



# Broward Sierra Bulletin



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**February 2022**

[www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward) • [www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra](https://www.facebook.com/BrowardSierra)

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

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

**2022 FIRST QUARTER CONTEST – See Page 9!**

## Earth Day Celebration

– Adriene Barmann, *Outings Chair*

It's going to be a great day at Anne Kolb Nature Center on March 6th when we invite our members and their friends and families to join us at our annual Earth Day celebration event on March 6th, 2022. from 10 AM to 5 PM. Our annual event includes seven notable speakers who will present about topics that include ocean health, coral reef restoration, sea turtle protection, the state of the arctic ice, urban farming and fresh food, and a special presentation by county Commissioner Beam Furr. There will be 14 table exhibitors representing environmental organizations, an art exhibit displaying art created by a local artist using plastic waste, a 70's band, food trucks, and full access to the park's facilities.

We are also featuring an art contest for high school students to design an original artwork piece using discarded plastic waste. We hope this contest will encourage young artists to use creativity of expression about this overwhelming issue of plastic pollution. The top 3 art pieces will be selected by judges during our Earth Day event and cash prizes will be awarded to the student winners.

Please join us to learn about local environmental organizations, and listen to topics about climate change, the natural environment, and organic farming practices. Please visit us to learn about organizations that support conservation, clean water and air quality for all of us, our beaches and our waterways.

We will see you there!

*Please see the flyer on page 2.*

## 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.

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 February 15th at [patsierraexcom@yahoo.com](mailto:patsierraexcom@yahoo.com). Please put in subject **Getting to know you**.

We look forward to knowing our members better!

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# EARTH DAY 2022

**SUNDAY MARCH 6TH**  
**ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER**

751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood  
Time: 10 AM to 5 PM



Free Parking  
Free Nature Walks  
Free Mini-Kayak Tours  
Food Trucks

Family-friendly,  
Something for all ages  
Environmental Exhibitors  
A Live 70's Band  
Inspiring Art Displays on Plastic Waste  
Notable Presenters

Sponsored by the



**For more information see our website at:**  
[www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/broward)

For information on exhibiting, please contact Adriene at:  
[sierraearthday@gmail.com](mailto:sierraearthday@gmail.com)



## Broward Sierra Kayak Day Outing at Blue Cypress Lake on Saturday, February 5th, 2022

**You must sign up on Meet-up and Sierra Campfire in order to attend.  
We need to know in advance how many people to expect.  
Please do not show up to the event without registering.**

**Everyone must register at:**

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000002GT4aAAG>

Ron Haines (from Loxahatchee Sierra) who is a seasoned kayaker, and is very knowledgeable about Blue Cypress Lake, will also accompany our group.

**Cost: \$5/person (Cash only)**

**Important Details:** You must bring your own kayak. The park does not have any kayak rentals.

- We will launch at 10:30 AM and paddle clockwise, north along the shoreline, which is the most scenic section.
- Bring your own lunch and drinks and we will picnic on our boats (*please no plastic water bottles or bags*).
- Binoculars are a must if you really want to see all the bird and wildlife action.
- If the weather is windy and conditions are poor, we will notify you one day prior if we have to cancel the trip or choose an alternative location.
- You must be a skilled kayaker to participate.

**Blue Cypress Lake** is a true hidden gem. The park is operated by Indian River County and named after the late fishing guide Joe Middleton, who ran Middleton Fish Camp. The lake, whose average depth is 8 feet, has perfect conditions for bass and other fish. The lake is surrounded by 29,000 acres of marshes, swamps, and cypress forests. Not only is the scenery gorgeous, but you will never see so many ospreys. The lake is home to more than 200 osprey nests. The shoreline is 21 miles long around the big lake, and we will see numerous nests.

The kayaks will launch into the lake whose shoreline is studded with hundreds of spectacular bald cypress trees strung with Spanish moss and surrounded by picturesque knees.

### Some of the hundreds of ospreys and their nests at Blue Cypress Lake.



Photo: Bonnie Gross



Photo: David Blasco

## Message from the Chair: What's your pleasure?

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

For our monthly General Meetings, we want to invite guest speakers who present topics in your areas of interest. We are considering many diverse environmental authorities and would love to know about your interests.

Some of our members have suggested the following topics:

- Florida bees and their importance to our ecosystem.
- Florida plants and trees for our gardens.
- Orchids – How to care for them.
- Politicians running for office in 2022.
- Local elected officials and what they are doing to protect our environment.
- Redistricting and how that affects you.

