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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.

BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS IN CALIFORNIA – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Chair



Ah ! Those plastic bags – again..... (an update)

California: the state often being the first to 'go green' in many ways, once more leads the way. Recently the state's legislature enacted a statewide ban on the use of plastic bags. Bravo!

Governor Jerry Brown, stating that over 50 different cities and towns in the state had started creating a confusing array of local ordinances, proposed that the time was right for an all encompassing statewide ban on those pesky bags.

Apparently, according to some local spokesperson and quoted by NBC, far too many plastic bags were "floating in green slime in the Compton Creek" (a tributary to the Los Angeles river) and thereby

spreading the misery throughout the state.

Subsequently the state is the nation's first, as it has been for a long time in so many ways. Not only for banning smoking on the state's highways, even in one's own car, but also the drastic limitations on water usage for lawns, car washing, etc.

Many of the rules address practical goals. For instance, there's the well known danger of California's wildfires, often the result of a cigarette carelessly discarded out a car window. And California also imposes the nation's highest fines for throwing trash in the streets or alongside the roads! Many states have a maximum fine of perhaps \$500 for illegal dumping. In California a \$1,000 fine is common, for anything tossed out, especially on a stretch of highway. After all, being the second largest state, cleaning up all this trash from the highways was costing California an astronomical amount. And the watering issue – with most of the state in a severe drought for many years, it makes perfect sense to levy fines for unnecessary water usage.

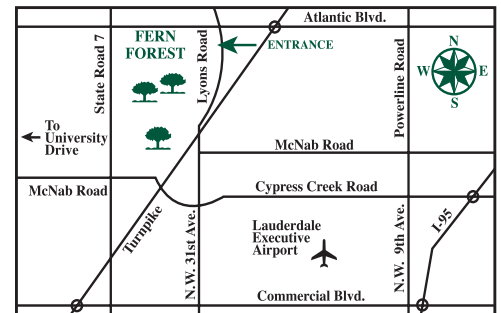
So now the plastic bag problem is being tackled, at least in California.

I want to remind everyone here in South Florida, that not only do the bags create a

Continued on page 2

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, October 2nd: Our speakers will be **Diana Umpierre from the International Dark Sky Association**, South Florida Chapter and **Eric Vandernoot from Florida Atlantic University**. They will be discussing the benefits of responsible outdoor lighting to diminish the **sky glow light pollution** that prevents us from seeing the night sky in all it's splendor.

Thursday, November 7th: Our speaker will be **Dr. Frank Mazzotti of the University of Florida** affectionately known as the **Croc Doc** discussing who truly is the culprit causing the **disappearance of small mammals in the South Everglades**.





SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

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

Stanley Pannaman 954-720-4639
stanleypannaman@hotmail.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
blackwelder@nsu.law.nova.edu

Program Chair

Stanley Pannaman 954-720-4639
stanleypannaman@hotmail.com

Transportation and CWA Liaison

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

ExCom Member at Large

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

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. Also like our **FaceBook page** at www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra.



BROWARD MPO ANNOUNCES DATES FOR E-TOWNHALLS & INTERACTIVE SURVEY TO SPEAK UP BROWARD

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Vice-Chair

After almost a year of speaker appearances at various community clubs and organizations, (including our Broward Sierra) the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's (Broward MPO) outreach initiative, **Speak Up Broward** knows what the public envisions for transportation choices, roadways and people moving into the future for Broward. Now it is time to discuss how to get there, and that means ideas on appropriate ways to fund these aspirations and illustrative projects. That's where you come in!



Please participate and help spread the word. You can see a short video clip of Speak Up Broward's moderator Jade Alexander and get information regarding the upcoming *televised* e-TownHalls & New Interactive survey at www.SpeakUpBroward.org.

Let's Talk Transportation eTownHall events will be held from 7-8 pm on Wednesday, September 17; Thursday, October 2; Thursday, October 9; and Wednesday, October 15. They will be televised on BECON TV (WBEC Channel 19 for Comcast users and Channel 63 for AT&T, dish Network and Direct TV users) and it will be streamed at www.SpeakUpBroward.org

where you can participate in an online chat room. During the live events participants can call 1-877-353-4701 to join the discussion or via Twitter by using the hashtag "#SpeakUpBroward".

WHO SAYS IT IS TOO HOT TO HIKE IN AUGUST?

Outings leader Darryl Rutz, Assistant leader Jean Trescott, Jessie, Renee, Diane, Nicole, Suzanne, Tia, Lia and Isabel proved it can be done by hiking 1.3 miles in the Panther National Refuge last month. They did experience some heat and did get their feet wet but they made it. They didn't spot any panthers, but they did see wild turkeys, deer, lots of alligators, butterflies and interesting insects like walking sticks.



