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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.

### EXPAND, EXPAND, EXPAND AND BLAST AWAY

– By Stanley Pannaman, Program Chair

Since February of 1928 when local developers blasted away the rock barrier between the harbor and Atlantic Ocean in Fort Lauderdale creating the beginnings of Port Everglades, we humans, in the name of progress, have systematically destroyed coral reefs that have taken hundreds of thousands of years to develop, destroyed sea grass beds that are habitats for juvenile fish and sea turtles, and uprooted and destroyed mangroves colonies that have protected us and acted as barriers between the sea and land.



Once again, the developers that have the expand, expand, expand mentality have gotten the Army Corps of Engineers to submit a draft environmental impact statement (EIS), which states their objectives as:

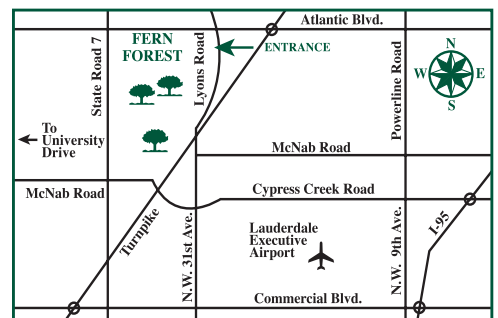
1. Decreasing costs caused by vessel congestion, channel restrictions, and berth deficiencies.
2. Decreasing transportation costs through increasing economies of scale for vessels at the Port, and
3. Increasing channel safety and maneuverability at the Port for existing and larger vessels.

In short, these stated objectives are to accommodate the new super Panamax ships, the new Behemoth cruise ships, and the new colossal oil tankers. The developers and ship owners, in their infinite wisdom, believe that to accommodate these new ships, it's perfectly okay to dig out the existing canal from 42 feet to 50 feet, creating over 6,000,000 cubic yards of debris by blasting away the rock bottom of the canal and the existing sidewalls. This will destroy staghorn coral (currently threatened), elkhorn coral (currently threatened), pillar coral lobed star coral, mountainous star coral, knobby star coral, and rough cactus coral. And yes, they also would like to decimate the existing

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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, Oct. 3rd:** Our speaker for October will be **Britten Cleveland** who is the **Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club's Florida Healthy Air Campaign**. Her presentation will be on how the widespread adoption of electric vehicles will reduce air pollution and curb our dependency on oil, and how we can work together to make this happen.



**Thursday, Nov. 7th:** At our November meeting, our guest speaker will be **Larry Perez from the National Park Service** of the U.S. Department of the Interior, author of the book, *Snakes In the Grass*. His presentation will be on the invasion of the Burmese and African rock python in the Everglades and their detrimental affects on our native wildlife.





## 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  
marashl@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.



## BROWARD SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Vice-Chair

It's election season! Our group bylaws require that an election for members 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, FOUR ExCom members' terms expire.

On August 13th, 2013, pursuant to the bylaws, ExCom appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of Sue Caruso <susan.caruso@att.net>, Art Joseph <rogerwilcotj@bellsouth.net>, and Judy Kuchta <judykuchta@yahoo.com>. Their task is to identify and evaluate candidates to run for the vacancies on ExCom. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee to be considered.

Just as last year, the election ballots, with profiles of the candidates, will go out to all members through postal mail. Members will have four weeks to submit their ballots by return mail or in person to a member of the Election Committee. An Election Committee appointed by ExCom, consisting of three group members, none of whom are candidates, will count the ballots after the deadline for return of the ballots, and will report the results.

The following is the year end calendar and the election process:

Sept. 3, 2013 ExCom meets

### Sept. 5, 2013 Monthly Membership Meeting

Sept. 19, 2013 Deadline for submission of candidate names to Nominating Committee.

Petition Period is opened.\*

Oct 1, 2013 ExCom meets  
Nomination Committee reports approved candidates to ExCom.

### Oct. 3, 2013 Monthly Membership Meeting

Oct. 15, 2013 Deadline for submission of petitions by petition candidates. \*As an alternative to being placed on the ballot by approval of the Nominating Committee, a petition candidate can be placed on the ballot by obtaining and submitting the signatures of 20 members of the Broward Group.\*

Nov. 5, 2013 ExCom meets Appoints an Election Committee.

