



Recycled paper



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.

GREEN SLIME

– Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair and Education & Recycling Chair



Slime – just the word itself is repugnant to most people. It projects a mental picture of all things that are ugly, 'yucky' and, to be blunt, something disgusting. And that's exactly what we're here talking about.

In the past couple of years quite a bit has been written in our newsletters about water issues – in every way, shape and form. The increasing pollution of our oceans, the (still) ongoing sewage outflow offshore (right here in Broward county), the worrisome state of Florida's aquifer, now the finally acknowledged elevation of all water surrounding our state – and on it goes...

Just over a year ago, in May of 2012, the Florida press reported an "outbreak of nasty slime" in the Gainesville area, reminding all nature enthusiasts not to go fishing or swimming in North Central Florida. Elderly Central Floridians reported that they'd never seen anything like it, this

"thick, fluorescent green pea soup" covering much of local water surfaces. Also a first: a drinking water facility that had to be shut down temporarily near the Caloosahatchee, due to encroaching green slime, now also in South West Florida. The culprit(s)? In all probability ever increasing sewage outflow, dumping of manure in the water, massive fertilizer runoff, etc. Sewage outflow and fertilizer runoff issues have already been written about in earlier newsletters. And with continuing population growth leading to new development everywhere, the quest for ever more immaculate lawns and the increased sewage outflows pose an ever-increasing danger.

The Gulf Coast and especially Southwest Florida, has seen most of the "red tide" epidemic in recent years. While the cause of red tide itself may not be man-made (scientists tell us that in the past, red tides have been spotted far away from land

Continued on page 4

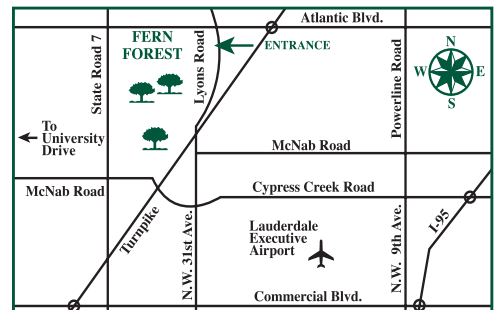
Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Fern Forest Nature Center. Each month we have an educational program on conservation or ecological issues.

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.

Sunday, Aug. 4th: In August, instead of our regular Thursday General Meeting, we will be having our annual Broward Sierra Club Picnic on the Beach at the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park, 6503 N. Ocean Dr., Dania Beach, Pelican pavilion on Sunday, August 4th. (See page 3 for more information.)



Thursday, Sept. 5th: Dr. Nicholas Aumen will be our guest speaker. He is the South Florida science advisor for the USGS. His presentation will be on the **problems facing the Everglades** due to sea level rise and saltwater intrusion; and the adverse effects of climate change and rainfall excesses, as well as water shortages on the Everglades ecosystem.





The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

Executive Committee Chair

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

Vice Chair

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Sue Caruso 954-684-6747
susan.caruso@att.net

Conservation Chair

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

Education & Recycling Chair

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

Legal Chair

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

Newsletter Editor & Web Master

Carole Walsh 954-987-3642
carolewalshgraphics@gmail.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

Stanley Pannaman 954-720-4639
s_pannaman@yahoo.com

Transportation and CWA Liaison

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

Excom member

Darryl Rutz 954-892-1740
dmrtz2@msn.com

Executive Committee Meetings

are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Ina Topper at 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.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, **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.



BEYOND OIL – THE COMMUNITY EVOLUTION

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Vice-Chair and Transportation and CWA Liaison



The Sierra Club Florida's Healthy Air Campaign is zooming full speed ahead to promote Sierra Club's National Electric Vehicle Initiative. If you have not seen it, please read the special article in the recent July/August 2013 Sierra magazine, "Electric Vehicle Buyers' Guide, Plug Your Car into your Roof." [Read about an Orlando man whose roof paid for and charges up his car at <http://tinyurl.com/roofcar> -Ed.] Sierra Club's goal is a 50% reduction in oil use by 2030. Electric vehicles are the

way to meet or exceed that goal. Through education and grassroots outreach to our members, the Community EVolution campaign is coordinating with local governments, auto industry experts and electric vehicle owners. Florida needs to ensure that cities and drivers are ready for the transition to electric vehicle technology. Stay informed and support Sierra Club's efforts to enable and promote EVs. For questions on how to get involved or to join our email list, contact britten.cleveland@sierraclub.org. Britten, a staff member at Sierra Club Florida, is scheduled to speak at our Broward Sierra meeting in October.

