



Broward Sierra *Bulletin*



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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: August 5, 2021 at 07:00 PM EST

For our August general meeting, we welcome Ms. Lorna Bravo. Ms. Bravo has more than 17 years of architectural experience in both public and private sectors. She has been responsible for initial project programming, planning, conceptual design development, construction documents, construction administration and sustainable design. Her presentation topic is “Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) in an Urban Environment: Have your yard recognized by the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program!”.



Please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001kuVMAAY&mapLinkHref=>

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

<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/events/279512680/>

Upcoming speakers:

September 2: Tracy Raczek - Global influences that may impact climate change.

October 7: Louis Aguirre – Waterway Conservation.

Yes, our newsletter has a new name

Our newsletter naming contest is over and the winner of the Sierra Club Backpack is: *Laura Sue Wilansky*. Laura is a musician, artist, author, copy editor, and lifelong environmental and social justice activist — creating and performing music and poetry addressing these concerns is a major part of her work. She currently performs as Laura Sue, the Silver Nightingale, and in the duo Piper and Nightingale, and received an award from President Obama for her decades of hospice music work. Visit the nest for musical updates at www.SilverNightingale.com, where you can also find several pages of environmental-themed info, including her Bird Page and her Nuclear Free Zone.



How Quickly Time Passes

– Leah Weisburd, Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

Every year we must start the process to elect members to Broward County's Sierra Group's Executive Committee (ExCom). We are required by our bylaws to always have seven ExCom members on this committee. Each person on ExCom is elected by our membership for a 2-year period.

All Sierra members that wish to be considered are welcome to send me their bio, why they would like to join the ExCom group, and what they feel they would contribute. Please send to excomleah@gmail.com. ExCom will be establishing a nominating committee and an election committee at our next ExCom meeting. But we encourage you to put your name in the ring now.

The nominations begin now! Bios of Sierra members wishing to be entered as candidates are submitted to our ExCom group for nomination. Voting by our entire membership begins in November-December 2021, and if elected, their tenure will start on January 1, 2022.

Now we would love for you to consider joining us! We meet the first Monday of each month to discuss various issues we are facing, set guidelines, follow our bylaws, and communicate our committee reports on the committees that we have chosen to Chair. We are committed activists that work hard to protect our planet, and we do have fun doing so. We also conduct our General Meetings each month on the 1st Thursday. We want you to bring your ideas, your passion to protect our planet, and join our ExCom team. Please know that you are more than welcome to come to our ExCom meetings to see and hear us in action.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you have and/or let me know that you are interested in joining us. I look forward to hearing from you. My email is excomleah@gmail.com

My Meeting with Elizabeth Warren

Adriene Barmann, Vice Chair, *Broward Sierra Club*

When there is a special moment in one's life it's always nice to share it with friends and family. And a moment of surprise and joy happened to me most recently at the Clark Museum in Williamstown, MA. First, I must admit that the Clark is one of my most favorite museums. Located in beautiful Williamstown, MA, it sits within the Beautiful Berkshire mountains in Western Massachusetts. A true American frontier surrounded by rich green forests filled with northern hardwoods, oak, white and red pine trees, and my most favorite elm, and red maple trees. When one sits outside the Clark looking into the hills, beyond the three-tiered reflecting pool designed by landscape architect Reed Hilderbrand, the surrounding meadows and forest reflect the profound beauty of the area. It's then when one becomes inspired to study the art exhibit that is inside the museum.

On the special day that my family visited the Clark, we were looking forward to exploring the traveling art exhibit of Nikolai Astrup named "The Visions of Norway". An innovative Norwegian painter, printmaker, and horticulturist, his work demonstrates his remarkable life, distinctive style, and interest in landscape and folk traditions of Western Norway. I did have a particular interest in seeing the paintings of the beautiful landscapes and the fiords because I visited Norway on my honeymoon 37 years ago.

Then, as my daughter entered the Clark, she noticed Elizabeth Warren was entering right behind her! My husband and I were still in the parking lot when we received her text. Well, we started walking fast to catch a glimpse of our fearless hero!

So, I decided to spend time exploring the exhibit and learning about Astrup's life. When I finished, I was in the central part of the museum and there I saw Senator Warren heading down the steps to enter the bathroom. I waited outside until she reappeared, looking very busy and on a mission when I decided to go for it and introduce myself.