### Nov. 7, 2013 Monthly Membership Meeting. Announcement of the appointed Election Committee. Introduction of candidates.

Nov. 15, 2013 Mailing of ballots to members. Four weeks to mail back or return voted ballots.

Dec. 3, 2013 ExCom meets

### Dec. 5, 2013 Holiday Party! Bring your voted ballot if you have not yet mailed it back!

Dec. 13, 2013 Deadline for arrival of voted ballots to the Election Committee.

Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, listed above, to express your interest to serve on ExCom. We welcome you to become more involved in Broward Sierra Group and its decision-making. Developing new leaders is needed to improve the well-being of the Club, strengthening our ability to educate the public and advance the goals of Sierra Club to protect the planet.

## ANNOUNCING THE NEW SOUTHEAST FLORIDA ACTIVIST WEBSITE!

– By Tanya Tweeton, Volunteer/Organizer, South East Florida Sierra Marine and Water Quality Team

The old Sierra Activist network website was so unwieldy, no one wanted to use it! Now we are announcing a great new activist web site that contains all of the Sierra Activist teams, available for you to explore. John Barry, our national Sierra Activist Administrator has developed the exciting new website for the Activist Teams. If you are interested in Activism and want to be involved either locally or nationally then this web site is for you. Our SouthEast Florida team mission is, of course, pertinent for those living in Florida. You can find the new website at <http://content.sierraclub.org/activistnetwork/teams/south-east-florida-sierra-marine-and-water-quality-team>. Thanks to new technology, it is far more organized and easy to use than the old one. Browse around. Click on "teams" on top of the page, and see other interesting teams that are there. You

may find something that you will want to be involved with. We hope to provide good information on our team page, on water issues concerning the 7 counties up and down the East coast. Anyone who has critical information about their water issues in their counties is welcome to contact me and we will post it. The NOP policy link is there, as well as the Annex that explains the use of the plan itself. Both documents are easy to read and very understandable.

As Floridians we should all be very concerned with the impact of pollution in our waterways, the



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# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



**SEPT. 29, SUN. BROWARD OUTINGS LEADER PLANNING DAY FOR THE BROWARD GROUP.** 10 am in Hollywood. We'll set up our outings for the upcoming winter season and more. You will see what supplies are accessible for outings. Bring your calendar. Contact Outings Chair Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



**OCT. 19, SAT. RIVERBEND PARK WALK.** 10am. We'll walk in Riverbend Park west of Jupiter for about two hours. More details are available at [www.pbcgov.com/parks/locations/riverbend.htm](http://www.pbcgov.com/parks/locations/riverbend.htm). Rated moderate. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Donna Brown 561-317-8288 <donnabrownrealestate@gmail.com>.

**OCT. 19, SAT. EVERGLADES ECOLOGY 101.** Fall is a great time to visit the Everglades! Join us and discover one of the National Parks in your own backyard! Explore the Anhinga and Gumbo Limbo trails and more. 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 - this trip is great for beginners or veterans looking for an easy walk (a few miles total) with interesting company. *Suggested donation: \$10. Park entrance: \$10/vehicle.* Carpooling is encouraged. Contact the leader if you would like to carpool or can take someone in your vehicle and for details. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net>.



**OCT. 27, SUN. DAY CANOEING/KAYAKING** west of Lake Okeechobee on Fisheating Creek. Our outfitter, [www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com](http://www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com), will provide rental canoes and kayaks plus transport to the Burnt Bridge put-in. *\$45 to transport your own canoe or kayak and one person, \$5 for each additional person; \$60 to rent a single kayak, \$75 for a canoe.* Rated moderate. Limit 17. Leader: Chas Hunt 561-967-4770 <loxoutings@comcast.net>.



**NOV. 16, SAT. FULL MOON BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER AT SHARK VALLEY.** If you have never experienced this 15 mile ride you are in for a treat because we'll experience the sunset and moon rise almost simultaneously. Learn about Everglades ecology as well as the benefits of the construction of elevated sections of the Tamiami Trail. The Sierra Club has been working hard for years to promote this Everglades restoration project. You MUST have a bike in good repair, with a front and rear light (in case the moonlight is obstructed by clouds). A spare tire inner-tube and helmets are strongly recommended. Wear clothing that is appropriate for the season. We'll have healthy and hearty snacks at the observation tower. Rated moderate. Age limit 16. Yes, you will see alligators and other wildlife. Time 4 pm to approximately 8:30 pm. Directions will be provided. *Suggested donation \$10.* Leader: Manuel Monteiro 954-815-6230 <manuel\_monteiro@yahoo.com>. Asst. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.



