



# Broward Sierra News

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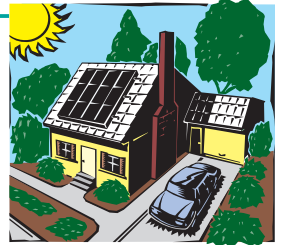
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## FPL WANTS TO OWN THE SUN. Do Not Put Utility Corporations Into Our State Constitution!

Floridians should Vote **NO** on Amendment 1 in November for three reasons:



**FACT 1 – Amendment 1 is funded by Florida’s big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.**

**WHY –** Follow the money: Florida Power & Light (FPL), Duke Energy and other big power companies want to maintain their monopoly control on profits from electricity sales and limit customer-owned solar. Solar power is poised to grow in the Sunshine State, which would allow customers to generate their own power and buy less from the electric utilities. To date, the monopoly utilities have contributed the majority of the \$20 million collected to promote this Amendment to protect their power sales, all the while claiming they are “pro-solar.” In reality, utilities only support limited amounts of solar power they own and from which they can profit. No non-utility solar company supports Amendment 1.

**FACT 2 – Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.**

**HOW –** The utility-backed Amendment 1 would add to the State Constitution the false assumption that solar customers are “subsidized” by non-solar customers and that non-solar customers are in need of additional protections. In fact, reputable studies in

10 states show that solar customers provide a net-benefit for the utility and all electricity customers. The large monopoly utilities are looking for ways to limit customer-owned solar and will use this false claim as a justification to implement unfair fees and discriminatory penalties for solar customers. Restrictions and unfair fees would make solar more expensive, limit the expansion of solar, and hurt consumers by denying a cost effective way to lower power bills.

**FACT 3 – Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.**

**HOW –** The monopoly utilities wrote Amendment 1 to sound good by promising that it would add new solar rights and consumer protections. Floridians already have the right to purchase or lease solar equipment and are already fully protected under Florida’s existing consumer protection laws. The false promises of additional rights are designed to gain support for the Amendment, not to help grow the solar market in Florida!

Resource: Floridians for Solar Choice [www.flsolarchoice.org](http://www.flsolarchoice.org)

## MORE DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN FLORIDA WATERS

– By Susan Caruso, Broward Sierra Excom Secretary

On August 23, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) convinced the Environmental Regulation Commission to approve a weakening of water quality standards for almost two dozen toxic chemicals. These are chemicals that now will be released into surface water, which is the source of drinking water for millions of Floridians. Their reasoning, i.e. excuse, is that new science is showing these chemicals can be released at “safe levels” for our consumption. The DEP’s website also praises their decision to place standards on 39 new chemicals, while leaving the current levels of dioxin and arsenic at the present standard. According to the Tallahassee Democrat, “allowable amounts of benzene, a well

known carcinogen used in fracking and found in high levels in its waste water, would go up three times.” Ken Weaver, a DEP administrator, denies that considerations for the fracking industry played a role in their decision.

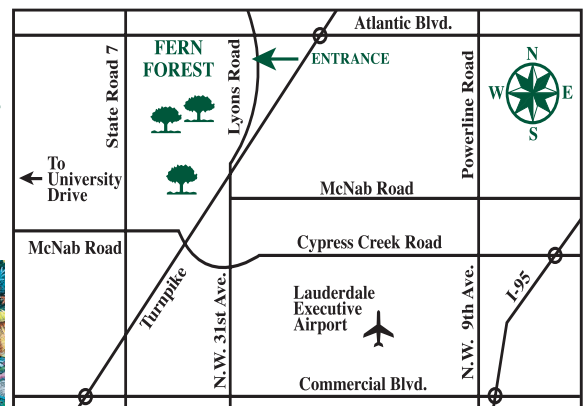
According to the DEP’s own website, the chemicals that are being considered for new limits still have to be controlled since “Laboratory toxicology studies have shown that exposure to these parameters through drinking water or food can cause either an increased risk of developing cancer over a lifetime or other non-carcinogenic adverse health effects, such as kidney failure, liver dysfunction, or neurological effects.” If industries are

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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, Oct. 6th:** Our featured speaker will be **David Stout, Natural Resources Specialist for Broward County.** His talk will be on environmental projects planned for Broward County, such as **beach re-nourishment, coral reef protection, etc.**



# Local Sierra Club Outings & Events



**OCT 12, WEDNESDAY. ANNUAL HAWK WATCH AT CURRY HAMMOCK STATE PARK.** ([www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)) This event is sponsored by Audubon Society. There are multitudes of raptors to be seen as they migrate south for the winter. On Oct. 15, 2015 they counted over 1,506 peregrine falcons in one day. It was a record! We may see and learn about Northern Harriers, Short-shinned and Coopers Hawks, American Kestrels, vultures and more as they fly through this bi-way. BEGINNERS WELCOME. There are also kayaks available for rental. Bring your binoculars, beverages and snacks. We will carpool (not a responsibility of the Sierra Club) from Ft. Lauderdale down to MM 56.2 on the Overseas Hwy. It's approx. 120 miles. Allow from 9am - 7pm for this adventure because we will probably want to explore more of the Keys' attractions. We'll have lunch (on you) at a local restaurant. *Donation* \$5. Leader: Judy Kuchta [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com) 305-308-8913.



