



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 ELECTIONS – By Mara Shlackman, Broward Sierra Group Chair



It's election season not just for our nation but for the Broward Group. Our Group bylaws require that an election for membership on the Broward Group Executive Committee (EXCOM) take place in the fourth quarter of each year. EXCOM has seven members, who serve staggered two-year terms. This year, three EXCOM members' terms expire.

On August 7, 2012, pursuant to the bylaws, EXCOM appointed a **Nominating Committee**, consisting of Phil Busey (philip@busey.org), Art Joseph (rogerwilcotj@bellsouth.net), and Ina Topper (irtopper2000@cs.com). Their task is to identify and evaluate candidates to run for the vacancies on EXCOM.

In the same manner as last year, the election ballots, accompanied by profiles of the candidates, will go out to all members through the mail (snail mail, not e-mail). Members will have four weeks to consider and submit their ballots. An Election Committee appointed by EXCOM, consisting of three Group members, none of whom are candidates for EXCOM, will count the ballots after the deadline for return of the ballots, and will report the results.

The following is the calendar for the election process:

- Sept. 30, 2012 Deadline for submission of candidate names to Nominating Committee
- Oct. 8, 2012 Deadline for report by Nominating Committee to EXCOM on candidates for ballot
- Oct. 25, 2012 Deadline for submission of petitions by petition candidates. (As an alternative to being placed on the ballot by approval of the Nominating Committee, a candidate can obtain the signatures of 20 members of

the Broward Group prior to this deadline and be placed on the ballot as a petition candidate.)

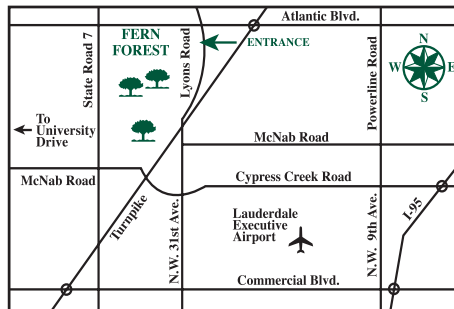
- Nov. 12, 2012 Deadline for appointing Election Committee (members must be appointed before ballots are mailed)
- Nov. 13, 2012 Deadline for mailing ballots to members
- Dec. 17, 2012 Deadline for arrival of completed ballots in Broward Group P.O. Box

If you would like to become more involved in Broward Sierra Group and its decision-making, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (listed on the left) by the end of September to express your interest. Developing new leaders over time contributes to the well-being of the Club and our ability to educate the public and advocate for preservation of our environment.

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.



Thursday, October 4: Our guest speaker will be **Master Gardener, Stephen Draft, Curator of the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens**, an historic 35 acre estate on the barrier island in Fort Lauderdale. This talk will describe the Living Collection Policy and its use to recreate the Desert Garden.



Thursday, November 1: Our guest speaker will be Kenneth Banks, Broward County Natural Resource Specialist IIII, who will be speaking about coral reefs.



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

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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.

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE ANIMAL DAY

— By Tanya Tweeton, Broward Sierra Group Volunteer Coordinator



The Broward Group of the Sierra Club was pleased to be invited by the Museum to participate in its Animal Day event on August 18th and 19th. A real team effort with our Excom members and volunteers went into the planning of our presence at this event to be able to inform the public about the sad plight of our Florida Panther.

The Museum staff was so helpful with everything, which made the organizing so much easier. They set up tables, and we set up signs, posters and pictures, and also prepared and presented a delightful Powerpoint slide show, of pictures of Florida Panthers and their kittens. The Museum gave us permission to circulate a petition to the public, to be signed and sent to Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Washington D.C. The Fish and Wildlife Service states that it is dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. However, when five organizations, including the Sierra Club, petitioned USFWS to designate critical habitat for the Florida Panther, USFWS denied the petition, a big disappointment to a great many people working very hard to save the panther. USFWS has granted over 140 permits to build projects right in and around Florida Panther territory over the last 12 to 14 years, but they have never granted critical habitat protection to the area to protect the extinction of the panther.

So we Sierrans set about asking the public for help, to put pressure on this agency, with public signatures. With really tremendous efforts, walking the floors for hours, and talking to people, we collected over 300 signatures to send to Washington D.C., in hopes of changing their officials' minds.

At the museum, a separate table was set up for the children to sit down and color pictures of panthers, sign their names and write a sentence about saving the Panther if they could. After all, it was the school children that first selected the Panther as our state animal! So it was quite fitting that they be included in our efforts to save this animal. We then added the colored pictures to the signed petitions and sent them on to the Sierra Club

office in St. Petersburg for review before being sent off to Washington D.C.

On Saturday, Stanley, the Florida Panther Hockey Team Mascot, was generously loaned to us by the Florida Panther Hockey Team Association for the occasion.

