



Broward Sierra News



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Water Matters Day

The 17th annual Water Matters Day was held at Tree Tops park on March 9. For those not yet aware of it, it's the day you can get your free plants, little trees and all the green stuff that your heart desires, by just going to the park and visiting one of the many (over 80) booths to find out how to conserve water.

Of course, as always, our Broward Sierra team tabled the event for all attendees to get more information about how to conserve water. And if you don't know, there is a HUGE need to conserve water in South Florida, and here's why.

- New living spaces are going up all around South Florida. The old joke was that the state bird is the early bird; well, now it's the crane. You can see new construction practically everywhere you go. If they can't build out, they'll build up and each living space will most likely have two or more sinks, a clothes washer, dishwasher, shower/tub and toilets and they ALL USE WATER. This is in addition to agricultural use, malls, vacation destinations (hotels, motels, theme parks, water parks) and our lawns (St. Augustine grass is very thirsty).
- Millions of new residents are expected to arrive in Florida in the coming decades (baby boomers are retiring in massive numbers as we speak). At the current rate of growth, the state's population is expected to reach 34 million by 2070. This does not count the millions of tourists who vacation here every year (tourism is our #1 industry). In 2010, water consumption for just development and agriculture uses across the state totaled about 5.3 billion gallons **per day**. This could rise to 8.1 billion gallons per day by 2070!

Scary statistics, so please conserve every day (National Water Day was March 22, hope you observed it).



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.



Broward Sierra Club's next General Meeting will be on April 4, 2019.

The speaker will be Ann Wiley from the Audubon Society. Her discussion will be on backyard birding.



On Saturday, March 23 we had our last Fern Forest Beautification Day before the summer. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped us these past months clear out all the air potatoes, Caesar's weed, Rosary peas, and shoebutton ardisia, and oyster plants. Yes, there are no shortage of exotic invasives, so we will be starting again in November. Thanks also to Ashley at Fern Forest for coordinating these clean-ups with us.



LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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



Saturday, April 6: Earth Day is April 22, but we are celebrating it early at Sawgrass Sanctuary Park on April 6. Please visit us there and get more informed about how to conserve, re-use, and recycle. Sunrise's Earth Day celebration will feature a Tree-Planting Ceremony in commemoration of Arbor Day; live music; children's activities, bounce houses, face painting, arts and crafts and more; handcrafted goods; fantastic food and beverage vendors; and non-profit exhibitors and educational displays to help you green your routine. Sawgrass Sanctuary Park is at 237 North New River Circle, Sunrise). Admission is FREE!
<http://www.sunrisefl.gov/index.aspx?page=555>



Sunday, April 7: Paddling at Mizel-Eula Johnson State Park, Dania Beach (formerly John U. Lloyd State Park). 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM.

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.

Cost:
 \$15.00/per person (member)
 \$20.00/per person (non-member)

If you need to rent:

- Canoe or single kayak - add \$30
- Tandem Kayaks - add \$35

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. <https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/258857534/>