See more photos in the Photo Gallery on our website at <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>.

Plastic Bags, continued from page 1

hazard to our sea life and birds, and create an eyesore on our roads and parks, but South Florida Waste Management plants have to shut down their entire operation on an almost daily basis, simply because the mangled bags get into their (very sophisticated) machinery, which leads to costly repairs as well.

Once again a reminder, to all Sierrans... do the right thing by always bringing along reusable bags to stores when shopping, and if using the stores' plastic bags is unavoidable, reminding the stores' cashiers to PLEASE use one single bag for more than just one item.

This is a good time to start talking to our local representatives to finally do away with the preposterous Florida law stating that **ANY LOCAL ORDINANCE BANNING PLASTIC BAGS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!** (Yes, as incredible as it may sound, there IS such a law on the Florida books! And no, we will not speculate on who the beneficiary/ies was or were when this law was brought to life.)

So start talking and writing to your local representatives. Write letters to the editors or a few lines for the OpEd page of your local newspapers.

And let's start talking about doing away with this anti-environmental habit, that would be so easy to solve.

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



SEPT. 20, SAT. FREE SIERRA CLUB SEMINAR: PROTECTING SE FLORIDA'S OCEANS & COASTAL HERITAGE. Please join the SE Florida Sierra Marine & Water Quality Team and members of the Tri-County Sierra Clubs for a very special seminar featuring a host of outstanding speakers working in their respective fields. The event will be held at the Hallandale Beach Cultural Community Center, 410 SE 3rd Street, Hallandale Beach, and is free to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. *The public is invited to register for this important seminar for free, donations are accepted. A \$3 (or more) donation is requested from our Sierra members not able to attend, to help support our seminar.* For more information contact Scott Sheckman at scott@isheck.net or 310-741-7617. You can register, and donations can be made at <http://floridasierraocan2014.eventbrite.com>.



OCT. 10, FRIDAY NIGHT. MOONLIGHT KAYAK AT WEST LAKE PARK IN HOLLYWOOD. Kayaking by moonlight is magical. Learn about lake and mangrove night wildlife life from the park staff while you are enchanted. *Cost \$35. A \$3 donation to Sierra club is suggested.* Leader: Max Goldstein 954-296-3411 <maxgold@yahoo.com>, Assist: TBA



OCT. 18, SAT. NATIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION with Dr. Phil Busey. We'll meet at 9:00am at Oakland Park's Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve (you must provide your own transportation), 2820 NW 27th Ave. (<http://tinyurl.com/sandpine>), a rare, 5.4 acre remnant scrub natural resource owned by the City of Oakland Park. This site contains varying age classes of sand pine trees and other characteristic scrub species, walking paths, an observation deck overlooking the lake, and an open air nature center. Then we'll go to Broward County's Secret Woods Park where we will observe and identify a very different group of native plants until 12:00 pm. *Suggested donation \$3 members, \$5 non-members (plus admission charge of \$1.50 per person at Secret Woods).* Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>



OCT. 25-26, SAT.-SUN. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING. Do you love the outdoors? Would you like to share your love of it with others? We can teach you how and provide all the equipment you need to do it! Join us for Leader Training and become a certified leader for adults or youth and start sharing the outdoors with others. Lunch included on Saturday. The training will be held at TY Park in Hollywood. *Cost: \$25, (to be refunded after you lead your first trip).* Class size is limited; fee payment guarantees your spot. To register contact Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org> or Karen Kerr <karenkerr50@gmail.com>.



NOV. 8, SAT. EVERGLADES ECOLOGY 101. 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. Rating: leisure - great for beginners or veterans, families with kids welcome. Limit: 12. *Suggested Donation: \$10, park entrance: \$10/vehicle.* 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>, Assist: Alan Nowell <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.



NOV. 8, 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. 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 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: \$20.* Leader: Mark Walters <mark.walters@sierraclub.org>.



NOV. 9, SUN. BIKE RIDE AROUND CONSERVATION AREA 3. This 25 mile bike ride will begin at Markham Park, going west on a hard gravel trail to Hwy 27, north on Hwy 27 (2 miles) to Sawgrass County Park, east across the conservation area, then south back to Markham Park. Most of the trail other than the 2 miles on Hwy 27th is a hard packed gravel. It will be bumpy, so it is suggested you use biking gloves. Wildlife seen along the way may include alligators, manatees and a variety of birds. This ride will demonstrate how the polluted water is cleaned by an assortment of vegetation before it goes south. Even though it will be cooler in November it is suggested you wear a shade hat and/or helmet, use suntan lotion and bring plenty of water. The Outing Leader will bring bug spray in case it is needed. The Sawgrass Park will be a good place to take a break. Please bring your own lunch and snack. *Suggested Donation: \$5.* Leader: Darryl Rutz 954-892-1740 <dmrtz2@msn.com>.



