



# Broward Sierra News

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## OPEN SEASON ON OUR FLORIDA BLACK BEARS – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair



Just when you thought you've heard it all, up comes an anti-environmental item that makes you read it twice, while totally baffled.

Yes, it's open season again on the Florida Black Bear, barely 3 years after this wonderful animal finally came off the

threatened species list.

A few weeks ago at a Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting in Sarasota, the state commission approved a renewed bear hunt, as soon as October of this year. While this 5 hour meeting was attended by many concerned people, and over 75% of attendees vehemently opposed the renewed hunting, the hunt was approved, after over 100,000 people signed petitions against the hunting!

These commissioners are political appointees and it's no surprise that Gov. Scott immediately made it known that he has no plans to overturn the commissioners' pro-hunting vote. What this means is that of Florida's just over 3,000 black bears, at least 10% are going to be killed. To this end, the state will hand out permits for \$100-\$300 each.

According to a Reuters article by Barbara Liston, the renewed hunting measure was proposed as a result of just 4 cases of human injuries (with no fatalities) since 2012. Newton Cook, a Future of Florida Hunting board member said the overwhelming concern regarding this aggressive measure against the bears is just the "Bambi mentality of Florida residents."

One wonders, what's next? If just some isolated injuries between mankind and wildlife can justify instant pro-hunting/killing proposals, it is only a matter of time before there's not a single wild animal left, one would think. Time to speak up - let's make our opinion known to our elected representatives!

## EVERGLADES FACES A TRIPLE THREAT – By Sue Caruso, Broward Sierra Excom Secretary

A recent email from South Florida Wildlands Association director, Matt Schwartz, warned of the dangers facing the health of the Florida Everglades on three fronts.

Just recently, Kanter Real Estate LLC requested to do an exploratory well to drill for oil and possibly extract limestone in the Everglades within Broward County. Secondly, Burnett Oil Co. of Fort Worth, wants to conduct seismic testing across 110 square miles of the Everglades, west of the Broward County line, also in search of oil. Lastly, we have the actions of Florida Power and Light in two different areas. Hendry County Commissioners, on July 14th, unanimously voted to amend land use laws that will allow FPL to proceed with a power plant in panther habitat just north of Big Cypress National

Preserve. The same power plant was blocked by a judge's decision in a law suit brought by the Seminole Tribe, but these amendments will circumvent that ruling. Also, FPL has plans to build power lines through Everglades National Park to bring power from their approved two new nuclear reactors to points north.

What can you do? On the Burnett Oil issue, comments may be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail East Ochopee, Florida 34141 or on the web at <http://goo.gl/pQMUvJ>. Though the other three plans are moving forward, none of these are "done deals," yet. Please stay tuned to hear of public comment periods or town hall meetings that will likely take place on these issues. We will keep you posted.

## Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - Each month we have an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

**DIRECTIONS: The Fern Forest Nature Center**, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek is 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.

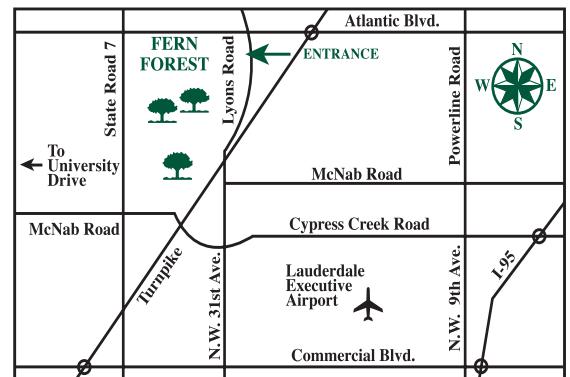


**Sunday, August 9th:** Instead of our usual monthly meeting in August, we will be having our annual Summer Picnic at the Beach at the John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach. (See next page.)



**Thursday, Sept 3rd:** Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Rena Borkhataria** of the University of Florida Everglades Research and Education Center. Dr. Borkhataria will be talking about the **UF Conservation Scholars Program**, funded by the Doris Duke Foundation, geared to training the next generation of conservation scientists and managers.

**Thursday, Oct. 1st:** Our guest speaker will be **John Pipoly**, PhD, Master Gardener, Broward County Extension services, who will be talking about the **value of urban forests in mitigating factors contributing to climate change.**



# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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

For more details, see our website at [www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/outings-events](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/outings-events)



**AUG. 1, SAT. KAYAK, CANOE, SNORKEL AT INDIAN KEY.** For more information contact Outing Leader: Mark Walters 305-632-7514 [mark.walters@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org)



**AUG. 9, SUN. BROWARD SIERRA CLUB'S OUTINGS LEADER MEETING,** 9:00 am (before the picnic) at the Jetty Pavilion at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach. For more information contact Judy 305-308-8913 [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com).



