



# Broward Sierra Bulletin

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**2022**

**April**

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

**[To join the Sierra Club, click here.](#)**

## Earth Day Celebration

– Adriene Barmann, *Outings Chair*

Broward Sierra Club's Earth Day 22 was an amazing experience for all who were involved in the planning, and for those who attended the event.

As I look back at our amazing Earth Day 22 which took place on March 6th at Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood, the best word to describe that day was 'impactful'. The 14 exhibitors in the courtyard were happy to share their knowledge and experience with our visitors. Some of the exhibitors included The Sea Turtle Oversight Protection, Friends of Our Florida Reef/DEP's Coral Reef Conservation Program, Science Eye, GMMO, Solar United Neighbors, The Marine Environmental Education Center (MEEC), The State Sierra Conservation Chapter, Bonnet House, Climate Reality Boca Chapter, The Right to Clean Water and Florida Rights of Nature Network, The League of Women Voters, and Friends of Anne Kolb. There was a lot of action and learning going on in the courtyard, smiling faces, interactive puzzles, and lots of conversations. The visitors were engaged to learn and that made me happy.

We had a terrific band led by Environmental Attorney Richard Grosso. His band played 70's music to add to the ambiance of the day as the first Earth Day was in 1970. The student art contest, with six ambitious high school students, whose creative artwork was on display for the five appointed judges to evaluate and critique, was a true success! Commissioner Beam Furr of Broward County, who hosted the event, was excited to congratulate the winners, along with the students' proud parents!

It was rewarding to our fellow EXCOM members Sue Caruso, Mae Smith, Chair Leah Weisburd, and local plastic waste artist Emily Robinson to watch the students' hard work and dedication come to life on the stage. The art event was "The Perils of Plastic Waste". The students were recognized for their commitment to understanding the plastic pollution problem that they referenced in their essays and art projects. While there were only three winners, all six students were acknowledged for taking action to send a message that people must stop using single use plastics.

The Earth Day 2022 celebration also included seven notable speakers who presented in the Mangrove Hall. Their presentations covered sea turtle research and protections, organic farming education and practices, the recognition of the effects of climate change on the Earth's rising temperatures, an update on Florida's Coral Reefs, current threats to the Florida Panther, the plastic pollution crisis, and the challenges of Broward's waste disposal problems. All the speakers engaged with the audience and shared their knowledge. We'd like to thank our presenters: Richard Whitecloud, Jon Albee, Harold Wanless, Scott Sheckman, Rachel Skubel, Matt Schwartz, Cat Uden, and Commissioner Beam Furr.

Two local artists' work was shown at our event. Artist Roberto Oliva Hernandez, whose artwork was on display at the Boca Art Museum, exhibited two of his unique pieces of art. In addition, the aforementioned Emily Robinson had an interactive art display and pieces of her unique art were also exhibited.

Our guests had full access to all the activities at Anne Kolb, which included kayaking, going on guided nature walks, and exploring the nature exhibit hall. We also featured a jar filled with microplastics and visitors had the opportunity to guess the number of plastic pieces in the jar. The winner won a beautiful canvas print of an ocean scene.

Our Earth Day was full of experiences for the public to learn from and to understand the challenges we face as stewards of planet Earth. People were smiling and engaging with the vendors, playing games at the exhibits, and learning new things while having a great time! It was a positive day for all, and Broward Sierra Club was proud to make everyone's Earth Day impactful!

## Student Art Contest: The Perils of Plastic Waste



Our Judges at work: Cat Uden, Stanislav Milo, Emily Robinson, and Commissioner Beam Furr



Attorney Richard Grasso congratulates the students and encourages their continued activism



All contestants and their proud parents



Judge Emily Robinson



Judge Roberto Oliva and First Place Winner Jessica Jacobs



Commissioner Furr announces the winners

These talented high school students entered the art contest for our Earth Day celebration. All 6 students received membership to our Broward Sierra Group!

