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

## **Broward Sierra Club General Meeting**

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

The subject for this month:

### **New Development Threatens Florida Panther Habitat in the Western Everglades**

Speaker: Matt Schwartz, Executive Director of the South Florida Wildlands Association.

Mr. Schwartz has served as the Executive Director of the South Florida Wildlands Association since 2010. His local environmental work includes stewardship of South Florida's national parks and other public lands, opposition to oil drilling and other dirty energy projects in the Greater Everglades, and the protection of endangered wildlife, habitat, and wetlands.



Mr. Schwartz will explain the dangers these developments pose, where they are in the approval/application process, and what we can do to fight them. A question-and-answer period will follow.

Visit his website at:

[www.southfloridawild.org](http://www.southfloridawild.org)

Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking this [link](#)

Some statistics on the ever-vanishing Florida panther:

- The Florida panther is the only mountain lion subspecies found east of the Mississippi River.
- An adult Florida panther needs to eat about 35–50 deer-sized animals each year, although females with cubs may need twice that amount. Besides white-tailed deer, Florida panthers may eat rabbits, wild hogs, birds, armadillos, rats, carrion, and grass.
- Today there are only 120 to 130 Florida panthers left in the wild. They are found in southern Florida in swamplands such as Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve.
- Florida panthers generally live between 8 and 15 years in the wild.
- The state recorded 27 panther deaths in 2019 and 30 in 2018.

### **Conservation status**

Extinct Endangered Threatened Delisted

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**Endangered**

## Outings

Max Goldstein, *Broward Sierra Club Outings Committee*

As you have probably guessed, we've had no outings for a year. In fact, the Marlins have had more innings that we've had outings. Sierra Club has had a ban on any type of outing (and tabling and most every other Sierra Club activity) for several months now, and this will probably continue until enough people have been vaccinated. So, we are looking forward to having more of them, hopefully later this year. And if you can't have outings, at least you can talk about them, which we did at our last general meeting. Adriene Barmann (*Outings Chair*) and I presented a Power Point of our Outings form the past few years in hopes of peaking interest in them once the ban is lifted. You can watch the presentation here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yXSIL13vgX43ONzjgVWBKvmxWTQiONPU61g2Xf39YDNt3OXqSQSFh0sx1oMMyc7U.yObHj4n\\_Dxc5VAby?startTime=1612481243000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yXSIL13vgX43ONzjgVWBKvmxWTQiONPU61g2Xf39YDNt3OXqSQSFh0sx1oMMyc7U.yObHj4n_Dxc5VAby?startTime=1612481243000)

Here is a summary:

When people think of vacationing in Florida, they generally think of theme parks in Orlando or Tampa, the Space Center, ports to cruise from, museums, and beaches on our 1200 miles of coastline (which are already being filled with Spring Breakers, and from the pictures I've seen, many seem to think the Covid danger has passed). Not as many seem to want to take advantage of the Florida State Parks:

There are 175 locations include nature reserves, recreation areas, and historic sites, and about 50 of them allow camping. These parks are where you see the *real* Florida, with the old growth trees that are hundreds of years old. Want to see manatees in their natural habitat (that aren't congregating outside power plants enjoying the warm water)? Try Silver Springs State Park, where we paddled amongst the pods:



**Tourists watching from the dock**

**Sierra club paddling in canoes**

The original plan was to go down the famous Juniper Springs canoe run, but at the last minute, someone spotted a Florida Black Bear, so we created an Emergency Backup Plan and headed 30 miles to the west for an even better paddling experience. The manatees kind of gave us the "Side-eye", but apparently they're used to sharing the river with other nature-lovers.



If you want to see alligators, plenty of those around as well (but we always keep a safe distance).



And we have so many bird varieties in Florida that we have outings dedicated solely for bird watching. We have been to:

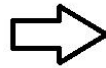
- Blue Springs
- Juniper Springs
- Silver Springs (Florida has a lot of springs)\*
- Wakodahatchee wetlands
- Fisheating Creek
- Markham Park
- Turner River
- Corkscrew Swamp

So, consider joining us for one of future our outings. Adrienne and I make all the preparations, let you know all the costs in advance, plan all the meals with everyone's dietary restrictions taken into account, and make sure we all have a good time. We only go to campgrounds we trust (and they are near to civilization; no primitive campsites). We even have tents for those who don't. So think about joining us when we can get back out to the great outdoors again.

\* *Speaking of Springs, ours are endangered as well. Please read this excellent [commentary](#) from Carl Hiaasen about yet another threat to our natural resources.*

## Congratulations to our Prize Winners

Patti Dammann and Mera Kenney won the forest scene blanket at our February meeting:



Lynda Gonzalez (right) won the blowing rock blanket from the January meeting and she donated it to Scott Sheckmen (left) from **Friends of our Florida Reefs**.

## Upcoming speakers:

April 1– Richard Grosso, Professor of Law, and Director of the Environmental and Land-use Law Clinic at Nova Southeastern University.

## Name the Newsletter

### *I need a name!*

Broward Sierra News has been coming into your homes for a very long time and no one knows my name.

My custodian is asking you to give me a name. So, we are going to have a contest. Yes, a contest to name me!

All names submitted will be given to the Excom committee and the one with the most votes will win a prize.

All entries must be submitted to [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com) (please put **newsletter Contest** in the subject line) by March 26th and the winner will be voted on April 5th by our Excom committee and announced at our meeting on May 6th – so, please help me, to at long last, have a name!.

## Cleaning up South Florida

Want to help clean up South Florida? There is a month-long clean-up effort in March. Click here for more information: <https://waterwaycleanup.org/>

## Your Environmental License

Want to spruce up your car? Consider getting one of the many **Environmental** license plates available at the tagging office. You could even be ironic and put it on a gas-guzzling SUV (I think that works like a carbon offset, but not too sure.)



## Your Environmental

We have had many articles about plastic use and how it affects our oceans and landfills. What can we do here in Florida to reduce single-use plastic pollution? Here's a webinar from Debris Free Oceans:

<https://www.facebook.com/DebrisFreeOceans/videos/2938324519787790>



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WITH RECLAIMING FLORIDA'S FUTURE EVERY YEAR ?**

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FLORIDA'S  
FUTURE  
FOR  
ALL**

**SPEAK UP  
FOR CLEAN  
ENERGY**

**THIS YEAR IS NO DIFFERENT EXCEPT THAT IT'S VIRTUAL!  
SO THERE'S NO EXCUSE NOT TO JOIN US THIS YEAR ...**

**No need to take  
off from work!**

**No travel to  
Tallahassee!**

**No need to pay  
for a hotel!**

**Whether you're new to lobbying or have been lobbying for  
years, RFF is a great way to learn / refresh your skills.**

**SCHEDULE**

- ◆ **Tue, 3/9, 6pm-8pm - Training on bills / Lobbying 101**
- ◆ **Wed, 3/10, 9am-4pm, events throughout the day.**

**Attend one or attend all!**

**[Click here to REGISTER TODAY!](#)**

**Questions? E-mail [browardsierrapc@gmail.com](mailto:browardsierrapc@gmail.com)**