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



## **Broward Sierra Club November General Meeting**

Time: November 5, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Our speaker for October is Casey Dresbach. Casey is a Community Engagement Coordinator for Miami Waterkeeper.

As a South Florida native, Casey has dedicated her efforts towards conserving and restoring her coastal backyard, Biscayne Bay and its surrounding watershed. Casey joined the Miami Waterkeeper team in March of 2020 and recently completed a 5-year academic program achieving her B.A. in Marine Affairs and Policy and her Masters of Professional Science degree in Marine Conservation at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. As Community Engagement Coordinator, she works with local stake-holders, corporate partners, and community leaders to further Miami Waterkeeper's mission of ensuring clean water for all. Casey continues to honor her passion for environmental work in Miami, specifically on restorative work for Biscayne Bay through community engagement efforts.

Her presentation will cover the multifaceted combination of threats to Biscayne Bay, including septic system failure, sewage leaks, fertilizer use, as well as the recent fish kill and algae bloom events (honing in on nutrient pollution and the causes of it).

Please register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scuChrjIoHdI\\_dt8Ik\\_pJ0Tu8gKAqo-nV](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scuChrjIoHdI_dt8Ik_pJ0Tu8gKAqo-nV)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## **Excom Elections**

*Ina Topper, Broward Sierra Club Chair*

Dear Broward Sierrans,

It's that time of the year again, our upcoming Broward Sierra Excom elections.

For those not yet fully informed, and we've had a lot of new members joining our County group this year, the Executive Committee (ExCom for short) elections are held annually, towards the end of the year. Sometime within the next few weeks the entire membership will receive a notification to vote, either by postcard or email. This will direct you as to how to cast your ballot on-line. And... it would be very nice if we get the maximum number of people responding!

This might be a good moment to let you know what we're doing, or what one can expect just in case any of you might also want to consider joining the team.



# Broward Sierra News



The ExCom members meet once a month, as much as possible on a preset day every month which, in our case, is at present every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. Our (pre-Covid) meetings usually take place at a centrally-located venue, starting at 7:00 PM. To avoid ANY confusion, let me state for the record that we're now talking ExCom meetings. Our General meetings, with speakers and environmentally-directed presentations, are held every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at Fern Forest, 7:00 PM at the Broward County nature center, which we've been very lucky to call our monthly home, so to say, for all these years. Of course, nowadays everything is done on Zoom, but we hope to be able to return to the in-person gatherings. Yes, it is more effort; meeting at Fern Forest means:

- Having the speaker in person.
- Arranging the audio/visual presentation
- Setting up the tables with literature and the chairs.
- Preparing, setting up, and cleaning up the food.

But, it is a more communal experience, more socializing, which we hope we can get back to someday.

Each member of our ExCom team usually has a specific area to get involved with. Of course, as much as possible, it will be an area or issue which is very dear to her/his heart. So, here lies your opportunity if you've been thinking of late that there's something that's been 'bugging you' so to say, when it comes to that more narrowly defined issue.

For example, if recycling is your passion, you are then the Recycling Chair (in case you feel that there's much to be desired in your local community). Another position would be the Conservation Chair (example: get involved with Save the Florida Panther program). Or another objective could be to get actively involved in local or even national elections, whenever they take place. Our upcoming November 3<sup>rd</sup> elections would be a great opportunity to find out what you can do, in various ways, in terms of informing the Broward citizenry at large about ever more urgent environmental issues. Need we say more? The environment, in every way, shape or form, has been taking a big hit these past few years.... or let's call it what it really is: an all-out assault, with more to come [Click here](#).

We've found that almost each of one of us often carries a dual torch, or from time to time our ExCom interests are overlapping (several of us serve on more than one committee). Needless to say, we may not always agree on everything and that's what our monthly meetings are for, but we're happy to say that we've been able to harmoniously compromise, co-exist, and to lend each other a hand in respective areas. (**Note:** At our [website](#) , you can always find the list of ExCom members and the specific areas they're working in, which may also change from time to time, wherever the need may be. Of course, it's at our monthly ExCom meeting that we're deciding on who's going to be the speaker for the General Meetings.



