



Broward Sierra News



VOL. XXXXI NO. 1 / JANUARY 2019

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

From the Excom Desk

Ina Topper, Chair, Broward Sierra Group

Yes, it's been said before to use a much worn cliché: This year went by so fast.

From our perspective, it is most probably it's a sign of the times. Also, because there's so much more happening on the environmental end, both good and bad.

True: there were many issues in times gone by, when it comes to preserve our beautiful planet for generations to come. But, and leaving all politics aside, times are different nowadays.

We do have to increasingly fight the power of the almighty Dollar, be it to counteract multi-million Dollar ads from big developers, big business, the so-called special interests with their well paid-for lobbyists. ...And I have to stop myself from bringing up the Amendment 4, for Florida Hometown Democracy a few years ago, where local community governments were supposed to get a greater say in determining their own growth. I distinctly remember where any & all who wanted to go with responsible growth in their local backyards were outnumbered 20 to 1 in terms of Dollars & Cents to inform the public.

Then again, there also have been successes where our Dollars spent DID make a difference. Although it took a long time, we finally are in the process of having many segments of the Tamiami Trail elevated all across the Everglades, in order to significantly improve the Everglades' natural flow and movement of water and wildlife. What has to be mentioned also is the fact that, finally, our state population has become prominently aware of all of Florida's urgent need to keep our bodies of water pristine. In this regard, the current debate, long overdue, to do something about Lake Okeechobee's sorrowful state of the surrounding dyke system, may be seen as a partial success, if not a solution - as yet.

As for the major culprit of increasing red tides and green slime episodes throughout our state, drastic dyke and levee repairs combined with providing overflow basins south of the lake, courtesy of the US Army Corps of Engineers, may have come a step closer to implementation. (Read elsewhere in our Newsletter about red tide & green slime.)

According to an old Chinese saying, if a journey of a thousand (environmental) miles starts with a single footstep, and dare we say it was MORE than just a single step, then we are on our way to, hopefully, seeing a good year ahead.

Hope to see you all at our monthly meetings and my best wish for a happy, health, and environmentally-friendly new year.

December Holiday Party

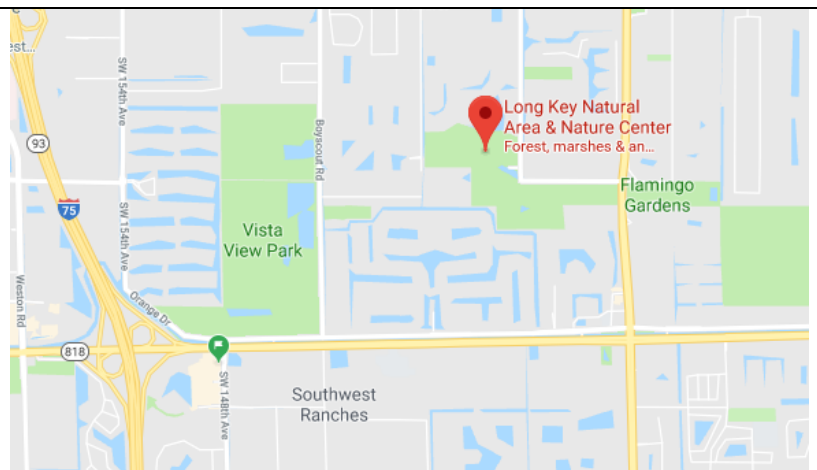
Ina Topper, Chair, Broward Sierra Group

December was again, also for the Sierrans, a month to get together, get reacquainted, in more ways than one.

We enjoyed our great Holiday pot luck party as our first December Thursday general meeting - and such delicious fare it was! Kudos to all of you who brought such creative cuisine to Fern Forest. Come to think of it, this 2019's December fest might be a good occasion to give out some sort of an award for the most interesting / creative / (maybe) unique dish one of our Broward members may bring along.

Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings

January: We will not be having a meeting in January. Instead we will be joining the South Florida Audubon Society's general meeting on Thursday, January 17 at the Long Key Nature Center: 3501 SW 130th Ave, Davie, FL. It will be from 7:00 - 9:00 and the guest will be Richard Crossley.



OCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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



Thursday, January 17: Joint Meeting with Florida Audubon

We will be joining the South Florida Audubon Society's general meeting on Thursday, January 17 at the Long Key Nature Center: 3501 SW 130th Ave, Davie, FL. It will be from 7:00 - 9:00 and the guest will be Richard Crossley., author of Crossley's Field Guides and the Shorebird Guide.

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/257690092/>



Saturday, January 19: 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. Over the next three months we will be participating in Forest Beautification Days, 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 December 22 at 9:00 AM at Fern Forest. Please bring water and help out your local Sierra Club and Fern Forest as well: <https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/256402080/>

Did you ever notice how they start selling Christmas stuff earlier and earlier? Well, now with red tide and green slime you can have the Christmas colors all year long. That was the theme of the Miami Sierra Club for Sunday's King Mango Strut parade. This past year stood out as **The Year of the Red Tide and the Green Slime**. Yes - the year before was possibly worse, but it was 2018 which, finally, brought this now very urgent environmental issue to the fore.

Periodically, over the past few years, we brought these water bodies suffocating mess to the attention of our lawmakers, both on the state and national level. For the longest time our warnings were received with a ho-hum, barely lukewarm attitude. **BUT**, then came the day the stench of rotting fish around our own peninsula state became so nauseating that even the most conservative anti-environmental representatives both in Tallahassee and Washington could no longer avoid this progressively worsening disaster. While holding their noses in order to limit inhaling the putrid odor of now red coastal tides and green slimy rivers all around, the powers-that-be had started taking notice.

Could it be that many of these, perhaps not insignificantly, well to do state reps had residences bordering the many decaying waterways? Or, perhaps, the governmental Washington crowd could no longer spend hours of outdoor leisure at their Florida vacation homes during the winter months? What brought to mind was hearing echos of "Not In My Back Yard".

While this may seem somewhat sarcastic, it does prove that when it comes to an ailing environment, we're all interconnected.

And that's EXACTLY what the famous tongue in cheek yearly King Mango Strut parade in Coconut Grove is all about! A bit of sarcasm, a tremendous dose of humor, and lots of camaraderie. So, this year's South Florida Sierra theme for participating in the parade was made very easy! What could be more resource friendly than just drape the left over red and green plastic tablecloths around our shoulders, which we still had lying around somewhere from our Xmas parties the week before... Yes - we did spend a couple of Sundays cutting out 'dead fish' from construction paper to further adorn our 'costumes', painting placards and our always colorful Sierra banner. But as usual: it was all worth it, with once again loud applause from the crowds lining the Grove streets, and cameras busily recording it all.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uzwkdH-mVY&t=123s>

