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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.

TOUR OF SOUTH FLORIDA WATER HOT SPOTS

– By Darryl Rutz, Broward Sierra ExCom member

In October four ExCom members and three guests toured three locations in South Florida that affect the quality of our water supply. We first stopped at a water restoration area off Hwy. 27 at the Palm Beach/Broward County line. There are two areas accessible to the public. The western location has a nice lake good for fishing, boating and hiking. The main purpose of this area is to clean the water naturally through sediment and plant life. There was a lot of information posted on this process and the wildlife found in this area. The cost of cleaning all water flowing south from Lake Okeechobee will be over a billion dollars and would take around 10 years. We quickly discovered that the motto of "leave nothing but footprints" was not being adhered to. This could be a good field trip to remove all the litter. Also, of interest was all the castor bean plants in the area. After using the solar powered outhouse we were on our way.



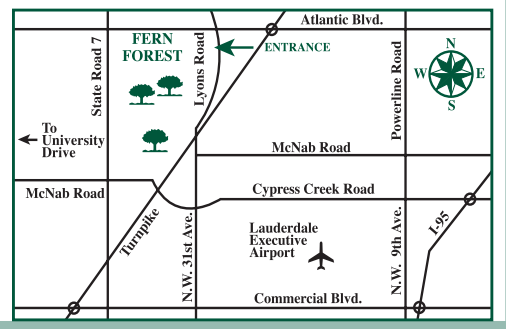
From there we drove through the agricultural area where a lot of the damaging elements enter the water. There has been a lot of improvement in their processes but there is

Continued on page 4



Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm 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. 5th: Will be our annual **Pot Luck Holiday Dinner & Raffle**. We're looking forward to seeing you at our holiday dinner once again. We had a great turnout last year, with everyone very involved with environmental causes. And the raffle was a great fundraiser for our nature preservation work.

So bring your friends and neighbors, and let them know it's a time to celebrate with great food, a glass of wine or soda, meet wonderful people, and contribute to an important cause. And if you'd like to donate any items for the raffle, please contact one of our ExCom leaders (listed on the next page).

Bring a pot luck dish to share, or donate \$5 instead of (or in addition to) bringing a dish. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. We have lots of great donated items to raffle off! Let's share the holiday spirit again this year!

Thursday, Jan. 16th: We'll be having a joint meeting with the Audubon Society, and our guest speaker will be **Brian Monk**, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. His talk will be on **The second Florida Bird Atlas project**. We will all learn about the project, what it will do for our environment, and how we all can participate.





SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

The Broward Sierra Club Leaders

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Executive Committee Meetings

are held on the first Monday 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.



BROWARD SIERRA CLUB ELECTIONS

All Broward Sierra Club members should have received their ballots to vote for the Executive Committee members in the mail. If you are a Broward Sierra Club member, and you did not receive a ballot, please contact Ina Topper at 954-722-9944.

Please make sure to get your voted ballot back to us by Dec. 13th. You can bring it to the Holiday Dinner on Dec. 5th if you like.



BROWARD SIERRA'S SWEET NIGHT, AND "WHERE ARE THE BEES?"

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra ExCom Chair & Education & Recycling Chair



At a recent Broward Sierra meeting, our guest speaker, Leo Gosser, enlightened us extensively regarding the bee problem in recent years, called Bee Colony Collapse. Besides his wonderful presentation, we also used the opportunity as a (successful) fundraiser, we called Sweet Night. In addition to eating lots of great desserts (and going way over our daily calorie count) we were able to get our hands on very locally produced honey. Who knew that there was such a thing as authentic Coral Springs honey!

We heard a very informative account of how intricate a bee colony's existence starts, the limited life and existence of the queen bee, who exists exclusively for the purpose of producing offspring and 'ruling the hive', so to say. Oh, there's more to beehives and colonies than one would have ever imagined. For instance, I certainly didn't know that queen bees are created. (No - they don't hail from royal blue-blooded bee-ancestry!)

But the major environmental issue, or catastrophe rather, is the bee colony collapse all around us. In Time Magazine's issue of August 19, it's stated plainly: "Mass deaths in bee colonies may mean disaster for farmers" – and our food. Most of us don't have an inkling that much of what we eat is here thanks to our common honeybees, pollinating each and every blossoming plant, bush and tree producing our fruits and veggies. According to a quote by Hannah Nordhaus in her book *The Beekeeper's Lament*, "honeybees are the glue that holds our agricultural system together."

Some disturbing numbers from the same Time Magazine article: From year to year, there has been an average of 10%-15% loss of bees, but this past winter the loss is estimated to be over 40%. The article points out that because almonds are almost exclusively dependent on honeybee pollination, California's almond harvests may be the first casualty in the very near future. Other

immediate casualties mentioned are cantaloupes and cucumbers.

