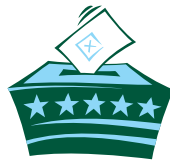


BROWARD SIERRA CLUB EXCOM ELECTION RESULTS



This past December the Broward Sierra Club held its annual Executive Committee election. The four people who were elected or re-elected to serve a 2 year term on the Excom are Barbara Ruge, Mara Shlackman, Matthew Schwartz, and Ina Oost Topper. Continuing their 2 year terms are Barbara Curtis, Max Goldstein and Judy Kuchta.

One of the first responsibilities of the Excom is to appoint the Club's Leaders, who are now as follows:

- Chair - Mara Shlackman
- Vice Chair - Barbara Curtis
- Treasurer - Max Goldstein
- Corresponding Secretary - Barbara Ruge
- Recording Secretary - Tanya Tweeton
- Conservation Chair - Matthew Schwartz
- Education/Recycling Chair - Ina Oost Topper
- Legal Chair - Mara Shlackman
- Newsletter Editor/Web Master - Carole Walsh
- Outings Chair - Judy Kuchta
- Program Chair - Barbara Curtis
- Political Chair - Brion Blackwelder

We congratulate the new Excom members and Club leaders, and appreciate their commitment to the environment and their efforts on all our behalf.

We'd also like to express our appreciation to Phil Busey, our outgoing Excom Chair, for his 2 decades of service to the Sierra Club and for the wonderful job he's done over the past two years as the Broward Group Chair. Phil will continue to be involved with the Club and environmental issues as always, and we look forward to seeing him at the meetings and outings.

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers for Fundraising Chair and Volunteers Chair. If you are interested in either of those positions, please contact Mara Shlackman at 954-523-1131 or marashl@hotmail.com. If you would like to volunteer to help out with programs for the general meetings, please contact Barbara

Broward Sierra News



Vol. XXXIV No. 1

FEB/MAR 2012

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

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SIERRA CLUB / BROWARD COUNTY

P.O. Box 550561
Davie, FL 33355

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.

Curtis at 954-946-7359 or legalbarb2@yahoo.com. If you would like to find out how to become an outing leader, please contact Judy Kuchta at 305-308-8913 or judykuchta@yahoo.com.

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.

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 and updates on local environmental matters, each month we have an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

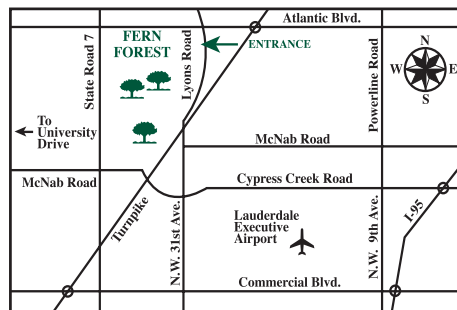
Thursday, Feb 2:

Speaker TBA

Thursday, Mar 1:

Speaker TBA

Check our website for more information as the dates get closer. <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward/> and click on the "Meeting Info" link.



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.



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_walsh@comcast.net

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

Executive Committee Meetings

are held on the second 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 CLUB CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Broward Group is pleased to announce its Conservation Committee for 2012.

Members are:

Matt Schwartz,
Chair

Tanya Tweeton,
Secretary

Stan Pannaman

Mara Shlackman

Ina Topper

Barbara Curtis

Hawk Arachy



The Broward Group has always played an active role in conservation issues in our community. Recent issues we have engaged have concerned the expansion of Ft. Lauderdale International Airport, sewage outfall pipes, sea turtle nesting, sand dune protection, and mass transit. Regionally the Broward Group has worked hand in hand with other Sierra Groups and conservation organizations - fighting against excessive motorized recreation on public lands, against the construction of powerlines across Everglades National Park, against offshore drilling in Florida's coastal waters, and most recently, against a proposed power plant in the heart of Florida panther habitat in nearby Hendry County. And in spite of the power of the "Florida growth machine" we've even

had a couple of big successes - blocking the construction of both the Cocomar Shopping Center on one of the last remaining hardwood hammocks in Broward County and the Everglades Corporate Park bordering Broward County's Everglades.