- **Jessica Jacobs - North Broward High School - 1st Prize of \$1,000.00**
- **Hanna Neugaard - Western High School - 2nd Prize of \$500.00**

- **Helena Lacey - Plantation High School - 3rd Prize of \$250.00**
- **Meagan Rigau - McFatter Technical High School - \$25.00 gift card**
- **Nerlin Charles - Coconut Creek High School - \$25.00 gift card**
- **Mussia Federman and Goldie Wolf - Home Schooled - \$25.00 gift card**



## The Students Become the Teachers

– Susan Caruso, *Conservation Chair*

The Broward Sierra Group’s Earth Day event on March 6, 2022 had many engaging and educational activities for all ages. However, the one project that we are all very proud of is the student art contest open to all Broward County high school students.

This contest was the brain child of Adriene Barmann, the chair of this event. Emily Robinson, a local artist who creates works from recyclable materials, helped guide the vision of what the contest should be. Sue Caruso helped create the judging rubric that the students and judges used to determine the winners. Leah Weisburd guided the student through the process from registration to presentation.

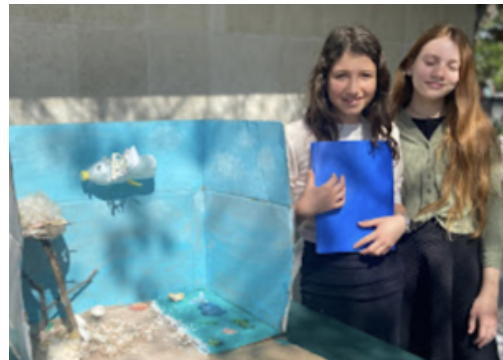
The students were tasked with creating an original art piece using predominantly recyclable plastic and other recyclable materials. They also wrote an explanation of what they learned and hoped their work would demonstrate the problems plastic waste cause for wildlife and human health.

Although 12 students registered for this event, six dedicated students completed the project and displayed their creations outside Mangrove Hall for all our guests to admire and peruse. Although it was a close contest, three students were determined to be the winners. Their essays start on page 5.

- Jessica Jacobs, of North Broward Preparatory High School, captured first place honors with her work entitled “The Butterfly Effect.” Jessica wanted to show how a small action can have ripple effects with unwanted, and often severe, consequences. Jessica received the \$1,000 prize.
- Hanna Neugaard, of Western High School, earned second place honors and the \$500 prize, with her work created from materials used in her household in just one week. She was concerned with the amount of plastic even a single, well-intentioned household can create.
- Helena Lacey took the third-place prize of \$250 with her weblike art sculpture that demonstrated the interconnectedness of all living things and how our actions spread far beyond our own communities.

Honorable mention goes out to our other dedicated contestants who all submitted creative, conscientious art pieces. Each of them received \$25 gift cards:

- Meagan Rigua of McFatter Technical High School
- Nerlin Charles of Coconut Creek High School
- Mussia Federman and Goldie Wolf, both home-schooled



**M u s s i a  
F e d e r m a n  
& G o l d i e  
W o l f**



**Nerlin Charles with  
Commissioner Beam  
Furr**

**Meagan Rigua**



All of our six contestants received an annual National Sierra Club membership and a colorful, reusable aluminum water bottle. Both the bottles and gift cards were donated by the Hollywood Walmart on Sheridan Street.

Broward Commissioner, Beam Furr, did the presentation of awards. As our first, second and third place winners accepted their prizes, each one gave an eloquent explanation of what they hoped we could learn from their work. In his congratulatory comments, Richard Grosso encouraged all our students to continue their environmental advocacy.

A special thanks to our esteemed judges who donated their time to speak to and encourage all the students while appraising their work:

- Broward Commissioner Beam Furr
- Oceana Activist Cat Uden
- Local Artist Emily Robinson
- Local Artist Stanislov Milo
- International Artist Roberto Oliva

The stories of the first, second, and third place winners are on pages 5 and 6.



**Your Earth Day Volunteers.**

The Earth Day Event was an enormous undertaking. Arranging all the speakers, canopies, kayak rides, tower tours, food trucks, exhibitors and so much more was a huge amount of work and it could not have been done without your Broward Sierra Executive Committee, the volunteers, and **Joanne Howes** and her staff at the Anne Kolb Nature Center. *Thanks Joanne!*

Photos of Earth Day can be found on our [Facebook page](#).



