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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 Tabling Events (x4!)

The Broward Sierra Club was out in full force for Earth Day 2022 in four separate venues. We would like to remind all our readers that **every day** must be Earth Day. Never give up the fight to save our planet!



**Leah and Pat at the Earth Day event at Sawgrass Mills**



**Emily and Adriene at the Aventura Arts and Cultural Center**



**Adriene and Tiffany at the P. Oster Library**



**Max and Leah at Volunteer Park, Sunrise**

## **The Right to Clean and Healthy Waters Constitutional Amendment**

### **Ballot summary**

This amendment creates a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters. The amendment may be used to sue State executive agencies for harm or threatened harm to Florida's waters, which include aquatic ecosystems. This amendment defines terms, identifies affected constitutional provisions in Article IV governing the executive branch, provides for civil action enforcement, provides for attorney's and expert witness fees to prevailing plaintiffs, and provides for equitable remedies including restoration of waters.

Read the entire text of the amendment at

<https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>

### **WE CAN**

Stop pollution at its source,  
protect our families,  
secure our livelihoods, and help  
nature flourish.



### **WE CAN**

Save our springs  
Stop polluting Lake Okeechobee  
Curtail the loss of wetlands  
Reduce fecal bacteria contamination  
Save our precious wildlife



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## **The Right to Clean and Healthy Waters Constitutional Amendment**

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Sign the petition at

**FloridaRightToCleanWater.org**



Paid for by FloridaRightToCleanWater.org  
13300 South Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, 22907

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

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

The ExCom of our Broward Sierra Group is very busy planning many exciting outings and very interesting, informative general meeting speakers. So, please mark your calendars - you don't want to miss anything!

- May 5, 2022, our presenter will be Sarah Kornbluth-Friel. Ms. Kornbluth-Friel is an expert on the importance of bees in keeping us healthy. She will speak to us on Wild Bees of the Eastern United States. She comes recommended by our Broward Sierra member Jared Stein, and by me. I have had the pleasure of knowing her all her life.
- June 2, 2022, our presenter will be Dr. Jason L. Downing. Dr. Downing, an Orchid Biologist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in Coral Gables 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.
- July 7, 2022, our presenter will be Jessica Floyd. Ms. Floyd is the President of American Bridge PAC which has done research with women voters; what issues are moving them, what media they watch, etc. Research has shown there is surprisingly little difference in the data from state to state. A lot of what they have found applies to Florida. Recommended by me, Leah Weisburd.
- August 4, 2022, our presenter will be Rachel Skubel from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Recommended by our Sierra member Phil Busey.
- September 1, 2022, our presenters are from American Bridge and they will discuss how the environment and climate change are not partisan issues and will specify how to talk about the issues with ANYONE, regardless of political persuasion. Recommended by our political chair, Susan Steinhauser.

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

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 from October-December. Please send your suggestions to [excomleah@gmail.com](mailto:excomleah@gmail.com). Also, Adriene would welcome any outings suggestions that you would like her to lead. Please send your suggestions to [adrienesierraleader@gmail.com](mailto:adrienesierraleader@gmail.com).

And, last but never least, please check our need for you to volunteer to help us make the Broward Sierra Group the best in Florida! Please check out our need for YOU!

[Explore Issues & Take Action | Sierra Club](#)

Thank you for supporting the Broward Sierra Group!



## May General Meeting

Our next meeting will be May 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be Sarah Kornbluth and her presentation will be: **Wild Bees of the Eastern United States.**



Sarah Kornbluth is a bee biologist who conducts ecological research and surveys to examine bee communities and explore varying habitat management regimes and intensities. She has worked on power line rights-of-way across the country, in agricultural areas, and in urban and suburban sites. She is an expert at identifying bees to species. Sarah is a Field Associate at the American Museum of Natural History.

