



Broward Sierra News

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FRACKING IN FLORIDA? NO THANK YOU!

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Excom Vice-Chair

Sierra Club Florida is gearing up for action to fight the dangerous environmental threats coming out of Tallahassee. FRACKING is our immediate target. Fracking in Florida is a direct assault on our fragile water supply. Sierra Club stands firm in its opposition to the bad House and Senate bills that are coming out of committee. The first step of our opposition plan is to form Legislative Action Committees at the group level. **The health of Floridians and our beautiful state are at risk due to the push for fracking. We are seeking members of Broward Sierra to join our Legislative Action Committee** and help implement the plan. The next step is getting educated on the issues. Our Tallahassee lobbyist, David Cullen, will be teaching a series of training webinars that interested members can tune in, gain the knowledge, hear the talking points and feel confident to meet with local legislators.

As explained by Dave Cullen, these bad fracking bills, HB 191 and SB 318:

Impose unnecessary risks to our water resources and climate when better, safer, and cleaner energy is available from renewables and energy efficiency.

Preempt local governments from regulating or banning fracking in their jurisdictions and retrospectively invalidates zoning ordinances that prevent fracking.

Use a definition of “high-pressure well stimulation” that does not include acid fracturing or acid matrix stimulation which are the techniques most likely to be used in Florida because of its limestone and dolomite geology. Therefore, the weak regulation proposed in the bills would not apply to these acidization treatments and their associated injections of toxics.

Eliminate the current law that prohibits DEP from issuing a permit for oil or gas drilling inside a municipality unless the governing body of the city has approved it

by resolution. This would open all cities to all kinds of oil and gas drilling, not just fracking.

Call for a study of fracking, but provides that permits can be issued for it as soon as DEP completes the rulemaking process regardless of what the study may discover.

Require well operators to ‘disclose’ the chemicals used for publication by FracFocus but exempts those covered by the Uniform Trade Secrets Act and doesn’t even require them to be disclosed to DEP until 60 days after they’ve been pumped into the ground, **after the damage is done and irreversible!**

Citizens of Florida are deprived of information that could help them protect their families from health problems. **This is known as “pre-emption.” The state could override any resolution passed by a municipality or county or other governing board.**

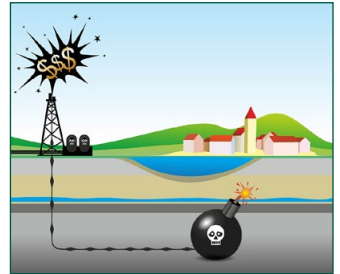
So you see what we are up against. We will be meeting with legislators and/or their aids in their Broward district offices when they are back in their districts after December 5th. Our task is to get on their schedules before they go back to Tallahassee for sessions starting January 12th. Our introduction should include the fact that **we are their constituents and we represent 2000 Sierra Club members in Broward County alone, who are super voters for the environment.** Florida Sierra Club has 35,000 members. We plan to go as a group which is proven more effective and makes an impact.

In our corner to date, there are approximately 50 Florida cities and 12 counties that have passed anti-fracking resolutions or ordinances, and the movement is on-going. Other resolutions of note are those officially passed by chartered Broward Democratic Clubs, Thousand Friends of Florida, and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, and partners, such as Florida Audubon, Food and Water Watch, to name a few.

Also on the bright side, Sierra Club is supporting House Bill HS19 by Rep. Jenne, and Senate Bill SB166 by Sen. Bullard, which are bills to ban fracking and acid well stimulations in Florida.

Will you please join us! Stan Pannaman and Barb Ruge can take the lead, but we cannot do it without the support of our members. We know you care

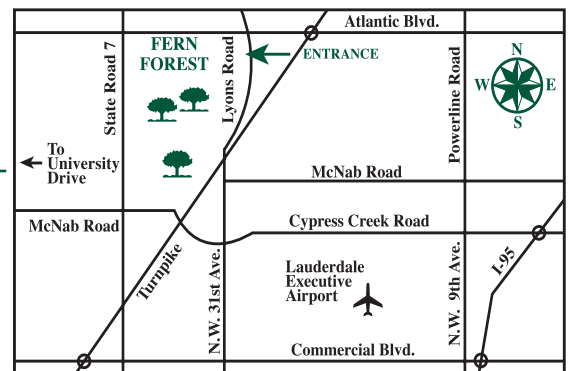
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Broward Sierra Club’s General Meetings - Each month we have an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

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.

Thursday, Dec. 3rd (7:00pm): Our annual **Pot Luck Dinner Holiday Party & Raffle**. After announcements and meeting business, join us for fantastic food, friends & fun, and some fabulous raffles! Donation is \$5 if you bring a dish to share, \$10 without a dish. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. For more info contact Ina at 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.com. More info on last page.



Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



NOV. 28, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK AT JOHN PRINCE PARK IN LAKE WORTH. Leisurely morning canoeing and kayaking in the backwaters of John Prince Park. See www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks/locations/johnprince.htm#Uu-Hiv-PKM8 for park details. Boat rentals available. Limit 10. Rated leisure. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



DEC. 3, THURS. ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER HOLIDAY PARTY AND RAFFLE. Donation \$5 if you bring a dish to share, \$10 without a dish. If you'd like to donate any items for the raffle, please bring them with you. See next page for more information.