**AUG. 9, SUN. BROWARD SIERRA CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC AT THE BEACH,** any time from noon on, at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach, Jetty 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 short updates, as well as plenty of educational and interesting conversations on local and national environmental issues. There will be veggie-burgers and drinks supplied, but please bring a dish or beverage of your choice to be shared. Please also bring your own recyclable plates and utensils. Adults & kids welcome. *Donation: \$10 members, \$12 non-members.* This yearly fundraising event raises money to support the Broward Sierra group's activities and environmental causes. RSVP to Judy 305-308-8913 [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com) or Max 954-296-3411 [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com).



**AUG. 15, SAT. SERVICE PROJECT VIRGINIA KEY.** 9am. Swimming or paddling available after project completion. Refreshments provided. Rated moderate to strenuous. For details contact Outings Leader Mark Walters 305-632-7514 [mark.walters@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org).

**AUG. 22, SAT. SERVICE PROJECT ELLIOT KEY, BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK.** 8am. We will be ferried to the island by the park service. Rated moderate and satisfying. For details contact Outings Leader Mark Walters 305-632-7514 [mark.walters@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org).



**OCT. 10, SAT. FALL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER.** 7:00pm at Total Wines at The Fountains, 801 S University Drive, Plantation. "A Taste of Elegance ... Your Passport to Europe." As well as sampling interesting wines, there will be tasty appetizers to satisfy everyone's palate. *\$20 per person.* Come join us for a fun night out and a good cause! Please RSVP by October 3rd to Sue Caruso 954-684-6747 [susan.caruso@att.net](mailto:susan.caruso@att.net).



**OCT. 17, SAT. FAKAHATCHEE STRAND PRESERVE STATE PARK SWAMP WALK.** Copeland, FL. For more information contact Outing Leader Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 [jfsf812@bellsouth.net](mailto:jfsf812@bellsouth.net).



**OCT. 17, SAT. PADDLE TO AND EXPLORE FULLERTON ISLAND IN JUPITER** at the mouth of the Loxahatchee River. For more information contact Outing Leader Chas Hunt 561-315-0677 [loxoutings@gmail.com](mailto:loxoutings@gmail.com).



**OCT. 24-25, SAT - SUN. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/CANOEING ON FISHEATING CREEK.** Rated moderate. Limit 16. For more information contact Outing Leader Chas Hunt 561-315-0677 [loxoutings@gmail.com](mailto:loxoutings@gmail.com), Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 [kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net), or Max Goldstein 954-296-3411 [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.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 [http://vault.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual\\_waiver.pdf](http://vault.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual_waiver.pdf). 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: [www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward)**

## THE LEGACY OF DAMON BEE

– By Sue Caruso, Broward Sierra Excom Secretary

Last fall, the Broward Sierra Executive Committee learned of a mysterious benefactor who had bequeathed a very generous donation to our Broward Sierra Club. In June, we learned the identity of this charitable man who wanted to make a difference in this world, even after his death. Damon Bee, originally of Cowen, West Virginia, turned out to be that man. According to his grandnephew, Gary Bee, Jr., Mr. Bee enjoyed the outdoors from an early age, along with his three brothers and two sisters. Although Mr. Bee never married, he was devoted to his family, overseeing the care of his parents in their later years and assisting nephews and nieces with college expenses. Other worthy organizations, such as the Audubon and Appalachian Trail, have benefited from Mr. Bee's generosity, as well. We are grateful for the donation of just over \$3500 that will be used for our club's educational efforts to enlighten the South Florida public on environmental issues and protect the natural beauty of our area that Mr. Bee wanted to preserve for the future.

## BROWARD COUNTY'S SUMMER CAMPS

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

Several months ago we got a call from the Broward County Crime Commission about the summer camps they run for children in Broward county throughout the summer. Their aim is to offer these kids a very varied program for a whole week, to broaden their view of their surroundings, and to build character.

We felt we had to participate in this worthy program, to bring greater awareness of our South Florida natural environment to these young people.

Three of us from the Broward Sierra Excom, Darryl Rutz, Susan Caruso and myself, took time out to visit them, giving a presentation on various environmental subjects. We were pleasantly surprised at the interest these youngsters showed, their great attention span, and how many questions they were eager to ask afterwards!

This brings me to the next point: we, the Executive Committee of the Florida Sierra Group, are spread very thin when it comes to doing additional tasks like this, not to mention the fact that we all have full time jobs. If among our Broward Sierrans, there are any of you who could occasionally join us in volunteering your time, please contact Ina at 954-722-9944 or [irtopper2000@cs.com](mailto:irtopper2000@cs.com).