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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.

KING MANGO STRUT 2012

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

Ah ! The power of satire...

The participation of Sierrans in the renowned King Mango Strut parade in Coconut Grove this holiday season, showed the locals that, yes, we environmentalists DO have a sense of humor!

For those not familiar with the King Mango Strut, it is an end of the year tongue-in-cheek parade held in Miami's downtown Coconut Grove. The main objective is to poke fun at any- and everything. It may be (and mostly is) putting a specific political event in the limelight or, good-naturedly, mocking any person who gained notoriety, for whatever reason, during the past year. As South Florida Sierrans, we felt that this year it was our turn to show up in full force.

Not only to show our fun side, but also to bring the Sierra Club into the public eye, with this hilarious happening.

Of course there were other, widely differing parade participants... Satirizing the precarious minimalist polling places in our recent elections, there was a real Porto-potty on wheels, being dragged around with the words "Miami Voting Precinct #1, #2, #3..." on its side. And the Grand Marshal of the Parade simply consisted of the now infamous empty chair, tied high on top of a truck's roof... with, oh yes... a dead-ringer Clint Eastwood look-alike (where did they FIND this guy) walking beside the high-up in the air, empty chair. And he was handing out (fake, of course) dollar bills. This gesture was explained by a sign, as depicting being 'part of the 1%', meaning, we presume, the very affluent with ample funds, can just hand out lots of money at will.

Then came the large Sierra banner stating in bold letters, "Sierra Club Loves Global Warming."



Photo by Adair Reeve

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Broward Sierra has a Facebook page!

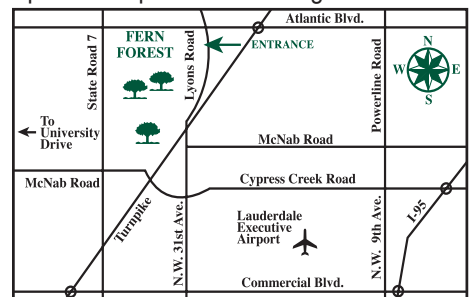
We will keep you updated on local and worldwide environmental issues, as well as upcoming outings, events and meetings. We look forward to having you join us at: www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra

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.

Thursday, Feb. 7: Mr. Scott Sheckman, the development director for the Blue Water Initiative, will be showing a film called **Ocean Frontiers**, which highlights some of the problems facing the worlds oceans.

Thursday, March 7: Our guest speaker will be Mr. Richard Whitecloud, the founding director of **Sea Turtle Oversight Protection (STOP)**. He will be discussing the problems facing loggerhead, green, and leatherback turtles who nest on the beaches of Broward County, and the disorientation problem from light pollution that faces new hatchlings on our beaches.





**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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Executive Committee Meetings

are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Tanya Tweeton at 954-472-3704 or tweeton204@yahoo.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.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN THE BROWARD SIERRA CLUB

– By Phil Busey, Volunteer

In December's Executive Committee election, Sierra Club members reelected Max Goldstein and elected two new ExCom members, Tanya Tweeton and Sue Caruso. They replace Barbara Curtis and Judy Kuchta who chose not to run for reelection. Judy will continue as Chair of the Outings Committee. After the election, Mara Shlackman resigned from ExCom, but will remain active as Legal Chair. We thank Barbara, Judy and Mara for their past and continuing service to the Sierra Club.

The newly formed ExCom met and decided how to continue the environmental successes of Broward Sierra. First, they elected Tanya Tweeton as Group Chair. Tanya had been the Recording Secretary for the Excom and coordinated two environmental programs in 2012, the panther tabling event at the Museum of Science, which brought the Florida Panther Hockey team mascot to raise public awareness of our beleaguered Florida Panther; and the South East Florida National Ocean Policy Conference.

Ina Oost Topper was elected ExCom Vice Chair, and will also continue to serve as Chair of the Education and Recycling Committee.

Sue Caruso was elected Group Secretary. As environmental educator at Fort Lauderdale High School, Sue initiated the AP Environmental Science and AICE Environmental Management programs, earned grants for the nature trail and butterfly garden, and helped students launch a successful environmental club. As a member of ExCom, she promises to remain an environmental watchdog for our community. Max Goldstein was reelected by ExCom as Treasurer.

To complete the 7-member board, ExCom voted to appoint Art Joseph as an ExCom member, and appointed Art as Chair of the Membership Committee. Art is a retired FAA air traffic controller who served for 36 years in Miami. He supports many environmental issues and organizations and speaks out at hearings and meetings. Art pledges not only to talk the talk but to walk the walk.

Stan Pannaman, appointed last year as ExCom member to replace Matt Schwartz, was appointed Chair of the Program Committee, a position he was already trained in as he had been assisting Barbara Curtis. The responsibility is to assess and arrange for compelling speakers for fun and educational monthly meetings. Stan has been active with Audubon, Sea Turtle Oversight Protection, and our work days.