– Continued



Nikolai Astrup (Norwegian, 1880–1928), *Growing Season at Sandalstrand*, linoleum and woodblock, 1923; print, 1923. Color linocut and woodcut with hand coloring on paper, 16 9/16 x 21 in. (42 x 53.4 cm). Savings Bank Foundation DNB / KODE Art Museums and Composer Homes, Bergen

I have to say what a positive and welcoming person Elizabeth is! My husband also showed up when I sent him a text earlier that I had located her. Of course, I let her know that I am a member of the Broward Sierra Club and an activist like her! She responded for me “to keep fighting”, and with that I asked her if she would be interested in speaking for my Broward Sierra Club by Zoom. And she responded of course she would and to reach out to her office. I even managed to give her my Sierra Club business card, as I was receiving multiple texts by my fellow Sierra members to give her my card.



So, there you have it! You never know when you are in the right place at the right time, and not to be shy! To go for it! Because the moment will pass you by if you don't step up and speak out!

Fisheating Creek

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

Yes, National Sierra Club has given the OK for camping trips once again, so Max Goldstein, our Outing Co-Chair, and I are busy planning our next camping adventure at Fisheating Creek scheduled to take place on October 22 - 24. We will have more information as we get closer to the date.

Links of the month:

Many environmentalists are against single-use plastics. But where do they all come from? Here's an article that has the answers. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/18/climate/single-use-plastic.html>

Our gentle giants of the sea, the Florida Manatees, are dying in massive numbers:

https://enewspaper.sun-sentinel.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=482714b8-257f-4df0-89cd-7be0d0840b42

Volunteer Service Awards - Congratulations to Kip Fisher and Max Goldstein!

On behalf of the Sierra Club, it is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to receive the Club's 2021 Volunteer Service Award, which honors Sierra Club volunteers for strong and consistent commitment to the environment or the Club over an extended period of time. You are receiving this award in recognition of your long-term service to the Broward Sierra Group.

We will not be having an in-person national awards celebration this year, but we are working with representatives from the Broward Sierra Group to arrange a local presentation. We will be having a virtual celebration for all our national award winners in September and I will keep you posted on that.

Congratulations and thank you for all the work you have done for the environment!

Sincerely,

Ellen Davis

Chair, Sierra Club Honors and Awards Committee

Nomination letters for Max and Kip are on the following page.

Saturday, August 7th, at 1:30 pm



Broward County Climate Alliance

Joseph Bonasia, Vice-Chair of the Florida Rights of Nature Network will speak about the Right to Clean Water / Rights of Nature efforts in Florida. He will discuss

- Orange County's historic Right to Clean Water Charter Amendment,
- The first rights of nature enforcement case in the nation,
- 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, and
- Four other environmental constitutional amendments

Blue green algae blooms, red tides, fecal bacteria contamination, massive fish die-offs, threats to human health and harmful impacts to our economy: Florida's waterways are in peril, and effective action can no longer be delayed. A Right to Clean Water Constitutional Amendment will provide the protections Florida's citizens, waters, marine life, and waterfront economies need now.

Nomination Letter – Max Goldstein

Max Goldstein has been active in the Broward Sierra Group and its executive committee since 2001. For two decades, Max has served the group in several capacities, sometimes stepping up to key roles that no one else would accept. For all twenty years, Max has been the treasurer of the club, teaching us the differences between C-3 and C-4, submitting annual reports, handling receipts and cutting checks in short order, setting up our investment account with the help from National Sierra, and taking on the Florida Chapter's PAC treasurer role for two years, during the last election cycle. For the last eight years, Max has been an outings leader participating in dozens of successful trips throughout Florida. Max has led or assisted camping and kayaking trips to Fisheating Creek, Mayakka State Park and Juniper Springs State Park, among others. After Covid restrictions hit, he, and our outings chair, created and presented a virtual outing of past camping and kayaking trips that entertained our members at the April general meeting.

Two years ago, sadly, our long-time newsletter editor and web master Carole Walsh passed away, and no one was willing to take the time-consuming job. Max, knowing the importance of this communication, stepped up and successfully took on the task. With Max as editor, the newsletter has been going out in a timely manner and has been updated to reflect the work of our increasingly active club, recognize volunteer work and share the speaker information for each general meeting. Most recently, Max has been a member of our revamped political committee, participating in candidate interviews and endorsements at the local level. When we needed to rent a storage unit, buy canopy tents, reserve a pavilion for our annual picnic, and set up our Zoom account, Max used his time, effort and personal information to fulfill those needs. For all these twenty years, Max has served diligently, always volunteered where needed, never complained, and without any expectations of recognition or awards. I hope that this nomination will remedy that situation and honor Max Goldstein for his dedicated, long-term commitment to the Broward Sierra Group.

