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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.

FOXES, BURROWING OWLS, AND MAN

– By Darryl L. Rutz, Broward Sierra Club Excom member



This article is based on my personal observations over the last 5 years. I have not checked with the various officials or agencies which may have authority over the areas that these events were observed. The geographical area I've been observing is North Perry Airport in Pembroke Pines. The airport is used by small airplanes and helicopters, and has many hangars for housing and maintaining the planes. It also contains Maxwell and North Perry Parks. The northeast corner of Perry Airport is home to Broward State College South Campus. A small fire station is just south of the college. When there are special events at the stadium formerly named Joe Robbie, one can see a blimp parked there. But most importantly to this story is that there's a lot of open, grass-covered land. The area used to be a dairy farm.

My family and I lived in the area east of North Perry Airport since the late 1970's. Our kids played sports at the two parks, and we availed ourselves of many programs at the college. I did my marathon training on a pathway around the

campus lake. In recent years I kept in shape by bicycling. Most of the route took me around the airport and parts of the college's campus.

I discovered the many burrowing owls that had their homes on campus and the airport. Every year they would come back to their burrows and start their new families. Due to the increase in owl population new burrows were dug. In most cases the owls would stand outside of their burrows or perch themselves on the airport fence. The young owls could be seen around April. One particular nest was the top producer, having two or three little ones a year. The most owls that I saw during a single bike ride was 17. One of the nests on campus had a little perch that someone built near the burrow. From time to time you could see an owl on it.

During this same time I started seeing foxes. They were mostly on the campus, but every so often you could see them on the grassy areas of the airport. At night after students left campus you could see up to 12 foxes. On one bike ride I saw a fox digging up a burrow. I can imagine what the fox was after. This spelled trouble for the owls. But much more trouble was also developing. A new airplane hangar building was built on one nest,

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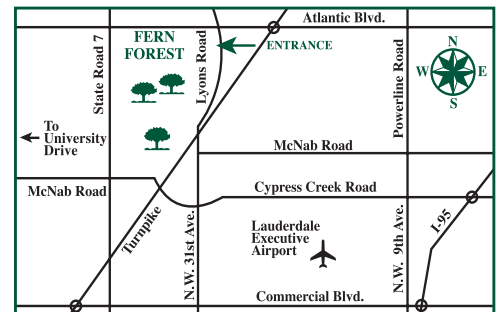
Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Fern Forest Nature Center. Each month we have an educational program on conservation or ecological issues.

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, June 6: Our guest speaker will be **Christopher Boykin**, a consultant for Florida Gulf Coast University, who has worked for the state's coral reef program for several years and helps coordinate the **South East Florida Coral Reef Initiative**, which is a coalition of more than 60 local conservation nonprofit agencies, universities and marine biologists working to conserve the coral reefs of Florida's East coast.



Thursday, July 11th (Please note that because the 1st Thursday of July is the 4th of July, this month's meeting will be the following Thursday - July 11th): **Leo Gosser** will be our guest speaker. He is the president of the Broward Beekeepers Association, and will be discussing **honeybees and the problems they face** in Broward County, and in the United States. Honeybees are disappearing at an alarming rate. This winter it is estimated that almost 50% of the honeybees in the United States have disappeared or died.





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Executive Committee Meetings

are held on the first 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, **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.



SPEAK OUT AGAINST WASTEFUL FISHING GEAR

– By Cameron Jaggard, Pew Environment Group

Thanks to concerned citizens from around the United States, more than 320,000 public comments supporting greater protections for severely depleted western Atlantic bluefin tuna have been submitted in the past three years. These comments have pushed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) to begin developing a new rule that could protect bluefin and other depleted marine life from wasteful surface longline fishing gear.

Surface longlines stretch on average for 30 miles, a length equal to 528 football fields, and dangle hundreds of baited hooks. Bluefin, blue marlin, sea turtles, sharks, and more than 80 other species get caught and killed on this gear. These harmful interactions are of particular concern in the Gulf of Mexico, the only known spawning ground for western Atlantic bluefin tuna. There are other ways to catch yellowfin tuna and swordfish, without killing hundreds of tons of other ocean wildlife.

