



BROWARD SIERRA NEWS



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KING MANGO STRUT: URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARIES – By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Chair

The theme of this year's King Mango Strut parade in Coconut Grove on December 31st was the Urban Development Boundaries, an issue that affects all of us here in Florida.



There's an ongoing argument regarding the Urban Development Boundary line being pushed westward into the Everglades, specifically in Miami-Dade county. But of course, in the end it will touch all of us.

It does not take much to understand that, when it comes to urban sprawl, once again the powers that be threaten to move the goal-posts, so to say.

On the internet, there's plenty of information that has been amassed over the past decade or so, as to what's sustainable, what's necessary to procure ever more construction sites and, in the end, what would be destructive in non-stop expansion of our urban sprawl. It's not only the wildlife that's being pushed into diminishing corners. One is left wondering where the limit is in terms of how much Florida can absorb with the every day influx of more and more residents. Consider the limits to available potable water in our state for future generations, to name but one issue.

Plenty of case studies have been done for and against expanding the Urban Development Boundaries. For those interested, there's a case study that was done by Holland & Knight's Joseph Goldstein (www.lawseminars.com/materials/07GMAFL/gmafl_m_goldstein.pdf) and other articles that go back to so-called "managed growth" as of the 1975 Land Use Plan & Policies. There certainly is a fluctuation of opinions, over the past decades, as to what "managed growth" really entails.

Bottom line: the argument was put forward acutely this year by our Sierrans in the King Mango Strut parade that there HAS to be accountability as

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BIG SUGAR FOLLOW-UP

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Chair

Last month PBS was showing a documentary called "Burning Storm" on a too familiar subject: the devastating environmental consequences of the sugarcane industry here in Florida.



A couple of years ago, after a Big Sugar environmental conference in Palm Beach, we had an article in our newsletter stating exactly what was brought up in this documentary: The smoke residue from burning cane stalks raining down on the surrounding communities is unacceptable. This air polluting modus operandi to harvest sugarcane "efficiently" has and is causing asthma and other respiratory health problems for many residents, especially children. Contrary to what the industry still insists on, there are environmental alternatives. Australia was mentioned as leading in this field.

When will the state of Florida, the country's biggest sugar producer, listen? We need to speak up!

One of our Sierrans can arrange a private showing of this film. Contact patrick.ferguson@sierraclub.org.



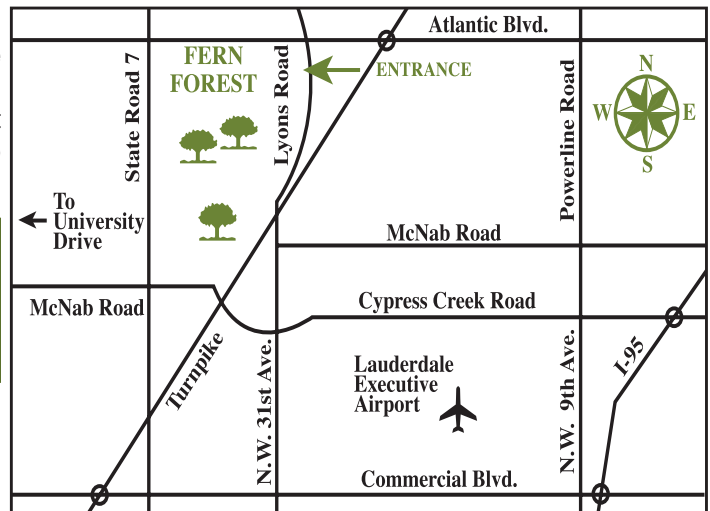
Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - The first Thursday of each month we have committee reports and an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

DIRECTIONS: Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, in 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 follows. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

Thursday, Feb. 1st: We will be showing the documentary "From the Ashes," a National Geographic movie in partnership with the Sierra Club. A compelling look at the lives and issues behind the war on coal – what's at stake for our economy, health and climate.



Thursday, March 1st: Our guest speaker will be Dr. Nicholas Aumen from the USGS, who will be speaking on problems facing the Everglades in 2018.



LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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



FEB 3, 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 in very gentle water, suitable for beginners. Bring your own kayak or canoe or rent in advance from Ed at [South River Outfitters](http://SouthRiverOutfitters.com) 772-223-1500. Limit 10. Rated moderate. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines 561-315-0528 RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



FEB 10, SAT. KAYAK/CANOE BLUE CYPRESS LAKE WEST OF VERO BEACH. 10am. 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. Sorry, no rentals available. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Rated moderate. Limit 10. Ron Haines 561-315-0528 RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



FEB 18, SUN. LAKE OKEECHOBEE BIKE RIDE. About an 18 mile leisurely bike ride, mostly on the paved trail on top of the dam that encircles Lake Okeechobee. This will include a short ride on Hwy 76 to the location of the mass grave site of many of those that died in the hurricane of 1928. It is estimated that 2,500 individuals died as the result of this hurricane. Information will be shared about this tragic story. Bring your cruiser and a spare inner tube and tools for replacement if needed. You need to bring water and a snack that you can eat at the Port Mayaca locks. Sierra Club requires that you use a helmet, so please bring that. This will give you a good perspective of the water issues and how Lake Okeechobee plays a big part in it. We will meet at 11:00 AM seven miles north of the Port Mayaca Locks on US 441 at the J and S Fish Camp and Tavern. You can check their website for directions www.jandsfishcamp.net. Rated moderate. *Suggested donation: \$5.* Leader: Darryl Rutz 954-892-1740 dmrtz2@msn.com



FEB 23 - 25, FRI - SUN. MYAKKA RIVER CAMPING. Myakka River State Park near Sarasota is one of the oldest and biggest state parks. 39 miles of hiking trails, excellent paved and unpaved biking trails, or the wild and scenic river and lakes for kayaking. We will be camping at the Youth Area 2 at the youth campsite across the street from the park. (no electricity, but there is a men and women's bathroom with heated water and one shower nearby). We will meet at the campground on Friday afternoon to set up camp and have dinner around the campfire. Parking will be in the main park across the street, but you can drop off your camping supplies first, and then park your car. Saturday we will spend the day in the park visiting the bird walk, taking a one hour guided air boat ride, and going on a 2-hour hike on the Bee Island Loop nature trail to the canopy walkway. Sunday morning we'll take a bike ride in the park. Please bring your own tents (no RV's) and camping supplies. Participants will be responsible to bring the following meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast. There will be a propane stove on the campsite to cook your meals. *Total cost per person for the weekend is \$40 members, \$45 non-members (includes dinner on Saturday night, airboat, campground fees, and supplies).* Leader: Adriene Barmann 954-328-9447 adrieneb1960@gmail.com. Please register on our "Meetup" page www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/246111268/.

MARCH 10, SAT. WATER MATTERS DAY 2018 at Tree Tops Park in Davie. More information TBA.



MARCH 11, SUN. HIKE BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. We'll hike approximately 6-8 miles on a wilderness trail north of Alligator Alley (about an hour from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). You'll learn the difference a few inches of elevation makes to the local flora, as you trek through cypress forests, hammocks and prairies. We'll 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: \$5 members, \$7 non-members.* Leader: Sue Caruso 954-684-6747 susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com, Asst. Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 jf812@bellsouth.net

SIERRA CLUB & AUDUBON SOCIETY

– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Chair

This year's January joint general meeting of the Broward Sierra Club and the Audubon Society took place at the Long Key Nature Center in Davie.

Doug Young and Pat Cunningham of the Broward Audubon Society did a great job of putting together a nice presentation. Pat Turpening, Ina Oost Topper and Judy Kuchta represented our Sierra Club Excom committee.

An elaborate presentation was given by Richard Crossley, a very renowned bird expert, who treated us to many slides of his birding expeditions in just about every region of the globe. He also drew our attention to several bird species which are exceedingly threatened or endangered, or already on the verge of extinction. Global warming is at the heart of this deplorable situation. There are overwhelming indications that due to global warming, many bird species are now changing their hibernating and seasonal migration patterns.



He also told us about the Dodo bird that was hunted very quickly into extinction due to the fact that it didn't fly, was therefore easy to catch, and was eaten for its good tasting flesh. A century or two ago mankind wasn't sufficiently aware of statistics, environmental consequences, etc. But today there's NO excuse to plead ignorance.

Richard also treated us to magnificent pictures of unique birds which had colors one hadn't seen before, and made us aware of bird facts we never knew, i.e. some species which have very complex mating methods, besides already existing environmental factors, if not left alone in their desolate habitats, could further complicate their future survival.

This presentation was certainly an eye opener. Thank you Richard Crossley!

King Mango Strut, continued from previous page

to where unlimited growth is seriously going to harm our future generations, our already endangered and even threatened wildlife species, AND... when is there finally going to be adherence to previously made decisions. The signs carried said it all: "the Urban Sprawl Monster coming to get us", with developers in business suits showing overflowing pockets of dollars - this apparently being the final factor that counts.

Our (Sierra) view: the limit has been reached in terms of unbridled growth. Forever moving the goal posts is not going to do us any good in the end.

Point well made, in this year's King Mango Strut parade.



See our website for more photos from King Mango Strut. Go to www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward/photo-gallery and click on the link for King Mango Strut.