Nomination Letter – Kip Fisher

Although Kip Fisher has been an active member of the Broward Sierra Group for many years, he has become an invaluable asset over the last year and a half. In the rapidly advancing world of social media, our local group was not keeping pace. Communication within the executive committee and with our members was inefficient and ineffective. Creating a list serve for all of our executive committee members and committee chairs, served to facilitate an efficient way for leaders to communicate. As National Sierra has moved from HELEN to Campfire and Salesforce, confusion grew about how our group would use this new system and who would lead us through it. Kip Fisher was the answer. Kip received extensive training and encouraged all of the leadership to do so, as well. Under the old system, the newsletter was delivered via HELEN, but the member had to click a link to open it. Not any more! Kip has worked with the Salesforce team to get the newsletter sent out directly each month. When Covid hit and we started using Zoom for all of our general and executive committee meetings, Kip gave training to many, attended all meetings to assist the host and posted all the dates to our website, Campfire and Meetup.

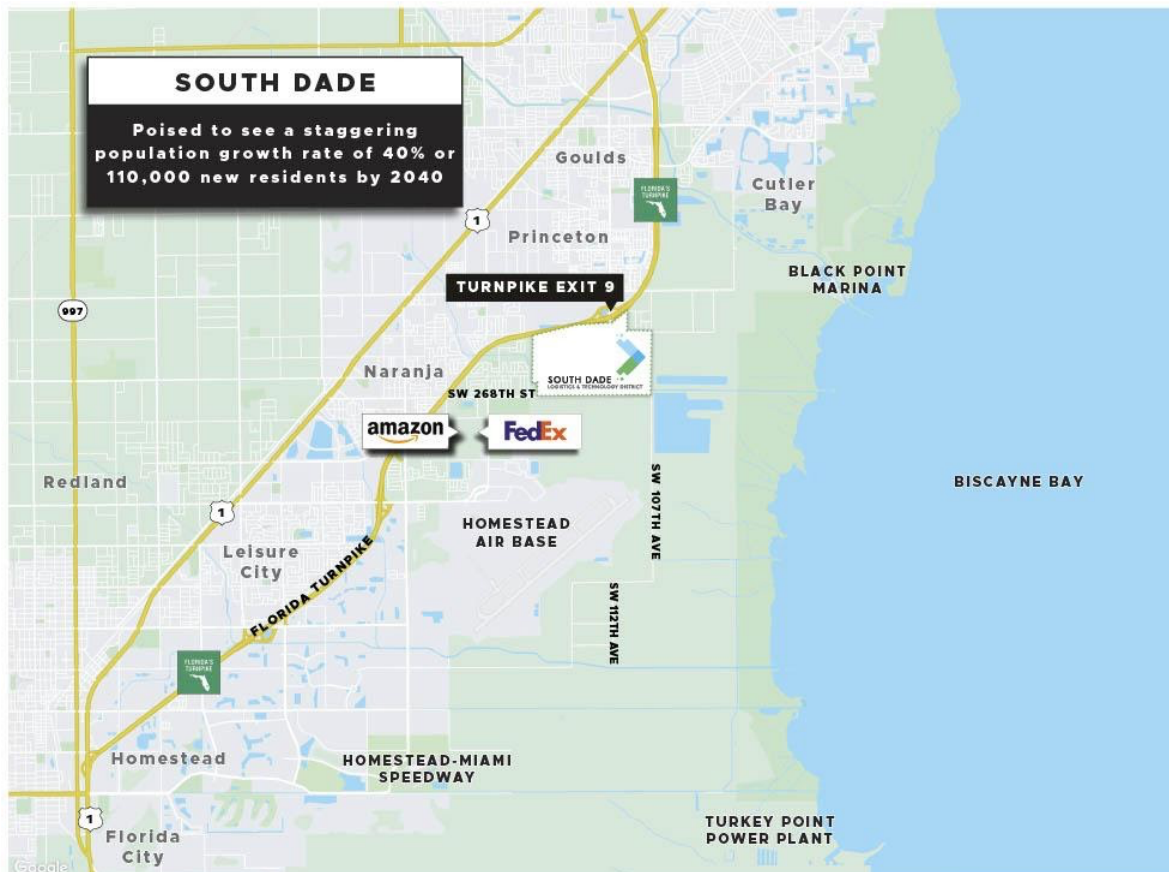
With the unfortunate death of our web master two years ago, the website suffered from intermittent maintenance. Kip agreed to take on the job, and our website is continually updated with news, events, photos and political information at the proper degree of separation. It was also Kip who taught us that listing our events on Campfire would give us a data base for new or potentially new members. Now, the list of attendees gives us the contact information we need to reach out with our message, encouraging new membership or calls to action. Kip gives generously of his time to aid anyone in need of technical help, guide us through the registration processes or help with a Facebook post. Although Kip didn't teach us how to create an AddUp campaign or start sending a new member letter every month through Salesforce, it was Kip's encouragement and leading by example that sparked the desire for our group to use the communication tools available to us. Kip gave us the confidence, knowing he was there for help, to expand the communication efforts of our Broward Sierra group and get our message out to members and nonmembers alike. For his hard work and guidance, I nominate Kip Fisher for the Communication Excellence Award.