The cause(s) of massive bee deaths, although officially still categorized as 'mysterious', may vary from a parasitic mite to any minute substance in the multitude of agricultural pesticides used today, even those deemed 'environmentally safe.' Even though research has been done testing various pesticides on small bee colonies, this research did not take into account many variables, or consequences in offspring of the supposedly healthy, surviving bees. While a research colony may remain mostly intact, something HAS happened to the bees that weakened their genes, and thereby future bee generations.

Jim Doan, a lifetime beekeeper in New York state, is quoted in Time as bringing up the issue of the enormous variety (over 1200) of pesticides, which simply weaken even built up bee immunity to certain (safe) pesticides, time and again, causing a domino effect. To this end, a European commission on bee health has instituted a 2 year restriction on neonicotinoid containing pesticide usage. While the jury's still out on this possibly bee-saving pesticide ban, our EPA is apparently still in the process of reviewing options, and has not (yet) decided on banning any pesticide.

There's still more research being done on the parasitic mite infestation, as well as other beehive pests, even fungal hive infections. It may well be a combination of all the factors mentioned here, that are currently killing off our bees, and in turn putting our future produce at risk.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sawgrass Nature Center & Wildlife Hospital offers art classes at the Wildlife Center in Sportsplex Park, Sample Road & Sawgrass Expressway, Coral Springs. Public programs will be offered on Jan 4, 11 & 18 at 10 am; Jan 25 at 1 pm; March 24 at 10 am. Classes are all ages, \$10 per person per class. For more information, call 954-752-WILD or visit www.sawgrassnaturecenter.org.

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



NOV. 23, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. This breathtaking hike is approximately 8 miles on a wilderness trail, off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, **north of Alligator Alley** (less than an hour from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). Enjoy a leisurely walk through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie providing a unique opportunity to view all types of wildlife and learn to identify a variety 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: Darla Ferrante 954-812-4127 <rdeferrante@aol.com>.



NOV. 30, SAT. OCEAN TO LAKE TRAIL DAY HIKE. We'll hike from Riverbend Park west of Jupiter to the Jonathan Dickinson State Park marina north of Jupiter. The total distance is 11 miles. Rated strenuous. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Donna Brown 561-317-8288 <donnabrownrealestate@gmail.com>.



DEC. 14, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK THE SNOOK ISLAND WETLANDS AREA. Lake Worth (with possible extension to Lake Osborne). Leisurely canoeing and kayaking in the newly created Snook Islands wetlands area north of the Lake Worth Bridge. Must have your own boat, but those without can also sign up in case someone has an open slot in their boat. Rated moderate. Limit 20. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines 561-315-0528 <RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>.



DEC. 14, SAT. TURNER RIVER CANOE. Ranger-led day of paddling on the Turner River. Pack a lunch and bring lots of water. Rated moderate to strenuous. Limit 8. *Suggested donation: \$10, park entrance: \$10/vehicle.* Carpooling is encouraged. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.



DEC. 27, FRI. EVERGLADES ECOLOGY 101. Explore the Anhinga and Gumbo Limbo trails in the Everglades National Park. Lots of wildlife including birds and alligators while learning about Everglades ecology, and the things that make it unique. Pack a lunch and bring lots of water. Rated leisure. Limit 12. *Suggested donation: \$10, park entrance: \$10/vehicle.* Carpooling is encouraged. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.



JAN. 11, SAT. LOXAHATCHEE RIVER KAYAK. This is one of the best kayak trips in Florida. It offers everything from closed in scenery where you can hardly see the sky to views of open sky with osprey nests on tree tops. Wild life is abundant. Binoculars and cameras are a must! The trip takes approx. 6 hrs, with a stop in the middle at Trapper Nelson's old settlement, where we will have a lunch break (bring your own) and Park Rangers offer a guided tour of the settlement. We start at Riverbend Park in Jupiter and end at Jonathan Dickinson State Park. *An outfitter in Riverbend Park rents kayaks (single: \$52, double: \$62) and shuttles renters back to Riverbend Park. Or you can bring your own kayak (the outfitter charges \$20 to bring you and your kayak back to Riverbend Park).* *Suggested donation \$5.* For more information contact Leader: Manuel Monteiro 954-815-6230 <manuel_monteiro@yahoo.com> or Mary Ann Soltis 954-791-7291 <marsoltis@gmail.com>.



JAN. 12, SUN. URBAN BICYCLING IN LAKE WORTH/LANTANA. Bicycling on sidewalks or neighborhood streets in the Lake Worth/Lantana area. Bicycle helmets are REQUIRED on all Sierra Club bicycle outings. Rated leisure. For more information and reservations contact Leader: Ron Haines 561-315-0528 <RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net>.



JAN. 18, SAT. OCEAN TO LAKE TRAIL DAY HIKE. We'll hike in Jonathan Dickinson State Park north of Jupiter for about two hours. Rated moderate. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Donna Brown 561-317-8288 <donnabrownrealestate@gmail.com>.



