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

## Our First On-Line Meeting

– Max Goldstein, *Broward Newsletter Editor*

Well, we started May with our first on-line meeting and we had a good attendance, with people trading the Fern Forest location and refreshments food for the comfort of their own homes. Our guest presenter was Catherine “Cat” Uden from Oceana: <https://usa.oceana.org/>. She gave an excellent presentation on the dire state of our oceans, how we are causing it, and how we can help remedy it.

Dear Sierra Club members,  
Thank you so much for allowing me to present at your virtual meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to follow up with some calls to action and additional resources.

- **Plastics Campaign:**
  - **Federal:** Please ask your member of Congress to cosponsor the **Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act**. So far in Florida, Congressman Hastings and Congresswoman Wilson are cosponsors. To find your member of Congress, go to [govtrack.us](http://govtrack.us) Call your member’s office and tell the staff that you are a constituent and that you would like Rep. XXX or Senator XXX to cosponsor HR 5845/ S 3263. You can also sign the letter to Congress [here](#).
  - **Local:** Please ask your mayor and city commissioner to pass an ordinance banning the use of certain single use plastics or EPS foam food containers on city property, city owned facilities, and city contracts/events. They can contact me for guidance. [CUden@oceana.org](mailto:CUden@oceana.org)
- **Offshore Drilling:** Please ask Senators Rubio and Scott to support a permanent moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf and in the Atlantic Ocean. Senator Marco Rubio 305-596-4224 Senator Rick Scott 561-514-0189 You can also sign our letter to Congress [here](#).
- **Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act:** Please ask Senators Rubio and Scott to cosponsor the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act- S 877. Senator Marco Rubio at 305-596-4224, Senator Rick Scott at 561-514-0189. You can sign our letter to Congress [here](#).

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# Broward Sierra News



All of our petitions for every campaign can be found here: [USA.oceana.org/take-action](https://usa.oceana.org/take-action) You do not need to make a donation. We are just thankful if you sign in support. This letter will go straight through to your members of Congress. I mentioned a great Frontline episode called "Plastic Wars." You can view it [here](#).

Please follow the Oceana and the Oceana Florida facebook and Instagram accounts. Thank you so much again, and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have about any of our campaigns.

Thanks, and stay well.  
Catherine Uden, [CUden@Oceana.org](mailto:CUden@Oceana.org)

Yes, we have to adapt to the Coronavirus like everyone else, and just because we're under the restrictions of the pandemic, it doesn't mean concerns about the environment can go by the wayside. The Trump Administration is rolling back environmental protections on 100 rules and regulations, according to the [New York Times](#). This could "significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions and lead to thousands of extra deaths from poor air quality each year." And who is responsible for all this? "The bulk of the rollbacks identified by the Times have been carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency." "At the same time, the Interior Department has worked to open up more land for oil and gas leasing by cutting back protected areas and limiting wildlife protections."

So, this is our own administration making things worse for the environment. If you go down the list, you will see words like *weakened, revoked, withdrew, canceled, revised, loosened, repealed, changed, and amended*. And that's just the ones that have already been completed.

We MUST take a stand in November, not just toward the administration, but against any amendments that will further harm our environment. I will be reporting about any proposed updates that will be on the ballot. The Sierra Club will be posting all our recommendations for local, state, and federal politicians who are running for office.

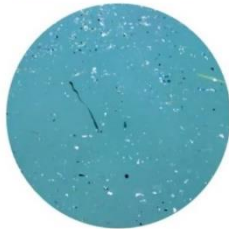
Something else we can do: I know we are all eager to get back to something approaching normal during this pandemic. After some stay-at-home orders were lifted, people started swarming the beach, and started littering as well (I wish they had tuned into Cat's presentation):

<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/florida-beach-litter-pandemic-trnd/index.html>

Less-dense plastics float on the ocean's surface



Break up into smaller pieces/microplastics



Sink and make their way through the water column



Some are ingested by zooplankton and fish



Some eventually ends up on the seafloor





# Broward Sierra News



## Broward Sierra Club June General Meeting

Jun 4, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

For our June 4th online general meeting, the Broward Sierra Group is pleased to welcome Mr. Doug Young. Mr. Young will be speaking on the topic of *"The Role of Volunteers with the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program"*.

Doug Young is Chief Operating Officer of South Florida Audubon Society. He is also a board member of the Youth Environmental Alliance and a past board member of Audubon Florida.

Currently Mr. Young works part-time as a park naturalist at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach, as well as a habitat restoration consultant with South Florida Audubon Society.

Mr. Young is an award-winning independent video producer for non-government organizations, government environmental departments, public utilities and private sector organizations. He holds a Master of Environmental Studies degree from York University, Toronto, and a Bachelor of Science degree from McGill University in Montreal. He served as an Assistant Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, and also as a Graduate Assistant at the University of Massachusetts, where he specialized in air, water and soil sampling for pollution related research.

Mr. Young holds not one, but two Marine Turtle Permits from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and leads a group of up to 50 Marine Sea Turtle Hatchling Rescue Volunteers in Broward County. He is also an active member of the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and the SE Florida Shorebird Alliance.

Please join us on [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) June 4th for "The Role of Volunteers with the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program".

To join the Join Zoom Meeting, go to:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87507443890>

Meeting ID: 875 0744 3890

One tap mobile:

+19294362866,,87507443890# US (New York)  
+13017158592,,87507443890# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 875 0744 3890

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87507443890>



# Broward Sierra News



## Protecting Our Solar Rights – Action Needed

– Susan Steinhauser, *Broward PAC Chair*

The Sierra Club’s [Ready For 100](#) campaign inspires our community leaders to help us move to 100% clean, renewable energy, much of which can be provided through rooftop solar. In direct opposition to this campaign, a group with links to monopoly utility interests has launched an attack on our solar rights. They are trying to do away with a program called [Net Metering](#).

### *What is net metering and why do we need to save it?*

Think of Net Metering as a solar energy “bank account”. If it’s a sunny day and your solar panels generate more electricity than you use, the excess goes into your account. When the sun goes down and you’re not generating electricity, any balance in your account is available to you at no cost to you to run your home. If you use up the balance in your account, FPL delivers energy to you at the normal price.

Without net metering, there would be no “bank account”. FPL would take the excess electricity that YOU GENERATED during the day, and would sell it to another customer. And at night, you’d need to buy electricity from FPL at the normal price. *Until battery storage is more affordable, net metering is essential to solar energy’s being cost effective.*

[Solar United Neighbors](#), [Vote Solar](#), and [The Florida League of Women Voters](#), are circulating a petition calling for the protection of net metering. Signed petitions will be forwarded to Governor DeSantis and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. As with any issue, *if we don’t tell our leaders what we want, we can’t hold them accountable if they make decisions with which we don’t agree.*

Please [sign this petition today](#) and keep us moving towards 100% clean energy. Thank you!