



Broward Sierra News

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VOL. XLIII NO. 55

May 2021

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<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: May 6, 2021 at 07:00 PM EST

The subject for this month:

An Existence Challenged by Growth, A Future Forged by Climate Change: An Exploration of the solutions to Climate Change using the En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator

Speakers: Vernal Sibble, Jeff Dorian, and Elaine Franklin.



Sibble



Dorian



Franklin

Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkdeitrDorGtU0Ed0uj92G6H55eQccnO1D>

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

Meetup.com: <https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/277510062/>

The En-Roads Simulator will be demonstrated by Vernal Sibble, Jeff Dorian, and Elaine Franklin.

Vernal Sibble is a United States Navy Veteran, LEED-accredited professional Civil Engineer.

Sibble is a passionate gardener who believes in the power of our collective humanity in creating a more just and sustainable world.

Elaine Franklin is the City of Hollywood's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator. She facilitates City staff, residents, and businesses to take bold, proactive action together to make Hollywood resilient, healthy, and prosperous.

Jeff Dorian Leads the Broward Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. He has committed the bulk of his time to CCL for the past 3 years. He has lobbied twice in DC with members of both parties. He is now CCL's liaison to Congresswoman Debbie Wassermann Schultz.

The En-Roads Climate Simulator

The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The impacts of climate change haven't been spread evenly around our planet and they won't be in the future, either. Temperatures increase at different speeds everywhere. However, average global temperature rise, as stipulated in the Paris Agreement can be achieved through the appropriate changes in the way we live. The En-ROADS Climate Solution Simulator is a tool that provides policy-makers with ability to explore the impacts of policies or combination thereof on global temperatures.

The [En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator](#) is a fast, powerful climate simulation tool for understanding how we can achieve our climate goals through changes in energy, land use, consumption, agriculture, and other policies. The simulator focuses on how changes in global GDP, energy efficiency, technological innovation, and carbon price influence carbon emissions, global temperature, and other factors. It is designed to provide a synthesis of the best available science on climate solutions and put it at the fingertips of groups in policy workshops and roleplaying games. These experiences enable people to explore the long-term climate impacts of global policy and investment decisions. Conversely, the simulator allows for the exploration of the combination of policies that may allow the world to achieve the goals of the Paris Accord.

The model emphasizes the system-wide interactions of policies. Behind the simulation is an extensive study of the latest research literature on factors such as delay times, progress ratios, price sensitivities, historic growth of energy sources, and energy efficiency potential. This enables En-ROADS to reveal the dynamic interactions between different levers, such as how energy efficiency affects renewable energy, and which feedback loops are most significant.

The model will allow us, in an interactive setting, to play policy-makers for a night and to contemplate a combination changes to various components of the economy, such transportation, deforestation, the greater penetration of renewable energy sources, fee of carbon-based fuels, etc., and to observe the corresponding changes in global temperature at the end of the century.

En-ROADS is being developed by Climate Interactive, Ventana Systems, Todd Fincannon, UML Climate Change Initiative, and MIT Sloan.

Upcoming speaker:

June 3, 2021 – We will have Dennis Wise from Recyclops. He will discuss recycling in Broward and the subscription recycling services his company offers to residents of Coral Springs, Coconut Creek, and Deerfield Beach.

Earth Day

Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

Where were you on April 22, 2021?



I spent this beautiful Earth day with Susan Steinhauser. She introduced me to this charming, little known, area right here in Tamarac. Lovely paths to walk on surrounded by nature! People having lunch at picnic tables enjoying the birds chirping and butterflies flying while amid our magnificent earth! Thank you, Susan!

Thank you of the Month

Commissioner Dunn's resolution is against SB 856/HB 839 preempting energy Infrastructure and home rule, which impacts our environment in so many, many ways. Let's thank Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn for her Resolution 21-04-90 that the Commission voted to repeal.

On April 21st, the Pembroke Pines City Commission unanimously passed a resolution opposing the "power grab" bills in Tallahassee that, if passed, would prevent local governments from moving to 100% clean renewable energy. Thank you, Commissioner Angelo Castillo, for proposing the resolution on behalf of Broward Sierra.

Links of the Month

The links this month deal with (yet another) company wanting to drill in the Everglades and Greta Thunberg taking politicians to task for not listening to science.

[Texas Company Searching For Oil In Big Cypress Wants To Start Drilling Next Year](#)

[Greta Thunberg Rips Politicians Who Say 'Listen to the Science' While 'Primarily Listening to Companies, Billionaires'](#)

Broward Sierra Political Corner

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*

Food for Thought – Elections Matter

When I was invited to chair the Broward Sierra Political Committee (PolComm), I gladly accepted and looked forward to working with Broward Sierra to help pass meaningful climate legislation.