With our newly formed Conservation Committee, we expect to take on more challenges. We are already engaged in the fight over aspects of the proposed Port Everglades expansion, and expect to be taking on Corrections Corporation of America as they attempt to build a massive immigration prison just a stone's throw from the Everglades. We will also encourage conservation on all fronts and encourage economic opportunities which take advantage of Broward's dynamic labor force without jeopardizing its fragile environment.

Please be sure to sign up on the Broward Sierra Yahoo Group to find out about any breaking conservation related news:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra/>
Feel free to contact Matt Schwartz, Conservation Chair, with any difficulty signing up or any other questions. You can also share concerns with regard to conservation issues you believe our group should be aware of or engaged in. You can reach me at matthew3222@yahoo.com or 954-634-7173.

MAKE A RESOLUTION TO REUSE IN 2012

– By Mara Shlackman, Broward Sierra Chair

No doubt we are all familiar with the environmental mantra of "reduce, reuse, recycle." With all the emphasis on recycling, reuse is an aspect of eco-friendly living that is often overlooked. In 2012, in addition to donating your unneeded goods to thrift stores, commit to making second-hand sources of goods your first choice when you do need to make a purchase or acquisition.

Thrift stores in our community support a variety of charitable causes, from job training for persons with disabilities to pet adoption shelters. Besides thrift stores, there are numerous other stores in our community selling used goods, including but not limited to consignment shops, used book stores, and used sporting goods stores. Church rummage sales, garage and yard sales, and websites and listserves such as Freecycle (freecycle.org) are additional sources of used goods.

Not only does buying second-hand merchandise keep goods out of the landfill, but it may also help the local economy. Retail stores that sell used goods are "mom and pop" stores that keep dollars circulating within our community. Studies have found that more of the dollars spent at independent retailers stay in the community as compared with expenditures at chain stores, which funnel more of their earnings to corporate headquarters and distant suppliers (see <http://www.bigboxtoolkit.com/images/pdf/Premium.pdf> and <http://www.liveingeconomies.org/aboutus/research-and-studies/studies> for more information).

In short, throughout the year in 2012, when you consider buying something, after you ask yourself if you really need it (remember, reducing consumption is the first part of the environmental mantra), your next question should be "can I buy it used rather than new?"



Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



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. Asst: TBA.



FEB. 5, SUN. BEAR ISLAND HIKE. Join us for a hike to the beautiful Bear Island section of the Big Cypress National Preserve. About 6+ miles of flat walking - but definitely rated moderate due to water and some rugged trail conditions. Eastern Bear Island contains enormous cypress prairies and is one of the most scenic in the entire preserve. Bring a camera and a picnic lunch for a full day out. *Free (donations accepted).* Contact Matt Schwartz 954-634-7173 or matthew3222@yahoo.com.



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.



FEB. 16, THURS. RECYCLING ENRICHMENT. By popular demand we are going to visit the Reuters Recycle Plant in Pembroke Pines again. The visit was very interesting and educational for everyone who attended it last October. This is the largest recycling plant in the S.E. United States. *Suggested donation to Broward Sierra Club: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 or judykuchta@yahoo.com.



FEB. 25, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. We'll hike 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). You'll learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora, as you trek through cypress forests, hammocks and prairies. We'll walk at a leisurely pace, 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 or jsf812@bellsouth.net. Assistant Leader: Kip Fisher (same phone number).



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 has been postponed to a date in April to be announced.



MAR. 24, SAT. TURNER RIVER KAYAK/CANOE TRIP. This is a 6 hour trip through one of the most biologically diverse areas in the Everglades. 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 or judykuchta@yahoo.com. Assistant Leader: Manuel Monteiro, manuel_monteiro@yahoo.com. Second assistant: TBA.

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>.

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>>



The King Mango Strutters, December, 2011



Holiday Party, December, 2011



Photos by Cyndi Pletch

Big Cypress Hike November, 2011



Photos by Connie Fiske



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 _____
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