



BROWARD SIERRA NEWS



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DAY OF ACTION – By Stan Pannaman, Broward Sierra Conservation Chair & Program Chair

On February 4th, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz held an Advocacy Fair and Day of Action event in Weston. Broward Sierrans Sue Caruso, Ina Topper, Patrick Ferguson and myself attended that rally. We also set up a table and spoke to the people that attended the rally about President Trump's detrimental choices for his cabinet and about environmental issues that will be affecting all of us during the Trump administration. Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz asked me to speak at that rally. This is what I had to say:

Since Donald Trump took office you could say his goal, along with the Republicans in Congress, is to Make America Pollute Again.

On his very first day in the White House, climate change was scrubbed from the whitehouse.gov website. There is no longer ANY mention of it anywhere on the White House's website.

Think about that for a second. One of the President's very first actions upon taking office was the complete deletion of any reference to one of the most pressing issues facing the world today. And that's just the start...

This past Wednesday, a majority in the House of Representatives voted in a resolution under the Congressional Review Act to disapprove the Department of the Interior/Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Stream Protection Rule issued last December.

The Stream Protection Rule updated the three-decades-old coal mining regulations to better protect streams, fish and wildlife, and the public health of the surrounding communities from the adverse impacts of mountaintop removal mining and other coal mines. It would have protected or restored 6,000 miles of streams and 52,000 acres of forest over the next 20 years. These environmental and health protections are the product of seven years of work by stakeholders and the previous administration.

There is widespread support for the Stream Protection Rule from the conservation, consumer, recreational and religious communities including the Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, Coal River Mountain Watch, Cook Inlet Keepers, Appalachian Voices, American Fly Fishing Trade Association, American Pack Rafting Association, Earth Justice, National Wildlife Federation, West Virginia Council of Churches, and the Montana-Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The current administration, and their Republican cronies in Congress, have proven that they are going to actively and aggressively target the environment.

It's up to us to stop them.



From left to right: Stan Pannaman, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Patrick Ferguson and Ina Topper (not pictured Sue Caruso)



FERN FOREST CLEANUP – By Carole Walsh, Broward Sierra News Editor

On February 12th, a bunch of Sierrans and friends descended on Fern Forest Nature Center to help repay them for the use of their facilities for our general meetings, to help control invasive species spreading throughout our wilderness areas, and to enjoy being together in the beautiful forest. They showed us how to identify and pull up invasive Shoebuttan Ardisia (and how to distinguish it from our native Marlberry), supplied us with workgloves and tools to pull out the small trees by the roots, and off we went into the forest. I couldn't believe how these plants have spread. We attacked with gusto and removed hundreds of plants of various sizes. It was great just being out there and doing some good. Many thanks to Jackie for setting up these work days, and to Max, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, Brett and Don for pitching in and making it so much fun.

We're doing it again on March 12th (see listing on next page). Come and join us!



Man against tree. It was quite the battle, but Brett won in the end. (See more photos on our website at www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/ and click on "Photo Gallery")



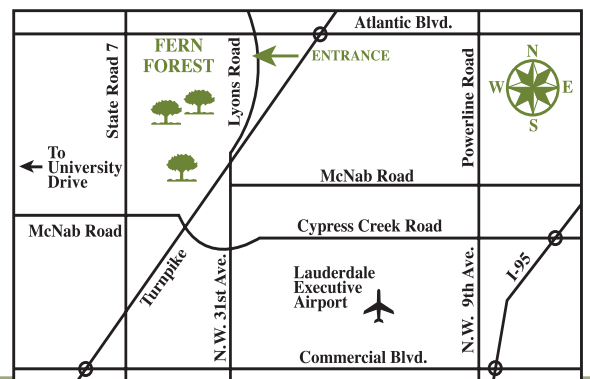
SOLAR FL-SUN CO-OPS informational meetings will be held for East Broward on March 6th from 7-9pm at the ArtServe library in Ft. Lauderdale, and for West Broward on March 7th from 7-9pm at the Broward County Government West office at Broward and University Blvd. <http://www.flsun.org>



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, March 2nd: Our featured speaker will be **Kay Sommers**, Natural Resources Specialists III of Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department. Her talk will be on Neighbors in Broward County, who have formed a **solar co-op to save money and make going solar easier**, while at the same time building a network of solar supporters. Co-op members work with the support of FL SUN as they go solar. (<http://www.flsun.org>)



LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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



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, 9am - 3pm. 3900 SW 100th Ave, Davie. Free native plant or tree (for visiting 12 exhibits and collecting 12 stamps), childrens' activities, landscaping for water savings, interactive educational displays and booths, water conservation tips, food trucks, raffles, and more. Stop by and see us there.



MARCH 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 jsf812@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 an hour 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 jsf812@bellsouth.net.



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 experience 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, and exhibitors and education 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 expected 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 23, SUN. EARTH DAY AT ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER. 10am - 4pm. 751 Sheridan St., Hollywood. The Broward Sierra Club will be sponsoring the 2017 Earth Day Celebration at Anne Kolb Nature Center. FREE parking and exhibit entrance, FREE kayaking, FREE nature stroll, and many other free activities. Exhibits, speakers, music, face painting and more. Family friendly - something for people of all ages. 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/>.

BROWARD SIERRA TABLING EVENTS – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

On February 4th Broward Sierra joined the Advocacy Fair and Day of Action event in Weston with Debbie Wasserman Schultz (see page 1) and set up a table to promote our Broward Sierra group. We were happy to find out that there were so many at this event who know of the Sierra Club, what we stand for and what we're working on to preserve and protect our natural environment. Yet, there are also times when we find out there's still a lot to be done to enlighten the public about who we are and what we are doing.

We also had a table at a nice joint venture with Wilton Manors neighborhood environmentalists in late January.

Additional future events where you can see us are Water Matters Day at Tree Tops park on March 11th, Sunrise Earth Day Celebration on April 1st, and Earth Day at Anne Kolb Nature Center on April 23rd (see listings above). In fact, our Broward Sierra group will be hosting Earth Day at Anne Kolb this year. The day will include many environmentally related activities, speakers, exhibits, slide shows, etc.

We hope to see you - save the dates, stop by at our table, pick up some interesting and useful information, and say hello!