## The Butterfly Effect

*Jessica Jacobs, First Place Winner*

In creating this piece, I researched plastic pollution and its impacts on both the ecosystem and human health. The largest ecosystem on earth is the hydrosphere, or the aquatic ecosystem. The ocean is home to about 230,000 known species, most likely even more considering we have not finished exploring its entirety. A large percentage of the plastic waste produced ends up in oceans: about 5.25 trillion pieces of debris make up the surface and deep waters. I wanted to represent the detriments of plastic waste on aquatic life within my piece by painting a sea turtle caught in a fishing net as well as plastic trash to represent the harm it causes for sea life.

The actual canvas is made of a piece of cardboard. I created a scene of a shoreline collecting trash using many plastic elements in the art itself. The beach house on the shore was created using a plastic container, and contains many other plastic elements within. The potted plant beneath the stairs was created using the bottom of a plastic M&M candy tube and a green straw. The stairs are made of a plastic tray that formerly contained oil pastels. The couch was also made using a plastic container. The stabilizing pillars were created using plastic straws. I created the beach house with humans inside to represent the danger of plastic waste on human health. The people are inside to protect themselves from the polluted beach, as my research taught me that plastic waste attracts micro-organisms such as bacteria because of the chemical additives in plastic.

Besides the immediate threats posed to humans by bacteria, a build-up of plastic waste into oceans has long term detriments. Upon entering the ocean, plastic can be consumed by fish and other sea life, which may also be consumed by humans when they eat the fish. Human consumption of too many plastic particles over time harms the functioning of important organs and is linked to serious health problems.

Another plastic element I used in my piece was the ship, created using a plastic light bulb container and straws. Incorporating plastic waste as the artwork in addition to being the theme of the piece allows us to see the beauty in creating a new purpose for potentially harmful trash. Lastly, I included butterflies in the sky to represent the Butterfly Effect, a concept meaning that tiny changes within a more complex system, in this case oceanic environments, can result in unpredictable and larger scale outcomes.

The flapping butterflies are symbolic of something tiny, such as fluttering wings, having greater effects than what meets the eye. This ties into my overall piece concept of plastic waste having unpredictable long-term results that may be harmful to both environmental systems such as the ocean, and to humans. The harm that can result is represented by the butterfly engulfed in the polluted, smoky air. I chose to title my piece The Butterfly Effect to send viewers the message that small detriments made by plastic waste can eventually cause larger, long-term issues for life on our planet.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/ocean-trash-525-trillion-pieces-and-counting-big-questions-remain>

<https://growensemble.com/how-does-plastic-pollution-affect-humans>

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/climate-change-butterfly-effect>





## Ocean of Plastic

*Hanna Neugaard, Second Place Winner*

Creating this sculpture combines my love of art and my passion to protect our planet. While creating this piece, I learned about how quickly waste accumulates yet it takes much more time to decompose. For this project I collected plastic materials for one week from my 5- person household. Additionally, my mother and I completed a short (30 minute) beach cleanup in a small area of Hollywood Beach. By the end of the week, I had more plastic than I could store! Many items you find in my project are common items we use daily. Juice bottles, water bottles, straws, plastic bags and countless other 'single use' items. 80% of the debris found in the ocean is plastic. Marine life often eat these plastic items causing countless complications and fatalities. Humans often consume the contaminated sea life and the plastic continues to bioaccumulate. A 1000 sea turtles die annually due to plastic pollution. The most common thing they eat...plastic bags.

The items we use daily overwhelm our landfills. Of the billion tons of plastic that has accumulated, only those plastics from the 1950's (when plastic production started) will have decomposed in the next 450 years. These plastics will outlive you, me, and many future generations. I hope my work portrays how toxic plastic is for our health and the health of our planet. My piece focuses on the face in the mirror. Our individual impacts through the casual use of plastics and our failure to demand more comprehensive regulation and education regarding the negative impacts of our plastic consumption. We must all reflect on how we as individuals can enact positive change. Individually and collectively, we all make a difference even in the 'smallest' of ways.

Reusing these plastic products provides a second life for them, before they are sent to recycling facilities and/or landfills. Putting the responsibility on myself, for the impacts of how I consume forces me to be more thoughtful and aware before I risk debris wandering into our ecosystems and destroying them. If anything, I hope my project encourages people to reflect on the choices we make, the impact our choices have on our planet and that we all have the power to make a difference in our world.