Public perception of bees is often limited to the domesticated European Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), which is used for pollination services as well as wax and honey production. The European Honeybee is a fascinating animal that has evolved highly eusocial behavior; however, honeybees are not native to North America. North America is home to over 4,000 species of wild bees. They evolved alongside our native plants and unlike non-native species, they are fully integrated into our native food web.

East coast wild bees include bumble bees, leafcutter bees, sweat bees and many more unique species that demonstrate a variety of behaviors. Understanding the unique life cycles of our native bees gives us knowledge that we can use to work to conserve and restore the environment that provides the resources they need.

Increased awareness and understanding of the diversity of native bee species is an important part of ecological conservation. It leads to interest in creating programming, involving citizens in conservation itself and expanding conservation efforts.

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 Speaker

June 2, 2022: Dr. Jason L. Downing of the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will discuss the Million Orchid Project.

## Websites of the Month

[Florida tops list for most polluted lakes in the U.S.](#)

[Climate Optimism: Why We Have Reason for Hope on Climate Change](#)

[Hauling of trash could see changes](#)

[Significant Climate Anomalies and Events: October 2021](#)

## Hello Stranger

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

Hey, Broward Sierra members! What's your story? We know you aren't shy, so please share with us about yourself. Tell us why you joined our club and what interests you. Is it to attend our monthly meetings? Is it to go on outings with our outings leader, Adriene Barman? Is it to help us save our endangered species? Is it to protect our environment? Is it to help us elect environmentally concerned candidates? Is it to volunteer on a committee? What is it that brought you to us?

These columns have created a good amount of member interest. It is fascinating to learn about the different paths that have brought people to the Broward Sierra Group. Everyone's story is unique.

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

This month, the deadline for submitting your story to Pat is the end of day on May 18th at: [patsierraexcom@yahoo.com](mailto:patsierraexcom@yahoo.com). Please put in subject **Getting to Know You**.

We are all looking forward to knowing our members better!

## This Month's Volunteer Request

– Adriene Barman, Outings Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

Adriene Barman, our Outings Chair, is seeking volunteers who will commit to being outings leaders. Those interested must take CPR and first aid training. Also required is the outings leader training course offered by the Sierra Club. Outings are #1 on all our members' lists of favorite activities. Planning and coordinating hiking, camping, and kayaking adventures offers our members and non-members the opportunity to explore and enjoy nature and the outdoors. Please come and volunteer with us! You will have so much fun too!







**PLASTIC POLLUTION ALERT:** Microplastics pollute the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe<sup>1</sup>. Single-use products clog our waterways. And plastic production is yet another way fossil fuel companies get richer while we get sicker. The United Nations recently approved a landmark agreement to create the world's first ever global plastic pollution treaty—now we need a solution here at home to help our climate and communities recover.



Supporter,

When researchers set out to investigate the exposure risks of plastic on human development, they hit a major snag: **They were unable to find a control group.**

That's right. There's no group of people on Earth that has not been exposed to the endocrine-disrupting chemicals leached by plastics<sup>2</sup>. **And that's because plastic is everywhere**—in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the clothes we wear. Last year, scientists found microplastics in newborn baby poop<sup>3</sup>—yes, you read that right—at *10 times* the levels ingested by adults!

Now, some good news. First, the UN Environment Assembly just adopted a **plastics treaty** called the most important international environmental agreement since the Paris Accord<sup>4</sup>. Secondly, our legislative advocacy team is working with our allies in Congress on a bill that would stop production of single-use plastics.

But **Big Plastic has powerful backers** to ensure plastic continues contaminating our food and water, fossil fuel production keeps darkening our skies, and the climate keeps getting hotter. We won't get meaningful change through a 50/50 Senate without you.

**Supporter, you can help us stop the tide of plastic pollution, fight against the climate crisis, and protect future generations by becoming a monthly member. Join today and claim your FREE reusable tote bag!**

Of course, microplastics themselves aren't the only source of harmful health outcomes. Plastics production comes with toxic air emissions and pollution—and researchers have linked living near the facilities that *make* plastic with increased rates of asthma, heart disease, birth defects, and more. And Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities are disproportionately affected by this pollution.

