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

Reclaiming Florida's Future

– Adriene Barmann

I had the opportunity as a representative of the Broward Sierra Club to experience meeting with our Florida Legislators through the organization Reclaiming Florida's Future for All. It was a fast paced day at the capital meeting a variety of people representing different organizations, all with the same intentions to use advocacy and meet face to face with the legislators to address 4 Bills that focus on the following topics: Bill HB 547/SB 200 To ban Fracking in Florida, Bill HB 97 and SB 256 to transition Florida to 100% Renewable energy, as well as SB 1290 and HB 1419 to remove the barriers that will allow all Florida public schools to have solar panels to be installed on their buildings, Bill SB 7016 and HB 1073 to establish the statewide office of Resiliency and a Sea Level Sea Rise task force, Bill SB 882 and HB 513 addressing Climate Justice to protect Florida workers from heat stress symptoms as Florida temperatures rise.

We started our journey on the bus and then in the library the evening before to learn about the bills and specific talking skills when we meet with our appointed senator or house representative. As constituents to our assigned legislators we use our voices in numbers to learn about their concerns and educate them about the environmental impacts of these proposed bills. We thank them, complement them for their support, encourage them to be co-sponsors, explain our cause (as a Sierra Club member) about the bills, ask for a commitments from them and to follow up with them.

On Thursday we met in the capital first floor rotunda and participated in a rally. We heard speeches by noted leaders, we sang, and we gathered holding signs and cheering, with the media filming us. We delivered promissory notes to Governor DeSantis's office to keep his promise to ban fracking in Florida. Then at 11:00 I met with Senator Farmer's chief aide (Senator Farmer was in the chamber voting). It would take 2 pages to describe what I learned. The take home is to do your homework and know who you are voting for, because there is a lot of false promises and lack of follow up with many of these legislators especially on the Republican side. We must use our energy to educate people around our state to know and understand who they are voting for and what they represent! Lots of Bills sit and never move. We can thank big corporations that fuel the politician's decisions with dark laundered money. But with our advocacy efforts constant public pressure can make a difference. I also had the opportunity to meet with House Representative Geller's aide as well at 3:00 PM.

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Outings & Events

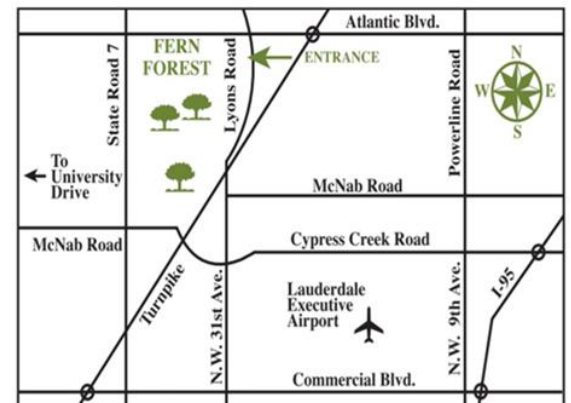
- March 1st Earth Day 2020 Celebration at Anne Kolb Nature Center
 - March 5th Broward Sierra Club General Meeting at Fern Forest Nature Center →
 - March 14th Water matters Day at Tree Tops Park
 - March 20th Myakka River Outing at Myakka River Campground
 - March 28th Ocean Day at Hallandale Beach Cultural Community Center
 - March 29th Wilderness Hike in the Big Cypress National Preserve
- For more info see our Meetup-up link [here](#)

Broward Sierra Club's next General Meeting on 3/5: After committee reports, we will be discussing the current Environmental Political Landscape so we will be able to further discuss the political issues at hand. Refreshments will be served.



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 News



Reclaiming Florida's Future

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The off time I spent taking a tour of both the House of Representatives and the Senate chamber. I saw how they vote and I learned that since Florida's legislators are in the Republican Majority, especially in the House, that the Democrats have to sit in the back of the room. I was very impressed with the murals in the Senate chamber painted by the artist Christopher Still. I took lots of pictures of both chambers and I took pics of the murals. I will send them separately by my phone.

I can conclude that my experiences were dynamic and eye opening! I now see how Florida's government works. We must continue to push for what we believe in and educate people to vote for their officials running for office. Finally, Susan Steinhauser our political chair, is a power house and her energy is endless. She kept our group well informed throughout the day, and she kept us organized and moving. A big thank you to Susan for her efforts!

Thank you EXCOM members for allowing me the opportunity to experience this amazing day!

Wakodahatchee Nature Walk – 2/22/20

– Adriene Barmann

We first walked around Wakodahatchee where we saw hundreds of birds, especially the wood storks who were in the process of identifying their nesting sites and were all fighting about it. We also saw gators rabbits and lots of iguanas. And what brought both areas together was Wakodahatchee: this is man-made and it has all the plants and the water, fish and the tree islands that work together as an ecosystem to clean the water and also send clean water down to our aquifer as well. The birds like it and so do the people. And when we went to Loxahatchee, we got to see the natural systems of plants and water that clean the water and recharge the aquifer We also got to see birds and gators there, but nowhere near the number of birds as in Wakodahatchee. My goal Saturday was to educate the participants on understanding the role of using wetlands to clean the water and recharge our aquifer so when they are voting for their legislators they understand which legislators are supporting open green space and support no more destruction of our wetlands! They need to understand how important it is for both people and animals.

Before we went with the guide we had a really nice lunch in the pavilion overlooking a lake with gators and I brought all kinds of food and everybody was very engaged in talking about preservation and conservation. I asked everybody to introduce themselves and why they were involved with the Sierra Club or the environment. Everyone enjoyed all the food (especially the double-stuffed Oreos). We then got to the visitor center and walked around and did some interactive things. Afterward, we met up with the guide. He took us around the cypress swamp and just had us thinking and asking questions. He was just fabulous. We started a hike but then more rain was coming so everybody kind of wanted to go back.

