



Broward Sierra Bulletin



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November 2021

www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward • www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra

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

(That's right, we now have a Twitter account – check us out!)

Broward Sierra Club General Meeting

Time: November 4, 2021 at 07:00 PM EST

Our presenter will be Chuck O'Neal from <https://fl5.org/>

FL5.org is a non-partisan effort seeking to put five conservation amendments on the 2022 ballot. In order to do this, our goal is 900,000 signed and dated petitions by November 30, 2021.

Chuck has a lifelong attachment to Florida's natural resources and beauty. His participation in the League of Women Voters has given him an opportunity to put that interest to good use. He served as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and as First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. His varied background has helped him draw media and community attention to Florida's water and land conservation crisis. In 2013, he helped organize Speak Up Wekiva, an event that drew 1200 people to Wekiwa Springs State Park, educating the public about factors that affect our water quality and quantity. Later that year he co-founded an organization named after the event to protect the flora and fauna within the Wekiva basin.



Chuck wrote one of the early drafts of the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act. He has worked closely with State Senator David Simmons (R), former Governor Bob Graham (D), former State Senator Lee Constantine (R) and former State Senator Darren Soto (D) on various legislative efforts for the benefit of Florida's citizens, environment and wildlife. In 2015, he authored the Florida Black Bear Habitat Restoration Act which was sponsored in the House by Minority Leader Mark Pafford and in the Senate by now-Congressman Darren Soto.

In addition to leading the League's participation in Florida's Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment (Amendment 1) campaign, Chuck has fought to protect Florida's springs and aquifers from all sources of pollution. He has worked with hydrologist Todd Kincaid and Springs Ecologist Bob Knight on ways to improve the water quality in Florida's springs and aquifers. He has also worked with Barry Law School's Environmental and Earth Law Clinic to protect our water supply from exposure to fracking fluids used in oil and gas exploration.

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsd-igrzMuE9LCdlQTvXByGcPrP6yl2gDs>

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

Upcoming Speakers

December 2, 2021: Vern Sibble and Erik Ofengand will present Divestment from Fossil Fuels, and Mary Cerulli- who is the founder of Climate Finance Action and will present The Power of Public Money to Fight Climate Change.

January 6, 2022 (happy new year!): Amy Green will discuss her book: Moving Water: The Everglades & Big Sugar.

We've Done a bit of Shuffling to our Team

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

We've done a bit of shuffling to our team!

Sue Caruso (susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com), our Conservation Chair has finally gotten help! She has been so overloaded with many urgent environmental projects she cried **HELP** and Dan Godston heard her plea. Dan (dgbrowardsierra@gmail.com) and Sue will be Co-Chairs of the Conservation committee. They welcome any of our members to join the Conservation committee to help them save Florida and our planet!

So that left our Membership committee without a Chair, but not for long! Mae Smith, (maesmith2002@gmail.com) has stepped up as Chair and Susan Steinhauser (susan0725@icloud.com) as Vice Chair. What a team they are!! You can be sure you will be hearing from them, and if we get clearance to meet in person, seeing them very soon.

Well, here's a twist for you! For quite some time Susan Steinhauser (browardsierrapc@gmail.com), our Political Chair, has been searching for someone to share her role. As fate would happen, Susan reached out to Mae Smith to join her with this huge endeavor. And guess what... Mae said yes! So Susan, who is our Political Chair, will now have Mae as our Political Vice Chair.

Well, this isn't really a change, it's just official now. Max Goldstein (maxsgoldstein@gmail.com) stepped up once again! Not only is he our Treasurer, our Broward Sierra Bulletin editor, our social media account manager, and also active on our Florida Chapter's committees, he is now our Outings Co-Leader along with Adriene Barmann (adrienesierraleader@gmail.com).

Let's congratulate them and wish them all a productive and fun journey, hopefully with your help too!

Links of the month:

2021 Broward Youth Climate Summit - A Virtual 3-Day Conference for BCPS Students in Grades 5-12.

<https://www.browardschools.com/Page/45330>

The Smoke Comes Every Year. Sugar Companies Say the Air Is Safe.

<https://projects.propublica.org/black-snow-pbp/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=d4a10441-a00a-446c-885a-b6f17dbd927c>

Dangerous Air: We Mapped the Rise in Wildfire Smoke Across America. Here's How We Did It:

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/28092021/dangerous-air-data-map/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=d4a10441-a00a-446c-885a-b6f17dbd927c>



Political Committee

Susan Steinhauser (browardsierrape@gmail.com) or Mae Smith (maesmith2002@gmail.com). Help us elect officials who will propose legislation to protect the environment and help us get that legislation passed into law!