Stanley was a terrific hit, a real draw to our tables! The children were at once terrified, then thrilled, to see tall Stanley loping up to them, grabbing their hands, hugging them, making them laugh and jump up and down in total excitement! Of course this added to the attracting of an audience and more people came over to see what was happening. In that way, we were able to ask more people to sign our petitions.

I personally want you to know how your Excom team and great volunteers were so helpful in getting this event together. The results were so positive! The public was informed about the Panther's situation and about our Sierra Club organization. We collected signatures for the petition. The children were made aware of the Panther situation, and the Museum loved our exhibit, and asked us to come back for more events this year! This tabling event was a real success thanks to all our members' great team work!



The annual picnic was as much fun as ever. There was a good turnout and a clear day despite the forecast for bad weather. Matt Schwartz, Barbara Ruge, and Max Goldstein gave us updates on some of our current environmental issues. And a special thanks to Richard Chesen for letting everyone try out paddle boarding on his board.

PROTECT FLORIDA'S LANDS BY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

– By Mara Shlackman, Broward Sierra Group Chair

The Florida Legislature's funding for acquisition of conservation lands through the Florida Forever program has declined precipitously in the last few years. To ensure that the Legislature allocates a fixed portion of an existing revenue source for acquisition and restoration of conservation lands, the Sierra Club has joined several other major environmental organizations in backing a proposed constitutional amendment to dedicate 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents (documents related to the sale of property) for 20 years, in order to fund acquisition and restoration of conservation lands. The coalition, called Florida's Water and Land Legacy, is seeking one million signatures in order to place the amendment on the November 2014 ballot. For more information on the amendment and how you can help, go to <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>

STRENGTHENING OCEAN STEWARDSHIP IN SOUTH FLORIDA AND BEYOND

Sponsored by the Sierra Club Marine Action Team

Saturday, September 29, 2012, 10am - 4pm

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, 3109 E. Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale

"A Tale of Two Cities". Workshop Leader Dave Raney, former resident of Ft. Lauderdale and current resident of Honolulu, will compare ocean stewardship challenges between the two locations.

For more information, go to http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/Ocean_Policy_Task_Force/blog2

UPCOMING SOUTH FLORIDA AUDUBON MEETINGS

(For more info, see www.browardaudubon.org)

Thursday, October 18, Anne Kolb Nature Center, 7:30pm. Speaker: Alyse Opatowski, Fort Lauderdale field organizer for Food and Water Watch: the national consumer advocacy group working to ensure access to safe and affordable food and water. Topic: Let Me Decide - requiring labeling for genetically engineered foods.

Thursday, November 15, Fern Forest Nature Center, 7:30pm. Program TBA.

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



SEPT. 29, SAT. MOONLIGHT 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. Moderate to Strenuous - you must be able to bike 15 miles. Limit 15, no one under 16. Yes, you will see alligators and other wildlife. Contact the outing leader for more information and directions. *Suggested donation:* \$3. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, Asst. Leader: Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org>.



OCT. 6, SAT. 9AM. LONG KEY NATURE CENTER. Davie. A guided tour of the 157 acre grounds and Nature Center. The site is one of the largest natural areas managed by Broward County Parks. The elevated oak hammock was once part of a series of islands surrounded by Everglades marshes. Long Key is an important habitat for wildlife and is one of the largest remaining strands of live oak, red bay, paradise tree, strangler fig, cabbage palm and gumbo limbo. *Cost: Member \$5, Non-members \$7. Bring your own lunch.* Reservations required. Contact Barbara Curtis at 954-804-2060.



OCT. 20 & NOV. 24, 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. *The trip is free but you will have to pay your own admission to the park. Bring your own food and drinks.* Leader: Mike Matthews <everglades.ecology@gmail.com>.



OCT. 26-28, FRI. - SUN. PRIMITIVE CAMPING AND CANOEING ON FISHEATING CREEK. (West of Lake Okeechobee). Framed by bald cypress swamps and hardwood hammocks, Fisheating Creek has long been valued for its scenic quality unmarred by houses and other human intrusions. Rated Moderate. Limit 16. You may bring your own canoe or rent one. *Suggested donation is \$85 per person members, \$100 per person non-members if you are renting a canoe, or \$55 per person members, \$60 per person non-members if you are bringing your own. This includes 4 meals, upriver transport, and canoe rental, if applicable.* If you wish, you may camp at the main campground on Friday evening on your own. Contact: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.com> or Chas Hunt 561-967-4770 <loxoutings@comcast.net>.



NOV. 3, SAT. 9AM. TREE TOPS PARK. Davie. Moderate 2 hour walk. The 243.3 acres of this park range from 23 acres of restored freshwater marsh accessible by a 1,000-foot boardwalk to the 102.2-acre Pine Island Ridge, an archaeological site that includes equestrian and nature trails and, at 29 feet above sea level, is the highest natural elevation in Broward County. *Cost: Member \$5, Non-members \$7, plus Park entrance fee of \$1.50. Bring your own lunch.* Reservations required. Contact Barbara Curtis at 954-804-2060



NOV. 3, SAT. 9AM. OCEAN TO LAKE TRAIL DAY HIKE. Riverbend Park (West of Jupiter) to the Jonathan Dickinson State Park Marina (North of Jupiter). 11 miles. Rated Strenuous. More details are available at <http://lox.floridatrail.org/our-trails/the-ocean-to-lake-trail/> Limit 10. *Member \$3, Non-members \$5.* Donna Brown 561-317-8288 <donnabrown.realestate@gmail.com>.



