



Broward Sierra News

Please Recycle



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SOUTH FLORIDA'S P3 ECO CHALLENGE – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair



For those of us not fully acquainted with this topic, the P3 Eco Challenge is an educational public school system event. Students who have, in the past year, excelled in science studies specifically related to environmental concerns, get special recognition, awards, accolades and so on, for all their academic efforts related to preserving our environment in South Florida. P3 stands for Preserving our Planet for Prosperity. At the same time, while promoting the idea of “Why Science Matters” in the public school system, it also draws the attention to the urgent need of global awareness, pertaining to preserving our planet’s resources for future generations.

At this event on May 11th, held at Long Key Nature Center in Davie, the emphasis was on beach, marine and land preservation. We, as part of Broward Sierra’s Excom, were impressed by the great numbers of local students who had put so much effort into targeting environmental improvement in our community! At times, we become discouraged by the often lackadaisical attitudes all around us, but at this event our hopes were raised sky-high!

One of the students, Izabella (Izzy, as her mom calls her) Burns, a seventh grader from Sarasota, walked away with top honors after participating in a diabetes research project pertaining to twin studies. This was in addition to having been invited to the White House after earning her Silver Award in Girl Scouting.



Other students deserving mention are Diya Jayram, a middle schooler, who single handedly organizes school ground clean up teams, also motivating the entire school staff to join in environmental projects, recycling etc. Danel Le Roux, another middle school student got a grant from the Recycling Bank for her dedication to recycling paper. Theresa Fonseca, a High School student, made her mark in beach clean-ups, and Ronaldo Adain, a self-proclaimed nature lover, successfully promoted horticultural projects at his school.

Of course there’s no way to mention the two dozen award winners and at least as many other participants who deserve mention here on this limited space. Also, while quite a few teachers received accolades as well, we’re naming just students here, as they are the new generation’s torch bearers for a better environmental future.

What particularly stood out were students who studied the subject of how different tides affect the character of the water surrounding us here in South Florida, and others students and teachers who went to the extreme in terms of recycling. For instance, one teacher in particular, single handedly made her school recycle superfluous lunch items, and put together student teams who constantly clean the school grounds on a daily basis, recycling anything that is recyclable.

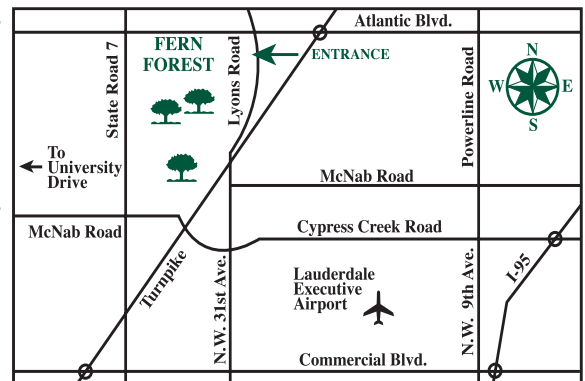
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Broward Sierra Club’s General Meetings - The first Thursday of each month we have committee reports and an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

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, June 2nd: Our guest speaker will be **Sally Sanders from the Ethical Choices Program**. Her presentation will be on the **Environment and Modern Agriculture**, exploring how the ways we

raise farmed animals and crops affect ecosystems and our health: depletion of natural resources; pollution of soil, water and air; use of pesticides and antibiotics; soil erosion and deforestation; and world hunger.



Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



JUNE 18, SAT. MANGROVE PRESERVE CLEANUP AND BIRD WALK. 7:30am - 2:00pm. Join Sierra Club leaders and volunteers for an early morning bird walk followed by a trash and debris clean up; helping to preserve sensitive areas of Biscayne Bay near Biscayne National Park. Birding starts at 7:30am and the clean-up starts at 8:30. Join us for both or either one. For the clean-up, wear closed shoes, long pants, a hat and garden gloves if you have them. Bring a water bottle. We will provide latex gloves, water and snacks. Bring binoculars for birding. Rating: moderate. Leader: Mark Walters 305-632-7514 mark.walters@sierraclub.org. Assistants: Claudia Hernandez clahdez@gmail.com & Dany Garcia g-dany@live.com.



JUNE 25, 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.



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.

We would like to invite you to come on one of our fun and educational outings! If you have any questions about an outing, please check with the certified Sierra Outing Leader listed for the outing. Some of the outings need no experience; others require some level of proficiency. All participants are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, contact the leader of the outing or go to http://vault.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/individual_waiver.pdf. Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

Unless otherwise stated, the costs for each outing represent a best estimate of actual shared expenses, for food and transportation and other direct expenses.

For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.

LOOK FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE: www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward

NEWS FLASHES

- Brazil's critical water issues of water shortage and pollution... a sign of what's to come on a global level? Perhaps we can all heed the warning signals... if only to take preventive action.



- The coral reef damage in Miami-Dade county is, according to the US Army Corps of Engineers, NOT due to dredging projects, but instead a result of weather related "mud-churning"...



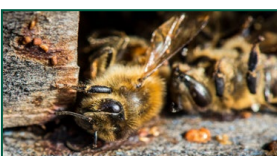
- The aftermath of the BP oil spill in 2010 is deemed currently responsible for massive baby dolphin deaths, still births, as well as all dolphins' high susceptibility to multiple viruses. Reuters reported that a study published in May of 2015 found many dolphins died with rare lesions linked to petroleum exposure.



- Last year Oklahoma registered more than 700 earthquakes, versus just ONE earthquake in 2007. The state's oil boom (fracking) is being blamed for this anomaly. (And they're still talking about fracking in the Everglades?)



- Michael Brune, Sierra's National Executive Director, just emailed us that a new study in *Science Report* found that the massive bee colony collapse (over 40% reduced so far) is due to pesticides.



- But here's the good news: the construction of an additional 2.6 miles bridge is to be started on the western end of the Everglades, after the first one was opened in 2013 to promote free flowing of water and facilitating wildlife migration.



P3 Eco Challenge, continued from previous page

This particular event was only the 4th time it was held in Broward County. It surely sent a message that our future generations are keenly aware of what needs to be done, and what CAN be done when it comes to preserving our environment. We, as Broward's Sierra group, have decided to participate in next year's P3 Eco Challenge event AND also create additional ideas for scientific environmental projects and/or research projects. To this end as part of our own Eco Challenge promotion, next year we will be presenting an award to a specific student who's put in extraordinary efforts to preserve our own environmental backyard here in Broward County!

