



# Broward Sierra News

Please Recycle



VOL. XXXVIII NO. 8 / AUGUST 2016

Graphic design & layout by [www.carolewalsh.com](http://www.carolewalsh.com)

[www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward) • [www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra](http://www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra) • [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra)

**Vote YES for Solar (Amendment 4) in August. Vote NO on Solar in November!**

## HERE WE GO AGAIN... – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair



Although meant as a quick update, this could start with, "We told you so..." Wasn't it barely a year ago that we wrote about the algae problem in Central Florida rivers and its tributaries? Now this environmental disaster is going from bad to MUCH worse.

In a *Circle of Blue* article by Codi Kozacek, the problem is restated in its complexity as being the result of political, financial and ecological barriers to saving the Everglades (<http://tinyurl.com/CircleAlgae>). It was Marjorie Stoneman Douglas who first drew attention to potential problems looming in, at that time, the distant future, of the precarious nature of these marshlands needing prompt attention. Now here

we are, over half a century later. And while the causes are now widely known, solutions seem hard to come by, not in the least because various governmental agencies and others are blaming each other. There are, in all honesty, some grounds for Tallahassee's statement that due to the unstable, poorly maintained levees surrounding Lake Okeechobee, there's no choice but to constantly let water out when the lake's level rises. But where are the voices pointing fingers at the appalling lack of attention paid to reducing the cause of the increase of algae-blooms in the first place? (The nutrients feeding algae-blooms are phosphorus, nitrates, sewage and manure, all abundant in Florida thanks to our golf courses, cattle ranches and yes, even open sewage outlets.)

*Continued on next page*

**Notice**  
An algae bloom has made this area unsafe for water contact. Avoid direct contact with visible surface scum.

## BIG SUGAR SUMMIT – By Sue Caruso, Broward Sierra Excom Secretary

As an environmental science teacher, I have attended many conferences and workshops over the years, but last June I was privileged to attend one of the best ever, organized by the Sierra Club. It was called the Big Sugar Summit. The organizers did a fantastic job of inviting speakers and panelists to cover the wide range of topics related to the unnecessary harm done by this industry. Everything, from the science, politics and economics to the health issues posed by the burning of the local fields after the harvest and the devastating effects of added sugar in our diets, was explained and discussed. Other sugar cane-producing countries, such as Australia and Brazil, use the remains of the harvested plant for things such as energy production and ethanol, eliminating the need for burning. The harvesting machinery used here in the United States is the same as that used in Australia, but with the part to harvest the stalks removed, showing the blatant disregard for human health caused by the burning of the remaining stalks. Also, in Australia, the industry is successful with less than one tenth of the subsidies provided to the sugar growers in the

United States. Last year our state legislature failed to purchase a parcel of "big sugar" land that could have been used for water storage and retrieval, thereby reducing the devastating effects that polluted water has when released to the Indian lagoon and the Caloosahatchee River. That prompted this summit, to educate and bring together people who want to continue to fight for a solution to this problem. You now have the same opportunity to attend the upcoming Big Sugar Summit 2, this August 20 at the Embassy Suites near the Palm Beach Airport. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/BigSugar2016> to register. You will come away with a greater sense of one of Florida's biggest environmental issues and what you can do about it!



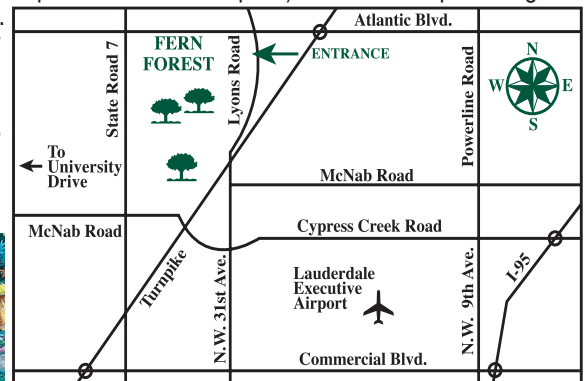
### Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - The first Thursday of each month we have committee reports and an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

**DIRECTIONS: 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.

**August:** There will be no Thursday general meeting in August. Instead, we will be having our annual Picnic at the beach on Sunday, August 14th. See next page for details.

