details about the history of this unique and magnificent tree and the development that threatens its life.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/fl-champion-rain-tree-2-20121021.0.7085930.story>

Also go to <http://tinyurl.com/ChampionRainTree> to download a very comprehensive pdf about the tree and the story.

I-75 Managed Lanes Project, continued from page 2

affects all persons. At the October meeting of the MPO-CIR, the FDOT presented the adjusted Urban Boundary and Functional Classification Map which must be approved by October 2013, and is for Federal funding purposes. I noted that the western boundary now moves slightly west of S.R. 27, which is in the Everglades, currently classified as “conservation area.” However, as environmental stewards, we must be aware of changes which could lead to further encroachments.

If you have not yet visited www.browardMPO.org, I welcome you to check it out. I hope you will find it as fascinating as I have. The Broward MPO staff are progressive transportation specialists and appear to be very conscientious of people’s health, quality of life, and preservation of our natural resources.

At www.BrowardCompeteStreets.org you can find out how your city will be adapting the Complete Streets guidelines for safer, healthier streets.

For more information, email Barbara Ruge, b-realtor@att.net



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

E-mail articles you think would be of interest to our members to carolewalsgraphics@gmail.com in MS Word or text format. (Articles may be edited for space and clarity.) Next deadline is Monday, Jan. 7th for the Feb/Mar issue.