Barbara Ruge, who was elected to ExCom in 2011, continues her appointment as Sierra Club representative to the MPO-CIR (Metropolitan Planning Organization-Community Involvement Roundtable). ExCom appointed Barbara as Transportation Issues Leader, and as CWA-Sierra Liaison, which she had already been doing. The CWA (Communications Workers of America) and Sierra Club are working together on common issues of economic sustainability, fair trade, and environmental protection. The labor and environmental movements have been the targets of a well-coordinated, well-funded attack, and will be more effective working together on policies that support workers' rights and green jobs.

King Mango Strut, continued from page 1

It was followed by many signs and placards, all alluding to the future of a waterlogged Florida. To name a few (and y'all can enjoy the jest of it), there were signs saying "Opa Locka Ocean Club," "Hialeah Harbor," "Weston Yacht Club," "Dadeland Mall & Marina," and "Freedom Tower Lighthouse" (atop a very artsy Freedom Tower Replica). There was one that said, "Waterfront Property for Sale - Anywhere in Florida," carried by a couple of Sierrans dressed as realtors, and one that said "Fish From Your Window!" "The Global Warming Is A Job Creator" sign was occasionally clarified to the parade-watchers by pointing at the "Surf In Overtown!" sign or by stating loudly "Rent your front porch out as a fishing pier."

Anyway, we made our point! And

in a fun way, that was clearly appreciated by the big parade-watching crowd, loudly applauding the Florida Sierrans, at every step. Of course, kudos to all South Florida Sierrans who spent considerable time and effort on this project, and turned our King Mango Strut participation into a big publicity success. Come watch us again next year!



Photo by Max Goldstein

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



JAN. 27, SUN. KAYAK/CANOE PEANUT ISLAND and see the manatees that congregate at the FPL plant that's under construction. We'll launch from the Riviera Beach Marina, paddle for a while, land on Peanut Island for lunch and possibly visit the Maritime Museum and the Kennedy Bunker. Bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent in advance from Adventure Times <<http://www.kayakkayak.com>> 561-881-7218. Single kayak \$25, double kayak \$50. Limit 20. Rated moderate. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Chas Hunt 561-967-4770 <loxoutings@comcast.net>.



FEB. 2, SAT. TURNER RIVER CANOE TRIP. The hidden world of mangrove tunnels. 5 hours round trip. Bring your own water and lunch. (We'll have a lunch-break in our canoes). A park ranger will accompany us as a guide. *Suggested donation: \$10.* Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitmiss@aol.com>.



FEB. 9, SAT. WAKODAHATCHEE AND GREEN CAY NATURE WALK AND BIRDING ADVENTURE. (Delray) Bring your binoculars and camera because we will see nesting blue herons, egrets and cormorants with their chicks. Also spoonbills, whistling ducks, hawks and more. Leader: Karen Bulkowski 954-612-5459 <karenowski@att.net>.

FEB. 16, SAT. BIG CYPRESS HIKE. We'll meet at the Oasis Visitor Center parking lot on **Tamiami Trail** at 9:30am. We will walk ankle deep in water, hiking the Florida trail towards Robert Strand, rest and eat lunch (BYO) in beautiful cypress domes, and see lots of wildlife. Rated strenuous. *Suggested donation: \$10.* Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Alan Nowell 305-253-4250 <mrhitmiss@aol.com>.



FEB. 24, SUN. SEACREST SCRUB ECOWALK. (3:30 - 5:30pm) Easy, but requires walking in sand. Quietly stroll through 50 acres of mature pine forest, in the glow of the late afternoon sun, seeking out rare plants that grow in the white (sugar) sand of the Seacrest Scrub Natural Area. Take time to be alone in the woods, while in the safety of a group. There are no facilities at this natural area. Limit 10. Contact Lisa at <lisa.hanley@juno.com> for information or reservation.

MAR. 3, SUN. BLOWING ROCK PRESERVE. (9:00am-noon) We'll commemorate the founder of the Sierra Club, John Muir, with an introduction to keeping a Nature Journal, and a guided tour of the Blowing Rocks Preserve. Brunch (optional) at the Gallery Grille in Tequesta with an opportunity to share our entries. Rated leisure. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Connie Tuisku 561-493-0538 <ctuisku@gmail.com>.



MAR. 9, SUN. BROWARD COUNTY "WATER MATTERS DAY." (9:00am-3pm) Tree Tops Park, Davie. Learn about what to plant, how to plant, where to plant, and receive free trees and plants for learning! Music! Food! Fun! The County's educational program that helps us understand our role in water management and water conservation. Stop by the Sierra table and say hi. For more info, see www.broward.org/watermatters.



