



Broward Sierra News

Please Recycle



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BROWARD SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2015

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Excom Vice-Chair

Our ByLaws require that an election for members of the Broward Group Executive Committee (ExCom) takes place each year. This year, FOUR ExCom members' terms expire. There are FOUR available seats.

Nominations were closed on October 16th. Four candidates were approved by the Nominating Committee and are running this year. We received no nominations by petition. The candidates are:

Barbara Ruge, Darryl Rutz, Ina Oost Topper and Stan Pannaman. Postcard ballots will be going out by postal mail to all members of Broward Sierra during the week of November 16th. Please watch for your ballot. **Vote for up to FOUR candidates and return your ballot by the December 18th deadline.** Follow the instructions for mailing it back, or bring it to the Holiday Party on December 3rd. Valid ballots must show your Sierra Club membership number which is on your address label.

Please provide a working email address for our database so that we can keep all our members regularly informed of timely Sierra events

The ballots will be counted by an Elections Committee appointed by the ExCom at its meeting which was held on October 7th. The Elections Committee is Phil Busey, Max Goldstein and Terry Greene.

It is so essential that our Broward Sierra members vote for their executive committee. In this way, you strengthen the Sierra Club's ability to provide the informative programs you enjoy, the environmental outings to explore, and the positive actions you demand to protect our planet.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Barbara Ruge

Barbara has been an active member of Broward Sierra since 2010 and has served as ExCom Vice-Chair for 3 years. Her strengths are administrative and she strives to keep the many facets of Sierra Club orderly. She manages our Facebook page and moderates our Yahoo Group, posting daily about Sierra news, events and critical actions. She passionately works on Sierra's Political Committees. Barb represents Broward Sierra for planning and public transportation as a voting member of the Community Involvement Roundtable, an advisory board to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. Barb regularly attends Sierra leadership meetings and workshops and you can see her rallying for wildlife and manning Sierra tabling events throughout the year. As a Realtor who cares about community, Barbara serves on several community involvement boards, where she continuously promotes Sierra Club's actions for conservation and environmental justice.

Darryl Rutz

Currently serving on the Broward Excom and seeking another term. I serve as the Membership Chair and am on the Outings Team. I love to take folks out to enjoy our natural landscape. I also was elected to the State Sierra Chapter Excom. I serve on the Our Wild Florida Committee and am a liaison between the Chapter Excom and our attorneys who are working on our bear litigation. I have gone to many Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and South Florida Water Management Commission meetings, speaking out on Sierra Clubs Causes. Let's keep moving.

Ina Oost Topper

Currently the Excom Chair, and a longtime Sierra member. Her professional background is in teaching Social Sciences & Foreign Language Instruction, with a Masters Degree in International Studies. She has also, for many years, extensively guided groups of people as a professional Tour Guide, throughout all of North America's National Parks. While also holding the

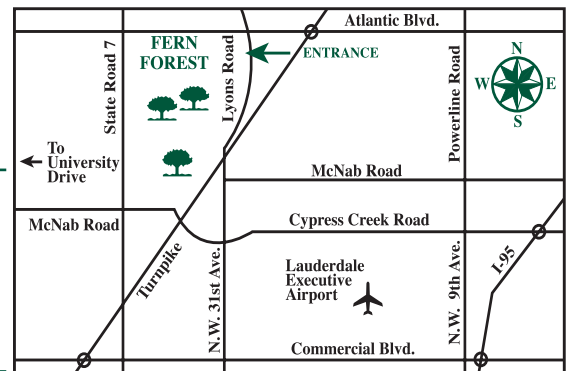
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Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - Each month we have an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

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, Nov. 5th: Our guest speaker will be the highly sought after public speaker **Greg Hamra**, an expert in LEED construction (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, a green building certification program). He will be speaking to us about a **carbon tax that can benefit taxpayers, businesses and the economy while reducing our CO₂ emissions.**



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 \$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.*



OCT. 31, SAT. HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK OUTING. This outing will introduce you to one of our most interesting parks in Broward County. The 2 mile hike will follow a trail that will show you parts of the old train trestle, Hugh Taylor's favorite oak tree, picnic areas, mangrove swamps, fresh water coastal dune lake and the Intercostal Waterway. Most of the trail is shaded and hopefully the weather will have cooled down. We hope to have a nice lunch at the California Pizza located close by. Hikers will need to bring a bottle of water. It is suggested that you bring bug spray and sun tan lotion. Rated easy. Leader: Darryl Rutz, 954-892-1740 dmrtz2@msn.com.



