



ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS IN THE FLORIDA HOUSE & SENATE

IMPLEMENTING CONSTITUTIONAL SOLAR AMENDMENT SB 90 - Sen. Brandes

Will provide statutory exemption from property assessment and from tangible personal property taxes for renewable energy devices like solar panels to implement the Constitutional amendment approved by voters on August 30, 2016

BAN FRACKING SB 442 - Sen. Young / HB 451 - Rep. M. Miller

Bans all fracking techniques: hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and acid matrix stimulations, but does not prevent routine well cleanout work

SEND LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER SOUTH AND CUT THE DISCHARGES TO THE EAST AND WEST SB 10 - Sen. Bradley / HB 761 - Rep. Altman

Would provide for a 60,000 acre reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee to clean water from the lake and then send it south through the Everglades where it will help restore the hydrology of the ecosystem, recharge the aquifer South Florida residents and visitors depend on, and reduce the salinity killing the seagrass in Florida Bay while reducing the harmful discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers and their estuaries (including Indian River Lagoon).

PLASTIC BAGS PILOT PROGRAM SB 162 - Sen. Rodriguez / HB 93 - Rep. Richardson

Would allow coastal communities with populations of fewer than 100,000 to ban or regulate the use of disposable plastic bags as a pilot program from 1/1/2018 through 6/30/2020 (2.5 years), to collect data on the program, and to report it to the Department of Environmental Protection

FLORIDA BLACK BEAR HABITAT RESTORATION ACT SB 1304 - Sen. Stewart and Sen. Torres

Would require the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Department of Environmental Protection to coordinate certain duties and responsibilities to protect Florida black bears and to preserve their habitat, and would place a moratorium on black bear hunting until 2027.

WATER BILL FIXES (In House and Senate drafting but unnumbered as yet)

Addresses aspects left out of last year's water bill: Chapter No. 2016-1

- Monitor how much water is being pumped
- If a Consumptive Use Permit is denied, the Water Management District should consider that in an annual review of the Regional Water Supply Plan
- Establish priority funding for water conservation projects
- Reserve water when an Outstanding Florida Springs requires a recovery plan
- Require Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to assemble fertilizer use data and get it to the Department of Environmental Protection
- Prohibit Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, new septic tanks, industrial wastewater treatment plants in the Priority Focus Areas of Outstanding Florida Springs
- Require BETTER Best Management Practices when needed



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact your state senators and representatives and tell them to vote YES on the above bills.

To find your district for State Senator & Representative, go to <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find>

To find the contact information for your Broward County State Representative and Senators (by district), go to <http://www.browardsoe.org/electedofficials.aspx>

And tell them to vote NO on this one:

IMPLEMENTING CONSTITUTIONAL SOLAR AMENDMENT HB 1351 - Rep. Rodrigues

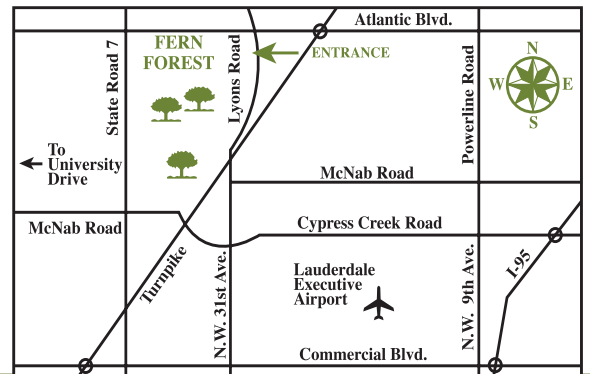
Another anti-solar bill disguised as pro-solar. In addition to prohibiting tax assessors from increasing the taxable value of a home or business because of a solar installation (already covered in SB-90), it would make it difficult to impossible for any company to install rooftop solar by requiring them to file more than 20 financial disclosures relating the their business, calculate a customer's energy savings based on (unknowable) future (not past) energy rates, follow new codes and standards, etc. etc. etc.



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, April 6th: Our featured speaker will be Sierra Club organizer **Diana Umpierre**, Geologist and President of International Dark Skies Association. She will provide an overview of Sierra Club mobilization efforts in response to the Trump Administration, and to other federal attacks on the environment.



LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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



APRIL 1, SAT. BIKING IN THE STORM WATER TREATMENT 5/6 AREA. Located about 26 miles south of Clewiston or 25 mile north of I-75 on Snake Road. This area is fast becoming a premier bird viewing area. This is formerly agricultural land that the state purchased to purify the water. We will be biking on dirt roads through the treatment area. Participants should be experienced riders. You will need a mountain bike as there may be some soft sand. Suggest you bring a spare inner tube and proper tools. There is no shade so bring a good hat and plenty of water. Bring a snack and we will plan a late lunch at the Miccosukee Village. *Suggested donation is \$5.* Outing will begin from the main entrance on Deer Road at 10:30am. For more information or to reserve a spot contact Darryl Rutz at 954-892-1740 or dmrtz2@msn.com.



APRIL 1, SAT. SUNRISE EARTH DAY CELEBRATION. 11am to 4pm at Sawgrass Sanctuary Park, 237 North New River Circle, Sunrise. Children's activities, handcrafted goods, food and beverages, exhibitors and educational sessions. Come and see us at our booth there. For more info see www.sunrisefl.gov/?page=555.



APRIL 8, SAT. NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS. We will start at Mojo's Donuts in Pembroke Pines (7906 Pines Blvd.) at 9am. (Cost incurred by the hiker.) From there we will drive to the location where we will be identifying various kinds of wildlife. Darryl has identified about 12 different birds and critters there. This will be an easy walk no more than half a mile. There will be a brief discussion of each animal that appears all over South Florida. The entire event will take no more than an hour. No donations are asked for, but a good time is expected. The point is that we have wildlife where we least expect it. If you have any questions or want to sign up contact Darryl Rutz at 954-892-1740 or dmrtz2@msn.com.



APRIL 8 - 9, SAT - SUN. OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING. Do you love the outdoors? Would you like to share your love of it with others? We can teach you how, and provide all the equipment you need to do it! Join us for Outings Leader Training and Basic First Aid certification and become a certified leader for adults or youth, and start sharing the outdoors with others. Lunch included on Saturday. Cost: \$25, (to be refunded after you lead your first trip). Class size is limited; fee payment guarantees your spot. To register contact Mark Walters 305-632-7514 mark.walters@sierraclub.org or Karen Kerr 305-213-1385 karenkerr50@gmail.com.



APRIL 22, SAT. DAY KAYAKING/CANOEOING AT ST. LUCIE INLET PRESERVE STATE PARK near Stuart. This classic Florida barrier island is accessible only by boat, but it is worth the ride. A 3300 foot boardwalk takes visitors across mangrove forests and hammocks of live oaks, cabbage palms, paradise trees, and wild limes to a neatly preserved Atlantic beach. During the summer months, the island is an important nesting area for loggerhead, leatherback, and green turtles. We will paddle across the Intracoastal and then explore the tidal creeks. After we've worked up an appetite, we'll have lunch and go for an ocean swim on a pristine secluded beach. *Donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members* if you bring your own kayak or canoe. Sorry, rentals are not available. Bring a lunch to share. Rated Moderate. Leader: Chas Hunt 561-739-3171 loxoutings@gmail.com.



APRIL 23, SUN. EARTH DAY AT ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER. 751 Sheridan St., Hollywood. See next page. For more information contact Judy Kuchta at judykuchta@yahoo.com or 305-308-8913 or Sue Caruso at susan.caruso@att.net or 954-684-6747.



APRIL 29, SAT. PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MOBILIZATION IN WASHINGTON DC. We will come together with hundreds of thousands of people to reject the administration's attack on our communities and climate, and push forward with our vision of a clean energy economy that works for all. For more info go to <https://peoplesclimate.org/>.

WATER MATTERS – By Ina Oost Topper & Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Excom Chair & Vice Chair

Water Matters Day on March 11th at Tree Tops Park was a great success with over 3000 visitors! We were delighted to have so many people stop by our table to learn about the Sierra Club and the water related issues we are concerned about - everything from basic water conservation at home to the recent alarming increase in horrendous water pollution: green slime, red tides, etc.

