



Broward Sierra News



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BROWARD SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2015

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Excom Vice-Chair

It's Sierra Club election season! Our group bylaws require that an election for members of the Broward Group Executive Committee (ExCom) takes place in the fourth quarter of each year. ExCom has seven members who serve staggered two-year terms. This year, FOUR ExCom members' terms expire.

On Sept. 9, 2015, pursuant to Broward Sierra Club bylaws, ExCom appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of Judy Kuchta judykuchta@yahoo.com, Sue Caruso susan.caruso@att.net, and Art Joseph rogerwilcotj@bellsouth.net. Their task is to identify and evaluate candidates to run for the four vacancies on ExCom. Please contact one of them to be considered. Also any member may be placed on the ballot by petition by obtaining 20 signatures of 20 members of our Broward Group. We will have petition sign-up sheets at our next general meeting on Oct. 1. Nominations will be closed Oct. 16. Ballots will be sent to all Broward Sierra Club members during the week of Nov. 16, and members will have four weeks to vote. The deadline for arrival of your votes is Dec. 18.

Please refer to our website and November's newsletter for updates and reminders about our ExCom election schedule, future announcements of candidates and nominated candidate profiles. Please contact any member of your current ExCom for questions you may have.

It is so essential that our Broward Sierra members vote. Most importantly, we welcome any of our members to become more involved in Broward Sierra Group. Developing new leaders is needed to improve the well-being of the Club, strengthening Sierra's ability to educate the public and advance the goals of Sierra Club to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

We want to thank the many members who come and enjoy our monthly meetings. We appreciate the wonderful educational programs presented by renowned experts in conservation and the fields of physical, biological and earth sciences.

We thank everyone who participates in our outdoors adventures throughout the year, and those who support our public educational events. We have become a close and fun community of friends with like minds and on the same mission!

POSITIVE HUNTING

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

Yes, there is such a thing as the positive hunt.

At the risk of antagonizing fanatic environmentalists (and I do consider myself to be one), during all these upheavals and protests regarding the appalling idea of resuming the shooting of our Florida black bear, let's just for a moment consider other aspects of hunting. Our forefathers had no choice but to hunt for their everyday existence. Just less than a century ago there was no danger of people in rural areas decimating all wildlife by occasionally shooting a deer or any animal for the holidays. This, besides it being the frugal way to celebrate with ample food on the holiday table, was also often a sheer necessity due to low cost meat supplies being only available from far away. I remember as a small child being taken along by grandpa (who lived in a very rural, wooded area, hours away from civilization) who'd find a good pheasant and a hare or rabbit to put on the Christmas menu. And that's ALL he would shoot - just enough for our large extended family to eat during the two days of Christmas in the old country. (By the way, we're in no way taking issue with vegetarianism and vegans who for their own very justifiable reasons do not consume animal products. That's just fine, and a very personal choice.)

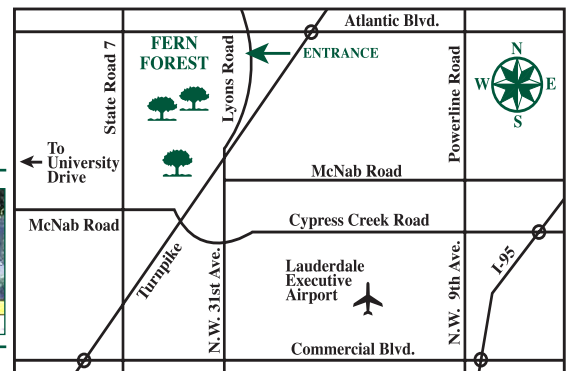
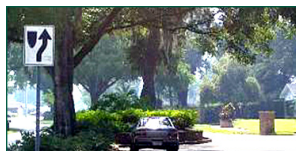
Then there's the other issue of, from time to time an atrocious situation where animals are either starving to death or for other reasons may just have to be culled. Our Conservation Excom Chair, Stanley Panaman, just brought up such issue at one of our meetings of having witnessed the painful wasting away of large numbers of deer in an area where there was no adequate means of subsistence left for large herds. Clearly, culling away too large a number of obviously starving and suffering animals was the right thing to do.

