

# SPRING IS HERE – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MULCHING

– By Tanya Tweeton, Broward Sierra Volunteer Coordinator



With the unseasonably warm weather, we Floridians have already been quite busy, lovingly tending to our gardens, and deciding on what kind and where to put mulch.

The use of mulch is standard practice in gardens, particularly

in South Florida where we try to beautify everything, especially with an eye towards wowing the tourists! Yes, South Florida IS beautiful with all the landscaping done along the highways, throughout our wonderful parks and in our public gardens. Of course we want our own gardens to be just as beautiful. And benefits from the proper use of organic mulching are many.

Mulching helps to conserve and maintain moisture by reducing the amount of soil water lost through evaporation. Small amounts of nutrients are added to the soil through decomposition. Mulch serves as food for many microorganisms and minimizes soil erosion from heavy rains. It helps help restrain the weeds from growing back in places we don't want them to appear again.

Some of the organic and recycled mulches available are: Pine bark, buckwheat hulls, compost, corncobs, hay, lawnclippings, leafmold, leaves, manure, peat moss, Cypress, Eucalyptus (which repels termites), and Melaleuca chips (which are also termite resistant, but hard to find).

But mulching can have a downside as well. Weed seeds can be introduced in the gardens with hay, straw or manure mulches. Mold can often develop in organic mulch if kept too wet. Insects and rodents can make their home in some mulches. Extremely dry mulch will act as a blotter and remove moisture from the soil. Termites also LOVE the smell of Cypress mulch and they flock to it! It is not insect resistant. Good reason use something else!

*Continued on page 4*

**Thursday, June 7:** Our guest speaker will be Patrick Quinn, PhD, a Natural Resource Specialist working in Broward County's Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department, Natural Resources Planning and Management Division. One of the things he monitors by helicopter is the number of manatees that congregate in Port Everglades and near the FPL power plant. He'll be talking about the manatees' habitat, biology, and lifestyle – and the dangers they face from the encroachment of man.



**Thursday, July 5:** In July our guest speaker will be Lou Fisher, Natural Resource Specialist IV with Broward County. Lou will be speaking to us about beach renewal, coral reef protection, artificial reefs, manatees, sea turtles, and more.



# Broward Sierra News



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

VOL. XXXIV No. 3

JUNE/JULY 2012

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

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



Recycled paper, soy ink

## 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.

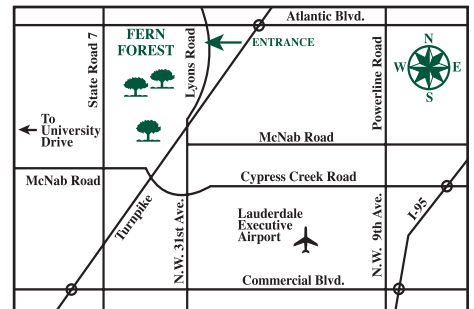
### Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings

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.





## 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  
blackwelder@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.

## CENTRAL BROWARD EAST-WEST TRANSIT STUDY

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

### SR 7/Broward Blvd Alternative



### Griffin Road Alternative



At the April 24th meeting of the Broward MPO-CIR, we heard from a representative from Jacobs Engineering Corporation, who presented the results of a transportation study they have been conducting for the County. They identified two options for a Central Broward East-West Transit System. You can find out more at [www.centralbrowardtransit.com](http://www.centralbrowardtransit.com). This study was conducted in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation District 4, Broward County Transit, the Broward MPO ([www.browardMPO.org](http://www.browardMPO.org)), and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. The purpose of the study is to provide high-quality, high-capacity transit service on an east-west axis in central Broward County to connect western Broward County with the higher density coastal areas. (source: MPO Transportation Transformation, Vol. 11, Iss. 28). In essence both alternatives connect

Sawgrass Mills Mall to Broward College to the International Airport and on to downtown Fort Lauderdale, implementing express premium bus service, existing Tri-Rail, and approved modern rail (The Wave [www.wavestreetcar.com](http://www.wavestreetcar.com)) modes of public transportation. After selecting the preferred alternative by the end of summer 2012, the next step will be a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and an environmental document will be prepared. NEPA studies are planned to begin Fall-Winter of 2012. Learn more about NEPA at [www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/nepa.html](http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/nepa.html). The Broward MPO-CIR advisory meetings are open to the public and are held the Fourth Tuesday of every month 6-8 pm. I find the meetings fascinating and meaningful to us (the general public they serve) and to those who care about our environment and sustaining the pleasure of living in South Florida. It pays to be involved.

## POMPANO BEACH TRI-RAIL STATION GOING GREEN

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority will utilize a grant award of over \$5.7 million dollars from the Federal Transit Administration for the Pompano Beach Tri-Rail Station Green Demonstration Project. The Pompano Beach Station would become Tri-Rail's first LEED certified, sustainable station. It was reported at a meeting of the Broward MPO-CIR that the station will produce more energy from solar panels than it will use, and will be able to sell the excess back to the grid! That sounds like a win-win.





## NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR – By Tanya Tweeton, Broward Sierra Volunteer Coordinator

Our club has been working hard on several upcoming events, and we have decided that it is time to ask for some help with all the activities we would like to plan in the future. We would like to be able to accommodate the requests we have been getting from other organizations to appear at their events, and it has been difficult to do so for a while, because we simply do not have the necessary people ready to fill these requests, and have had to say no several times. Therefore our ExCom has decided that it is time to create the position of Volunteer Coordinator, a very necessary step in the evolution and growth of our Broward Group of the Sierra Club.



we simply didn't have the structure to do anything about your requests until now. And if you haven't volunteered yet, this is the perfect time to do so.

