



Broward Sierra News

Please Recycle



VOL. XXXIX NO. 1 / JANUARY 2017

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THE GREAT OUTDOORS

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

One of the most interesting nature hikes here in South Florida inevitably takes us into the Big Cypress Preserve. In early December, under the capable leadership of Jackie Fisher, and accompanied by outings leader Judy Kuchta, we were fortunate to have one of those most glorious dry-season days one could only wish for.

Besides seeing quite a few alligators, some of them biiiiiiig gators (rest assured, if you leave them alone, they will leave you alone...), we were also fortunate to see woodstorks, blue herons, and owls unique to our local area. Yes, besides the Burrowing Owl, which is, thanks to our joint efforts, now being added to the endangered list, there are also owls that live in trees. Amazingly we spotted one in bright sunshine, sitting high up in a tree - contrary to expecting these interesting birds to be nocturnal.

There were also the unusual plants: bushes with snow berries, and dense sections of Saw Palmetto. Little did we know that this type of palm-like underbrush is one of the slowest growing plants known to mankind. A short, barely 2 feet high brush can take years to grow to that height! A very rare sight were some of the most unusual orchid-like mini-flowers; it brought back memories of Carl Hiaasen's *Orchid Thief*, the book as well as the movie.

Look for other great Sierra outings! This is the best time of the year to go into the great outdoors with relative ease, as the Everglades' water level is now at its lowest, and daytime temperature is within an easy comfort zone.

See you on our next hike!



*On Behalf of Your Executive Committee, We Wish You All
A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.*

Watch this video to see some of our accomplishments during 2016:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIMrYHAbqmQ>

And remember that the next 4 years will be particularly challenging for environmental protection!

So more than ever, we need to step up our efforts to be engaged, committed and vocal.



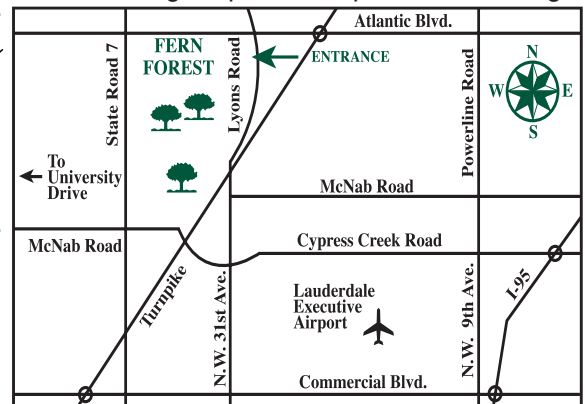
Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - The first Thursday of each month we have committee reports and an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

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, Jan. 12th (7:00pm): Our January general meeting will be a joint meeting with the South Florida Audubon Society at **Long Key Nature Center**, 3501 SW 130th Ave, Davie, FL 33330. The featured speaker will be **James Currie of TV's *Birding Adventures***. The topic will be **"When the Eagles Roar."** There will be a light buffet.



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



JAN 7, SAT. BIKING AT RIVERBEND PARK IN JUPITER. 10am. Leisurely morning bicycling in the woods at Riverbend Park. See www.pbcgov.com/parks/locations/riverbend.htm#VeTCuJc42Gk. Bike rentals are available. Bicycle helmets are REQUIRED on all Sierra Club bicycle outings. Moderate. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net or 561-315-0528.



JAN 7, SAT. MIAMI URBAN BIRDWATCHING. 7:30am-10am. Join Sierra Club leaders and local birdwatchers on an introductory level morning bird-walk through one of Kendall's most popular county parks. We will be introducing and practicing "Birding Best Practices" along with some basic identification techniques. This is a great opportunity if you want to learn about birds, teach others about birds, get outdoors, learn how to become a birdwatcher, and meet others with similar interests. Be sure to bring binoculars, a camera (if you like), water, sturdy walking shoes and sunscreen. We will be meeting by the skate park near 117th avenue inside of Kendall Indian Hammock. Leader: Mark Walters mark.walters@sierraclub.org or 305-632-7514.



JAN 14, 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. Leaders: Manuel Montiero Manuel_montiero@yahoo.com or 954-815-6230 and Mark Walters mark.walters@sierraclub.org.



JAN 14, SAT. BIKING AT JOHN PRINCE PARK IN LAKE WORTH. 10am. Leisurely morning biking in John Prince Park. See www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/parks/locations/johnprince.htm#Uu-Hiv-PKM8 for park details. Limit 10. Leisure. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net or 561-315-0528.



JAN 14, SAT. OUTING LEADER TRAINING OLT101. Gainesville. OLT101 is the certification class for any new Sierra Club Outings Leader and re-certification for current leaders. All Outing Leaders have to re-certify every 4 years. Must be Sierra Club member. Cost: \$7. To signup contact Rudy Scheffer rudy.scheffer@sierraclub.org or 727-542-6403.



JAN 15, SUN. CANOE/KAYAK THE WINDING WATERS NATURAL AREA in West Palm Beach. 10am. Leisurely morning paddling in this newly opened area. Sorry, no rentals available. See it at www.pbcgov.com/erm/natural/natural-areas/winding-waters. Moderate. Limit 10. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net or 561-315-0528.



JAN 21, SAT. STAR PARTY AT BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. When was the last time you saw the Milky Way? Enjoy a night with the stars on a ranger led astronomy program from the National Parks. (see www.nps.gov/bicy/learn/nature/lightscapes.htm for more info) The International Dark Sky Association of South Florida and the Everglades Astronomical Society will be available with telescopes for viewing afterwards. Big Cypress NP is one of the darkest skies in the eastern United States. Learn about the negative effect light pollution has on our health and environment. We will meet at 6:30 at Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center located on US 41 off SR 29. Red-light flashlights or headlamps only! *Cost: Free.* Leader: Judy Kuchta judykuchta@yahoo.com or 305-308-8913.



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 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 25, SAT. CANOE/KAYAK THE BUSTER ISLAND PADDLING TRAIL IN LAKE KISSIMMEE STATE PARK EAST OF LAKE WALES. This 11 mile scenic loop trail includes three lakes. See 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.

REMEMBERING TANYA TWEETON – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

One of our long time Broward Sierra members, Tanya Tweeton, passed away this year. Tanya was also an active member of the Audubon Society, where I first met her. Her heart was into preserving nature, speaking up whenever and wherever protecting our environment was a focal point.

Besides both these environmental groups, Tanya was also keenly interested in off the beaten track indie and foreign movies. As a member of the Cinema Paradiso film society, she often encouraged me to join her to attend one of the many fascinating movies there, especially when it pertained to environmentally related subjects.

On a personal level, Tanya took a keen interest in her parents' Czech background. Not only did she visit the Czech Republic in order to track down all her cousins (whom she had never previously met), she even dove head-on into studying the Czech language before taking off for Europe.

Tanya's grandchildren were her greatest love, and she took special pride in her granddaughter Charlotte, who lived with her daughter and family in Italy, and who was becoming a very accomplished swimmer at every competitive swimming event, even at a young age. The times the family visited Tanya here in Florida were often centered around Tanya taking the 2 granddaughters to all major swimming pools and aquatic training facilities in South Florida, where it was soon determined that Charlotte (Carlotta, as she's called in Italian) showed great promise for almost certainly being part of a future Olympic swimming team. This, Tanya often said, would be her greatest accomplishment. May this now be her legacy, besides the many countless hours spent on preserving our environment.

Rest in peace, Tanya.