Conservation Committee

Sue Caruso (susancaruso@gmail.com) or Dan Godston (dgbrowardsierra@gmail.com). Conservation Co-Chairs are seeking volunteers: The members of this committee shall work to preserve the natural resources and habitats of the native species of Broward County. That focus can lead to work beyond our county due to the interconnectedness of our vast watershed and human development. The duties will include bringing attention to proposed developments that are unsustainable and partnering with stakeholders to mitigate or stop such projects, working on local issues brought forth by our members, promoting community efforts that foster environmental justice and education, such as our community gardens, exotic plant removal and tabling events. Attending quarterly meetings will be required.

Communication Chair and Committee

Pamela Kondziela (paschieltz@gmail.com). Communication is vital to the success of our other committees. **Chair** – Promotes unified group messaging across all print, broadcast, social media, and IT platforms to keep the membership informed about campaigns, outings, events, and general announcements. **Committee members** - Assist communications chair in posting updates to media platforms and emails. Works in collaboration with **Media Chair**. Training is provided.

Media Chair-and Committee

Pamela Kondziela (paschieltz@gmail.com). The Chair, along with the committee, will write articles for publication, send op-eds to the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald; publish articles in local city newsletters; write and publish in college newspapers; speaking engagements at local organizations (via zoom for now) to gain members and volunteers. Speak on local radio shows. Works in collaboration with **Communications Committee**.

Membership Committee

Susan Steinhauser (browardsierrape@gmail.com) or Mae Smith (maesmith2002@gmail.com). This committee shall collaborate with the co-chairs, reaching out to schools, organizations, clubs, etc. to introduce the audience to the Sierra Club. Recruitment is a vital part of the membership team! Increasing our membership by presenting the many ways we protect, enjoy, and explore our environment. In addition, engaging our existing membership to participate & volunteer by inviting members to get together, i.e., wine & cheese get-togethers, tea parties, garden parties, etc.

Getting to Know You

– Sue Caruso, *Conservation Co-Chair*

Working with the Broward Sierra Group is a logical progression of my own personal evolution. As a kid, like many my age, my friends and I would go outside and play all day, ride our bikes and explore our neighborhood. I got to spend my summers in Maine with my grandparents where my cousins, sisters and I would catch frogs, fire flies (and the occasional snake), eat blueberries and raspberries straight from the field, fight the freezing surf at our favorite state park, and learn to love the natural world.

Although I enjoyed teaching any science that I was assigned, I came to my happiest teaching moments when I was given the environmental science classes. Taking every opportunity to do lab work outside, building a nature trail, growing butterfly and vegetable gardens on campus and taking field trips to local museums and parks provided fond moments that I shared with my students.

But...nothing gives me more pleasure than spending time with my husband, children and grandchildren. Our happiest times have always been those we spend outside playing games, swimming, going to the river and springs, tubing, and finding adventures to share. They are the reason that the work the Broward Sierra Club does is so important to me. I want to ensure the beautiful, natural spaces we have enjoyed will be left unspoiled for them and generations well into the future!



Hello Stranger

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

We'd love to know you better! So, we are adding a new item to our Broward Sierra Bulletin called:

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

Don't be shy! Many of our Sierra members lead, or have led, very interesting lives, so why not share your story with us.

Please send our editor, Max Goldstein, a short paragraph or two to print in our Bulletin along with a photo of yourself.