NOV. 17, SAT. BIG CYPRESS HIKE ON THE FLORIDA TRAIL. Hike with leisurely lunch, and hike back the same trail. We will be hiking through a number of different habitats including sawgrass prairies with beautiful stretches of saw palmettos and pine land trails to get your feet wet amidst cypress forests. Expect to see some reptiles, birds, butterflies and wildflowers. We may even encounter a panther, bobcats or deer. Rated Strenuous. *Suggested Donation: \$20 Sierra Club member, \$25 non-members.* Contact the outing leader for meeting times and location or more information. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitnmiss@aol.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.

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

WILL THE WHOLE WORLD BAN PLASTIC BAGS BEFORE WE DO?

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Group Educational/Recycling Chair



This question was posed just last week at an environmental event in Miramar, attended by Sierra ExCom members, where the movie “Bag It” was shown (see bagitmovie.com). Recently, the topic became even more acute when some of our ExCommers took up Waste Management on an invitation to tour their plant here in Broward County. As it turns out, unbeknownst to us all, Waste management has to stop its plant several times a day, just to remove plastic bags hampering all functioning of its equipment. We Sierrans, having been familiar now for some time with the all out war on the plastic bag problem in many of the Third World countries, are also wondering, WHEN will we be able to convince the general public here at home that it’s time to face this environmental monster?

Returning from several trips abroad this summer, once again, it’s obvious that many communities elsewhere are way ahead of us. The general public in all of Western Europe daily goes out the door with at least one or two recyclable shopping bags on their persons, whereas here we are still accustomed to “loading up the bags” at checkout counters. Yes, we DO, on occasion, forget about the permanent bag, and I’ll plead guilty to that one as well. But it would behoove us to still (re-)educate to cashiers NOT to use one single bag for every item purchased! It’s astounding how many customers can be seen going out the door at supermarkets pushing a shopping cart loaded up with some 20 bags or more, each bag often containing ONE item, for a week’s worth of groceries.

In an interview with Capt. Charles Moore, founder of the Algalite Research Foundation, Moore stated that the ocean’s “plastic cesspool (was) repeatedly snagging their boat’s propellers” while they conducted their plastic/marine research.

In fact, I heard recently from some people in the know in Canada, that more and more fine, gritty plastic substances are found in fish intestines everywhere. This troubling statement was followed by

a matter of fact comment that our global fish consumption, in all probability, would be endangered in the now very near future.

While it is known that ALL types of plastics are currently affecting global fish populations, the issue of daily plastic bag waste should be the easiest to combat. And yes, again according to Moore, some 100,000 albatross chicks are known to choke to death on assorted plastic items like bottle caps, etc. each year. But it is simply the ingesting of plastic bag material which leads to the demise of even the biggest marine animals, due to malnourishment. A fish stomach filled with such (plastic) remnants simply signals a fish that there’s no need for further nourishment.

In Los Angeles there is currently a fight regarding banning of single-use plastic bags in all supermarkets and convenience stores. While we Sierrans were at first delighted last month at reading about the city’s ban in the daily press, not surprisingly, the plastic bag industry is going all-out to prevent this ban. (Just a thought, could it be that Florida’s peculiar statute prohibiting cities from enacting local plastic bag bans, hails from the same industrial source?) Another fact to think about, in view of our nation’s oil dilemma, is that 11 barrels of oil are needed to produce 1 ton of plastic bags, according to the EPA. Surprisingly, or perhaps not surprisingly, developing countries are far ahead of us in banning the bag. For example, Bangladesh, which has a rather primitive open sewage system, discovered big bundles of discarded bags clogging the (open sewage) outlets, resulting in very unsanitary backups throughout many residential areas. Also, a total lack of garbage pickup in several Central African nations, led to the so-called “permanently flowering plastic bag trees,” creating enough consternation to promote an all out ban.

At present, once again our Sierra Club objective is refocusing on local, even statewide, encouragement of drastic reduction, even hopefully, almost eliminating daily plastic bag usage. Could we all do our part? Right now, (1) just put a small foldable bag in your purse/attache case - Target has some good ones for just a dollar, and (2) put some larger bags in the car trunk(s) (surely you have some floating around the house.) Don’t forget: several stores, including Target and Ikea, deduct some money for every reusable bag you hand them.

In the end, gently remind the cashier that plastic bags need some 1000 years to disintegrate (many don’t know it!) and, therefore, NOT to “Bag It.”

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
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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