## Spider Web of Trash

*Helena Lacey, Third Place Winner*

By now, it's no secret that plastic is a big part of our lives, but I don't think enough people realize the extent in which it's entangled us. That's what my piece is about, how we're trapped in trash in a spider's web of our own design. We can try to remove one piece, but that piece will be connected to something else, and that'll be connected to something totally different, ultimately making the whole endeavor much harder than anyone previously anticipated.

We produce millions of tons of plastic a year, half of which is single use. Yet we can't cut out all this plastic overnight- by now, we're dependent on it. It's hard to go even a day without using some kind of plastic. It's not as if plastic is impossible to remove from our lives, it'll just take drastic effort to do so.

Plastic is so ingrained in our lives, it's even in the food we eat and the things we drink. Microscopic plastics can be found in everything from tap water to sugar to seafood. But it's not just us- these microplastics have been embedded in the diets of sea life as well, and even though it hasn't been shown to harm us yet, it's shown to have negative effects on marine life.

I hope this piece shows just how trapped we are in plastics: no matter which way you hold the piece, downwards, sideways, or upwards, the plastic still holds us in place. Everything's connected to something else, but with enough effort from all of us, we can free ourselves from the spider's web.

<https://www.eufic.org/en/food-safety/article/microplastics-in-food-and-water-are-they-harmful-to-human-health>  
<https://plasticoceans.org/the-facts/>

## Sunday Nature Walk at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

– Adriene Barmann, *Outings Chair*



**When: Sunday, April 3, 2022**

The Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is a large ancient Cypress Forest comprised of exquisite parcels of land that has been preserved for visitors to see. The 2.25-mile boardwalk takes you into a green and liquid world where at every turn you see natural scenes so beautiful, they could have been arranged by the world's best floral designer. The Corkscrew trail, largely shady, features benches and rain shelters along the way.

The Old Cypress Forest is a place filled with the sounds of the trees rustling in the breeze, bird calls and butterflies. The trees are lush with air plants, resurrection ferns, birds nest ferns, a pine upland, a wet prairie, a cypress forest, a marsh, and excellent interpretive signs which help identify plants and ecosystems. At this time of the dry season, we may see some more action with the wildlife. Be prepared to see alligators, birds, small mammals, and lots of unique insects. It is a true wonder that has been purchased and preserved by the National Audubon Society.

**Leaders (any questions, contact us):**

Adriene Barmann: 954-328-9447 [adrienesierraleader@gmail.com](mailto:adrienesierraleader@gmail.com)

Max Goldstein: 954-296-3411 [maxgoldstein@gmail.com](mailto:maxgoldstein@gmail.com).

Please sign up and register on the Sierra Club Campfire site:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000002GridAAC>

Please call if you are delayed in arriving. There will be a basic first aid kit on the trip. Email for any questions.

Starting time: Sunday, April 3rd, 2022. Meeting in the parking lot at 10 AM. Limit is 20 people.

**Cost:** Please pay your entrance fee separately and directly to the Audubon Center when you arrive (\$17 for adults, \$10 for college students, \$10 for National Audubon members with their card, students 6 to 18 are \$6, kids under 6 are free). Adriene will collect the \$3 member or \$5 non-member suggested donation outside the Audubon lobby.

**Starting Point:** Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Blair Audubon Center lobby, 375 Sanctuary Road West, Naples, FL 34120, 239-348-9151. Directions: 15 miles east of I-75, exit 111.

**Itinerary:** Please note that since the Covid restrictions are still being followed by the Sierra Club, masks will be required when we are indoors. Most of the day will be spent outdoors, so masks will not be required. The nature walk should last approximately 2.5 hours, then we can have a picnic lunch outside the park in the parking lot.

## Hello Stranger

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

Many of our Sierra members lead, or have led, remarkably interesting lives. We would love to hear your story.

Our monthly **Getting to Know You** column features the stories of your fellow Broward Sierra Group members.

Please send our editor/proofreader, Pat Turpening, a short paragraph or two to be published in our Bulletin along with a photo of yourself.

Next month, the deadline for submitting your story to Pat is April 16 at [patsierraexcom@yahoo.com](mailto:patsierraexcom@yahoo.com). Please put in subject **Getting to know you**.

We look forward to knowing our members better!

## Message from the Chair: You Don't Want to Miss This!

– Leah Weisburd, *Executive Committee Chair*, Broward Sierra Group

The ExCom (Executive Committee) of our Broward Sierra Group is very busy planning many exciting outings and very interesting, informative general meetings. So, please mark your calendars so you don't miss anything!

