



BROWARD SIERRA NEWS



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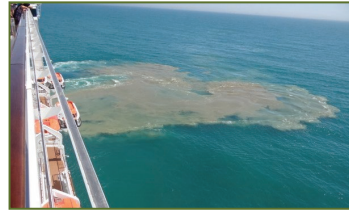
NEWS FLASHES – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair



Green Slime: Gov. Scott is now endorsing the long ago proposed water storage reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee. Absent immediate, major repairs of the lake's dike system, this water storage system will alleviate the need for

releasing excessive water north of the lake during our rainy season, which has been a major cause of Florida waterway "green slime" pollution in recent years. Of course, a large scale overhaul of the lake's aging, critically dilapidated dike system is needed for a more permanent, long term fix.

Science barge: Ted Caplow, an engineer and documentary film producer, is donating a so-called science barge as a floating solar powered eco-lab, to be located next to the soon to be opened Frost science museum in Miami. This innovative project, the second of its kind (the first one is in New York) will be used for educational and environmental purposes.



Another sea-faring note: after major cruise lines have been slapped with stiff, multi-million dollar fines in recent years for **discharging polluted water, even sewage, into the ocean,** there's now a new move towards

building 'green' mega ships. The new generation of giant cruise ships (now capable of holding close to 6,000 passengers), some of which have already been seen in our South Florida ports, will be built with much better environmental standards. For instance, millions of gallons of gray (dirty) water are to be purified before release into the oceans, and future ships are to be built with on-board garbage burning facilities. In the end, money talks (i.e. prevention of even greater multi-million dollar fines).

On a negative note we're all aware of the drastic increase of **melting ice, all around the globe,** affecting even glaciers over a thousand years old. Recently the news has shown us the peculiar sight of two to three story-tall icebergs drifting in Canada's northern waters, after breaking away from previously permanent polar ice. (We will discuss the tragic consequences for polar bears in a future issue.)



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.)

Thursday, May 4th: Richard Whitecloud of Sea Turtle Oversight Protection will be giving a presentation on sea turtles on Broward County beaches.



Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

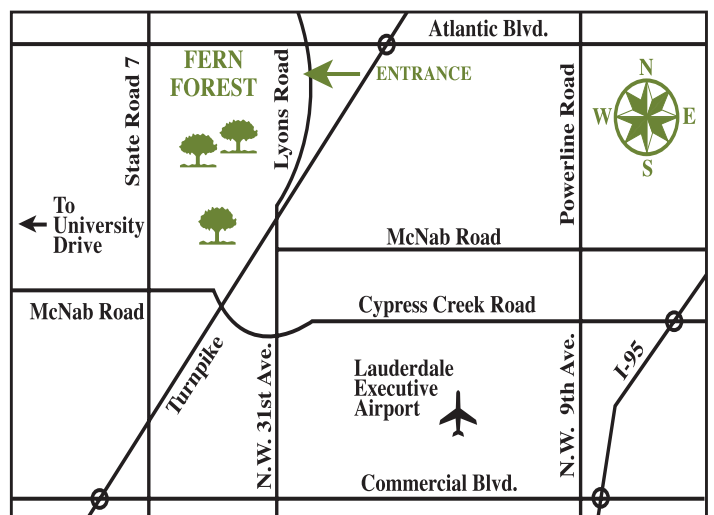
Thursday, June 1st: Our guest speaker will be **Jason Liechty**, Broward County Environmental Projects Coordinator. Jason's presentation will be on the **Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.**



Thursday, July 6th: Dr. Patrick Quinn, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department Natural Resources Specialist, will be giving a presentation on **Manatee Health and Numbers in Broward County.**



August: Instead of our usual Thursday meeting in August, we will be having our annual picnic on the beach at John U. Lloyd State Park in Dania Beach. More details to follow.



LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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



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/>.



APRIL 29, SAT. CLIMATE CHANGE MARCH AT GEORGE ENGLISH PARK. 2pm - 6pm. George English Park, 1101 Bayview Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304. Women's March Broward and People's Climate Movement invite you to a peaceful rally and march promoting awareness of Climate Change and its effects on the environment in South Florida to coincide with the march in Washington D.C.. Many important topics will be addressed by a variety of groups with emphasis on our local message of how climate change impacts water in all communities. Bring your signs promoting your own special messages in the shape of a circle which will be representative of our circles of resistance! This is a family friendly event! <https://actionnetwork.org/events/peoples-climate-march-broward-county>

There are no outings scheduled for May or June yet. Please check our website for updates. www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward

TRUMP ROLLING BACK PROTECTIONS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Trump issued an Executive Order directing the Department of the Interior to review over 20 years of national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act. Since Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will lead the review process, let's remind him that these national monuments were created with overwhelming public support and must remain protected. Call 1-202-601-3839 and tell Secretary Zinke that any attempts to revoke or shrink our national monuments is an assault on our historical, cultural, and natural heritage.

THE BIG BORDER WALL VS. ENDANGERED SPECIES – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair



For the past year, or as long as our current president's campaign was talking about the 'Beautiful Big Border Wall' to be built along our Mexican border, we environmentalists have been warning about the severe impact such a massive wall will have on the flora and fauna in the region. But only in the past

few weeks have we seen TV news channels informing the public about these absolutely certain, devastating consequences.

In recent years there has been increasing awareness of massive, man-made objects that have turned out to be harmful to our environment. For instance, in the Western U.S. several river dams were built over a half century ago with no thought of the impact on spawning fish (especially salmon) and other water creatures that were affected by these dams. There's now a movement afoot in some areas, to actually do away with several smaller dams, thereby bringing these rivers back to their original, natural state.



A perfect example in our own backyard is the Tamiami trail, the first East-West road to easily facilitate crossing the Everglades. What was NOT considered, over a half century ago, was what such a barrier would mean to the centuries' old natural water flow and animal passage in this great (the world's largest) swamp.

We can be proud of the fact that the Sierra Club, together with other environmental organizations, were finally able to see part of the elevated skyway, constructed just a few years ago. (And we'll be even happier when a proposed, additional elevation further out west will be built, a few years from now.)

As a biologist pointed out during a recent TV interview, while intended to halt illegal border entry, this very tall structure (there's talk of 30 feet high) will definitely hamper procreation of at least 90 different, many endangered, animals. And just as bad is the fact that over a 100 bird species who call this fragile, mostly desert area, home, fly only just above ground level (who knew?) and will no longer be able to pollinate the many desert plants and several very rare cactus varieties.

One wonders if this multi-billion dollar proposal is really meant to prevent illegal entry from south of the border, rather than some politician's wish to have his name permanently attached to some government structure for posterity. In this regard another Great Wall comes to mind - in China. Built over 600 years ago to keep out barbarians, it didn't work very well, even in those rather primitive times (gbtimes.com/life/failure-great-wall). Some say that the Great Wall was nothing more than an ambitious project contrived by a vainglorious emperor. (Sound familiar?)



So, in today's high-tech society, stopping a 'massive flow' of illegal border crossings? A notorious name comes to mind: El Chapo. The now infamous criminal not only managed to tunnel himself out of a high security Mexican jail, but his not yet incarcerated buddies had already previously managed construction of some 20 nicely air conditioned tunnels underneath an already existing walled border portion in the San Diego area.