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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, 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.**



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.

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



OCT. 10, SAT. FALL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER. 7:00pm at Total Wines and Spirits 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.



OCT. 17, SAT. FAKAHATCHEE STRAND PRESERVE STATE PARK SWAMP WALK. Copeland, FL. Join us for a guided swamp walk with Mike Owen. Learn what type of habitat is required to grow more native orchid species in a wilderness setting (including the famous ghost orchid), than anywhere else in the U.S. We'll assist Mike in documenting the status of the strand. Rated moderate, due to uneven footing, mostly under water. (A minimum of 10 people are required, with a maximum of 15.) *Donation of \$25 for Friends of Fakahatchee, and recommended donation for Sierra of \$5 members / \$10 non-members.* For more information contact Outing Leader Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 jfsf812@bellsouth.net.



OCT. 17, SAT. PADDLE TO AND EXPLORE FULLERTON ISLAND IN JUPITER at the mouth of the Loxahatchee River. Palm Beach County has restored and opened Fullerton Island to the public. Unique wetland and upland habitats for fish, birds, and wildlife. Carolyn Beisner from Palm Beach County ERM will be our guide and interpreter. We'll launch from the Jupiter Outdoor Center, www.jupiteroutdoorcenter.com/. Bring your own kayak/canoe/paddleboard or kayak rentals are \$35/person and paddleboards are \$40/person. Contact the Jupiter Outdoor Center directly to reserve your rental. Limit 20. Rated moderate. *\$3 members, \$5 non-members suggested donation.* For more information contact Outing Leader Chas Hunt 561-315-0677 loxoutings@gmail.com.



OCT. 24-25, SAT - SUN. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/CANOING ON FISHEATING CREEK. 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, and 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. 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. 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 is practically the same whether you bring your own vessel or rent from them. *Suggested donation is \$55 per person members, \$65 person non-members if you will have two people in your boat. If you are bringing or renting a single kayak, the donation is \$75 per person members and \$85 per person non-members. \$30 per person for non-paddlers.* 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. Rated moderate. Limit 16. If you wish, you may camp at our main campground campsite on Friday evening on your own. Just provide your own meals. For more information contact Outing Leader Chas Hunt 561-315-0677 loxoutings@gmail.com, Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net, or Max Goldstein 954-296-3411 maxgold@yahoo.com.



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. 7-8, SAT. & SUN. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING AND BASIC FIRST AID CERTIFICATION IN HOLLYWOOD. 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.

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

Positive Hunting, continued from previous page

Isn't it about time to alert the powers that be in Tallahassee that there IS such a thing as positive hunting in Florida when it comes to going after the huge numbers of Burmese pythons (and soon other invasive animal species) that are now inhabiting our Everglades? For instance, a good precedent was set recently whereby lobster fishermen were rewarded with extra bonus catch beyond their allowed quota by bringing in a certain number of lionfish, our ever increasing marine menace.

FWC Commissioner Ron Bergeron, speaking about the bear hunting, suggested that a better solution than widespread hunting would be supplying bear-proof trash cans in the counties where bears have been reported, and that halting the harvesting of palmetto berries from state land would give bears a better chance of finding alternative food in the wild, since we're taking their natural foods away.

As Ron Bergeron has done, we need to be pro-active in suggesting solutions to issues rather than saying only what should NOT be done.

One example of strongly voicing opinions against worthy causes without coming forward with alternatives was a recent article in an environmental magazine I read, in which a very well meaning author brought up the problems regarding disposal of medications, especially antibiotics, in trash cans, as it obviously ends up in landfills and thereafter in aquifers (read: drinking water). As for flushing it down our toilets; it goes straight into the waterways, creating dangerous pollution. What was missing in the article? How to get rid of these items in any other way. I hereby invite our Broward Sierrans to come up with some good, tried out solutions. We know that local pharmacies won't always take the meds back, or, as I was told in a hush-hush way, they do exactly what we're told NOT to do - they flush non-usable meds down their toilets.

[Editor's note: CVS & Walgreens sell pre-addressed, postage paid 8x11" envelopes, in which you can send as many bottles of unused medication that you can fit in the envelope for proper disposal (may not be in stock at all locations).]