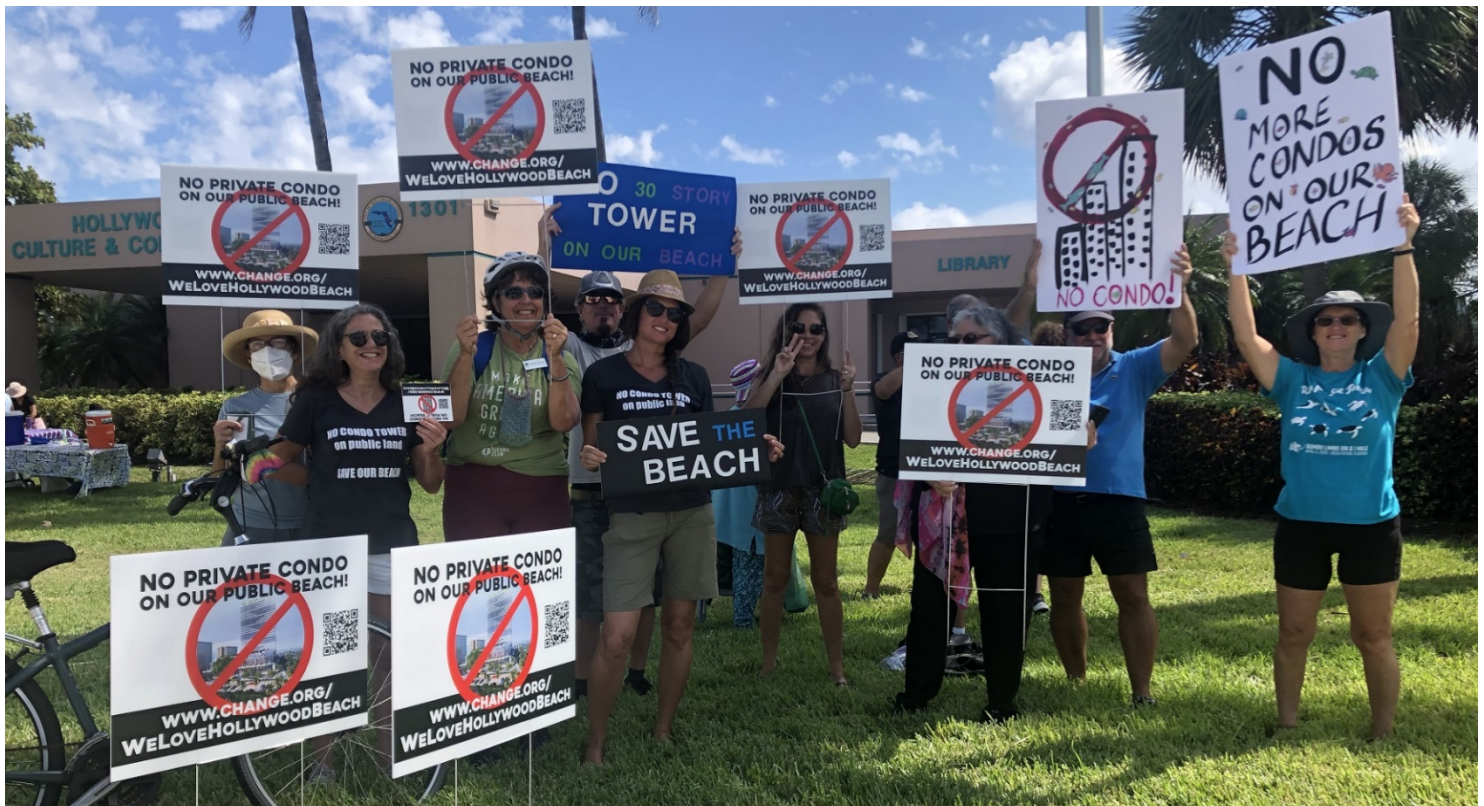
Our December issue will be published on November 29th. The deadline for submitting articles need to be sent to Max by November 24th at maxsgoldstein@gmail.com. Please put in subject: **Getting to know you.**

We are all looking forward to knowing our members better!

Sierra Club Participates in Protesting New Building on Hollywood Beach

– Hollywood Beach Community Center, October 10, 2021

<https://www.change.org/WeLoveHollywoodBeach>



“People say you can’t fight it,” **Cat Uden** (*fourth from left*) shouted to the crowd gathered outside the Hollywood Beach Culture & Community Center. “You can fight it! It’s going to be twice as tall as Margaritaville. We need to put our foot down. We don’t want a mass of skyscrapers down the beach.”

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/florida/fl-ne-hollywood-public-land-fight-20211011-poa25xg24jgzbgw52ebnluo3ba-story.html>

<https://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/the-related-groups-proposed-condo-on-hollywood-beach-may-conflict-with-1974-deed-12984801>

Broward Sierra Club has committed to stand up against the proposed 30-story luxury condo that the Related Development Group is planning to build on the beachfront property at 1301 South Ocean Drive. This 4-acre open green space beachfront property is home to a public park named Harry Berry Park and to the Hollywood Beach Community Center. The property is owned by taxpayers and was deeded to the residents of Hollywood 47 years ago for public access. The land is surrounded by a healthy dune system and serves as a beach access for locals to enjoy at a quiet part of the beach to relax at and to paddleboard along the coastline. Members of the Conservation Committee led by our Conservation Chair Sue Caruso, and Broward Sierra Club Vice-Chair and Outings Chair **Adriene Barmann** (*third from left*) have been attending multiple commission meetings since March. Their voices are being heard around the Hollywood community, and they are winning support against the development from local Hollywood civic associations, as well as the Hollywood Historical Society. This is a true story of activism to which Broward Sierra club is committed.

