



BROWARD SIERRA NEWS



Please Recycle

VOL. XXXX NO. 3 / MARCH 2018

Graphic design & layout by www.carolewalsh.com

www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward • www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra • www.groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra

BROWARD SIERRA CLUB EXCOM ELECTION RESULTS

We recently had our yearly Broward Sierra Club Executive Committee (EXCOM) elections. We always have more positions open though. If any of you want to join the EXCOM (or just would like to attend the meetings which are open to all members), or if you would like to volunteer to help out at a special event (like Water Matters Day - see next page), or help out in any way, please contact Ina at 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.com.

Here is the list of current EXCOM members and leaders:

Executive Committee Chair, Education/Recycling Chair
Ina Oost Topper
954-722-9944
irtopper2000@cs.com

Treasurer
Max Goldstein
954-296-3411
maxgold@yahoo.com

Secretary
Sue Caruso
954-684-6747
susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com

Conservation Chair, Program Chair & Excom member
Stanley Pannaman
954-720-4639
stanleypannaman@hotmail.com

Outings Chair
Judy Kuchta
305-308-8913
judykuchta@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor & Web Master
Carole Walsh
954-987-3642
carolewalshgraphics@gmail.com



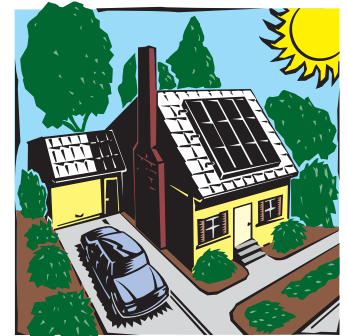
Excom Member (will take over as Secretary when Sue is out of town this summer)

Pat Turpening
513-313-1843
pat_booklover@yahoo.com

Excom Member
MaryAnn Soltis
954-791-7291
marsoltis@gmail.com

SOLAR CO-OPS ON THE RISE

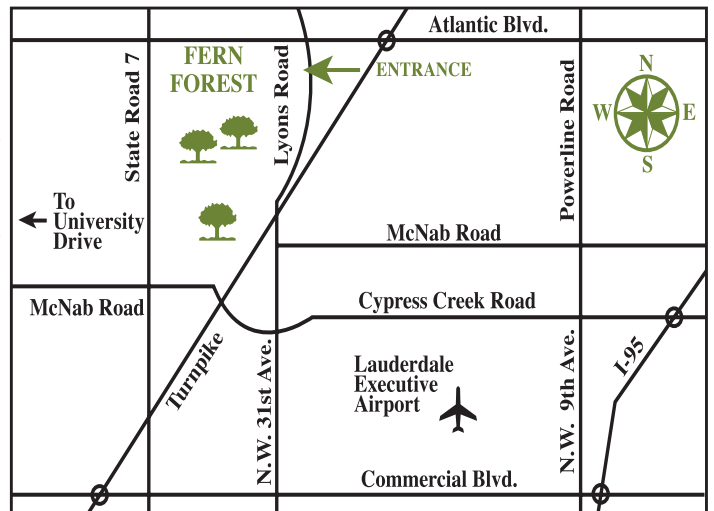
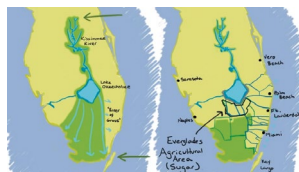
Sierra Club supports the move to clean, renewable energy! Many counties are forming solar co-ops, a great idea for homeowners. By going solar together as a group, the co-op gets a discount through its bulk purchasing power, saving an average of 20 percent compared to the cost of an individual installation. The group uses a competitive bidding process and selects a single company chosen by the co-op to install systems on members' homes. If you own a home in Broward County, check out www.solarunitedneighbors.org/florida (formerly 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, 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, March 1st: Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Nicholas Aumen** from the USGS, who will be speaking on the **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.



MARCH 10, SAT. WATER MATTERS DAY 2018 9am - 3pm at Tree Tops Park in Davie. "Water Matters...and Conservation Pays." Get tips on water conservation, find out about rebates and incentives for upgrading to water-conserving devices, learn how to create "Florida-friendly" and drought tolerant landscapes, and get lots of eco-friendly tips. The event is packed with workshops, giveaways, children's activities, and entertainment. Stop by our booth and say hi. For more information www.broward.org/WaterMatters/Pages/ProgramsWMD.aspx.



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



MARCH 31, SAT. KAYAKING/CANOEING AT ST. LUCIE INLET PRESERVE STATE PARK near Stuart. 9:30am. This classic Florida barrier island is accessible only by boat, but it is worth the ride. A 3300 foot boardwalk takes visitors across mangrove forests and hammocks of live oaks, cabbage palms, paradise trees, and wild limes to a neatly preserved Atlantic beach. During the summer months, the island is an important nesting area for loggerhead, leatherback, and green turtles. We will paddle across the Intracoastal and then explore the tidal creeks. After we've worked up an appetite, we'll have lunch and go for an ocean swim on a pristine secluded beach. *Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Bring your own kayak or canoe. Sorry, rentals are not available. Rated moderate. www.floridastateparks.org/stlucieinlet. A video from a prior outing can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mr2Bh-EG2Is. Leader: Chas Hunt 561-739-3171 loxoutings@gmail.com.



IN MEMORIAM: ROD TIRRELL

— By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Chair



It's often used as a cliché: How one person can make a difference. In this case, Rod (Roderick) Tirrell DID make a difference. He was an environmental activist, tirelessly going after each and every issue that needed instant attention, or acute action.

Going into our archives, we saw a quote from years ago in a Sun Sentinel article that "Tirrell is of the all-or-nothing school" (of environmentalism). I couldn't have said it better myself.

Rod was very instrumental in bringing about real recycling to Broward County. Over two decades ago, it was Rod who brought the subject of genuine recycling to the fore, first in Hollywood, where he got the commissioners' attention by strongly urging them to look into environmental waste system contracts.

Rod was also Excom chair of our Broward chapter, as well as Everglades Conservation chair.

I knew him well. In fact, in some way it's because of Rod that I ended up getting fully involved in the environmental cause and hence, the Broward Group of the Sierra Club. My late husband, Rick Topper, teamed up with Rod on many fronts. There was a time when the two of them would constantly be on the phone, be it for an impromptu

protest in front of the downtown courthouse or any government building, discussing a large demonstration to be held elsewhere, or attending a next-day meeting anywhere, when it came to an environmental issue. Rod knew he could always count on my husband to jump to the occasion on the spur of the moment.

I remember one time, now decades ago, when there was a large scale, decisive meeting to take place in Homestead, regarding the harmful affluent from agricultural land into the lower part of the Everglades - at that time an issue still not very much on the public's mind. Afraid that the local populace of South Dade might not be substantial enough to let their voice be heard, on a moment's notice buses were rented to take as many Broward Sierrans to the meeting as could be reached. It brought the point across that, when it comes to protecting the Everglades, all of South Florida would unite. It was, one could say, a glorious moment for the preservation of the Everglades.

After my husband's demise it suddenly dawned on me that the torch needed to be carried forward - hence my joining Excom in various capacities. Again, that's how one person made a difference, in this case Rod Tirrell.

Although Rod passed away in early January, his memorial service was held just this past month of February, at which occasion we offered our Sierrans' condolences to his family, especially to both his son Zachary and daughter Megan.

Rod: may you rest in peace, and we'll carry on where you left off.