On March 15th Broward Sierra Club was invited to address a meeting of the Broward League of Women Voters. Although Vice-Chair Barb Ruge took the microphone, she was supported by our team, Conservation Chair Stan Pannaman, Excom Secretary and environmental science teacher Sue Caruso and Sierra Club organizer Diana Umpierre, Geologist and Pres. of International Dark Skies Association. The topic of discussion was Water, Water, Water.

In February the Excom attended a meeting at Port Everglades to give the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers our opinion about their objective to dredge the port for future, larger shipping use. As you may know, the previous Port of Miami dredging project turned into a major disaster for the coral reefs in that area. Fearful of the same thing happening here, a tremendous crowd showed up at this hearing. This included well-known coral reef preservationists, local citizens alarmed at seeing our coral reefs destroyed, and merchants, hoteliers, boat captains and diving instructors who make their living from reef related tourism. Sharing their expertise on the subject were Rachel Silverstein from Miami

Waterkeeper and Dr. Andrew Baker, Associate Professor, University of Miami's Dept. of Marine Biology. Dr. Baker brought massive coral specimens to show the powers-that-be what's really at stake.

When reefs, which took thousands of years to grow and are a unique feature of our local water environment, are destroyed in a matter of days due to hasty, inexpert dredging, we need to speak up. THIS time we hope that, somehow, the US Army Corps of Engineers heard our insistent demand to get a third, neutral party, i.e. a team consisting of coral reef scientists, involved before any dredging will take place. Only extensive, professional research can prevent a repeat of the horrendous results from the Corps' destructive dredging at the Port of Miami. Conservative estimates project a minimum of 25 years before those reefs recuperate to what they were, barely a year ago.

And it would spare the Corps from, once again, having to sheepishly admit a few months later that "our research data were totally inadequate, and severely outdated."

If and when the opportunity to have your voice heard presents itself, by all means, please speak up.

Yes - Water matters in many ways....





EARTH DAY 2017

Sunday, April 23rd, 10am - 4pm

at Anne Kolb Nature Center

751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood



**FREE PARKING
AND EXHIBIT
ENTRANCE**

FREE NATURE WALKS

FREE KAYAKING

**EXHIBITS, ENVIRONMENTAL
SPEAKERS, MUSIC, MOVIES,
ACTIVITIES, AND MORE!**

***FAMILY FRIENDLY.
SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES.***

Sponsored by the



SIERRA CLUB
BROWARD GROUP

I'M HERE TO PROTECT THE PLANET!

With the current political atmosphere being so dangerously in climate change denial, the Broward Sierra Club decided that we need to increase awareness of the perils that all Earth systems are facing. And we want people to know that there ARE things we can do. **So we will be hosting a fabulous Earth Day event at the beautiful Anne Kolb Nature Center on Sunday, April 23 from 10am to 4pm.** Almost every environmental issue will be covered by our nonprofit participants and expert speakers. We are particularly pleased that the South Broward Marine Magnet program will be not only manning a booth, but giving us a presentation in the Mangrove Hall. It is so encouraging that our youth are taking action. We will also be announcing the winners of the Broward Schools poster contest "The Solution to Pollution."

You can educate yourself and your family on conservation, climate change, coral reefs, Everglades restoration, recycling, and more, as well as take positive action for change. The best part...all the activities are FREE! Come early enough, and take a free boat ride

through the mangrove habitat, or take out a kayak with a guide for a 20 minute paddle. The exhibit hall will be free for all guests throughout the day, with a special feeding of the mangrove creatures in the afternoon. Guided nature strolls will take place throughout the day, on one of the park's favorite trails. Feel free to stroll or bike the other trails at your leisure.

Speakers: 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Tabling events: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Boat rides: 10:00, 10:20, 10:40 am (due to tidal restrictions)

Kayaking: every 20 minutes from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Exhibit hall: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We hope you and your family will join us for a day of fun, education and action!

If you'd like to volunteer to help out in one of our booths or with logistics that day, please contact Judy at 305-308-8913 or judykuchta.sierraclub@gmail.com.