



## **Broward Sierra Creates New Bird Habitat**

– Sue Caruso

A new bird garden in Markham Park is now coming to fruition thanks to many hard working volunteers, the staff of Naturescape Broward and Markham Park, and the generous donation of the Broward Sierra Club. In August, we first told you about the Habitat Connectivity Project created by Naturescape Broward. Through grants, donations and much research, their staff identified “habitat deserts” within Broward County. These are the areas that were targeted for new canopy trees and understory plants that, although specifically targeting bird species, will benefit many native species. A study in Cook County, IL, found that “streets with bird-friendly yards had almost twice as many species as those without.” Since South Florida is in the path of the eastern flyway corridor, this project will benefit not only native species, but those that are trying to find a safe harbor during their migrations.

Nearly 500 plants were put in the ground on May 19, by dedicated volunteers of all ages from the Broward Sierra Club and Hands on Broward. Now that the garden is established, there are just a few steps to make it more successful:

- Signage for the bird-friendly species is coming soon.
- A QR code on the sign will identify the plants and their growing needs. People who want to create more bird-friendly habitat in their own back yard will have this tool to help.

The mulch was generously donated by Rose Bechard-Butman of Naturescape Broward and will be applied within the next week or so. The watering will be done by staff, three days a week until established. If any of our members are willing to help water or apply the mulch, please contact me and we will alert the staff to your offer of help.

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With so much bad news coming out of our state and federal legislatures on the environmental front, it is good to know that we have accomplished something lasting that will help provide more habitat for our native and migrating species. Thanks to all that made this possible!

If you go there, you will see Coontie, Beauty Berry, White Indigo Berry, Locustberry, Walters Viburnum, Horizontal Cocoplum, Jamaican Caper, Firebush, Joewood, Blue Porterweed, Tropical Sage, Coral Honeysuckle, Corky Stem Passionflower, Muhly grass, and much more.

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**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 June 6, 2019.**

The speaker will be Dr. Nicholas Aumen, Regional Science Advisor, South Florida Center for Collaborative Research for the US Geological Survey. Topic: What help is needed for the Everglades.





## Broward Sierra Creates New Bird Habitat (Continued)



More photos at: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/BrowardSierra/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=2236375519784345](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BrowardSierra/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2236375519784345)