NOV. 15-16, SAT.-SUN. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/CANOING ON FISHEATING CREEK. Fisheating Creek is the only free-flowing tributary to Lake Okeechobee. Framed by bald cypress swamps and hardwood hammocks, Fisheating Creek has long been valued for its scenic quality unmarred by houses and other human intrusions. It is critical to the long-term welfare of Florida panthers, Florida black bears, swallow-tailed kites, whooping and sandhill cranes, crested caracara, and a number of other species native to the area. We will camp in the campground and paddle along the creek enjoying the scenery and the abundant wildlife, including deer, feral hog, Osceola turkey, and plenty of gators. Our outfitter will be www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com. We'll meet at the campground on Saturday morning and the outfitter will transport us and our kayaks/canoes to the Burnt Bridge put in point. After paddling downstream on the creek, we'll set up camp in the campground. On Sunday, we can explore some of the trails along the creek. You may bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one. The outfitter's price schedule for the transport is practically the same whether you bring your own vessel or rent from them. Rated: moderate. Limit 16. *Suggested donation is \$65 per person members, \$75 person non-members if you will have two people in your boat. If you are bringing or renting a single kayak, the donation is \$80 per person members and \$90 per person non-members.* This includes the campsite (both Friday and Saturday nights if you wish), 3 meals (Saturday lunch and dinner plus Sunday breakfast), upriver transport, and canoe/kayak rental, if applicable. If you wish, you may camp at our main campground campsite on Friday evening on your own – just provide your own meals. Leaders: Chas Hunt 561-967-4770 <loxoutings@comcast.net>, Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>, and Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net>.

Outings continued on next page



Nov. 22, SAT. BIG CYPRESS HIKE ON THE FLORIDA TRAIL. Hike in the splendor of Big Cypress National Preserve, from Oasis Visitor Center north on Tamiami Trail and back; 6 miles roundtrip with a leisurely lunch halfway. Hiking through sawgrass prairies with beautiful stretches of saw palmettos and pinelands trails that may be under water amidst cypress forests. Expect to see reptiles, birds, butterflies and wildflowers. Panther, bobcats and deer encounter are possible. Rating: moderate to strenuous. Pack a lunch and bring lots of water. Limit: 8. *Suggested Donation: \$10.* Contact the outing leader for meeting times and location, for more information, or if you would like to carpool or can take someone in your vehicle. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Assist: Alan Nowell <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.



Dec. 6, SAT. EVERGLADES ECOLOGY 101. 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. Rating: leisure - great for beginners or veterans, families with kids welcome. Limit: 12. *Suggested Donation: \$10, park entrance: \$10/vehicle.* 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 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Assist: Alan Nowell <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.



DEC DATE TBA. THE WET EVERGLADES OUTING. The highly anticipated outing in the Big Cypress Preserve, mostly under water. At times the water can be waist high. The exact date will be announced at a later date. The hike will be about 6 miles. We will be following a flooded logging road and also go into cypress hamlets. Participants will be able to see beautiful air plants, wild flowers and cypress trees. Bring water, suntan lotion, bug spray and your lunch/snack. There will be some high places to eat and rest. It is important that you bring good shoes that can deal with the water and muck. It is recommended that you bring a walking stick to help with your balance. We will meet at a central location in Broward and car pool to the site. Limit: 12. *Suggested Donation: \$10.* Contact the outing leader for additional information and to reserve a spot. Leader: Darryl Rutz 954-892-1740 <dmrtz2@msn.com>.



Dec. 20, SAT. NINE-MILE POND CANOE. Join us for a day of paddling in Everglades National Park while exploring a side of the Everglades few visitors get to see. Pack a lunch and bring lots of water. Expect to see wading birds and an alligator or two in this vast expanse of mangroves, hammocks, sawgrass and aquatic plants; a wild and quiet place. Rating: Strenuous. *Suggested Donation: \$15, park entrance: \$10/vehicle.* Use your own kayak/canoe or reserve use of one of our canoes. Contact the outing leader for more information or if you would like to carpool or can take someone in your vehicle. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>, Assist: Alan Nowell <mrhitnmiss@aol.com>.

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. Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: <<http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>>

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



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

The Water and Land Legacy Amendment, Amendment 1,

endorsed by the Sierra Club, will be on the ballot this November. If it passes, it would dedicate a portion of the state's real estate transfer fee to water and land conservation, providing for outdoor recreation, managing existing lands, and protection of lands critical to the water supply. Find out more at <http://voteyeson1fl.org/sections/page/about>.

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