So, **what's your pleasure?** What are YOUR particular interests and concerns?

We are planning some very exciting outings this year, provided Covid restrictions are lifted. Here are a few which are coming up.

- A membership get-together picnic in a park in the spring.
- Earth Day celebration –Sunday, March 6th at Anne Kolb Nature Center.
- Nature walks and bird watching.
- Kayaking on Blue Cypress Lake.

So, **what's your pleasure?**

We know you have joined our Sierra Group because you care, because you want to know more, and because it is so vitally important to you to protect our Florida and the planet. Now more than ever, we need to hear your voices. Now more than ever, we need you to get involved. Now more than ever, we need you to come to our meetings and ask your questions. Now more than ever, we need you to come to our outings.

**Now more than ever we need you!**

Broward Sierra Group is your club that you joined, so **WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE??**

Please contact me anytime! I look forward to hearing from you.

Leah Weisburd    excomleah@gmail.com

## Membership Survey

– Mae Smith, *Membership Chair*

As you know, the Broward Sierra Group is a strong advocate protecting our environment, not only in Broward County, but all of Florida, and the planet. We cannot do it without your input and help. Please let us know your concerns by clicking on this [link](#) to answer a very short survey. Thank you and happy holidays!



## Everglades Coalition Conference

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*

From January 6-8, 2022 I had the privilege of attending the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Everglades Coalition (EVCO) Conference. The coalition is comprised of over 60 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations. Broward Sierra is one of these organizations, along with a number of other Florida Sierra groups and the Florida Sierra Chapter.

**Road approaching Duck Key, site of the conference**



Over the course of the conference, we heard from numerous speakers about what threatens the Everglades, what's currently being done to protect and restore the Everglades, future projects that are in the works, and why Everglades restoration is so important. Speakers included Reverend Houston Cypress of Love the Everglades Movement<sup>1</sup>, US Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, and my hero and favorite ocean explorer and advocate, Dr. Sylvia Earle, to name a few. We also had the pleasure of witnessing Richard Pettigrew's induction into the Everglades Coalition Hall of Fame and hearing from past Hall of Fame inductee Maggy Hurchalla.



**Secretary Deb Haaland, US Dept. of the Interior**



**Dr. Sylvia Earle, American marine biologist**

If you ask ten attendees what their top takeaway was from the conference, you'll probably get ten different answers. My personal top takeaway was the capacity of wetlands to sequester carbon. Did you know that one acre of healthy wetlands will sequester at least 15x more carbon than one acre of healthy rainforest? So not only do we need to plant trees, but we need to plant mangroves!!!

Regardless of the speaker and topic, one thread that ran through the entire conference was that the time to take action is NOW! Funds from the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law<sup>3</sup>, the Florida state budget, and private investment will allow for formerly underfinanced projects to move forward. The challenge is to figure out which projects to pursue. Similar to the challenges we face with climate change, we need to both adapt to current damage such as algal blooms and seagrass die-off, and also mitigate future damage by reducing carbon emissions and nutrient runoff.





Richard Pettigrew and Maggy Hurchalla



Reverend Houston Cypress, his entourage, and me

Additional threads that ran through the conference were:

- Everglades restoration is a huge and complex undertaking.
- Florida has already taken major steps towards resilience with EVCO having played a large role in these efforts.
- EVCO is a model of how a coalition can and should function. While members don't always agree, they communicate and respect each other.

I look forward to Broward Sierra's participating in programs to help restore our Everglades and recommend that our members visit the Everglades Coalition website to learn more about the coalition and get inspired to take action to protect the Everglades!



The Sierra Gang

- Reverend Houston Cypress will be Broward Sierra's Guest Speaker at our March meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/pavilion/cancun-presentations/2010-12-1-Pidgeon-en.pdf>
- \$1.1 billion for Everglades Restoration: [https://enewspaper.sun-sentinel.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?guid=fab713b1-0aa3-4d56-b39b-28485958d498](https://enewspaper.sun-sentinel.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=fab713b1-0aa3-4d56-b39b-28485958d498)

## February General Meeting

Our next meeting will be February 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Our presenters will be Laura Reynolds and Dawn Miller-Walker.



