



# Broward Sierra News

Please Recycle



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## OUTINGS NEWS – By Judy Kuchta, Broward Sierra Outings Chair

It is a challenge to schedule outdoor activities during the warm and weary summer months, but we've planned some upcoming water outings to help keep us cool, including paddleboarding and our annual August picnic at John U. Lloyd State Park. September highlights will be snorkeling off Ft. Lauderdale beach and snorkeling with a picnic at Peanut Island. Please come see some of the reefs at RISK of being DESTROYED (before it is too late) from dredging that may occur with the Port Everglades expansion. In October, I'm hoping to offer a day trip to the Florida Keys' annual Hawk Watch in Curry Hammock State Park

As the temperatures drop, we'll have more! The November Fisheating Creek canoe and camp is always fun, Big Cypress ranger-led star-gazing programs will dazzle, and the Shark Valley

moonlight bicycle ride will be pleasant on a cool evening after the mosquito population diminishes. We will also have kayak and canoe trips to Everglades National Park.

I may be preaching to the choir here, but we need more participants! Environmental conservation and protection becomes more critical every day. If folks don't know what is out there, they won't care. John Muir brought citizens and politicians out to see nature, and we ended up with the National Park System! So please - in honor of John Muir and Sierra Club, bring your friends and family members to an outing.

Sierra Club Outings leaders are all volunteer's who scout, plan and execute these outings, and we do it because we want to make a difference. It is the Sierra Club way!

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

**Recycling:** Although it took a long time, we're making inroads in this regard. In Broward county, all of our residents now have recycling bins to put curbside for collection. Yet some of us still are a bit in the dark regarding what is recyclable and what isn't. For instance, just because some aluminum pots & pans may seem like valuable metals, they should not go in the bins with soda cans! Do not put styrofoam items into the bins either, and don't put your recyclable newspapers in the plastic bags they come in. We were informed by Waste Management that plastic bags may be returned to Publix, but do NOT go in the bin. It causes the entire plant to shut down.

In Canada, there are collapsible and recyclable recycling carton bins at tourism destinations and central points throughout big cities. In many European mid-sized or smaller towns, recycling bins have gone underground. In centralized places, like cul-de-sacs or small plazas, there are flat in-ground metal covers, easily lifted by pulling a handle. Metal lettering in the concrete above the levers distinctly states what goes in that particular bin: clear glass, colored glass, newspapers, sturdy carton material, soda cans, plastic bottles, etc.

In Central America most soda cans for immediate consumption in fast food places, roadside stalls and big stores come with a shiny

round cellophane cover on top, so that the can's top remains clean. This thin cover eliminates the use of thousands of plastic cups, as drinking straight from an uncovered can might not be considered hygienic.

**Solar power:** This issue is getting acute attention this year, due to power companies seeing an urgent need to preserve their almighty dollar. The same issue is suddenly playing out in Europe as well! Even though a sun-deprived country like Germany has been in the forefront of solar panel usage for many years, there's now also talk of spreading this bounty of cheap electricity, so that even those still solar power-less will get to benefit. Yet, in order to assure that power companies (many of which are government subsidized) are not left penniless, diversified options are being introduced, from different net-metering structures to different leasing options of panels, to be owned outright by power companies. **And remember to vote YES on Amendment 4 in August and NO on Amendment 1 in November!**

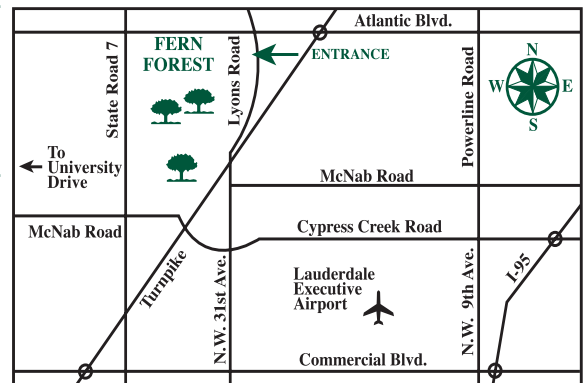
**Rain barrels:** A great item for recycling the plentiful rainwater this time of the year. But quite a few HOA's do not allow the standard barrel, supposedly an eyesore, in their developments. A Miami Herald article recently showed pictures of very fancy terracotta flowerpot-like

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## 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, July 7th:** Our featured speaker for the July 7 general meeting will be the Executive Director of **Miami Waterkeeper, Rachel Silverstein**, PhD, who recently won the Miami Herald Visionary Award for Environment. Her presentation will focus on the **detrimental effects of dredging in the ocean waters of Southeast Florida.**



# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



**JULY 2, SAT. BUTTERFLY HABITAT RESTORATION ON ELLIOTT KEY, BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OUTING.** 8:00am - 5:00pm. Work with park naturalist to maintain Schaus butterfly habitat restoration sites on Elliot Key planting torchwood seedlings as host plants for the endangered Schaus. We will be ferried to the island by the park service. Wear long pants, long sleeves, closed shoes, hat, sunglasses. Pack a lunch, snacks and lots of water. Rating: strenuous but satisfying. Contact the leader for details. Leader: Mark Walters 305-632-7514 [mark.walters@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.walters@sierraclub.org).



**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).



**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 4 - 6, FRI. - SUN. FISHEATING CREEK CANOE AND CAMP.** Details TBA.

**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.**

*Environmental News, continued from previous page*

rainbarrels which no one would imagine was used to collect water. Coincidentally, for years we've been collecting rain run off in a couple of large size plastic terracotta-like pots. But be advised: DO cover the top with the saucer normally used underneath the pot, at the end of the day, so you don't get mosquitos breeding in the standing water.

**Coral reefs:** As the destruction of our coral reefs continues here in Florida, it has become apparent that in many areas around the globe bleaching of coral is also taking place. While visiting the outlying barrier islands along the coast of Honduras and Belize (prime reef diving territory) we were told repeatedly in recent years that large scale reef deterioration had not yet been a problem there. However, talking to a reef specialist there a couple of months ago, I was told that the beginning of coral pollution has been found in some isolated spots. So, the 'last frontier' of pristine reefs is also falling prey to the same pollution curse. However, local marine experts there are working on finding the real culprit(s), as well as

coming up with solutions before it gets out of hand. We may benefit as well from their findings! **Make sure to come to our July meeting to hear Miami Waterkeeper's Executive Director, Rachel Silverstein.**

Talking about reefs, just this weekend we read in the New York Times that a small rodent inhabiting coastal areas along the Great Australian Barrier reef is thought to now be extinct, as a direct result of global warming. The sea level rising along that part of the coast has been flooding the area for several years, and wiped out its' habitat. Some good news pertaining to saving marine species here in Florida, a Delray Beach brewery has come up with a **biodegradable six-pack ring** to hold beverage cans. This is hopefully going a long way to prevent sea turtles from getting these lethal contraptions around their heads and limbs, often with fatal results.

And another hooray for Delray, the first municipality to **do away with mandatory front lawns, and promote xeriscaping instead.**

Time, perhaps, for us to start working on getting all other Broward communities onboard!