SIERRA CLUB AND COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF AMERICA PARTNER TO GET MEETING WITH SENATOR BILL NELSON

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Vice-Chair and Transportation and CWA Liaison



As Broward Sierra CWA liaison, I was faced with an urgent task last month, along with other Florida Sierra groups. Our mission was to get a joint meeting with Sen. Bill Nelson. As we have representatives throughout the State, both groups were prepared to meet with the senator at any location of his choosing. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the failure of Congress to approve President Obama's appointments, particularly Gina McCarthy to EPA Administrator and Thomas Perez to Secretary of Labor. Consequently, the lack of the essential work of the National Labor Relations Board and the enforcement of the environmental laws regulating polluters, are seriously affecting the daily health and economic welfare of working families throughout our State and our Country. It is so important for our senators

to understand our coalition, get the facts, and support the changes needed in the Senate that will overcome the obstructionism in Congress affecting American lives. With all our efforts, the best we got was a meeting with Senator Nelson's Regional Director of North Florida in Jacksonville. It may have opened the door for our groups' representatives in Washington D.C. to actually get a face to face with the Florida Senator. The Senator apparently is sensitive to the Everglades, Gulf Restoration and offshore drilling. He has shown a favorably high 90% rating score on environmental laws. You can help keep our environment front and foremost by writing the Senator to support Senate rules reforms and approve the EPA appointment now! If this action so moves you, please contact Senator Nelson by mail at 716 Hart SOB, Washington, DC 20510; at www.BillNelson.Senate.gov; or phone call 202-224-3041. The Senator's D.C. legislative assistant on environmental issues is Ms. Lauren Sher.

To all those people who occasionally hand us a contribution for any of our causes, often anonymously, we want you to know that your thoughtfulness and generosity is always appreciated. We DO thank you so much!

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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

COME ONE COME ALL!!

To Broward Sierra Club's Annual Summer Picnic at the Beach

Sunday, August 4th, any time from 11am on, at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach, Pelican Pavilion

Come have fun and enjoy the food, beach, swimming, snorkeling, and just plain lounging and socializing with other environmentally-minded folks. This year for the first time, the Miami-Dade Sierrans are planning to join us as well. We'll have some short updates, as well as plenty of interesting conversations, on local and national environmental issues.

This yearly fundraising event raises money to support the Broward Sierra group's activities and environmental causes. A contribution of \$10 for members/\$12 for non-members will be gratefully accepted. There will be veggie-burgers and drinks supplied, but please bring a dish or beverage of your choice to be shared. Please also bring your own recyclable plates and utensils, in order for us to leave "nothing but our footsteps" behind, and set an environmentalists' example. Adults & kids welcome.

For further information, please contact Ina at 954-722-9944, Barbara at 954-328-2165 or Max at 954-296-3411.



AUGUST 10, SAT. ISLAND HOPPING TRASH CLEANUP IN BISCAYNE BAY. We'll launch from Morningside Park (kayak rentals available <http://www.miamigov.com/parks/pages/park_listings/community.asp>) and visit as many islands as feasible, collecting trash and debris. Some paddling experience necessary. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, hat, camera and any safety gear you will need to enjoy the day. Carpooling highly encouraged. Rating: Leisure to Moderate. For details and to register, contact Leader: Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org>, Assistant Leader: TBA



AUGUST 17, SAT. FULL MOON KAYAK. We'll join Atlantic Coast Kayak company on one of their special moonlight tours. Location in Broward county TBA. *Cost: \$40 includes rentals, wine and cheesecake!* This is going to be fun! *Suggested donation to club \$5.* Rated easy. For details and to register, contact Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



AUGUST 24, SAT. KAYAK/CANOE/SNORKEL AT INDIAN KEY. We'll launch from the entrance to Tea Table Key - the left (ocean) side of the highway. It is a short paddle from there to Indian key. Indian Key is a very interesting place with a lot of history. It is also on a coral reef, so the swimming and snorkeling is great. Lots of aquarium type fish to see. And the water is exceptionally clear. If time and conditions permit, we may paddle out to Alligator Reef and lighthouse. Some paddling experience necessary. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, hat, camera and any safety gear you will need to enjoy the day. Carpooling highly encouraged. Rating: Leisure to Moderate. *Suggested donation: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.* For details and to register, contact Leader: Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org>.



SEPT. 29, SUN AFTERNOON. BROWARD OUTINGS LEADER PLANNING DAY. We'll plan our outings for the upcoming fall and winter seasons. Broward location TBA. Contact Outings Chair Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



SEPT 7 AND 8, SAT. AND SUN. OUTING LEADER TRAINING 101 & 102 at TY Park in Hollywood. Sierra Club members only. Want to find out what it takes to be a Sierra Club outings leader? Already an outings leader? Then this course is for you. The course teaches you the requirements to be a Sierra Club outing leader. First aid class will also be provided. Cost: \$20, reimbursable after leading your first outing. All current and prospective leaders from the Broward, Miami and Loxahatchee groups welcome. Broward County Sierra Club members contact Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>. Current and prospective leaders from Loxahatchee or Miami groups please contact the outings chair for your group.

The Broward Group of the Sierra Club invites you to join our outings to beautiful and interesting natural areas with friendly and mutually supportive people, and enjoy the variety of experiences that few other places in the world have to offer. Our outings are fun and educational and some even offer the opportunity to provide hands-on service in some of our parks and natural areas. If you have any questions about an outing, please contact 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>.