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Then there's the fact that plastic is a byproduct of **oil and gas production**—which explains why, despite studies showing consumers want alternatives to plastic, change has been so hard. Petrochemical companies bet big on plastics, and won't fold without a fight.

Fortunately, **no one knows how to take on Big Oil and Gas like the Sierra Club**—but it's going to take all of us, together, pushing Congress, regulators, and manufacturers themselves to make America the leader in solving the plastics crisis. We're also **urging the Biden administration** to take the lead in stopping plastic from polluting our communities and world.

**Please, help us move both the United States and the global environmental community towards a plastics-free future with your monthly membership to the Sierra Club today + claim your FREE reusable Everybody Belongs Out Here tote bag.**

In many ways, the terrible plastic pollution in the oceans, in our backyards, and in our bodies themselves feels like an unfair burden. After all, **big corporations sold us a lie** about "recyclable" plastic packaging, when only about 2% of all plastic is currently recycled<sup>5</sup>!

Now that we know the truth, we must use our power to refuse unnecessary plastics, be selective in the brands and packaging we choose and demand Congress pass the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act. **I hope we can count on your help and generosity again today.**

With appreciation for your support,

Dan Chu  
Acting Executive Director  
Sierra Club



P.S. From using the purchasing power of the federal government to replace single-use plastic items with reusable products to denying permits for new or expanded plastic facilities and more, Joe Biden can become a **#PlasticFreePresident**<sup>6</sup>. **Help push the White House, Congress, local governments, and corporations to do their part in solving the plastics crisis—start your Sierra Club monthly membership today + claim your FREE gift.**

<sup>1</sup><https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03864-x>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/will-nations-finally-create-global-plastics-treaty>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.wired.com/story/baby-poop-is-loaded-with-microplastics/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/03/climate-crisis-un-agrees-to-develop-treaty-to-end-plastic-pollution.html>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.sierraclub.org/act-for-our-climate-environment-health-supporting-break-free-plastic-pollution-act>

<sup>6</sup><https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/urge-president-biden-to-be-a-plasticfreepresident>

## Conquer Eco-Anxiety with **Eco**happiness

When you care about the environment, it's easy to feel stressed and anxious about the climate crisis, plastic pollution, land conservation and everything else going on. This presentation will address this eco-anxiety: what it is and what steps you can take to use it as fuel to fight for a cleaner and healthier planet. There's also the flip side, ecohappiness, which involves tapping into positive psychology by using nature to help you feel happier and calmer, such as by experiencing mindfulness and awe of nature and by connecting to wildlife. Finally, we will discuss ways you can get involved in Sierra Club programs to boost your ecohappiness, such as our Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO).



**Sandi Schwartz** is the author of the new parenting book, *Finding Ecohappiness: Fun Nature Activities to Help Your Kids Feel Happier and Calmer*. She is also the founder and director of the Ecohappiness Project and co-author of the children's book *Sky's Search for Ecohappiness*. Her work has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, *Library Journal*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, and more. Sandi has a Master's Degree in Government (environmental focus) from Johns Hopkins University and a specialization certificate in foundations of positive psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She is the newsletter editor for Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group. Learn more about her work at [www.ecohappinessproject.com](http://www.ecohappinessproject.com)



**Meryl Davids Landau** is a longtime, award-winning magazine writer. Her article in this April's issue of *Good Housekeeping* magazine is about climate anxiety--including the ways taking eco-friendly actions can soothe it. She is also the author of two women's novels with a mindfulness theme, including the award-winning *Warrior Won*, along with a book of essays, *Enlightened Parenting*. Learn more about Meryl's work at [meryldavidslandau.com](http://meryldavidslandau.com). Meryl chairs our Palm Beach County Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) group, which takes kids from the community on nature outings they might otherwise never get to experience. ICO is always looking for volunteers, so check out the program's website to learn more.

[Register here for the Loxahatchee Meeting.](#)