**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>.

## SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Join elected officials, federal agency representatives, experts from local governments, scientists, nonprofit and business leaders, and others for this year's Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, held Thursday, November 7, and Friday, November 8, 2013, at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, go to <http://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/2013-broward-county-in-fort-lauderdale/>.

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](http://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>>**

potential danger to our drinking water, as well as the pollution of our oceans. Our waterways are all linked and eventually what happens in northern Florida will also happen down here. The problems have become quite serious. It is imperative that we Floridians decide to get involved to do our part to help clean up the mess that unfortunately we have made and that we did not attend to earlier. The degradation of our waters, our fish and wildlife is not only a threat to our environment but to our economy. Help Florida by educating yourselves on the various issues. Knowledge is power! Our tourism, thus our economy, and so many jobs depend having clean drinking water, clean lakes (without danger of dying of some amoeba that we caught swimming, ) and clean beaches. Tourism and Recreation in Florida, produced \$61 billion in taxable sales in 2011 alone, and supported over a million jobs! We know that Floridians do favor Conservation policies. 63% were more likely to vote for a candidate who would support funding for Everglades restoration for example. Since 1988, Floridians have passed 78 ballot initiatives to support land conservation, according to the Trust for Public Land, "Land vote" in 2009. It appears however that our politicians are not really listening to us. We must absolutely fight to change that. Time is so critical!

More news from our South East Florida Marine team is that we have developed a Speaker's bureau where we are trying to

educate the public about the National Ocean Policy. Drew Martin and Scott Sheckman have been doing a really great job speaking to tri-county area Rotary and Lion's groups about the policy that was finalized several months ago. If you are interested in being a speaker, then you must educate yourselves on the NOP itself and what it means to Floridians locally, as well as nationally. We also have several very interesting DVD's on the subject that we present to the groups. Questions will be asked afterward and you will want to be prepared as a speaker to answer most of them.

As we go forward, more ideas hopefully will be developed as far as how we can involve our team further with the stated issues on the webpage. A potential new activity for our team is that we may soon be developing a new team of scuba divers that will monitor the anchoring of boats around Miami and the Keys and help stop the damage some of them do. All is still in the planning stage and we have divers so far only in Dade county, who are interested in developing this program. But if you live up the coast into Palm Beach County, and you are a scuba diver and you want to help develop a plan to monitor the Coral reefs up there, then please do contact me with your ideas. We have the potential with this Marine team to make a difference with our water issues. We need your help in doing so.

Tanya Tweeton, Volunteer/Organizer  
 SouthEast Florida Sierra Marine and Water Quality Team  
 Tweeton204@yahoo.com  
 954-472-3704



Ansel Adams

**Most people don't know that Ansel Adams was a member of the Sierra Club for over 50 years. He didn't just photograph the wilderness. He fought for it.**

Shouldn't your grandchildren have more than photos to remind them of the grandeur of our land? The Sierra Club is dedicated to protecting our wilderness for generations to come. Join us. You'll be in good company.

**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

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seagrass and destroy approximately nine acres of mangroves.

In a joint public comment letter submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers in opposition to the statements given in the draft EIS, the Tropical Audubon Society, Biscayne Bay Water Keepers, Cry of the Waters, the South Florida Audubon Society, and the Broward Group of the Sierra Club stated that, among other things, the premise used by the Corps was flawed and the need for expansion overstated. It should also be mentioned that the NOAA Fisheries Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have submitted public comments highly critical of the draft EIS. In brief, "NOAA believes that the draft EIS significantly understates the project's impact to seagrass, coral reefs, and mangroves habitat. We also believe that the EIS significantly understates the level of mitigation required to compensate for the projects affects." The EPA stated, "EPA's primary concerns involve potentially significant impacts to public water supplies, water quality, aquatic ecosystems including corals and hard bottoms, mangrove wetlands, seagrasses, and associated mitigation".

**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