We really need your expertise, your suggestions, your support, and your help. On our website, you will find a Volunteer Activity sheet (just click on the "Volunteer" link on the left side of our home page at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>). Please fill it out and bring to the next meeting in June, or email or send it to me.

We are also looking for someone who plays the guitar well, is a musician, has a small band, and would like to volunteer to perform at some of our events, please contact me at [tweeton204@gmail.com](mailto:tweeton204@gmail.com).

Thank you all, see you at Fern Forest!

So my fellow Sierrans, I have been chosen to head this committee. I would like to welcome all of you back who wanted to volunteer, but were not contacted, because

## FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Corresponding Secretary

### 1,000-MILE TREK THROUGH FLORIDA TRACKS CORRIDOR FOR WILDLIFE

A team of explorers embarked January 17th on a journey to call attention to the need for a functional wildlife corridor up the Florida peninsula, starting from Everglades National Park all the way to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southern Georgia. The team is comprised of a conservationist, a bear biologist and a photojournalist. Their goal was to trek 1,000 miles in 100 days to increase public awareness and generate support for the Florida Wildlife Corridor Project. The project is a collaborative idea to connect remaining natural landscapes and watersheds, essential for the survival of Florida's wildlife, including panthers, black bears and other native species threatened by encroaching urban development. An award-winning cinematographer is documenting the expedition to produce a film. You can follow the exciting exploits and learn more about the Florida Wildlife Corridor at [www.floridawildlifecorridor.org](http://www.floridawildlifecorridor.org).



## COME ONE COME ALL! TO THE BROWARD SIERRA CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC AT THE BEACH

**Sunday, August 12th, 1:00pm to 6:00pm 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 \$25.00 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 \$5.00. 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 suntanning or swimming. Kayaks are for rent on Whiskey Creek at the concession about 1/2 mile from us.

**COST:** Donation \$10.00 Sierra Members, \$12.00 non members. Kids (16 or younger) \$5.00. 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 \$4.00 per one individual in a vehicle or \$6.00 for up to 6 passengers in a vehicle, bicycles are \$2.00).



### Cypress Forests

Cypress forests are an important ecological resource, providing unique habitats for threatened and endangered wildlife. Old growth Cypress forests, still being cut down, are needed for shade. These forests help lower greenhouse gas emissions. They protect against hurricanes as well, slowing them down and making them less powerful. They provide reservoirs for floodwater and help filter pollutants.



Unfortunately, entire Cypress forests have been cut down, chopped into tiny pieces and sold in garden shops as well as in hardware stores. Cypress logging continues today on private lands throughout South Florida as well as in other states and unfortunately is legal to do so for the moment.

The Sierra Club is recommending that the use of Cypress mulch be avoided as much as possible, asking gardeners to eliminate it as a choice, because of the harm being done to the Cypress forests. The University of Florida also recommends that we NOT use Cypress mulch in our landscapes and gardens.

Take a stand with the Sierra Club and do not buy Cypress mulch for your gardens and landscapes. Select other products. Help promote ecologically sound gardening practices and save our Cypress trees to do their real job, which is to continue to provide the protection needed in our forests and waterways!

**Bibliography:**

University of Florida IPAS Extension: Why Extension Recommends That You Not Use Cypress Mulch in Your Landscapes.

Organic Mulch, David J Williams, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences NRES-19-97 .

Reiman Gardens, Organic Mulches, Iowa State University University Extension.

## SWITCHING GEARS TO PROTECT OCEAN WILDLIFE

– By Cameron Jaggard, Pew Environment Group



Photo © Brian Skerry, National Geographic

Western Atlantic bluefin tuna migrate thousands of miles annually as they crisscross the ocean. Their travels expose them to intense commercial fishing pressure that has depleted the population of reproductively mature adults by 72 percent since 1970. Because the Gulf of Mexico is the only known spawning ground for this majestic fish, building greater protections for bluefin in those waters is absolutely critical.

Commercial fishermen in the Gulf set surface longlines that stretch on average 30 miles and dangle more than 700 baited hooks. This fishing method targets healthy populations of yellowfin tuna and swordfish, but also incidentally catches and kills more than 80 other types of vulnerable ocean wildlife including bluefin tuna, endangered leatherback sea turtles, blue marlin, sailfish and sharks.

Switching to more selective fishing methods, already approved for use in the Gulf, could eliminate this decades-old problem. Green sticks and buoy gear are two novel alternatives that some commercial fishermen have already adapted for use in the mid-Atlantic, the east coast of Florida, and, to a lesser extent, the Gulf of Mexico. These gears require fewer hooks and allow any unwanted catch to be released within minutes. This significantly reduces the number of non-target animals caught and killed while fishing for yellowfin tuna and swordfish.

The Pew Environment Group and its partners are working to transition the surface longline fishermen to these more selective fishing methods. Please visit [www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfTuna](http://www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfTuna) to learn more about switching gears and email [cjaggard@pewtrusts.org](mailto:cjaggard@pewtrusts.org) to find out how to take action.

## 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!



**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

F94Q  
W3302 1

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