



Broward Sierra News



VOL. XXXIX NO. 2 / FEBRUARY 2017

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DO YOU KNOW? – By Stan Pannaman, Broward Sierra Conservation Chair & Program Chair

In case you haven't heard, Florida Power and Light, NextEra, Duke, and Spectra Energy (a Houston, Texas-based company) are building a 515 mile interstate natural gas pipeline through some of the most pristine and ecologically sensitive areas in the South. It will run 86 miles in Alabama, 162 miles in Georgia, and



- Proposed pipeline route
- Sinkholes within 5 miles from pipeline
- Florida Springs within 5 miles from pipeline

268 miles in Florida. The Florida portion they want to build would bring it through one of the most unstable portion of northern Florida. We are draining so much water for the use of the population, that the Springs in that portion of Florida are drying up. And now that the land has nothing to support the soil, sinkholes are a common phenomena. Not a good place to put a pipeline that is expected to carry 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. **What can you do?** Call the White House at (202) 456-1414 and call the Army Corps of Engineers at

(202) 761-5903 and ask for the permit for the Sabal Trail Pipeline be rescinded. You can also call the office of Governor Rick Scott (850) 488-7146 and ask for the state to stop the pipeline. For more info go to <https://www.fractracker.org/2016/11/sabal-trail-pipeline/> and <http://tinyurl.com/sabalpipeline>.

Another not so great idea is what's happening right here in Broward County. The city of Sunrise is allowing a new 1.5 billion dollar development called Metropica – nearly double the size of the neighboring Sawgrass Mills Mall. It will consist of more than 2,000 condos, 300 townhomes, enough commercial space to hold 11 super Walmarts. They expect to take 10 years to build it and to employ 5000 construction workers. Only God knows how much air pollution it will create, and how much toxic waste will be running into the nearby Everglades and how the road system in that area are going to handle all the cars. **What can you do?** There is really nothing that can be done at this point to stop it. I attended every Sunrise commission meeting and spoke out against this development. Many of the people in the environmental community did the same. To no avail. All members of the Sunrise Commission voted unanimously for the project. The only thing we can do now is monitor the development at every stage, and when we find something wrong, report our findings to the Department of Environmental Protection, both State and Federal, and of course complain to the Army Corps of Engineers.

SIERRA/AUDUBON JOINT MEETING – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

On January 12th we held our yearly joint Sierra/Audubon meeting at Long Key Nature Center in Davie. Although the Audubon's main objective is the protection of our bird population, there was a good point made in an extensive presentation of our most destructive invasive animal species, the Burmese python. One aspect of the difficulty in getting rid of them, is the difficulty in seeing them. We heard from one of our Sierrans who accompanied a park ranger in the Everglades to spot pythons, that after a 20 minute discussion, they discovered that they had been literally standing just a few feet away from a massive python! The presentation this evening was accompanied by photographs of the barely-visible snakes blending in with heaps of dead leaves, or yellowing grass.

Also from February 17th to 20th is the Audubon's 20th annual Great Backyard Bird Count. To find out more about it, go to www.audubon.org/content/about-great-backyard-bird-count.

EXCOM ELECTION RESULTS

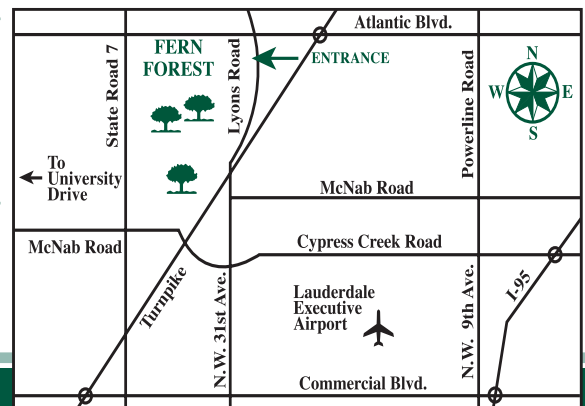
This year Sue Caruso and Max Goldstein were reelected to the Broward Sierra Executive Committee. Judy Kuchta has resigned (and we thank her for her years of service to the Excom), but is remaining as Outings Chair. Carole Walsh (our longtime newsletter editor and web master) has also been elected to the Excom.