**OCT 15, SAT. 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 crafted in the Southern Hemisphere. Featured wines include Argentine Malbec, Australian Shiraz and New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. Tasty appetizers will be served. *Donation:* \$20. Please R.S.V.P. by October 10th to Sue Caruso at 954-684-6747 or [susan.caruso@att.net](mailto:susan.caruso@att.net).



**OCT 28 - 30, FRI. EVENING - SUN LUNCH. FLORIDA OUTING LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS GATHERING.** All Outing Leaders, Outings Chairs and members interested in becoming leaders in the future! Cabins or camping, meals starting with breakfast Saturday and ending with lunch Sunday. Take part in the Sierra Club outing chairs, leader and future outing leaders gathering at the Masonic Lodge Campground ([www.masonicparkflorida.com](http://www.masonicparkflorida.com)) in Ruskin, Florida, near Little Manatee River State Park. Join Sierra Club local outings leaders from Florida, share YOUR outings successes, inventive ideas, challenges and lessons learned. Join in on round table discussions and short workshops on topics such as Outing Leader Training, Basic First Aid, and new tools to help build and grow your outings program. You'll leave the weekend gathering inspired to start or grow new and innovative outdoor programs back at home. Rated Easy. Must be a Sierra Club member. *To register please mail a check for either \$35 (Saturday only) or \$50 (weekend) made out to Sierra Club Florida and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 1692, Maitland, FL 32751. Cancellations received by 10/21 receive full refund; cancellations after 10/22 and no shows waive their registration fee.* For questions please contact Rudy Scheffer at [rudy.scheffer@sierraclub.org](mailto:rudy.scheffer@sierraclub.org) or 727-542-6403.



**NOV 5 - 6, SAT. - SUN. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/CANOEING ON FISHEATING CREEK.** We'll meet at the campground Saturday morning and the outfitter will transport us and our boats to the put in point. Sunday, we can explore some of the trails. You may bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one. The outfitter's price for the transport is practically the same whether you bring your own vessel or rent from them. Suggested donation is \$55 per person for members, \$65 person for non-members if you will have two people in your boat. If you bring or rent a single kayak, the donation is \$75 per person members and \$85 per person non-members. \$30 per person for non-paddlers. This includes the campsite (Friday and Saturday nights if you wish), 3 meals (Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast), upriver transport, and canoe/kayak rental, if applicable. RV sites are available at slight extra cost. Rated Moderate. Limit 24. If you wish, you may camp at our main campground campsite on Friday evening on your own – just provide your own meals. Leaders: Chas Hunt [loxoutings@gmail.com](mailto:loxoutings@gmail.com) 561-315-0677, Kaatje Bernabei [kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net) 305-223-6551.



**NOV 20, SUN. CANOE/KAYAK AT JOHN PRINCE PARK IN LAKE WORTH.** Leisurely morning canoeing and kayaking in the backwaters of John Prince Park ([www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks/locations/johnprince.htm#Uu-Hiv-PKM8](http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks/locations/johnprince.htm#Uu-Hiv-PKM8)). Boat rentals available, but must be reserved in advance. Limit 10. Rated Leisure. *Suggested donation \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines [RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net](mailto:RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net) 561-315-0528.



**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: Michelle Berndgen - TEXT only to 954-593-0238 or [michmaber@gmail.com](mailto:michmaber@gmail.com). Assistant Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 or [jf812@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net) 561-315-0528.



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already adherent to strict standards and have the technologies in place to meet those standards, why weaken them now?

The current standards for these 23 chemicals are being called "excessive conservatism" throughout the documentation explaining the new standards. Really? I am being excessively conservative if I don't want poisons such as benzene in my drinking water? Is the increase risk of cancer to 1 person in a million acceptable? That would be an extra 18 people who will be likely to develop the afflictions listed above. Although it is a small percent, it should still be zero increased risk. I just hope that my children or grandchildren will not be one of those 18.

Our local politicians are not on board with these changes, but their hands are tied. The Environmental Regulation Commission that approved this change by a vote of 3 to 2 had two vacant seats, those that represent local elected officials and environmental groups! How convenient that Rick Scott neglected to fill those positions.

What you can do: Urge your city commissioners to adopt the resolution developed and passed by the city of Pembroke Pines. This resolution will be sent to the Federal Department of Environmental Protection, who will make the final decision of whether or not these new standards can be put in place. If every city in Broward County sends this message to the Federal EPA, it can be a very powerful statement that our water quality concerns are being circumvented. Here is the link to the resolution: <http://tinyurl.com/PPToxicResolution>. Or find it on our website at [www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward).

You may contact me at [susan.caruso@att.net](mailto:susan.caruso@att.net) or 954-684-6747 for more information.