- April 7, 2022: Our presenter will be Patrick Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson is a Sierra Club member and comes highly recommended by one of our members, Victoria Olson. He will educate us on the Stop the Burn Go Green Campaign, with an overview of the issue, the solution, and the progress the campaign has made. We will also honor the other two Florida Chapter Award winners, Cat Uden and Vice Mayor of Lauderhill, Melissa P. Dunn.
- May 5, 2022: Our presenter will be Sarah Kornbluth-Friel. Ms. Kornbluth-Friel is an expert on the importance bees make to keeping us healthy. She will speak to us on The Important Role Bees Have to Our Existence. She comes recommended by Jared Stein, a Broward Sierra member, and also by yours truly, a lifelong acquaintance of Sarah.
- June 2, 2022: Our presenter will be Dr. Jason L. Downing, from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in Coral Gables. He will speak to us on The Million Orchid Project and comes to us highly recommended by two of our members, Pamela Kondziela and Jared Stein.

Now, in between all these incredible presenters at our monthly General Meetings, our Outings Leader Adriene Barmann is planning many other outings, such as more kayaking trips, Everglades exploration, nature walks, and other surprises.

Our Membership Chair Mae Smith, and Vice Chair Susan Steinhauser, are planning a membership get together, perhaps a picnic in a park. Details will be announced soon.

So, Broward Sierra members, mark your calendars to “save the dates”. Also, as you will note, we value your recommendations, so keep them coming. We have speaker openings for July to December. Please send your suggestions to me at [excomleah@gmail.com](mailto:excomleah@gmail.com). Also, Adriene would welcome any recommendations for outings that you would like her to lead. Send them to [adrienesierraleader@gmail.com](mailto:adrienesierraleader@gmail.com) and, it goes without saying, both Mae and Susan would welcome your ideas for membership get-togethers. Those go to Mae at [bcsierramembership@gmail.com](mailto:bcsierramembership@gmail.com).

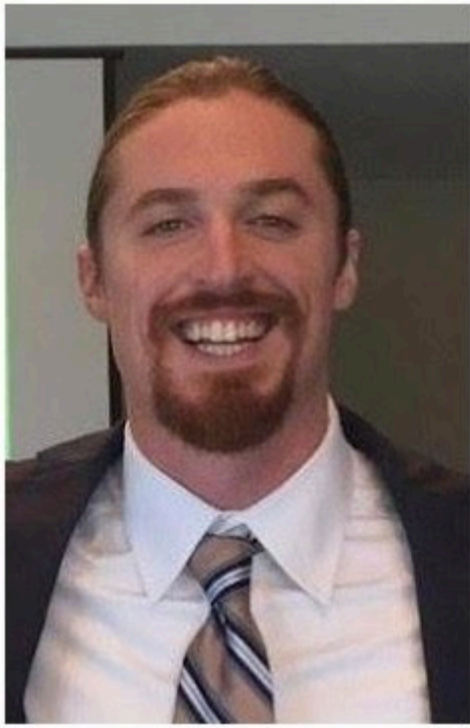
And, last but never least, please consider volunteering to help us make the Broward Sierra Group the best in Florida! We have an urgent need for YOU! Explore Issues & Take Action | Sierra Club.

Thank you!



## April General Meeting

Our next meeting will be April 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be Patrick Ferguson and his presentation will be: **Stop The Burn Go Green Campaign, Overview of the issue, the solution, and the progress our campaign has made.**



Our speaker will be Patrick Ferguson and his presentation will be: Stop The Burn Go Green Campaign, Overview of the issue, the solution, and the progress our campaign has made.

Mr. Ferguson has been The Organizing Representative for Sierra Club's Stop Sugar Field Burning Campaign since June of 2016. Patrick is an attorney who received his law degree from Nova Southeastern University School of Law in 2015 and his undergraduate degree in Political Science from The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. in 2012. Prior to joining the Sierra Club Patrick was engaged in private general practice and local activism for numerous environmental and progressive causes in the Broward County area where he lives today in the greater Fort. Lauderdale area.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlf-iprD0rGdS64qxJ\\_xVaMAHbLjtF-mY3](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlf-iprD0rGdS64qxJ_xVaMAHbLjtF-mY3)

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

## Upcoming Speakers

May 5, 2022: Sarah Kornbluth: Wild Bees of the Eastern United States.

