



Broward Sierra News

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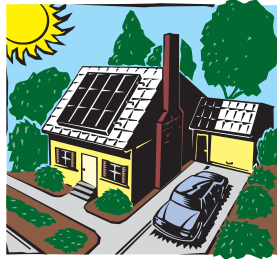
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AMENDMENT 1 DEFEATED!

Thank you, Sierra Club voters! Your NO votes succeeded in defeating the deceptive utilities-backed constitutional amendment that would have limited solar growth in our state. Broward Sierra was happy to support the efforts of Floridians for Solar Choice to defeat Amendment 1. What do we do moving forward? Consider improving your homes and businesses with solar power. These improvements will not increase your property tax assessment. Our goal is to make the Sunshine State the leader in solar powered electricity and get off fossil fuels. Good for people. Good for the planet.



BROWARD SIERRA EXCOM ELECTION

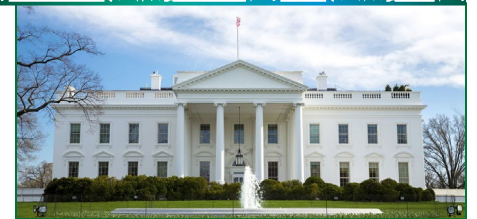
Sierra members, look for your election ballot to be arriving in your mailbox early this month. Please vote and return your ballot. We have three great candidates: Max Goldstein, Susan Caruso and Carole Walsh. If you are attending our Holiday Party, bring your voted ballot with you!

NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Excom Vice Chair

Sierra Club is very disappointed that our endorsed candidate Hillary Clinton was not named to the United States Presidency on November 8th. She is a champion for climate change and global warming research and progressive programs. We are proud of her efforts and wish the outcome were different. **Our mission at Sierra Club is clear.** We will continue to fight the battles to preserve our natural world for the health and welfare of people, flora and fauna everywhere. We encourage our members to be diligent, vigilant and vocal when and where we see destruction or abuse of our environment and attacks on people's rights

to clean air and water. Here at Broward Sierra, we ask you to stay educated on the local issues, participate in local programs and events we host or support, write to your congressional representatives, write to news editors, **make your voices heard!** We would love to see more of you at our informative educational meetings during the next year. Share your ideas. Enjoy the company of like-minded nature enthusiasts. **Stronger together!**



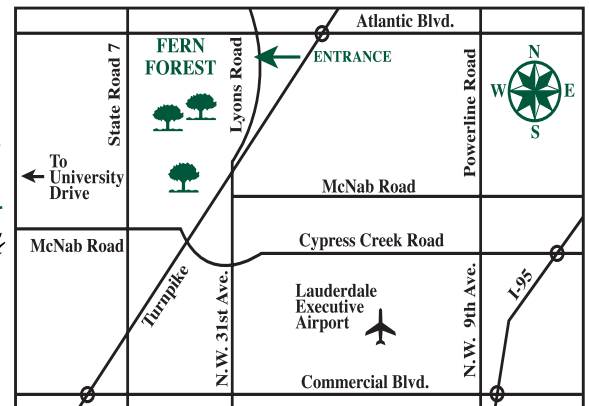
On Behalf of Your Executive Committee, We Wish Our Devoted Members Very Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year.

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.

Thursday, Dec. 1st (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.

Thursday, Jan. 12th (7:00pm): Our January general meeting will be a joint meeting with the South Florida Audubon Society at **Long Key Nature Center**, 3501 SW 130th Ave, Davie, FL 33330. The featured speaker will be **James Currie of TV's Birding Adventures**. The topic will be **"When the Eagles Roar."** There will be a light buffet.



Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

DEC 1, THURS. ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER HOLIDAY PARTY & RAFFLE. 7:00pm, Fern Forest Nature Center. 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. 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. For more info, contact Ina at 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.com.



DEC 3, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL. We'll hike approximately 8 miles on a wilderness trail, off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (about 50 minutes from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). You will learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora, as you trek through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie. We will 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. *Suggested donation of \$7 members, \$10 non-members.* Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 or jf812@bellsouth.net.



