



Broward Sierra News

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HAVE A HEART, SAVE OUR STATE PARKS!

We are fortunate in Florida to have some wonderful State Parks that are preserving our unique landscapes. They are now threatened by two bills that are finding their way thru the state legislature (SB 1290 and HB 1075), which would allow the state to unwisely dispose of important conservation lands, reducing protections for Florida's water and wildlife, and limiting public access to Florida's protected natural places. These bills would also direct Florida Forever funding to water infrastructure projects, negating the intent of voters in passing Amendment 1.

On Saturday February 13th, Sierra Club members, families and friends joined in "Have a Heart, Save Our State Parks" rallies at locations throughout the state, to bring public awareness to these issues. What a day we had! The Broward contingency of about 10, plus some young folks that helped out, were in position at the entrance of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park on very busy Sunrise Boulevard. We had our nice homemade signs and got the attention of more than 1,500 cars. We got many honks and thumbs up. It is amazing how many folks just do not understand what is going on. Now a lot more do. A big thanks to Manuel, Barbara, Sue, Darryl, Pat, Lisa, Joan, Caitlain, Gabriella and Giancarlo.

For more information on these bills and for templates to use to email Governor Scott and our congress-people, go to <http://floridaconservationcoalition.org/emails/595810?s=487d3334> and <http://floridaconservationcoalition.org/emails/600174>.



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Save our state parks!

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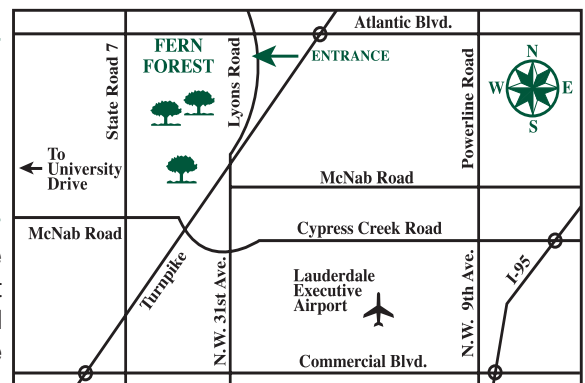


Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - Each month we have committee reports and an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

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, March 3: A joint meeting with the South Florida Audubon Society at Fern Forest Nature Center on March 3, 2016. The featured speaker will be Natural Resource Specialist Diana Guidry from the Broward County NatureScape.



Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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

MAR. 5, SAT. OKEECHOBEE RIM BIKE RIDE has been cancelled, and will be rescheduled in the near future.



NEW! MAR. 5, SAT. STAR GAZING IN THE BIG CYPRESS. Explore constellations, planets and more with park rangers and astronomers from the S. Fla. Astronomers Assoc. at the 4th annual Big Cypress Star Party. Big Cypress Preserve is applying to be an international “dark sky park”. There are only 20 in the world. A dark sky is a place where human’s get clear starry skies and can view nocturnal animals. Viewing starts at about 7pm. and the ranger presentation is at 8pm. Carpooling is recommended (though not a responsibility of the club) as this event is at least a 1-1/2 hour ride from the Ft. Lauderdale airport via I-75. Suggested \$3 donation to cover snacks. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 judykuchta@yahoo.com.



MAR. 12, SAT. BROWARD WATER MATTERS DAY. Treetops Park in Davie. This year’s theme is “Commit to Conservation.” Activities, Giveaways, Interactive Educational Displays/Booths, Water Conservation Tips, Landscaping for Water Savings, Eco-Friendly Ideas, Food Truck Invasion. Park admission: \$1.50. Stop by the Sierra Club booth and say hi. For more info, see www.broward.org/WATERMATTERS/Pages/ProgramsWMD.aspx.



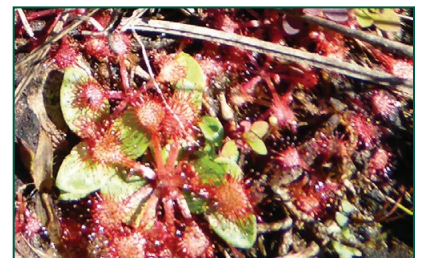
MAR. 26, SAT. EAST RIVER CANOE. Paddle approximately 8-10 miles while exploring several mangrove tunnels and small “lakes” south of Tamiami Trail and Route 29. Learn what inhabits this unique ecosystem. Paddles, life vests and canoes included. Afterwards we’ll have a meal at a restaurant on the Baron River in Everglades City (not included). Rated moderate. \$25 members, \$30 non members. Ages 18 to 25 only \$10. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 judykuchta@yahoo.com. Assistant Leaders: Mark.walters@sierraclub.org, and manuel_monteiro@yahoo.com. Please reply by email.



MAY 21, SAT. SHARK VALLEY FULL MOON BICYCLE RIDE AND FUNDRAISER. If you haven’t done this before, you’ll marvel at the beauty of the Everglades’ open space and mysterious wildlife. During this 15 mile ride you will see the sun set and the moon rise. We’ll start at 6pm. Cost \$10. We’ll have delicious snacks at the lookout tower. Rated moderate. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 judykuchta@yahoo.com.

HIKING IN THE BIG CYPRESS PRESERVE

On Feb 27th, a group of us went hiking on the North trail off Alligator Alley. The trail was wetter than usual, but we were all prepared for that, and had a great time. We saw herons, swallow kites, hawks, alligators, crawdads and many beautiful swamp plants and flowers. We also spotted some bobcat tracks, as well as some panther tracks.



GRAND CANYON CAMPSITE TO SHARE

One of the Sierra Club members who was on the hike is looking for 2-3 people wishing to join him for hiking, including three nights camping, in the inner Grand Canyon in October. Approximately 40 miles will be covered in four days to include a north to south cross canyon hike of about 24 miles. For details contact Bob Branstrator at rdbranstar@gmail.com in Marco Island.

To see more photos of this outing (and others) see our photo gallery at www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/photo-gallery