



# Broward Sierra News

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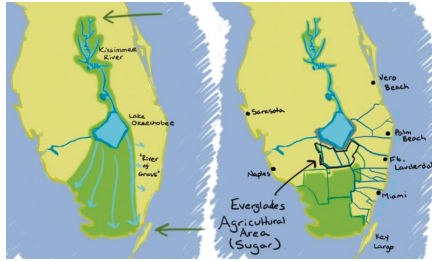
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## WATERSHED MOMENT

– By Sue Caruso, Broward Sierra Excom Secretary



No pun intended, but we have a watershed moment in the fight to save the Florida Everglades. What's the rush? A deal to buy 46,800 acres of land now owned by U.S. Sugar is slipping away. This land can be used to build a storage area for the nutrient-laden water that now drains out of the lake through the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers, causing devastation to those important, sensitive ecosystems. Good science and just plain common sense tell us that storing water south of the lake, which mimics its natural flow, is a much better choice. Not only will this land offer that much needed storage, but it will allow time for the water to be cleaned before it flows into our water-starved Everglades, where it should have gone all along. Scientists, like Dr. Nick Aumen of the U.S.G.S., speaker at our April meeting, know that this makes sense. This is exactly the type of project that Amendment 1 was designed to fund. The South Florida Water Management Board that has rejected this option is happily backing a \$5 billion restoration plan mapped out by Gov. Rick Scott for the next 20 years. Do you really think that this will be a sound plan from a man who doesn't believe in global climate change? What can you do? Contact your state representative, senator and Governor Scott to urge their support to complete the US Sugar purchase. Even though the deal is set to expire on October 1, Dr. Aumen reported that actions to clear the land deal make appropriations necessary by May 1. Please take action today.

### Sample letter:

Dear [Senator, Representative or Governor]

I am writing you today as a citizen of the State of Florida concerned about the future of the Everglades and the water supply it provides for millions of people, industry and agriculture. To meet the goals of increasing a clean, natural supply of water to the Everglades, reducing damage to sensitive estuaries of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers, and regulating safe water levels in Lake Okeechobee, I am urging you to support the funding and purchase of the 46,800 acres of U.S. Sugar land in addition to the already proposed restoration projects at work. Sound science shows that this land will provide an essential water storage area to help accomplish our goals. We won't have the chance to own this land, again, so please act now to ensure that this much needed mechanism will be put in place, safeguarding our water supply now and well into the future.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name, with your address]

To find your district for State Representative, go to

<http://gis.broward.org/maps/webPDFs/StateDistricts/housedistrict.pdf>

To find your district for State Senator, go to

<http://gis.broward.org/maps/webPDFs/StateDistricts/senatedistrict.pdf>

To find the contact information for your State Representative and Senator

(by district), go to <http://www.browardsoe.org/electedofficials.aspx>

For Governor Scott's contact information go to <http://www.flgov.com/contact-governor>

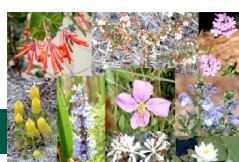
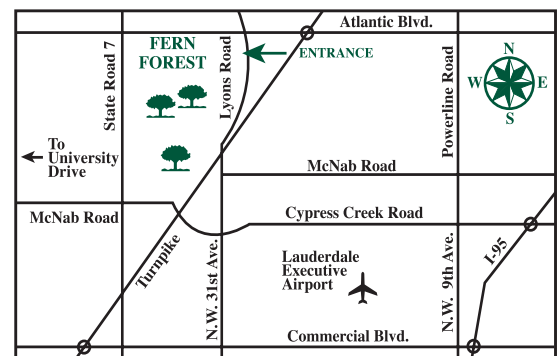
To see a simple 4 minute video on exactly what the problem is, and how the land purchase can help save our Everglades, go to

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owUOE4FNOE0&t=20>

## 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, 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, May 7th:** We will be showing the critically acclaimed documentary on fracking, **"Groundswell Rising, Protecting Our Children's Air and Water."** In it we see how an industry rich with political connections managed to slip into a position of almost untouchable power, and how at-risk communities have come together to fight back. For more about the movie, go to <http://www.groundswellrising.com>.



