



Broward Sierra Bulletin



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

Broward Sierra Club General Meeting

Time: October 7, 2021 at 07:00 PM EST

We will have two presenters in October:

- Louis Aguirre will present from 7:00 – 8:00 PM: **Keeping our Community Pristine.**
- Joe Bonasia will present from 8:00 – 8:30 PM: Florida Rights of Nature, presenting FL5.org amendments. These are five amendments we must get on the ballot in 2022.

In September 2017, WPLG-Local 10 welcomed Emmy-award winning journalist Louis Aguirre back home to South Florida and the Local 10 family. Louis co-anchors the station's weekday 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. newscasts. He also reports for the 11 p.m. newscast. He's also Local 10's Environmental Advocate.

Beginning his television career at Telemundo in 1989, as a Spanish-language reporter, Louis eventually made the jump to Local 10 as a reporter and then weekend anchor.

Louis worked at Local 10 from 1989 to 1992, during which time he became one of the few American journalists allowed into Cuba to cover the 30th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis.

Louis would later spend 14 years at WSVN in Miami before relocating to Los Angeles in 2014 to anchor the nationally syndicated program "The Insider."

Aguirre-A native of Miami, Louis is a graduate of the University of Miami and the *Universite de Paris* at La Sorbonne.

On his free time, Louis enjoys spending time at the beach with his two rescue dogs.

He's also involved in many local charities and advocates for the Humane Society & Best Friends Animal Society. A staunch defender of the planet, Aguirre is passionate about using his voice and his platform to create awareness about environmental issues.



Note: Usually, our presenters begin about 7:20ish! At this meeting, our presenter will start promptly at 7:00 PM, as he must leave us by 8:00ish. Sierra business will follow his presentation. Please be in attendance before 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendar and don't be late! Thank you!

A Sierra Club member for decades, Joseph Bonasia is Citizens' Climate Lobby's legislative liaison to Senator Rick Scott's office. He is also Vice-Chair and SWFL Regional Director of the Florida Rights of Nature Network. It is in this latter capacity that he will speak about the Right to Clean Water Constitutional Amendment and four other amendments that make up the FL5.org slate of amendments for the 2022 ballot. He will discuss:

- Orange County's historic Right to Clean Water Charter / Rights of Nature Amendment.
- The first rights of nature enforcement case in the nation, which the Orlando Business Journal says could have a major impact on development in Florida.
- The state preemption of rights of nature laws.
- The current petition drive to amend the Florida State Constitution to legally recognize every Floridian's right to clean water and to legally recognize rights for Florida's waterways.
- Four other environmental constitutional amendments.



Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001kuVOAAY>

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

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/280339458/>

Upcoming Speakers

November 4: Chuck O'Neal – Florida Rights of Nature, also more on FL5.org amendments.

December 2: Vern Sibble and Erik Ofengand - Divestment from Fossil Fuels.

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

Cross Pollinating (Meetings)

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

I'm so excited to let you know that our neighbors, the Sierra Loxahatchee Group, loved our joint meeting last month. So much so, that they have asked us to have another joint meeting this October. They will publicize our meeting and we will publicize their meeting. They have invited us to their meeting on October 21st. It is an early in the morning event for those members that are early birds, please register to attend [Events | Sierra Club](#) Their meeting will be about Preserving the PBC Agricultural Reserve.

Both Linda Smithe, Loxahatchee Group Chair, and I think that we are such close neighbors that share boundaries, sharing our events will help to increase both our membership, volunteers, and unite us as a team working to protect our planet.

Welcome our New Florida State Director!

Sierra Club Florida's executive committee is pleased to announce it has appointed **Emily Gorman** as the chapter's new director! Since 2017, Emily has been a national **Ready For 100** organizer based in Miami, working on issues relating to clean energy, environmental justice, transportation and disaster resilience. At age 29, Emily is the chapter's youngest ever director. Please join us in welcoming Emily!



From the new director:

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Sierra Club Florida Chapter director. Since 2016, Sierra Club Florida has been my home and my family. I have worked with you to organize communities, demand solutions, and fight for change. It is a gift to continue our work in this new role!

Our organization, communities, and society are in a time of transition. Over the last few years, we have lived in a state and a nation in which truth has become a casualty, and division a way of life. Now is the moment to come together, to lean on each other, and to grow together toward the future — a future in which all people explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth, and in which the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources is a central tenet of our existence.