Do you care about plastic pollution in Florida?

Your input is needed in an important survey.

Florida, surrounded on three sides by water, is a major conduit of plastics into our waterways and oceans. Single-use plastics litter our communities and have recently been found to impact human health. We need companies to dramatically reduce their production of this everlasting pollutant and provide us with plastic-free choices, and we need policy-makers to pass legislation that ensures they do so.

The University of Florida (UF) is conducting a survey on behalf of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to learn more about the use of plastic bags, auxiliary materials and wrappings (UF IRB Protocol Number IRB202101831) per 403.7033 Florida Statutes. They are administering five surveys to gather information from multiple stakeholder groups (local governments, residents, retailers, manufacturers and recycling facilities). We are asking Sierra members to complete the residential survey.

The survey will be administered online now until October 31st. The results will be provided to legislators for the upcoming 2022 session as they consider proposed single use plastics legislation.

Visit this link to read more: <https://faculty.eng.ufl.edu/timothy-townsend/survey/>

Click [here](#) to take the survey.

Let's make our voices heard in Tallahassee and DC!

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*



Let's make our voices heard in Tallahassee and DC !

Take action: [Take Action \(sierraclub.org\)](https://sierraclub.org)

Then e-mail BrowardSierraPC@gmail.com and tell us what issues concern you.

Thank you!

SEA-LEVEL RISE



Rising Waters Art Installation

Rising Waters is a conceptual art project that raises awareness about the impact of climate change to local communities by highlighting future flood levels resulting from sea-level rise and storm conditions. The colorful installation artwork provides a visual representation of the potential future by highlighting water at ankle, knee, hip or eye level.

Broward County Public Schools is partnering with Rising Waters to showcase the art installations at schools throughout Broward County. **The work would take place the week of November 1 – 5, 2021, which coincides with the King Tide and the United Nations climate change summit (COP26).** It also supports the ongoing efforts of the District's Youth Climate Summit to engage students in the issue of sea-level rise and the effects of climate change.

If your school, business or organization is interested in participating, visit: <https://bit.ly/RWOutreach2021> and complete the registration form.

For more information, email BrowardSTEM@browardschools.com



The School Board of Broward County, Florida Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Chair • Laurie Rich Levinson, Vice Chair • Lori Alhadeff • Patricia Good • Debra Hixon
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Outings are Coming Back

– Adriene Barmann, *Outings Chair*

The Bonnet House and Birch State Park outing on October 24th is just the beginning, there are more Broward Sierra Club outings being organized. Stay tuned...

Loxahatchee Group, Annual Awards Ceremony

[Loxahatchee Group, Annual Awards](#)
(sierraclub.org)



Please join us for a casual evening of reconnecting.

Free fun event with food and beverages

Bring your spouse, friend, significant other. Must be over 21-years of age

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:00-9:00 PM

RSVP by Thurs., Nov. 11, @ our website: [Loxahatchee Group | Sierra Club](#)
[Copper Point Brewing Company](#)

151 Commerce Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33426

Schedule:

6:00-7:00 PM: Happy Hour, Food & Drinks with environmental fellowship.

Raffles, and opportunities for raising funds for the Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group

7:00-8:00 PM: Loxahatchee Group's 2021 Conservation Efforts & Presentations for:

2021 Environmental Champion Award: Trudy and Ted Winsberg

2021 National Sierra Club, Volunteer Service Award: Mike Fitzpatrick

2021 National Sierra Club, Atlas Award: Alyssa Cadwalader

2020 National Sierra Club, Special Service Award: Drew Martin

2021 Green Schools Recognition Program, Boca Raton High School, Jordan Hernandez

2021 Elaine Usherson Scholarship Recipients:

Green Acres Summer Camp, Junk Camp, and Resource Depot

8:00 PM: Raffles

If you cannot attend, please consider making a generous [donation](#) here.

Please only come if you feel comfortable attending. Wear a mask.

Our Members', Volunteers', and Supporters' health is very important to us.