FEB. 22, SAT. OKEECHOBEE RIM BIKING. This will be an exciting and beautiful bicycle ride on the Herbert Hoover Dike that surrounds Lake Okeechobee (part of the Florida Trail). We'll see a wide range of wildlife and learn about the Big Lake. We will be biking about 25 to 30 miles on the elevated paved and level trail. You should be able to bike about 30 miles and have a good command of your bike. There will be periodic rest points. Please bring a mountain bike or cruiser, spare inner tube and the appropriate wrench to take the wheel off. It is important that you bring plenty of water and a good hat, as there is no shade or water on the dike. A bladder back pack is recommended. We will be meeting at a designated location in Ft. Lauderdale at 9:00 am, and returning around 4:00 pm. We will have lunch at a local restaurant in the Okeechobee area (the riders will cover the cost of their lunches). Limit: 10. *This will be a Sierra Fundraiser with a \$10 donation collected at the meeting place in Ft Lauderdale.* For more information and/or to reserve a spot, please contact Leader: Darryl Rutz 954-892-1740 <dmrtz2@msn.com>. Asst. Leader: Manuel Monteiro 954-815-6230 <manuel_monteiro@yahoo.com>.

VOLUNTEER OUTDOORS



DEC. 14, 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 9 am, and we'll be out by lunch time. *Free.* Leader: Darryl Rutz 954 892 1740 <dmrtz2@msm.com>.

JAN. 11, SAT. FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT. *See above.* Leader: Max Goldstein 954-296 3411 <maxgold@yahoo.com>.

FEB. 15, SAT. FERN FOREST NATURE CENTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT. *See above.* Leader: TBA.

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>>

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA CHAPTER EXCOM ELECTIONS



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

On September 28th, Barbara Ruge, your representative of Broward Sierra, went to Eckerd College in St. Petersburg to cast our votes for candidates to the Sierra Club Florida State Chapter ExCom. Congratulations to Debbie Matthews (Miami Group), Kent Bailey (Tampa Bay Group) and Bud Long (Turtle Coast Group), new members of Florida Chapter ExCom 2014! There was also a leadership workshop which included breakout

brainstorming on transportation and development within our state, communication improvements between Chapter and Groups, and fundraising for the Club. You too can get more involved in your Sierra Club to enjoy, explore and protect the planet. Contact your Group ExCom Chair, Barbara Ruge, or visit www.florida.sierraclub.org/broward to volunteer and learn more.

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

GOING, GOING, GONE?

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.



Help protect our animal friends; because once they're gone, they're gone.

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

Water Hot Spots, continued from page 1

still a long way to go. Our drive through Belle Glade and Pahokee was not scenic, but we did take a break at the Pahokee State Park in Pahokee on Lake Okeechobee. This park was given to KOA to run, and now is operated by Palm Beach County. A restaurant there provided a very scenic vista.

Next was Port Mayaca, where the St. Lucie Canal flows from the lake. We took a close look at the locks that have been opened (due to the high lake water levels) thereby increasing the flow of dirty water east to Stuart. Looking at the lake from a distance you can see the beauty of it. Close up it is a different story.

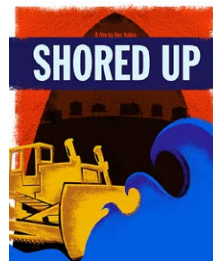
We then followed the St. Lucie Canal eastward on Hwy 76, stopping in Indiantown at the Seminole Inn for their famous Sunday brunch. We continued east on Hwy 76 to the St. Lucie Canal Locks close to Stuart. This is operated by the Army Corp of Engineers complete with camping on the Canal, butterfly garden and visitor's center. Here the toxic waters gush out of the lock and continue to Stuart and the various bodies of water. This has grabbed headlines and the attention of elected officials and clean water advocate groups. On a helicopter tour of the area, Senator Nelson stated that he did not see any wildlife on the canal. Since our visit, the flow of water has been reduced.

The trip ended with our drive back to Ft. Lauderdale having firsthand knowledge of progress and areas of concern.



SHORED UP

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra ExCom Chair



Attention all movie goers: another great environmental big-screen venture, "Shored Up" is a very well done movie, directed by Ben Kalina. We highly recommend seeing it. Besides being very entertaining, it spreads the message of increasing ocean water levels due to global warming.

It's a "gripping tale about human nature and how we try to prevail over the tremendous forces of nature," said Brenda Ekwurzel, a senior Climate Scientist with the Union of Concerned Scientists. Very apropos, the recent flooding of South Miami Beach streets confirms it... (Yes, the water was salty! Some local residents tasted it ... Ughh.)

DONATE TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S WILDLIFE HABITATS



You can help protect the Florida Panther and other native flora and fauna through litigation and education. This fund, The Sierra Club Foundation was created by your Broward Group. Your **tax-deductible gift** will support our conservation work and lawsuits challenging the National Park Service and other agencies that seek to reduce or cause harm to Florida's natural resources.

Please make your check payable to:

The Sierra Club Foundation

In the notes, write "Broward Sierra Group"

Mail your donation to:

Broward Sierra, P.O. Box 550561, Davie, FL 33355