Once you have made a reservation, we ask that you make a serious commitment to attend the trip. Cancellations are detrimental to our program. Our outings leaders are unpaid trained volunteers.

Trip expenses (some park fees, food etc.) are covered by participant donations. Some outings may require a refundable deposit to guarantee a place. Contact the outing leader for details. Because of changing costs, outing fees/donations listed may be changed at the opening of the trip. If you are interested in a trip, call or e-mail the trip leader and ask for details, or come to the sign-up table at the Sierra Club Broward Group's general meetings (first Thursday of each month). Please sign up early for planning purposes. Make all checks payable to Sierra Club Outings. Please write the name and date of your trip on your check and include your phone number. Please send all payments to the trip leader.

If you must cancel, contact the leader or assistant leader as early as possible. If you cancel less than 30 days in advance, you lose your deposit. If you cancel 7 days or less in advance, you will forfeit all fees at the discretion of the leader.

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>>



in open waters), once a wave of red tide reaches our coast and enters our rivers or lakes, it is exactly those same harmful nutrient ingredients (fertilizers etc.) that quickly speed up its expansion everywhere. The red tide's toxicity is already known to have caused massive havoc and deaths among all of our marine species.

Back to green slime... What exactly is green slime? It's a small plant-based organism, existing naturally everywhere, but due to excessive unnatural growth, it is rapidly covering many bodies of water. (Actually, some people have been calling it "stringy green watermoss" which, I think, is a very accurate descriptive name for it.)

Campaigns have been undertaken this year by various environmental groups and individual environmentalists to attack the slime problem head on. With the motto "Stop the Bloom, Save the Lagoon," protests have been held in Florida cities including Ft. Myers, Jacksonville, Orlando and Ocala, with state legislators being approached while Florida's Legislature was in session, to confront this increasingly urgent environmental issue. (Kudos to Central Florida Sierra members for having taken such an active part in combating the slime problem.)

Unfortunately, as might be expected, politics may play a bigger role than one would initially suspect. The fertilizer industry lobbyists seem to be playing a substantial part in hampering enactment of a fertilizer ban (or even reduced usage measures) protecting Florida's fragile ecosystem. To give an example, the city of Rockledge, having adopted an urban fertilizer ban during rainy season, saw this ordinance promptly overturned for some very nebulous (dubious!) reasons.

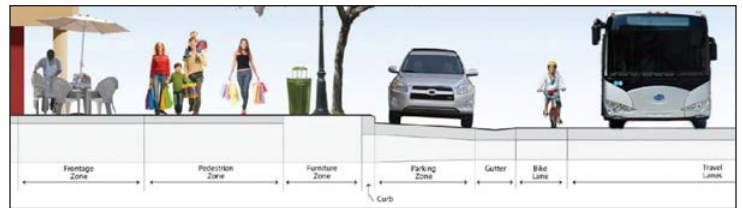
At the time of the writing of this article, we saw a frightening future of unstoppable green slime. Both our local TV stations and the Miami Herald ran stories on China's massive algae bloom, now covering some 11,500 square miles in that country!

TV footage showed us heavy duty bulldozer equipment trying to eliminate this plague from many Chinese beaches, where it first appeared barely a month previously... May this be our future to come? Hopefully not! Please tell our legislators that there's an urgent need to combat this destruction of our local waters.

One interesting offshoot of this story: China's citizens are now trying to find some use for all the algae. According to the Miami Herald article, some recipes have sprung up to grind the algae into some form of guacamole... Now THERE's a thought! Come to think of it, how about some very creative entrepreneur flattening heaps of dried algae into seaweed-like sheets for our vegetarian sushi?

But let's first just try to stop this green slime tsunami, before too much damage to our reefs and marine life has been done.

COMPLETE STREETS IN BROWARD COUNTY



The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) plays a leadership role in implementing Complete Streets in Broward, to create a safe and efficient transportation network that promotes the health and mobility of all residents and visitors. Its goal is to improve pedestrian, bicycle, public transit and automobile access throughout Broward. Currently, a Complete Streets model policy and plan will guide cities to implement Complete Streets. Two initial demonstration projects have been identified. One at Hollywood Boulevard from S. 26th Avenue to Dixie Highway, and another at Sunset Strip from NW 72 Avenue to NW 19th Street. One is an urban or downtown area, and the other is a suburban setting. The MPO partners with cities to identify and prioritize Complete Streets corridors, leading to the funding and construction of projects. Please visit www.browardcompletestreets.org for additional information. The above illustration and content are courtesy of the Broward MPO.

DID YOU KNOW? Broward County Transit offers training for seniors and people with disabilities on how to use fixed-route bus service. For information, go to www.broward.org/bct or contact the Travel Instructor at 954-357-7705. For hearing-speech impaired/TTY, call 954-357-8302.

Find out about **Florida's Water and Land Legacy** campaign at www.floridawaterlandlegacy.org/.

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

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