Laura Reynolds is Founding and Managing Member of Conservation Concepts. Her topic will be "**Hold the Line.**"

Laura has a wealth of experience in the environmental field going back over 20 years as the former Executive Director at Tropical Audubon Society, and a former Research Assistant and Adjunct Professor at Florida International University. Ms. Reynolds graduated from Jacksonville University with a major in Marine Biology and received a Masters in Environmental Science from Florida International University. Some of her areas of expertise are in environmental conservation, resource management, grant writing, leadership and the organization and implementation of successful environmental campaigns at both the community and governmental levels.

Laura strives to integrate her solid scientific background with environmental policy and savvy negotiation skills in order to protect and restore Florida's environment. She serves as an instrumental tool suitable to conduct comprehensive environmental audits to determine compliance with environmental regulations ensuring this way a healthy future to Florida's citizens.

<http://www.conservationconceptsllc.org/>



Dawn Miller-Walker will speak on "**How to Engage Youth in the Outdoors**".

Dawn Miller-Walker is a consultant, owner, program director and an instructor of Science Eye, a science and environmental education consultant company that reaches over 25,000 students a year, teaching them to *BE* the scientist and conservation stewards.

Dawn has been on the Board, and is currently the Chairperson, for the Southeast Regional Envirothon & Florida State Envirothon for 19 years, is a past Southeast Regional Director but current Florida Association of Science Teaching (FAST)/National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Liaison and the Aquatic Species Collection Workshop Coordinator for Florida Marine Science Educators Association (FMSEA), and is a current Director for the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF).

Dawn enjoys teaching and leading by example. She believes *science* is a verb, not just a noun! [www.scienceeye.com](http://www.scienceeye.com)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclcO-tqDopGt3jfNuH7k7OiK-vT0xhSF1b>

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

## Upcoming Speakers

March 3, 2022: Rev. Houston R. Cypress of **Love the Everglades**. His topic will be Indigenous Opposition to New Oil Drilling in Big Cypress.



**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 Chair and Committee Volunteers

Pamela Kondziela ([paschieltz@gmail.com](mailto:paschieltz@gmail.com)). Communication is vital to the success of our other committees. The 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 the Communications Chair in posting updates to media platforms and emails. They work in collaboration with the Media Chair. **Training will absolutely be provided.**

### Media Chair-and Committee Volunteers

Pamela Kondziela ([paschieltz@gmail.com](mailto:paschieltz@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)). 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.

### **Our Political and Conservation Teams need you too!!**

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

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. Attending quarterly meetings will be required.



## Political Corner

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*

### County



Broward County welcomes two new Commissioners!



Jared Moskowitz (District 8)



Torey Alston (District 9)

**Take action:** Ask your county commissioner to eliminate the use of polystyrene and single-use plastic on government property. Find your commissioner's contact information [here](#). **Then see the contest below!**

### State



It's not too late to join us for **Reclaiming Florida's Future for All!** On Jan 26, members of the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations will meet with our state Representatives and Senators to lobby for environmental legislation. Join us!

**For more information, visit:** [RFF 2022](#)

Although registration is officially closed, you can still join us by e-mailing [browardsierrapc@gmail.com](mailto:browardsierrapc@gmail.com) to let us know you'd like to attend 😊

### Federal



The environment isn't the only thing that we need to protect. Democracy is also at risk. Just over a year ago, insurrectionists stormed the Capitol, trying to destabilize our democracy. Until all eligible voters have an equal opportunity to vote, our democracy will be in danger.

Take action: [Tell Congress: Fix Our Broken Democracy and Pass the "Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act"](#)

## **2022 FIRST QUARTER CONTEST**

### **WHO'S YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE HIM/HER TO ADDRESS?**

E-mail [browardsierrapc@gmail.com](mailto:browardsierrapc@gmail.com) with your name, your County Commissioner's name, and what environmental issue you'd like to your commissioner to address, and you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 Visa card. The drawing will take place at our Political Committee meeting on March 17, 2022

### **What's Happening in your Neighborhood?**

Thank you to **Pembroke Pines' Commissioner [Angelo Castillo](#)** who recently signed [Rewiring America's Electrification Pledge](#). And thank you to Dr. Heike Naigur for introducing the pledge to Commissioner Castillo. One person CAN make a difference!

Environmentally positive things are happening in cities around Broward County. If something's happening in your city, e-mail [browardsierrapc@gmail.com](mailto:browardsierrapc@gmail.com) to let us know.