**Thursday, June 4th:** Our guest speaker will be Danielle Eisenberg, Assistant Professor of Science/Wellness Education at the Broward College North Campus. She will be giving a talk on **"Celebrating Florida's Native Species."**

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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.*



**APR. 25, SAT. BAYNANZA ANNUAL BAY CLEANUP.** 9am-noon. Historic Virginia Key Beach Park 4020 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149. Clean-up coastal areas and mangrove islands from 9-12, then picnic in the park. We may use canoes for portions of this outing. Rating: easy to moderate. Contact the leader for location and more details. For more information contact Outing Leader: Mark Walters 305 632 7514 [mark.walters@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org)



**MAY 16, SAT. PADDLE AND SNORKEL BEAR CUT AND CRANDON.** Fossil Reef is full of small tropical fish, sea urchins, fans, sponges and sea life. It's an easy swim at slack tide but you will need a mask and fins to truly appreciate the reef. We have canoes available, or bring your own paddle gear. Bring swim gear, paddle gear, water and snacks to share, kayak or canoe, paddle(s), PFD, whistle and whatever else you need for another safe and enjoyable day on the water. Some paddling experience necessary for paddling portion of outing. Rating: Leisure. Toll is \$1.75 per vehicle. Park entrance Fees are \$6 per vehicle. Carpooling highly encouraged. Suggested donation: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. For more information contact Outing Leader: Mark Walters 305 632 7514 [mark.walters@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org)



**JUNE 20, SAT. KAYAK, CANOE, SNORKEL AT INDIAN KEY.** 1am-3pm. Launch from the entrance to Tea Table Key, the left (ocean) side of the highway. It is a short paddle from there to Indian Key, an interesting island with a fascinating history. It is also on a coral reef so the swimming and snorkeling is great. Lots of aquarium type fish to see. And the water is exceptionally clear. We have canoes available, or bring your own paddle gear. 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 more information contact Outing Leader: Mark Walters 305 632 7514 [mark.walters@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org)



**OCT. 17, SAT. FAKAHATCHEE STRAND PRESERVE STATE PARK SWAMP WALK.** Copeland, FL. Join us for a guided swamp walk in a lush environment filled with ferns and bromeliads. Learn what type of habitat is required to grow more native orchid species (including the famous ghost orchid) in a wilderness setting, than anywhere else in the U.S. Rated moderate due to uneven footing, mostly under water. Cost TBA. For more information contact Outing Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 [jfsf812@bellsouth.net](mailto:jfsf812@bellsouth.net).



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)**

## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT

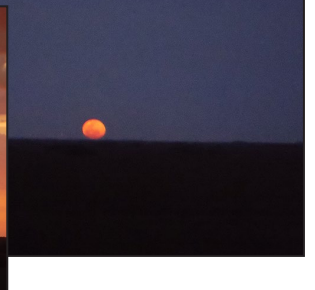
The Broward Sierra Group was present with about 85 other environmentalists at the South Florida Water Commission meeting in their office in West Palm Beach on April 9. The staff presented information on the plans for increasing the flow of water south to the Everglades. Several options were discussed including buying the US Sugar property. They even suggested that they could use the deep injection process. Can you imagine! The conclusion by the Commission was that buying the land was too expensive and would take too long. This vote was taken after about 55 Sierrans and other supporters spoke in support of buying the land. It is important that you keep contacting your State Representatives, Senators and the Governor. Let them know the importance of buying the land so the water can move south into the Everglades (see *Watershed Moment* on page 1). Thanks to Manuel, Terry and Darryl who spoke out at the meeting.



## SHARK VALLEY BIKE OUTING

– By Darryl Rutz, Broward Sierra Membership Chair

Thirty-six people signed up for this moonlight outing led by Judy Kuchta and Manuel Monteiro. We biked 6 miles into Shark Valley, and saw over 20 gators, birds, snakes and turtles. Once we got to the tower, there were some great snacks set up by Judy and Jackie Fisher. While we were there, white egrets and ibis flew in and perched on the mangroves below. Terry Greene shared his pictures. The sunset was beautiful with birds flying in the mist. Thirty minutes later the beautiful Blood Moon came up. What a sight! On the way back we followed the lightning bugs that were all over the place. Now I know why John Muir wanted to get folks out into the wilderness so they would become environmentalists.



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