Sierra Club Florida Chapter is prepared to rise to the moment. Over the next year, you will see our staff grow and our operations shift to focus on volunteers, members, and local communities. Our love for the wild places of the earth, for the Floridian ecology, and for each other will guide us as we grow to new heights.

With an upcoming election, the culmination of redistricting, and the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 will be a defining year for Florida. The need for clean energy, air, and water for all has never been greater. We will continue to seek bold solutions for our planet, communities, economy, and democracy. The challenges of our time demand them.

Fisheating Creek Camping Trip Canceled

A message to our fellow campers and hikers about why we had to cancel the Fisheating Creek camping trip. Max and I completed the national Sierra Club outings training last month, which sets the standards and rules to lead a safe camping trip or day hike. During the training we learned about the restrictions set in place for Covid when leading an overnight outing, and unfortunately due to the high risk of spreading the virus we chose to delay the camping trip for now.

We look forward to hosting amazing camping trips in the near future so we can continue to enjoy the outdoors together.

With sincere gratitude

Max & Adriene, Sierra Club Outing Leaders

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.

Broward Sierra Political Corner – October 2021

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*

Sierra's Legislative Priorities for 2022

We need YOU, our members and supporters, to let our elected officials know what Sierra's top 3 priorities are!

- Climate Change
- Land Conservation
- Water Quality & Quantity

To help us out, the Florida Chapter has provided easy-to-understand talking points about each issue. Click [here](#) to get the talking points and if you have any questions, e-mail browardsierrapc@gmail.com.

Legislative Delegation Hearings are a great way to let our legislators know what we want. You can attend in person on 10/6, 10/26, and 11/9. The 10/26 meeting can also be attended virtually. For more information, click here. If you have questions and/or plan to attend, e-mail browardsierrapc@gmail.com. Thank you!

Sierra Club Announces 2021 National Award Winners!

On September 17, the Sierra Club presented their National Awards (remotely). Among those receiving awards were Kip Fisher and Max Goldstein of the Broward Sierra Group. Congratulations to you both!



Please submit your bio (300 words or less), why you would like to serve on ExCom, what you would contribute if elected, and what organizations you are a member of, or have been a member of. Please submit your bio and information to excomleah@gmail.com.

If you are elected by our members this December, your tenure will begin on January 1, 2022, for a 2-year term. We encourage you to bring your ideas and your passion to protect our planet; we know you will have fun doing so.

ExCom meetings are the 1st Monday of each month. You are more than welcome to come to our ExCom meeting to see and hear us in action. You can find the Zoom link on our website:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have excomleah@gmail.com.

Thank you!

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

We are all looking forward to knowing our members better!

Our First Getting to know our members: Victoria Olsen

Victoria Olson is a costumer/stylist, working her way from Off-Off Broadway to Broadway. She has served as assistant to the infamous Ann Roth on Broadway. Other credits include NBC'S Saturday Night Live, soap operas and Late Night with David Letterman. Ms. Olson is a proud member of IATSE Local 500, working South Florida stages with Broadway touring shows Hamilton, Wicked, Lion King and more. She's also worked with Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and served as wardrobe/shop supervisor at Palm Beach Opera. As a board member of the Broward Cultural Council, she strives to fund the arts.



Political Committee

Susan Steinhauser (browardsierrapc@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 (browardsierrapc@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.

Bonnet House Outing

– Adriene Barmann, Chair, *Broward Sierra Outings*

Broward Sierra Club is planning a day outing to the Bonnet House for a walking tour and then a picnic and tram tour at Birch State Park across the street from the Bonnet House on Sunday, October 24th. Our day will begin at 9:30 AM at the Bonnet House at 900 North Birch Road, Ft. Lauderdale, and will end at 3:30 at Birch State Park. The Bonnet House museum and gardens is a historic home located at 900 Birch Road, in East Ft. Lauderdale. The Bonnet House history dates back to the early 1900's that includes beautiful art paintings and murals located throughout the house. The gardens premier one of the last barrier island habitats with 5 distinct ecosystems. The history of the Hugh Taylor Birch family and his daughter's life at the Bonnet House are one of South Florida's unique stories. Hugh Taylor Birch State Park is also a South Florida gem on a precious island that preserves just a sliver of the natural splendor that once was natural undeveloped Broward County. With access to the beach, a natural freshwater lagoon, and plenty of hardwood hammock trails, our day will be complete. More to come when we post the details of our day on meet-up and our Facebook website.