



Broward Sierra News

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VOL. XXXVIII NO. 5 / MAY 2016

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EAST RIVER CANOEING & KAYAKING – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair



March 26, 2016. There we were, ten of us, at a very early hour, all the way out on the intersection of Routes 29 and 41. Our canoe delivery was to show up any moment!

It had been a long time since I'd been able to join in for a full day of outdoor fun in the Everglades. For one thing, working 24/7 often takes priority over anything else. But this day I was lucky - and the weather Gods were with us!

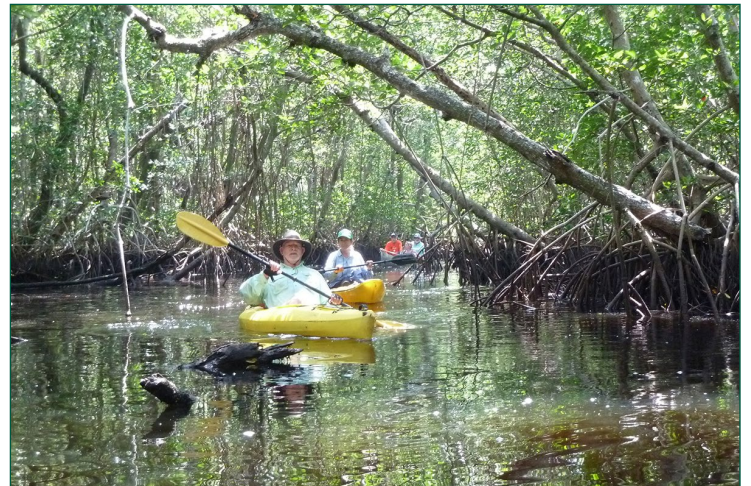
Although the forecast had been for a remote possibility of some rain, we couldn't be more grateful that there was nothing but blue skies as we got into a half dozen canoes and kayaks, and paddled through the extensive mangrove areas of the southwestern Everglades. The "mangrove tunnels" as they're called, stretched out far beyond the horizon, and it's incredible how much of these ancient ecosystems still seem to be in pristine condition. Surely, some real expert would find fault with the word 'pristine' but yet....

Here and there, in between the extensive dense mangrove

tunnels, blissfully shielded from the hot Florida sun, we would suddenly find ourselves on a wide open lake. There we were surprised by flocks of birds suddenly flying out of (nesting) trees, possibly surprised by our approach, providing the photographers among us some excellent shots.

I want to remind all our Broward Sierrans that we have a wonderful outings program in place, which perhaps some people are not even aware of. We go into many infrequently visited areas of our beautiful and very unique South Florida, and there's definitely an option for any and all of us. One can join the hikes, most of which are not too strenuous for young or old to take part in. And after many years of being too busy, having joined a great daylong canoe trip, I urge all of you to make a point of going on one of our outings.

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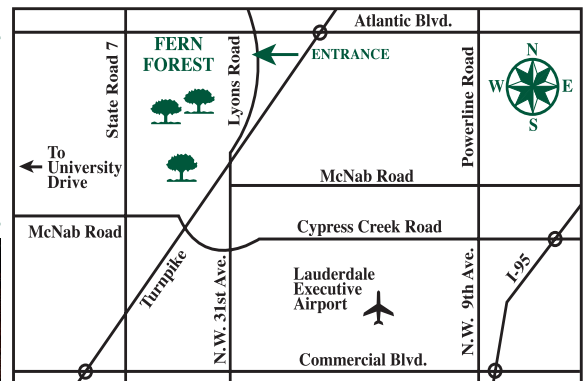


To see more photos of this event (and many other events and outings) see our photo gallery at www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/photo-gallery

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, May 5th: The featured speaker will be **Rolf E. Olson, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.** His presentation will be on how invasive species are taking over and killing the native plants on the islands in the park. This is an area that desperately needs funds from Amendment One, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative.



Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

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



MAY 20, FRI. WINE TASTING FUND RAISER 6:30 - 8:30pm at Total Wine in the Fountains of Plantation at 801 S. University Drive. The theme is "A Taste of Adventure." This exciting class focuses on delicious wines from the Southern Hemisphere. Featured wines include Argentine Malbec, Australian Shiraz and New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. Tasty appetizers will be served. Donation: \$20. For more information contact Sue Caruso at 954-684-6747 or susan.caruso@att.net.



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.

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

OKEECHOBEE RIM BIKE RIDE

– By Darryl Rutz, Broward Sierra Membership Chair

The six of us who participated in this 15 mile bike ride got a real workout. What made it the most challenging was the forecasted heat. But we lucked out, as once we got on the dam, there was enough of a breeze to make it tolerable. We met at a fish camp and went 7.5 miles south on the dam to the St. Lucie Canal locks at Canal Point. We took a break at the locks and had a good discussion about the damage that all the dirty water from Lake Okeechobee is doing along the canal and the Indian River Lagoon. After we biked back and the outing was complete, we cooled down at the Gator Hole. Kudo's to those that biked: Terry, Freeman, Phil, Robert and Bruce (not in the photo). My thanks to Terry for taking the pictures.



East River, continued from previous page

In answer to one of the first questions always asked.... NO, there's no major mosquito problem. The mosquito breeding season is during the deadheat of summer, in which they're most active, AND they come out mostly at dusk. That should take care of your mosquito worries for a whole fun-filled day.

And kudos to our outings leader, Judy Kuchta, for having organized so many terrific outings for so many years. Feel free to email her or call her (judykuchta@yahoo.com, 305-308-8913), or better yet... sign up for an outing!

APRIL 7 BROWARD SIERRA MEETING



Marine turtle specialist Cody Mott, from Inwater Research Group gave us a fascinating presentation at our April General Meeting.

Please join us at our meeting on May 5th for a presentation by Rolf E. Olson, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