DEC. 12, SAT. URBAN BICYCLING IN LAKE WORTH-LANTANA. Leisurely morning bicycling on sidewalks or neighborhood streets in the Lake Worth/Lantana area. Bicycle helmets are REQUIRED on all Sierra Club bicycle outings. Limit 10. Rated leisure. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



JAN. 16, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK THE SNOOK ISLAND WETLANDS AREA, LAKE WORTH. Leisurely morning paddling in the newly created Snook Islands wetlands area north of the Lake Worth Bridge. Boat rentals available. For more details about the area see www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/lakes/estuarine/snook/. Limit 10. Rated moderate. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



JAN. 23, SAT. SHARK VALLEY FULL MOON BICYCLE RIDE AND FUNDRAISER. If you haven't done this before, you'll marvel at the beauty of the Everglades' open space and mysterious wildlife. During this 15 mile ride you will see the sun set and the moon rise. We'll start at 6pm. Cost \$10 and for your contribution we'll have delicious snacks at the lookout tower. Rated moderate. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 judykuchta@yahoo.com.



JAN. 23-24, SAT.-SUN. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING AND BASIC FIRST AID CERTIFICATION IN GREENACRES, FL. 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 Basic First Aid certification and become a certified leader for adults or youth and start sharing the outdoors with others. Class size is limited. To register, contact Sheila Calderon, 561-968-4166, shecal@bellsouth.net or Chas Hunt, 561-739-3171, loxoutings@gmail.com.



JAN. 30, SAT. BIKING AT RIVERBEND PARK IN JUPITER. Leisurely morning bicycling in the woods at Riverbend Park. Rentals available. www.pbcgov.com/parks/locations/riverbend.htm#VkoqOspm0bE. Bicycle helmets are REQUIRED on all Sierra Club bicycle outings. Limit 10. Rated moderate. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



FEB. 20, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK THE WINDING WATERS NATURAL AREA IN WEST PALM BEACH. Leisurely morning paddling in this newly opened area. See it at www.pbcgov.com/erm/natural/natural-areas/winding-waters/. Limit 10. Rated moderate. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



FEB. 27, SAT. HIKE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. We'll hike approx. 6-8 miles on a wilderness trail, off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (about an hour from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). You'll learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora, as you trek through cypress forests, hammocks and prairies. We'll walk at a leisurely pace, allowing for identification of birds, wildflowers, plants and butterflies. Bring your own lunch to eat on the trail. Rated moderate, due to distance and uneven footing. This is a MOSTLY dry hike. Suggested donation: \$5 members, \$7 non-members. Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 jfsf812@bellsouth.net.

Fracking, cont'd from previous page

about this. Why is this important to you and the people of Florida? To prevent the poisoning of our fragile fresh water aquifers from the abusive practice of fracking. To keep our families healthy. To protect Florida's multi-billion dollar recreation and tourism industries. To preserve the beauty of our native Florida. Lots of reasons to want clean air and water. **We need you to get informed, get involved, attend the webinar trainings and show up at the meeting appointments.** Contact David Cullen at 941-323-2404 or cullenasea@aol.com to get on his email list for timely announcements and strategies.

BLACK BEAR HUNT UPDATE

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

Now that we've witnessed the senseless killing ('culling' is a terrible word to use) of some 300+ black bears in barely 24 hours, there's an urgent need to renew our efforts to make sure this type of slaughter NEVER happens again. This is in view of the fact that state wildlife managers are already preparing to do it AGAIN next year.

There are rumors, most likely based on fact, that when female bears were killed, their young cubs had been left behind, barely able to fend for themselves.

Frank Jackalone, staff director of the Florida Sierra Club said that 75 percent of people in Florida oppose the hunt. "That's a compelling majority. We will do everything we can to motivate that majority."

He said the number of bears taken in the hunt, as announced by the state, is only a fraction of those killed. "That won't be the final count," he said. "It can't possibly be the final count. What about the bears who were wounded in the woods and left to die? What about the hunters who violated the hunt rules and never reported their kills? What about all the orphaned cubs in the forest, left to die? Those won't be counted."

So we ask our Broward Sierrans to PLEASE contact your local representatives and tell them to NEVER let this happen again. Write to your local newspapers as well - letters to the editor DO get published.





Please join us for the
**December Broward Sierra Club meeting
and Annual Pot Luck Dinner Holiday Party**

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Fern Forest Nature Center

201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek, FL 33068

After announcements and meeting business, join us for **fantastic food, friends & fun, and some fabulous raffles!**

**We'll also have a slide show of photos
from some of this past year's outings.**

We're looking forward to seeing you at our holiday dinner once again. We had a great turnout last year, with everyone very involved with environmental causes. And the raffle was a great fundraiser for our nature preservation work.

So bring your friends and neighbors, and let them know it's a time to celebrate with great food, a glass of wine or soda, meet wonderful people, and contribute to an important cause.

And if you'd like to donate any items for the raffle, please bring them with you. For more info, contact Ina at 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.com.

Bring a pot luck dish to share. Donation \$5 if you bring a dish to share, \$10 without a dish.

Please also bring your own non-disposable plates, cups and utensils.

Raffle tickets will be available for \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