DEC 10, 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. Moderate. Limit 10. \$3 members, \$5 non-members suggested donation. Leader: Ron Haines RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net or 561-315-0528.



JAN 14, SAT. EAST RIVER PADDLE. Learn about and enjoy the beautiful wildlife, birds and bromeliads as we paddle 8-10 miles through mangrove tunnels and small lakes off a part of the Everglades system. It is located off Tamiami Trail and Route 29. *Cost/donation \$25.00 (members), \$30.00 (non-members) and \$10.00 if you bring your own boat.* 8 canoes are provided along with paddles and life vests. Afterwards we'll have a meal at the Camilla Street Grill on the Baron River in Everglades City (on you). Reserve your space because this trip fills up quickly. Leader: Judy Kuchta judykuchta@yahoo.com or 305-308-8913, Asst. Leaders: Manuel Montiero Manuel_montiero@yahoo.com or 954-815-6230 and Mark Walters mark.walters@sierraclub.org.



JAN 14, SAT. OUTING LEADER TRAINING OLT101. Gainesville. OLT101 is the certification class for any new Sierra Club Outings Leader and re-certification for current leaders. All Outing Leaders have to re-certify every 4 years. Must be Sierra Club member. Cost: \$7. To signup contact Rudy Scheffer rudy.scheffer@sierraclub.org or 727-542-6403.

JAN 21, SAT. STAR PARTY AT BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. When was the last time you saw the Milky Way? Enjoy a night with the stars on a ranger led astronomy program from the National Parks. (see <https://www.nps.gov/bicy/learn/nature/lightscapes.htm> for more info) International Dark Sky Association of South Florida and Everglades Astronomical Society will be available with telescopes for viewing afterwards. Big Cypress NP is one of the darkest skies in the eastern United States. Learn about the negative effect light pollution has on our health and environment. Program starts at 7pm. We will meet at 6:30 at Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center located on US 41 off SR 29. Cost: Free. Red-light flashlights or headlamps only! Cost: Free. Leader: Judy Kuchta judykuchta@yahoo.com or 305-308-8913.



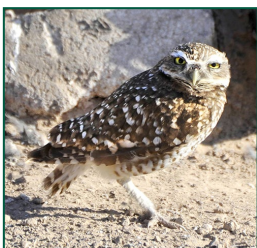
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

– By Darryl Rutz, Broward Sierra Membership Chair



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) met in St. Petersburg on Nov. 16 and 17. Although I was not able to attend, after looking at the online agenda I was able to stream the meeting, as it was carried by the government TV network. There was a lot of discussion on the changing Florida Panther Habitat. Due to high waters there is data that indicates the panthers are moving north. A majority of the panthers are now in the privately held lands. The Commission was seeking federal funds that would reimburse these land owners for any stock that is killed by the panthers.

Another topic dear to us in Broward was the status of the burrowing owls that live in high points of Broward. Several speakers requested that their status should be elevated to endangered. No action was taken at this meeting but action will be taken at the meeting on Feb. 8-9 or April 19-20. I suggest that our members become acquainted with these meetings to monitor the status of our wildlife and take appropriate action. We are expecting that the FWC will also be taking up the Florida Black Bear hunting issue at upcoming meetings. You can find this and more information at <http://MyFWC.com>.



CORAL REEF DESTRUCTION

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

The Miami Herald recently reported on the coral reef destruction in the Port of Miami, which was predicted by all environmental organizations before the dredging at the Port to provide access to larger ships.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers previously contributed the resultant coral destruction to “swirling mud following local storms.” Using evidence gathered by the Corps, including photos taken before, during and after, researchers said sediment spread across an area about 14 times bigger than what was allowed under the Corps permit, causing coral to die.”

Rachel Silverstein, the Waterkeeper spokesperson (and a Broward Sierra presenter at our general meeting a couple of months ago) was quoted as saying that the resulting severity and massive impact on the reefs had been “dramatically underestimated” by the Army Corps of Engineers, and that “The monitoring and protocols that were supposed to protect this reef during the dredge clearly failed...”

Once again the governmental powers-that-be have let the environmental watchdogs down, not willing to adhere to well founded warnings!