MAR. 15 - 17, FRI. - SUN. PRAIRIE LAKES CAMPING AND HIKE FLORIDA TRAIL. Primitive tent camping in a serene setting of old groves of live oaks drooping with spanish moss. Enjoy the view of a bald eagle's nest with young, the refreshing sight of stately sandhill cranes. It is so good for your soul. *Suggested donation: \$10,* covers camping fee & entrance to Prairie Lake's Three Lakes Wildlife Area. Limit 10. For more information contact leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Asst. Leader: Chris Hermie: 305-823-6853.



MAR. 23, 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 9am and we'll be out by lunch time. *Free.* Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jfsf812@bellsouth.net>.



MAR. 30, SAT. KAYAK/CANOE THE SOUTH FORK OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER NEAR STUART. (9am) This beautiful, pristine stream near Stuart becomes increasingly scenic and narrow as we paddle. We'll stop at a remote picnic site and then paddle back to the starting point. This trip is very gentle water suitable for beginners. Bring your own kayak or canoe or rent in advance from South River Outfitters 772-223-1500 <<http://www.southernriveroutfitters.com>>. \$26 for a single kayak, \$36 for a double kayak or canoe, \$5 launch fee if you have your own boat. Limit 20. Rated moderate. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Chas Hunt 561-967-4770 <loxoutings@comcast.net>.



APR. 6, SAT. CANOE TRIP ON HALFWAY CREEK (OR TURNER RIVER). Ranger co-led. For more information contact leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 or 305-298-0277 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>.

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>>



Photos by Kaatje Bernabei



DID YOU KNOW? – By Lindsay Taylor

Did you know that counties, towns and cities in Florida are NOT ALLOWED to limit the use of disposable plastic bags? The State Legislature singled out plastic bags in a statute over two years ago:



"...Until such time that the Legislature adopts the recommendations of the [EPA], no local government, local government agency, or state government agency may enact any rule, regulation, or ordinance regarding use, disposition, sale, prohibition, restriction, or tax of such auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags." — FL statute 403.7033

MORE PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2012 "THAN AT ANY TIME IN MPO'S 39-YEAR HISTORY!"

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Transportation Chair & CWA Liaison

During the past year, I had the pleasure of representing the Broward Sierra Club at the Community Involvement Roundtable, a public advisory board to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. Although I did not agree with all aspects of MPO decisions in regard to the environment, I must say they have improved transportation alternatives for Broward residents, and they are very good at raising funds to do it. I could not summarize the year better than the Executive Director of MPO himself, Greg Stuart, who proudly itemized the grants and funds that were raised. The following is edited down from Greg's email letter, dated January 3, 2013. If you would like the letter in its entirety, including Greg Stuart's 2013 expectations, please contact me at b-realtor@att.net.



The Wave streetcar

"In 2012, the Broward MPO continued our transformation forging new partnerships with non-traditional transportation partners, achieving success with our nationally recognized Complete Streets program. We have funded more bicycle, pedestrian, greenway and transit (The Wave streetcar) projects today than at any time in the MPO's 39-year history! The following is just a summary of the many achievements over the past year. We look forward to an even more successful 2013."

"2012 Achievements:

- The Board funded a series of pedestrian and bicycle projects that will be constructed by our partners at FDOT. These pedestrian and bicycle projects provide direct access to our transit corridors and Mobility Hubs and are the implementation of our Complete Streets program.
- Working with FDOT and BCT, we expanded existing express bus operations and established new express bus operations connecting many of our western Municipalities to Tri-Rail,

Downtown Miami, Downtown Fort Lauderdale and the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport.

- We began the planning and engineering for our first fully funded Mobility Hub in downtown Fort Lauderdale, which will serve as the main station area for the funded Wave Streetcar System, the Sun Trolley, BCT and the near-term FEC regional passenger service, "All Aboard Florida".
- We have started the planning for the \$1.5M Alternatives Analysis (AA) for the full length of University Drive.

- The Board authorized funding The Wave Streetcar system after receiving \$18M grant from the Federal Transit Administration and \$35M from FDOT in Tallahassee. The Wave streetcar will be the first phase of the Central Broward East-West Transit System.
- We received an additional \$3.5M for planning efforts that will help expand transit planning, operations and maintenance for the Broward Region.
- Working with the Palm Beach, Martin, St Lucie and Indian River MPOs, we ensured that MPO attributable funds can be used for landscaping projects associated with transportation improvements. And through the same partnership, created the criteria for major landscaping projects funded by FDOT, so that the landscaping can make a bold statement (creating a sense of place) while promoting economic development.
- We have increased our funding to rail and port projects by \$30M from \$201M in FY 11/12 to \$231M in FY 12/13.
- We have increased our overall annual transportation funding for FY 12/13 from \$651M to just over \$1B, with the addition of the I-75 managed lanes project.

And those are just a few of our major achievements in 2012!"

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 _____

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Phone (optional) (_____) _____

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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



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

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



NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

E-mail articles you think would be of interest to our members to carolewalshgraphics@gmail.com in MS Word or text format. (Articles may be edited for space and clarity.) Next deadline is Monday, March 4th for the April/May issue.