# Broward Sierra News



Then there are our events throughout the year, where we attend a specific event with as many of us as can make it that day, setting up a table and gazebo with all our informational material, letting the greater public know who we really are. (These are also good opportunities for getting new members.) For instance, and we're now talking pre-Covid 19 times of course, on a yearly basis we always take part in the Water Matters Day, the Animal Adoption day at the War Memorial Auditorium, and THIS year, we had a very successful Earth Day celebration at Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood. Believe it or not: we had decided to hold the Earth Day's 50th Anniversary almost two months earlier in order not to clash with the many events we presumed would take place at the end of April. We were fortunate to have it early, as an actual Earth Day event would have the potential of turning this occasion into a super spreader event, and would have been cancelled.

We may also, from time to time and certainly when asked, join some very local or neighborhood activity, like what we've done with the Plant Give away Saturday in Wilton Manors now for a few years already. There's more - but let this be just a grab-bag of what we're doing.

Finally, there's always the option of telling us you'd like to be a volunteer. This means not getting 100% involved as a committed ExCommer, but to just help us out from time to time, whether at a tabling event or otherwise. Just let us know. Your Broward Sierra Nominating Committee is finishing up nominations for the four ExCom positions coming up for election in December, 2020. It's not too late if you want to play a bigger part. The next ExCom meeting is on November 2, 2020, and any Sierra Club member may attend.

To read about the Broward Executive Committee Election and read the candidates' biographies, visit this site: <https://tinyurl.com/y5jovken>.

## **Sunset Golf Course - 45 acres of open green space SAVED (*finally some good environmental news!*)**

**Mission Accomplished.** The largest land acquisition in more than 30 years for the City of Hollywood has taken place. On October 21, Mayor Levy signed the closing documents to purchase 45 ACRES OF OPEN GREEN SPACE, formally known as the Sunset Golf Course.

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofHollywoodFlorida>

**Thank you to our mayor and commissioners for making this dream a reality for the city of Hollywood.**

Thank you to everyone who believed in and supported our cause. It has been a long and winding road but we've arrived.



# Broward Sierra News



## Broward Sierra Political Corner

Susan Steinhauser, *Broward Sierra Club Political Chair*

### Think globally, Act Locally

The 2020 General Election will soon be behind us and regardless of who wins, we will have a lot of work to do. Politicians have a lot of issues to address and all-too-often, the environment is not high enough on their priority list.

The Sierra Club has a proud history of working with elected officials at the city, county, state, and federal level to make sure they consider the environment when making decisions. ***To continue this effort, we need people like you to let your city representatives know that clean water, clean air, and addressing the climate crisis are at the top of your priority list.*** In the coming months, we will share a number of ways to take action. Here are two actions you can take in November:

- E-mail [browardsierrapc@gmail.com](mailto:browardsierrapc@gmail.com) with your name, city, and the names of your city's mayor, vice-mayor, and commissioners or councilpersons. If your city's elections are presently taking place, wait until after the election to send the e-mail.
- Learn about the everyday threats to our water by attending the Broward Sierra Club's November 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Casey Dresbach, Community Engagement Coordinator for Miami Waterkeeper, will discuss the various conditions that led to the recent algal blooms and fish kill in Biscayne Bay.

**Thank you for all you do and remember ...**

**If everyone acted locally, the globally would take care of itself.**

Broward Sierra is always looking for volunteers. Which of these committees would be of interest to you?

- ◆ ExCom - Broward Sierra's Board. For more information, e-mail [irtopper2000@cs.com](mailto:irtopper2000@cs.com), [kip.fischer@icloud.com](mailto:kip.fischer@icloud.com), and/or [susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com)
- ◆ Membership - New Member Welcome and Youth Alliance. For more information, e-mail [susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com)
- ◆ Conservation - Community Garden, Fern Forest Beautification, and Development. For more information, e-mail [susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com)
- ◆ Political - Candidate Endorsement and Legislation tracking. For more information, e-mail [susan0725@icloud.com](mailto:susan0725@icloud.com)
- ◆ Communications - Social Media and Newsletter. For more information, e-mail [kip.fisher@icloud.com](mailto:kip.fisher@icloud.com).



# Broward Sierra News



Congratulations to Jared Stein on winning the solar-powered phone charger at our October General meeting. Please join us in November where we'll have another prize for the correct guesser. Want to know more about solar power? Please visit [www.solarunitedneighbors.org](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org).