## Websites of the month

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/the-world-has-less-than-10-years-to-avert-climate-change-catastrophe-report-finds-210017930.html>

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/antarctic-ice-shelf-the-size-of-new-york-city-collapses-201709973.html>



**Can you help your Broward Sierra Group to have more of an impact?  
Step Up and Make a Difference!  
These are our highest priority volunteer opportunities.**

### **Communication Coordinator Committee Volunteers**

Jared Stein ([jaredstein.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:jaredstein.sierra@gmail.com)). Communication is vital to the success of our other committees, promoting unified group messaging across all print, broadcast, social media, and IT platforms to keep the membership informed about campaigns, outings, and events. Committee members - Assist communications chair in posting updates to media platforms and emails. Works in collaboration with **Media Chair**. **Training will absolutely be provided.**

### **Media Chair-and Committee Volunteers**

Jared Stein ([jaredstein.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:jaredstein.sierra@gmail.com)). The Chair, along with the committee members, will write articles for publication. Duties include sending op-eds to the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald, publishing articles in local city newsletters, writing and publishing in college newspapers, participating in speaking engagements at local organizations (via Zoom for now) to gain new members and volunteers, and speaking on local radio shows. They work in collaboration with the **Communications Chair and Committee**.

### **Program Chair**

Leah Weisburd ([excomleah@gmail.com](mailto:excomleah@gmail.com)). Seeking a Chair! We need an organized individual to follow up with potential presenters who have been recommended by our members. The Chair will be in contact with the presenters, keep the Speaker Spreadsheet up-to-date, and forward the presenters' information in a timely manner to our editors for the Bulletin, the website organizer to post on our website, and to the individuals in charge of our social media accounts. The Chair will send form emails to General Meeting attendees, those who registered but did not attend, and thank-you emails to our speakers.



*Congratulations to Susan Steinhauser who answered the post-presentation question correctly at our March General Meeting.*

## Other committees need you too!!

### Political Committee

Susan Steinhauser ([browardsierrape@gmail.com](mailto:browardsierrape@gmail.com)). Help us elect officials who will propose legislation to protect the environment and help us get that legislation passed into law!

### Outings Leaders

Adriene Barmann ([adrienesierraleader@gmail.com](mailto:adrienesierraleader@gmail.com)). Our Outings Chair is seeking volunteers to commit to be an outings leader. Must take CPR and first aid training, as well as complete the outings leader training course offered by the Sierra Club which is also required. Outings are #1 on all our members' lists. Outings leaders conduct different hikes in the wilderness, camping trips, and host kayaking adventures, offering our members the opportunity to explore and enjoy nature and the outdoors.

### Conservation Committee

Sue Caruso ([susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com](mailto:susancaruso.sierra@gmail.com)). Our 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, promoting community efforts that foster environmental justice and education, such as our community gardens, exotic plant removal and tabling events.

## **More news about the proposed skyscraper at 1301 South Ocean Drive at Hollywood Beach**

The Related Group developers are planning to build a private condo at 1301 South Ocean Drive at Hollywood Beach. The Hollywood commission recently approved the proposal to build the skyscraper on public ocean front land in exchange for building a new remodeled community center (replacing the existing one at that location). The city would like the revenue from the condos. Broward Sierra Club does not support the proposed condo. We stand by Sierra Club's 30 X 30 Conservation Agenda, and the loss of this natural area further adds to the climate crisis that we are facing.

There is a paper petition that needs 15,000 signatures signed ONLY by Hollywood residents who are registered voters. This petition is for a referendum to reject the vote by the commission for the condo to be built. The petition must be signed in person and cannot be signed online. More info is at [change.org/WeLoveHollywoodBeach](http://change.org/WeLoveHollywoodBeach). Please reach out to [TheOceanIsMyFavorite@gmail.com](mailto:TheOceanIsMyFavorite@gmail.com) if you are a Hollywood resident and you want to sign the petition. You can also reach out to Adriene Barmann, Broward Sierra Vice-Chair and Outings Leader at [Adrienesierraleader@gmail.com](mailto:Adrienesierraleader@gmail.com) for more information to sign the petition.