Hold the Line and Help Protect our National Parks

– Nick Duran, *Hold the Line Coalition*

Since 2004, the Hold the Line Coalition has been a champion for responsible land-use management and sustainable infrastructure development in Miami-Dade County. The group helps lead the legal challenge against the County's proposed SR-836 Southwest Extension / Kendall Parkway project, a 6-lane tollway expansion that would impact about 1,000 acres of land essential for restoring the Everglades — including the East Bird Drive Basin and Pennsuco Wetlands. Recently, the Governor and the Florida Cabinet voted not to uphold an administrative judge's [recommended order](#), which had determined that the project was inconsistent with state and local law and would negatively impact the multibillion-dollar Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. The Hold the Line Coalition will be working hard to help petitioners appeal this decision and ensure that the project does not come to fruition.

In addition to the SR-836 project, there are currently three separate pending applications, filed to move the Urban Development Boundary (UDB), which would encroach on South Florida's environmentally sensitive lands. One of the applications would expand the UDB into nearly 800 acres of agriculturally-zoned land for the construction of a logistics and technology district near the Homestead Air Reserve Base in South Dade, as shown below. The expansion is not only in a coastal high hazard area, part of it is also being considered for part of an ongoing Everglades restoration project under the [Biscayne Bay and South Eastern Everglades Restoration](#) Project. What's more is that if built along with the Fed Ex and Amazon facilities, there may be a push to try to commercialize the Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) to carry cargo for these facilities. Help safeguard Biscayne and Everglades National Parks by joining the Hold the Line Coalition and ensuring we protect our essential buffer lands. You can also support their critical work by donating to the coalition. To learn more about how you can get involved, please email me, Nick Duran, at nduran@conservationconceptsllc.org.



Broward Sierra Political Corner – August 2021

– Susan Steinhauser, *Political Chair*

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AN EXPERT TO ADVOCATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Broward Sierra has 2,000+ members. Broward County has 31 cities. We are looking for two members from each city to talk to their city officials (62 members; 3% of our membership). You do NOT need to be an expert on the environment and climate change. You just need to be willing to let others know you care! Remember: Education → Awareness → Action!!

Local Success

Congratulations and thank you to Sierra members Max Goldstein, Kamala Anandam and Rhonda Roff, who have addressed their city officials in Weston to discuss banning plastics, partnering in the Broward Solar Co-op, and creating a Sustainability Board. Way to go Max, Kamala and Rhonda!!

Action of the Month

Click [here](#) to let us know that you're interested in talking with your city officials. We'll connect you with others in your city who are ready to do the same and we'll even connect you with the experts who will give you all the tools you need to educate your city officials so that they can be aware and take action!

Make A Difference



Political co-chair – browardsierrapc@gmail.com 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 – susancaruso@gmail.com 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, 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.

Media Chair – and 1 Committee volunteer – excomleah@gmail.com Write articles for publication. Sending op eds to the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald; publish articles in local city newsletters; write and publish in college newspapers; Perform speaking engagements for local organizations (via zoom for now) to gain members. Speaking on local radio shows. **Committee** - To assist Media Chairperson.

Membership Committee – dqbrowardsierra@gmail.com The members of this committee shall collaborate with the Chair, reaching out to schools, organizations, clubs, etc., to introduce them 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 together, tea parties, garden parties, etc.