Soon after taking the position, I learned that one of the PolComm’s responsibilities was endorsing candidates. I recoiled, wanting nothing to do with elections. I expressed my concern to David Harbeitner, Chair of the Florida Chapter PolComm, and I remember his answer: “*So how’s that lobbying going? Are the bills you want to pass even making it out of committee?*” It was at that moment that I realized why Sierra gets involved in elections and candidate endorsements. How can we expect to pass environmental legislation if we don’t have environmental leaders in office?

As the environmentally and constitutionally unfriendly 2021 Florida legislative session winds down, let’s take a moment to relax, regroup, and recharge. Then let’s get ready to work because the next election will be here before we know it and we need leaders whose priorities are clean water, clean air, and the future of our planet!

Local Successes

The Broward Sierra Political Committee (Weston division) met with the City Manager to create a Sustainability Advisory Board.

Action of the Month

May’s environmental action is EASY! Find out who your City Commissioner/Councilperson is and click [here](#) to let us know where you live and who your Commissioner/Councilperson is. Thank you!

Name the Newsletter

EVERY NEWSLETTER HAS A NAME, EXCEPT ME! 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 (please put **Newsletter Contest** in the subject line) by April 28th and the winner will be voted on May 3rd by our Excom committee and announced at our meeting on June 3rd – so, please help me, to at long last, have a name!

Broward County Sierra Club Needs YOU!

PLEASE VOLUNTEER

Political Co-Chair

Susan Steinhauser, Political Chair, is seeking a Co-Chair:

Lead the Broward Sierra Political Committee in candidate endorsement and campaigning; Lead the Broward Sierra Political Committee in legislative lobbying; Prepare the Political Corner for the monthly newsletter; Provide a Political Committee Report for the General Meeting; and hold monthly Political Committee Meetings – publish agendas and notes for same.

Conservation Committee

Sue Caruso, Conservation Chair, is 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, promote 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.

Media Chair – and 1 Committee volunteer

Chair –Write and publish articles and op eds in the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald; write and publish in local city newsletters; write and publish in college newspapers; speaking engagements at local organizations (via zoom for now).

Committee - To assist Media Chairperson.

For more information, please contact:

Political – Susan Steinhauser: browardsierrapc@gmail.com

Conservation – Sue Caruso: susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com

Media Chair – Leah Weisburd: leabird@comcast.net

Welcome to Our New Membership Chairperson

– Leah Weisburd, *ExCom Chair*

Effective May 2021, Dan Godston, our newly elected ExCom (Executive Committee) member, has stepped up and will be chairing our Membership committee. We are delighted that we will have an active Chairperson reaching out to all our members from time to time. Dan will keep in touch with you to ensure that by joining us on our journey to save our planet, your voices, interests, and questions are heard.

Once we have clearance from National that we are permitted to have get-togethers again in person, Dan will be inviting our new members, long term members, and guests, to wine and cheese get togethers, coffee/tea gatherings, etc. Perhaps at his Coconut Creek community garden for all of us to get to know you. Please don't hesitate to contact Dan, (dgbrowardsierra@gmail.com) or me (excomleah@gmail.com) with any questions you may have.

Coconut Creek Community Garden Project

- Dan Godston, *Membership Chair*

The Coconut Creek Community Garden Project has been underway since last fall – happily with support from Broward Sierra. The City of Coconut Creek has designated a plot for the garden, and we've been reaching out to volunteers. Several students from Coconut Creek High School have been coming out to our monthly meetings in this regard. We're working with Coconut Creek's Parks and Recreation Department to plan out specifics regarding our partnership, and we hope to get started with the actual gardening later this spring.

This community garden project is in motion based on a several key objectives – to provide opportunities for people of all backgrounds and ages to cultivate this garden; to develop theories and praxis that manifest local ways that are also mindful of regional and global concerns that pertain to climate change and global warming; and to explore ways by which a garden – as a physical space and concept – can manifest goals that relate to civic engagement, environmental stewardship, democracy and the commons, and connections between nature and the arts.

CCCGP has been meeting monthly since January – with group discussions and guest speakers who have given presentations about permaculture, butterflies and butterfly gardens, beekeeping, intersections between gardens and the arts, and other topics. You're invited to come to the next Coconut Creek Community Garden Project meeting, on May 8th. Email coconutcreekcommunitygarden@gmail.com and visit tinyurl.com/ytxnabvm to join in and find out more!