**Thursday, Sept. 1st:** Our featured speaker will be **Peter Gies, transportation planner for the Metropolitan Planning Organization**. His talk will be on transportation projects planned for Broward County.

**Thursday, Oct. 6th:** Our featured speaker will be **David Stout, Natural Resources Specialist for Broward County**. His talk will be on environmental projects planned for Broward County, such as **beach re-nourishment, coral reef protection, etc.**



# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



**AUG. 14, 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, Pelican Pavilion. See below.



**AUG 6, SAT. WHISKY CREEK STAND UP PADDLEBOARD (SUP) LESSON.** Come learn how to paddleboard at John U. Lloyd St. Park. Cost \$35. Park entrance \$4.00 solo vehicle, \$6.00 per vehicle (up to 8 passengers). Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com), Assistant Leader: Michelle Berndgen [michmaber@gmail.com](mailto:michmaber@gmail.com).

**AUG 20, SAT. BIG SUGAR SUMMIT 2.** At the Embassy Suites near the Palm Beach Airport. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/BigSugar2016> to register. (See article on previous page.)



**SEPT 17, SAT. PEANUT ISLAND SNORKEL.** Peanut Island has one of the best snorkeling lagoons in Florida. We will be ferrying over from Riviera Beach to enjoy a day of snorkeling and a BBQ! Details TBA.



**NOV 5 - 6, SAT. - SUN. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/CANOEOING ON FISHEATING CREEK.** We'll meet at the campground Saturday morning and the outfitter will transport us and our boats to the put in point. Sunday, we can explore some of the trails. You may bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one. The outfitter's price for the transport is practically the same whether you bring your own vessel or rent from them. Suggested donation is \$55 per person for members, \$65 person for non-members if you will have two people in your boat. If you bring or rent 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 (Friday and Saturday nights if you wish), 3 meals (Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast), upriver transport, and canoe/kayak rental, if applicable. RV sites are available at slight extra cost. Rated Moderate. Limit 24. If you wish, you may camp at our main campground campsite on Friday evening on your own – just provide your own meals. Leaders: Chas Hunt [loxoutings@gmail.com](mailto:loxoutings@gmail.com) 561-315-0677, Kaatje Bernabei [kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net) 305-223-6551.

**COME WIN A CASH PRIZE!**  
**Broward Sierra Club's Annual Summer Picnic at the Beach**  
*Vegetarians and non-vegetarians welcome*  
**Sunday, August 14, starting at noon**

**John U. Lloyd State Park, 6503 N. Ocean Drive (A1A), Dania Beach (Pelican Pavilion)**

Come have fun and enjoy the food, beach, swimming, snorkeling, and just plain lounging and socializing with other environmentally-minded folks.

This yearly fundraising event raises money to support the Broward Sierra group's activities and environmental causes. A contribution of \$10 for members/\$12 for non-members will be gratefully accepted. There is a \$4 entrance fee at the park, per car with 1 person, \$6 fee for 2 or more in the same car.

There will be veggie-burgers and drinks supplied, but please bring a vegan (or at least vegetarian) dish or beverage of your choice to be shared. **Attendees will vote for their favorite tastiest vegetarian dish. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will receive a \$30, \$20 and \$10 cash prize.** Please also bring your own recyclable plates and utensils, in order for us to leave "nothing but our footsteps" behind, and set an environmentalists' example. Adults & kids welcome.

Please **RSVP** to Max at [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com) or 954-296-3411, so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone. Also contact Max if you need further information.

*Algae Bloom, continued from previous page*



However, there's a double-edged sword in terms of the widely applauded objective to restore the natural flow of most of the Everglades to its previous, ancient state. While some projects North of Lake Okeechobee have been underway to restore the Kissimmee river to its natural flow, shouldn't the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have stepped up to the plate to bring the lake's levees up to par? Or is it the eternal budget shortfall for this purpose, which was never a politically advantageous item for any politician to support?

As we can see, there's enough blame to go around. Bottom line: WHAT does it take, now that it's involving even larger portions of our state? And soon, besides killing off large numbers of fish and manatees, it will do the same to tourism in the affected areas.

Recently we've been informed that algae problems are developing all around the Gulf of Mexico, and even around the Chesapeake Bay and Lake Erie. Maybe there's a golden lining here somewhere... If the algae problem advances to an even larger scale on a national level, perhaps prompt, aggressive solutions may be forthcoming.