



BROWARD SIERRA NEWS



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VOL. XXXX NO. 11 / NOVEMBER 2018

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ADVANCES PLAN UNDERMINING FLORIDA PANTHER SURVIVAL AND RECOVERY

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a draft Environmental Impact Statement on an application from real estate developers in southwest Florida for permission to destroy important habitat for numerous species listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, including the iconic Florida panther, all for the sake of another housing tract.

Approval of the proposed Eastern Collier County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the associated 50-year take permits would enable intense mining, residential, and commercial development on 45,000 acres of habitat that is vital to the panther and other imperiled species including the scrub jay, caracara, wood stork, red cockaded woodpecker, snail kite, indigo snake, and bonneted bat. The permits would facilitate construction of tens of thousands of homes, resulting in greatly increased traffic, roads, and other infrastructure that would further fragment dwindling panther habitat, obstruct corridors necessary to movement and recovery, and increase the already grave number of panther deaths from vehicle collisions.

The proposed development will also result in impacts to water resources, water supply, and sensitive public lands adjacent to the plan area.

In exchange for authorization for the habitat destruction, the applicants propose to leave other areas of nearby habitat undeveloped. In response, Cris Costello, Sierra Club Organizing Manager stated, "The trade-offs proposed by the landowners cannot make up for the destruction and fragmentation of vital habitat. This sweeping authorization for development in Collier County would undermine the survival and recovery of the Florida panther and other endangered and threatened species."

"Pushing this plan forward is another sad example of the Trump-Zinke Fish and Wildlife Service's assault on endangered

and threatened species nationwide," said Karimah Schoenhut, Sierra Club staff attorney. "This administration has made clear its intention to weaken protections for imperiled wildlife for the benefit of exploitative industries."

To see the plan and to submit a formal comment, go to www.regulations.gov/document?D=FWS-R4-ES-2018-0079-0001

Come One, Come All. Please join us for the **December Broward Sierra Club meeting and Annual Pot Luck Dinner Holiday Party**

Thursday, December 6, 2018 - 7:15 pm

Fern Forest Nature Center

201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek, FL 33068

After announcements and meeting business, join us for **fantastic food, friends & fun, and some fabulous raffles!**

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.

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

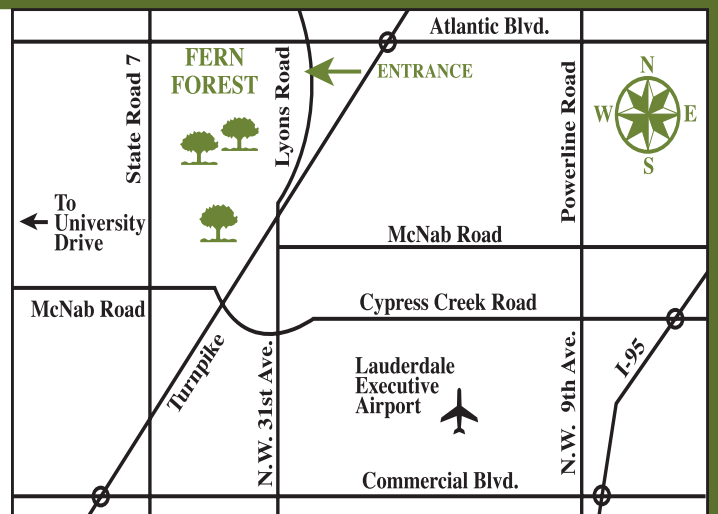
Raffle tickets will be available for \$2 each or 3 for \$5.



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, Nov. 1st: We will be showing the film "Turtle: The Incredible Journey," a spectacular adventure of a loggerhead turtle's amazing journey around the globe, from a young hatchling emerging from her nest in the sand, to a 25-year-old adult returning to the same beach to hatch her own young.





LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS


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




NOV 17 - 18, SAT - SUN. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/CANOEING ON FISHEATING CREEK - Wait List - Fisheating Creek is the only free-flowing tributary to Lake Okechobee. Framed by bald cypress swamps and hardwood hammocks, Fisheating Creek has long been valued for its scenic quality unmarred by houses and other human intrusions. Fisheating Creek is critical to the long-term welfare of Florida panthers, Florida black bears, swallow-tailed kites, whooping and sandhill cranes, crested caracara, and a number of other species native to the area. We'll camp in the campground and paddle along the creek, enjoying the scenery and the abundant wildlife, including deer, feral hog, Osceola turkey, and plenty of gators. Our outfitter will be www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com. We'll meet at the campground on Saturday morning and the outfitter will transport us and our kayaks/canoes to the Burnt Bridge put in point. On Sunday, we can explore some of the trails along the creek. You may bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one. The outfitter's price schedule for the transport is practically the same whether you bring your own vessel or rent from them. *Suggested donation (per person) is \$55 members, \$65 non-members (if you will have two people in your boat). Or \$75 members and \$85 non-members (if you are bringing or renting a single kayak). Or \$30 for those not going on the paddle.* This includes the campsite (both Friday and Saturday nights if you wish), 3 meals (Saturday lunch and dinner plus Sunday breakfast), upriver transport, and canoe/kayak rental, if applicable. RV sites are available at slight extra cost. Payment is due by October 28th. Rated Moderate. Limit 24. If you wish, you may camp at our main campground campsite on Friday evening on your own – just provide your own meals. Leaders: Chas Hunt 561-739-3171, loxoutings@gmail.com; Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913, judykuchta@yahoo.com; Kaatje Bernabei 305-298-0277, kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net; Max Goldstein 954-296-3411, maxgold@yahoo.com. Here's a short video from a previous Fisheating Creek paddle: <https://youtu.be/7V7y-PL0rnI>



DEC 1 SAT. CANOE/KAYAK AT JOHN PRINCE PARK IN LAKE WORTH. 10am. 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. Rated Leisurely. Limit 10. *Suggested donation is \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



DEC 9 SUN. NATURE WALK AT CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY. 10am. A guided tour and orientation in collaboration with the Audubon Society. We'll meet at the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Blair Audubon Center lobby, 375 Sanctuary Road West, Naples, FL 34120, 239-348-9151. Directions: 15 miles east of I-75, exit 111. The Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is a large ancient cypress forest comprised of exquisite parcels of land that has been preserved for visitors to see. The 2.25 mile boardwalk takes you into a green and liquid world where at every turn you see scenes so beautiful they could have been arranged by the world's best floral designer. The Corkscrew trail, largely shady, features benches and rain shelters along the way. The forest is a place filled with the sounds of the trees rustling in the breeze, bird calls and butterflies. The trees are lush with air plants, resurrection ferns, birds nest ferns, a pine upland, a wet prairie, a cypress forest, a marsh, and excellent interpretive signs which help identify plants and ecosystems. It is a true wonder that has been purchased and preserved by The National Audubon Society. We'll have a picnic lunch afterwards (bring your own lunch and drinks), or there is a small cafeteria inside the Audubon Center. Rated Moderate. Limit: 20. *Cost: Please pay your entrance fee separately directly to the Audubon Center when you arrive (\$14 for adults, \$6 for full-time college student with photo ID, \$4 for students 6 to 18, free for kids under 6, and \$10 for National Audubon members with their card). Adriene will collect the \$5 member or \$8 non-member suggested donation in the Audubon lobby.* Leader: Adriene Barmann, adrienesierraleader@gmail.com or 954-328-9447, Assistant Leader: Jackie Fisher, jf812@bellsouth.net or 954-434-2855.



DEC 15 SAT. WEST LAKE PARK PADDLE. We'll 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. Rest rooms 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 rental 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. Rated Moderate. Some experience necessary. *Cost: Entrance to the park is \$1.50/person and entrance to the Nature Center's exhibit hall is \$2/person. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members.* Leader: Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.

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>