



Broward Sierra News

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The ongoing Saga of the Florida Black Bear

March 17, 2016: Renowned scientists, including Drs. Stuart Pimm and Adrian Treves, and over a dozen conservation and animal-protection organizations, including the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and Animal Legal Defense Fund, today submitted a scientific petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Florida black bear under the federal Endangered Species Act. Habitat loss, roadkills and the first state-authorized bear hunt in over 20 years made 2015 a deadly year for Florida black bears, with humans responsible for killing at least 590 bears out of an estimated population of 3,000 to 3,500.

Over a year later on April 18, 2017: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a negative 90-day finding on our petition to list the Florida black bear under the Endangered Species Act <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2017-07942.pdf>. The notice does not include the reasons for the denial, but rather provides a link where that information is available.

The reasons for the denial are now posted at: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-R4-ES-2017-0015>

Oct 23, 2017: We finally received documents from the Service regarding its decision to **deny ESA protections for the Florida black bear**. We're still evaluating the documents and will let you know of our next steps.

Access the FOIA response here: FWS-2017-00708 (Florida Black Bear Petition)



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 7:45. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

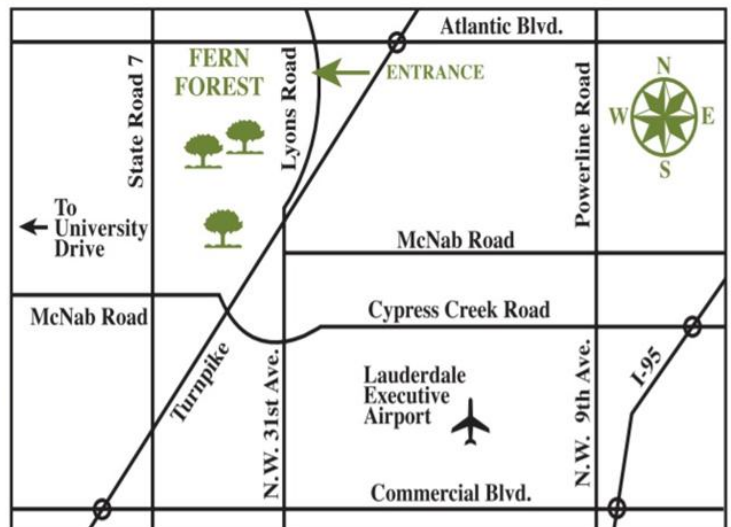


Please join us for the
**December Broward Sierra Club meeting
and Annual Pot Luck Dinner Holiday Party**

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2017
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Fern Forest Nature Center
201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek, FL 33068
For map see: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward/meetinginfo.html>

Please also bring your own non-disposable plates, cups and utensils.

Raffle tickets will be available for \$2 each or 3 for \$5.



We're looking forward to seeing you at our holiday dinner once again. We had a great turnout last year, with everyone very involved with environmental causes. And the raffle was a great fundraiser for our nature preservation work.






So bring your friends and neighbors, and let them know it's a time to celebrate with great food, a glass of wine or soda, meet wonderful people, and contribute to an important cause.

And if you'd like to donate any items for the raffle, please bring them with you. For more info contact Ina at 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.com

Bring a pot luck dish to share. Donation \$5 if you bring a dish to share, \$10 without a dish.

LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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

	<p>Saturday, November 25, 10:00 AM to noon - Canoe/Kayak at John Prince Park in Lake Worth. Morning paddling in the backwaters of John Prince Park. Suitable for beginners. See http://discover.pbcgov.org/parks/Locations/John-Prince.aspx for park details. Rentals possibly available, contact leader. Limit 10. Leisurely. \$3 members, \$5 non-members suggested donation. Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.</p>
	<p>Sunday, December 3rd. Nature Walk at Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands. Palm Beach County offers us two opportunities, within 2 miles of each other, to learn the great diversity of wildlife that constructed wetlands attract. We'll explore the 50 acre Wakodahatchee Wetlands, in West Delray Beach and the 100 acre Green Cay Wetlands, in Boynton Beach, both 'Birder's Paradises'. Each location provides accessible boardwalks (3/4 mile and 1.5 mile respectively), allowing for easy viewing of birds, in particular. We expect the trip to run from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m. We ask that you bring your own lunch, which we'll break for, between traveling to our 2nd location. Rated: Easy. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Participant limit is 20 people. Reserve your spot by contacting the Leader: Adriene Barmann, adrienesierraleader@gmail.com or 954-328-9447 or Assistant Leader: Jackie Fisher, jsf812@bellsouth.net or 954-434-2855.</p>
	<p>Saturday, December 9, 9:00 AM to noon - Urban Bicycling in Boca Raton. This will be a leisurely 12-mile bicycle ride on sidewalks, bike paths or quiet streets through Boca's parks, commercial district and neighborhoods. It will include rest stops as required and a bathroom break. Bicycle helmets are REQUIRED on all Sierra Club bicycle outings. The leader is Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net. We will meet near the intersection of U.S. 1 and Spanish River Boulevard. Precise instructions will be sent to attendees prior to the event. Moderate. About 12 miles. Limit 10. \$3 members, \$5 non-members suggested donation. Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.</p>
	<p>Saturday, December 16, 10:00 AM – West Lake Park Paddle. Meet at 10 am at the boat ramp at West Lake Park in Hollywood. The address is 1200 Sheridan St., Hollywood, FL. The entrance is on the SOUTH side of Sheridan Street. This will be about a four-hour paddle through the mangroves and wildlife with a stop at Anne Kolb Nature Center and Observation Tower. Entrance to the park is \$1.50/person and entrance to the Nature Center's exhibit hall is \$2/person. There is no charge to use the observation tower. Restrooms are available at the park and at the nature center. Bring a whistle and whatever drinks and snacks you require. The law requires a PFD. Rentals are available. Call 954-357-5161 to make your own arrangements. Please let the trip leader know if you are renting. Renters should paddle the short distance from the rental stand to the boat ramp to meet up with the group at 10 a.m. \$3 members, \$5 non-members suggested donation. Moderate. Need some experience. Park website for more information: http://www.broward.org/Parks/WestLakePark/Pages/Default.aspx Marina website for rental information: http://www.broward.org/Parks/WestLakePark/Pages/Marina-at-West-Lake-Park.aspx Anne Kolb Nature Center website: http://www.broward.org/Parks/WestLakePark/Pages/AnneKolbNatureCenter.aspx Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.</p>
	<p>Saturday, January 13, 9:00 AM to noon - Urban Bicycling in Boca Raton. This is a leisurely bicycle ride through John Prince Park and will take about two hours. Helmets are required on all Sierra Club bike outings. Where: At the first parking lot on the right after entering John Prince Park at the Lake Worth Road/Lake Osborne Drive entrance in Lake Worth. This is BEFORE the basketball and tennis courts. Look for other folks with bicycles and say hello. Moderate. About 12 miles. Limit 10. \$3 members, \$5 non-members suggested donation. Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.</p>