NOV. 8, SUN. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS SLOUGH. Big Cypress Preserve north of I-75. The hike will be mostly in water, sometimes coming up to your waist. The footing will be uneven as there are underwater stones at some points. It is important that everyone bring a walking stick. All hikers must wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, hat and good sneakers. Bring bug spray (even though this has not been a problem in past years), sun screen, water and lunch. The walk will be approximately 5 miles and you will see, learn and appreciate what the Everglades is all about. The trip from Ft. Lauderdale to the trail head, hike and return will take about 4 hours. Suggested donation: \$10. Please call or email to reserve a spot: Leader: Darryl Rutz, 954-892-1740 dmrtz2@msn.com.



NOV. 7-8, SAT. & SUN. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING AND BASIC FIRST AID CERTIFICATION IN MIAMI. 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. Lunch included on Saturday. 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 786-452-9699 mark.walters@sierraclub.org or Karen Kerr, 305-213-1385 karenkerr50@gmail.com.



NOV. 14, SAT. URBAN BICYCLING IN BOCA RATON. Leisurely morning bicycling on sidewalks, bike paths or quiet streets through Boca's parks, commercial district and neighborhoods. Bicycle helmets are REQUIRED on all Sierra Club bicycle outings. Rated moderate. Limit 10. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



NOV. 14, SAT. 9AM. 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, bobcat and deer encounters are possible. Rating: moderate to strenuous. Pack a lunch and bring lots of water. Limit: 8. Suggested donation: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Contact the outing leader for meeting times and location or more information. Carpooling is encouraged, contact the leader if you would like to carpool or can take someone in your vehicle. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551 kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net.



NOV. 21, 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 jf812@bellsouth.net.



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.

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

Candidate Profiles, cont'd from previous page

Educational & Recycling Chair, her objective is to aim for more recycling here in Broward County and throughout Florida.

Stan Pannaman

Programs Chair and Conservation Chair for the Broward Sierra Club. I am also the team leader of the South East Florida Marine and Water Quality Team, and have been appointed to the Everglades Restoration Team, which is a statewide committee. I am the representative of the Broward Group to the Everglades Coalition, which is a coalition of 57 different groups and organizations dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

BEAR UPDATE – By Darryl Rutz, Membership Chair and Outings Leader

Last week I visited friends of mine that live in a planned community north of Atlanta named Big Canoe. It is 8,000 acres of woodlands and piedmont mountains. Over 3,000 residents live there year around and another 3,000 live there part time. The neat thing about Big Canoe is that the governing body (non-governmental) has declared it a wildlife sanctuary. My friends showed me pictures of many bears that have come visiting their house and community. No one bothers them and they don't bother anyone. All their garbage is deposited at a centralized location which is bear proof. The Big Canoe community prospers from having bears. They have an annual Bear Run and have a Bear Pub where folks can get together.

This type of arrangement could easily be adopted for Florida's bear habitat locations. But no, Florida is having their bear hunt! This was the decision of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. The word Conservation is supposed to precede the word Commission but I really don't think it is appropriate! This governmental body is made up of developers. One bought a bear hunting permit. Is this a conflict of interest? The State Sierra Chapter joined the Speak Up Wekiva, Inc. to try to stop the hunt but that effort failed. We are currently joining them in another effort via filing an amicus. The St Petersburg Sierra Group is planning a Hug Your Bear event the day before the hunt. And our group's Big Bear purchased by Judy Kutcha has been popping up at various events around the state.



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.