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Will Red Tide Be Back?

With the good news that Governor DeSantis is committed to spending \$2.5 billion over the next four years to expedite Everglades restoration and protection of our water resources comes some questions about how to move forward with this effort.

The Sierra Club is keeping track of two issues that are of immediate importance to the restoration. First, in November of 2018, the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Governing Board, appointed by Governor Rick Scott, voted to petition Judge Moreno to vacate a federal consent decree enacted in 1988 that has driven clean water standards since its inception. This decree created regulatory measures to reduce fertilizer runoff and the construction of artificial marshes to clean water before flowing south to the Everglades. Later amendments to the decree specifically addressed pollution from the sugar industry.

Despite DeSantis asking for the resignation of the board members involved, the legal process set in motion continues. The Sierra Club, along with several other environmental groups, have signed a letter to Governor DeSantis to work with the new SFWMD appointees to withdraw this motion.

Secondly, the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), who is responsible for the Lake Okeechobee release schedule, will be taking public comments about the development of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). This is important because the release of water from the lake to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers is the source of excess nutrients linked to the massive algal blooms and red tide that have wreaked havoc on aquatic species and human health throughout South Florida. Since the LOSOM is not scheduled to be completed until 2022, there is the possibility that we will get the same problem for the next three years. The Sierra Club, along with several other environmental organizations, has sent a letter to the Corps asking to expedite the process and address the current schedule to reduce these harmful releases. If you would like to come to any of the public hearings to speak up, or just learn more, the schedule is:

LOSOM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Scoping Meeting Schedule

Feb 26: Broward County from 3:30 – 5:30 PM at the Broward County Main Library, 6th Floor Exhibit Area

Feb 27: West Palm Beach from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at SFWMD Headquarters

Feb 28: Dade County from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the North Dade Regional Library

Please visit the USACE website at <https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/LOSOM/> for more information.

Broward Sierra Club's next General Meeting will be on March 7, 2019. The speaker is to be announced.

Please join us for the 17th annual [Water Matters Day](#) on March 9 at Tree Tops Park. Water Matters Day is Broward County's signature water conservation event where residents can learn about our local and regional water resources, how water is managed, and how Broward's water managers are planning to meet our future water needs. In addition to learning how to save water and money, participants can receive free native trees, shrubs and groundcovers!





Hard Fought Battle Nears the Finish Line!

Nearly five years ago, Nancy Fowler from the newly formed Friends of Hollywood came to our general meeting with a plea to help save the Sunset Golf Course from development. Since that time, the property was sold to a developer who wanted to put a sports complex, including a paintball park, on the site. But, the ever-diligent group continued to fight to save this wetland from such a fate. Luckily, the community has rallied around the call to save green space in the City of Hollywood and convinced the City Commissioners to take action. On January 16, the City Commissioners voted unanimously to include a resolution in the Government Obligation Bond that includes the acquisition of the Sunset Golf Course. The site will become “a natural, publicly accessible, park and wildlife habitat, with a multi-purpose community center, while providing for trails, overlooks, passive recreation, and water retention.” The bond also provides for the renovation of 19 playgrounds and sports parks, the renovation of two landmark golf courses, and the Art and Cultural Center. The cost of this bond will be about \$21 for a property with a market value of approximately \$260,000 and a municipal assessment of approximately \$80,000.

But...it won't be a reality until the voters approve the bond on **March 12, 2019**. So, if you live in Hollywood, or have friends or loved ones who do, please spread the word and encourage them to get out and vote *in favor* of this marvelous achievement. All the citizens of Broward County will benefit from this.

There are still public meetings scheduled to ask questions or make comments:

For more information, you can visit <http://www.hollywoodfl.org/1123/Lets-GO-Hollywood-Bond>

Location	Address	Date	Time
United Neighbors of South Hollywood	McNicol Middle School, 1411 South 28th Avenue	2/21/2019	7:00 pm
Washington Park Homeowners Assn	Washington Park Community Center, 5199 Pembroke Rd	3/12/2019	7:00 pm

Congratulations to Stan Pannaman and Susan Steinhauser!

Stan Pannaman was awarded the **Manatee Award**.

This award honors a Group member who has done an outstanding job of service to the Group.

For seventeen years, Stanley Pannaman has been an active member of the Broward Sierra Club, serving the last 15 of those years on the Executive Committee. In that time, Stan has worked tirelessly to promote the goals of the Sierra Club in Broward County and throughout South Florida.

Susan Steinhauser was awarded the **Panther Award**.

This award is given to a Group member who has done outstanding conservation work on a project within the Group's area.

Susan has demonstrated leadership by supporting and mobilizing for March for the Ocean 2018 events across Southeast Florida, from the Florida Keys to Mar-a-Lago. She coordinated phone calls among all the event organizers, designed a logo/ T-shirt to unite all March for the Ocean efforts for Southeast Florida.

Further details will appear in next month's newsletter. *Congratulations to both!*

LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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



Saturday, February 23: Paddle the UPPER Loxahatchee River - 10:00 AM
 We will be paddling the UPRIVER portion of the Loxahatchee River at Riverbend Park in Jupiter. The water is high enough to explore areas we wouldn't normally be able to get to. This trip requires a small portage to get into the upper river portion and another to get back to the main channel. Required equipment: PFD, whistle, ten feet of rope. Also, bring hydration and snacks as you wish and whatever personal items you need. This will be leisurely paddling, approximately three hours. Some experience required. Rentals may be available. Check with the leader, Ron Haines.
 Park info: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/parks/Locations/Riverbend.aspx>
 Suggested donation is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.



Sunday, February 24: Canoe/kayak the Buster Island Paddling Trail in Lake Kissimmee State Park east of Lake Wales - 9:00 AM
 This 11-mile scenic loop trail includes three lakes. See: <https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/documents/buster-island-paddling-trail>
 Kayak rentals are available. Suggested donation: \$3 members, \$5 non-members. State your paddling experience when applying for this event. Limit 10. Ron Haines, 561-315-0528, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net.
 To find more upcoming outings hosted by the Loxahatchee Group, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/loxahatchee>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and look for the green balloons.



Saturday, March 23: Fern Forest Beautification Day – 9:00 AM to Noon.
 You know we meet at Fern Forest on the first Thursday of the month? Well, it's time to do something for them. In March we will be participating in the last of the Forest Beautification Days until October, which means we will be helping them get rid of invasive plants and in general keep the place looking good for visitors. So, we will be meeting on March 23 at 9:00 AM at Fern Forest. Please bring water and help out your local Sierra Club and Fern Forest as well. Click here for details: <https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/258835931/>



Sunday, April 7: Paddling at Mizel-Eula Johnson State Park, Dania Beach (formerly John U. Lloyd State Park)

Learn about and enjoy the beautiful wildlife and colorful history of Whiskey Creek as our guide leads us on a 2-hour tour of this lush mangrove habitat. It is a one-of-a-kind system that lies between the ocean and the Intracoastal waterway, yet still feels natural and secluded.

<p>Cost: \$15.00/per person (member) \$20.00/per person (non-member)</p>	<p>If you need to rent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoe or single kayak - add \$30 • Tandem Kayaks - add \$35
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Rated: easy / beginner, but all levels welcome. Afterwards, relax and hang out for a meal and/or beverage at the **Whiskey Creek Hideout**
 Reserve your space. Leader: Sue Caruso susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com or 954-684-6747.