Now NOAA Fisheries has the opportunity to prohibit this harmful fishing practice in the Gulf and strictly limit unwanted bluefin mortality in the Atlantic surface longline fishery. These



Photo by Richard Herrmann

measures can also encourage the transition to other highly selective fishing methods, help stop the waste of bluefin and other severely depleted ocean wildlife, and benefit those fishermen who fish responsibly. In addition, restoration funds from the Gulf oil spill can provide fishermen with the resources needed to transition to smaller, more efficient vessels, and less wasteful fishing practices.

NOAA Fisheries will release the proposed bluefin rule for public comment during the summer. This comment period is the best opportunity for the public to provide input on the rule. Visit www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfTuna or contact cjaggard@pewtrusts.org to learn how you can submit a comment.

P3 ECO-CHALLENGE AWARDS CEREMONY-Davie Florida, May 2013

– By Tanya Tweeton, Broward Sierra Club Executive Chair and Volunteer Coordinator



The newly created P3 Eco Challenge is an effort between the Broward County schools the Broward Natural Resources Planning and Management Division and the Broward Environmental Education council.

The Awards Ceremony rewarded those teachers, students, administrators and volunteers who promoted civic responsibility, environmental stewardship and education on important sustainable environmental measures and green initiatives that can be applied within our schools system.

The Broward Sierra Club was pleased to be a part of this program. Our Group donated \$500 dollars, participating in this effort to raise awareness of

the environment in our school system, helping children understand that they are the future stewards of this planet.

Broward County has become a national model of sustainability. The district is the first in the nation to receive a system-wide National Wildlife Federation certificate in recognition of its comprehensive approach to environmental education and creation and use of outdoor learning spaces. Today 146 schools are certified Schoolyard Habitats and 25% of the student body is active in outdoor learning. NatureScape Broward has also trained 110 teachers as NWF Habitat Stewards. That we could help contribute to this exciting program is really awesome! Awards of \$100 dollars were given to the students at the Primary, Middle and High schools, along with teachers and administrators, some of whom won \$2000, for helping to sustain these programs, making it possible for the students to achieve.

The keynote speaker was Shannon Estenez, an engineer and a strong advocate of the

Continued on page 4

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



JUNE 8, SAT. KAYAK/CANOE/SNORKEL AT INDIAN KEY. Short paddle from the Overseas highway at Tea Table key to Indian key. Indian Key has a fascinating history, and is 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>.



JUNE 23, SUN. WEST LAKE/ANNE KOLB KAYAK (Hollywood). We'll paddle for about 2 1/2 hours through mangrove trails and some open water to learn about this unique ecological system. We'll also see some of the changes made as mitigation for the Ft. Lauderdale Airport expansion project. Rating: Moderate, experienced paddlers only. *Kayak rentals are affordable at \$29.00 for 4 hours. Suggested donation to the club \$5.00 members, \$6.00 non-members to cover the snacks we'll have afterwards.* For details and to register contact Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, Asst. Leader: Max Goldstein <maxgold@yahoo.com>.



JUNE 28, FRI NIGHT. SEA TURTLE PROGRAM AT JOHN U. LLOYD STATE PARK. Park staff will provide educational lecture, displays and a slide show about nesting sea turtles. Hopefully a turtle will come up on the beach and we may witness her laying her eggs (up to 100 eggs). *Cost: free. Park entrance fee: \$4 per single vehicle, \$6 per vehicle with 2-8 persons, \$2 pedestrians and bicycles.* No children younger than 5 years old, no flash photography. Reservations mandatory. For details and to register contact Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



JULY 13, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK MANATEE BAY. Launch from South Dade Marina, paddle up through the mangroves to a beach by Short Key. Swim for a while, then paddle back across the Bay. Dolphins and manatees are often seen in this area. This paddle is suitable for beginners. Bring water, lunch, sunblock, hat, camera and any safety gear you will need to enjoy the day. Carpooling highly encouraged. Rating: Moderate. *Suggested donation: \$20 members, \$25 non-members.* For details and to register contact Leader: Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org>.

COME ONE COME ALL!!

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

Sunday, August 4th, 1:00pm to 6:00pm, 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. We'll have some environmental education and updates on local and national issues. Adults & kids welcome. (More info to come.)