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, Feb. 2nd: Our featured speaker will be **Patrick Ferguson, staff member of the Sierra Club**. His presentation will be on the detrimental affects of **Big Sugar in Florida**.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Local Sierra Club Outings & Events



FEB 4, SAT. KAYAK/CANOE THE SOUTH FORK OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER near Stuart. 10am. This is a beautiful, pristine stream near Stuart. It becomes increasingly scenic and narrow as you paddle. We'll stop at a remote picnic site and then paddle back to the starting point. This trip is very on gentle water, suitable for beginners. Bring your own kayak or canoe or rent in advance from Ed at South River Outfitters, 772-223-1500. \$26 for a single kayak, \$36 for a double kayak or canoe. Limit 10. Moderate. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net or 561-315-0528.



FEB 5, SUN. CANOE/KAYAK BLUE CYPRESS LAKE West of Vero Beach. Blue Cypress Lake is known for birding and spectacular cypress trees along the shoreline. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=7N8UC0nVDIg and www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ra-zAfDVvo. Moderate. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net or 561-315-0528.



FEB 12, SUN. FERN FOREST CLEANUP. Let's give back! Our general meetings are held each month at beautiful Fern Forest Nature Center at no cost to us. Please join us to help remove invasive plants that are altering the delicate balance of this ecosystem. Wear long sleeves, long pants, sturdy shoes and bring a container of water. All other equipment will be provided. We'll meet at the visitor center at 8:45am and work until noon with a short break. *Cost: Free.* This is a great way to get out into nature, get some exercise and make a difference! Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 or jf812@bellsouth.net.



FEB 25, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK THE BUSTER ISLAND PADDLING TRAIL IN LAKE KISSIMMEE STATE PARK EAST OF LAKE WALES. 11 mile scenic loop includes three lakes. www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/guide/designated_paddle/Buster%20Island%20Guide.pdf. Kayak rentals are available. Moderate. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net or 561-315-0528.



MARCH 4, SAT. EAST RIVER PADDLE. Learn about and enjoy the beautiful wildlife, birds and bromeliads as we paddle 8-10 miles through mangrove tunnels and small lakes off a part of the Everglades system. It is located off Tamiami Trail and Route 29. *Cost/donation \$25 (members), \$30 (non-members) and \$10 if you bring your own boat.* 8 canoes are provided along with paddles and life vests. Afterwards we'll have a meal at the Camilla Street Grill on the Baron River in Everglades City (on you). Reserve your space because this trip fills up quickly. Leader: Judy Kuchta judykuchta@yahoo.com or 305-308-8913, Asst. Leader: Manuel Montiero Manuel_montiero@yahoo.com or 954-815-6230.



MARCH 11, SAT. WATER MATTERS DAY at Tree Tops Park, 3900 SW 100th Ave, Davie. Stop by and see us there.

MARCH 12, SUN. FERN FOREST CLEANUP. See Feb 12. Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 or jf812@bellsouth.net.



MARCH 18, 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. This is a MOSTLY dry hike. *Suggested donation of \$7 members, \$10 non-members.* Leader: Jackie Fisher, 954-434-2855 or jf812@bellsouth.net.



APRIL 23, SUN. EARTH DAY AT ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER, 751 Sheridan St., Hollywood. The Broward Sierra Club will be hosting the 2017 Earth Day Celebration at Anne Kolb Nature Center. More info to come.

APRIL 29, SAT. PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MOBILIZATION IN WASHINGTON DC. For more information go to <https://sierraclub.tfaforms.net/126>.

The League of Women Voters and the Community Power Network are organizing **SOLAR FL-SUN CO-OPS** across the state. Informational meetings will be held for East Broward on Feb. 6th from 7-9pm at the ArtServe library in Ft. Lauderdale, and for West Broward on Feb. 7th from 7-9pm at the Broward County Government West office at Broward and University Blvd. <http://www.flsun.org>

KING MANGO STRUT PARADE – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

At the King Mango Strut Parade on Dec. 30th, our South Florida Sierra participation had a somewhat different tone. In view of the tough road ahead for environmentalists, our banner declared "It's just not funny this year," with the EPA at risk of wholesale dismantling, looser rules & regulations on pollution controls, apparently no need to keep harmful pollution from Florida's waterways or Lake Okeechobee in check, and on and on it goes...

This time we Sierrans were wearing black veils over our faces and black bands around our upper arms, as if in mourning (which we are... really) for our planet Earth, with t-shirts stating on the back "There is no Planet B." The crowds along the parade route applauded us when we passed by, fully understanding the message we brought.

Let's all join forces to do our utmost this year to limit the damage that may set us back years, if not decades.