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.* Rating: Easy. For details and to register contact Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



SEPT/OCT, SAT. AND SUN. (Exact date TBA) **OUTING LEADER TRAINING 101 & 102** will teach what is required to lead Sierra Club Outings. See what it takes! Sierra Club members only. If interested, sign up early. Broward County Sierra Club members contact Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>. Current and prospective leaders from Loxahatchee or Miami groups should also attend. 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>>



while Broward State College built a maintenance area over another. This was the one with the little perch. Later the airport runways were repaved. In order to do this, a dirt road was built to the runways. This destroyed two nests. During this same phase of building, rock was put under the perimeter fence, covering 4 nests. One of them was home to the prolific owls.

That runway construction happened last year. During the last part of the year I observed that the fox population was almost completely eliminated. Only one remained. And recent visits have shown a zero fox population. During my bike rides this year I have seen no foxes or burrowing owls...not one left! And last week as I biked around the perimeter road I noticed that at least three new signs had been erected stating that land was available for DEVELOPMENT!

I can speculate on what happened to the owls and foxes, but all I know for sure, is that I will not be able to show my grandchildren those pretty little creatures.

Again, I did no investigative reporting, I'm just sharing my observations. I can understand why a fox may dig up a burrowing owl's home, that is their means of survival. But I cannot understand why man destroyed many of the nests. It was certainly not for survival!

DID YOU KNOW? – By Lindsay Taylor

Did you know that you can use house plants to purify the air in your home? Our indoor air quality is tainted by the off-gassing of carpet, furniture, wood flooring, paint and more. The plants Spider Plant, Red-edged Dracaena, Wax Begonia, Golden Pothos, Snake Plant, Boston Fern, Lady Palm, Peace Lily and English Ivy help clear your air of toxins such as benzene, toluene, ammonia, formaldehyde, and even carbon monoxide. (I have a Boston Fern at my home and a Peace Lily at my office)



P-3 Eco Challenge, continued from page 2

environment, with more than a decade of experience working on restoring the Everglades. She is Director of Everglades Restoration initiatives representing the United States Department of the Interior.

The music for the Program was enthusiastically provided by the Driftwood Middle School Jazz Band. Driftwood Middle School is a 2013 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School. They have developed an exciting Owl Perch program, with grants from the Audubon Society, using cameras to peer down into the nests to show students what the birds are up to.

The colorful fantasy animal table decorations were created by children from Cross Creek School, a school which serves ESE students. One of our 3 Excom members, lucky Barbara Ruge, won our table decoration, much to the disappointment of the other two of us.

The program was emceed by Jim Jackson, a former host and executive producer of "Radio Green Earth," a weekly radio program that focuses on Florida's natural wildlife and environmental issues.

The National Wildlife Federation, one the major sponsors of this event, was represented by Roxanne Nersesian Paul, a Senior Coordinator staff member (and a big believer of getting kids outdoors, having three Eagle Scouts in the family) who has been managing the Community Wildlife Habitat Program in Broward County, since 2005.

Whole Foods donated a delectable luncheon with two tables, one for those lingering meat eaters, with sandwiches and fruit. The other table catered to vegans and vegetarians with delicious selections including healthy salads and dips.

Our Sierra group, represented by three Excom members, sat at one of the VIP tables near the stage. Dr. Runcie, Superintendent of Broward Schools, sat down at the table with us, along with two other school board members.

Sierra Club's motto in Broward is to "help protect our environment and make a difference." We hope with our donation to these excellent, environmentally conscious students, teachers, administrators and volunteers, that we are helping to make a difference and let Broward county know that Sierra cares.

More information can be found at www.browardschoolsgogreen.com.

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! (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

**THE BROWARD
GROUP OF THE
SIERRA CLUB
PRESENTS SOMETHING
SPECIAL FOR JULY!**



“SWEET NIGHT”

July 11, 2013, 7:30pm

Fern Forest Nature Center

201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek

For your \$10 donation (per person, payable at the door) you will be able to pick from a large selection of culinary delights, and meet and listen to Dr. Leo Gosser, president of the Broward County Beekeepers Association, explain the problems facing bees in Broward County and across America. Since 50% to 70% of America's beehives have died off or disappeared, over this winter honey will be in short supply.



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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Locally harvested honey will be available for sale at this meeting. So come and bring your friends to the Sierra Club's **“Sweet Night”** for this very special general meeting fundraising event on July 11, 2013.