GET OUT THE VOTE!
Broward Sierra political volunteers needed from now until election day! Please contact Matt Schwartz, Broward Sierra Political Chair <matthew3222@yahoo.com> 954-865-4306

THIS ELECTION IS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY!
Your vote makes a difference. Please be sure to vote!!!

SIERRA CLUB
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR
– By Barbara Curtis, Broward Sierra Chair

Many of you have asked about the meaning of a recent letter the National Sierra Club sent out to Sierra Club members.

I would like to summarize what is happening. Early this year the national Sierra Club decided to suspend the Florida Chapter. The reasons cited were internal conflict within the Florida Chapter which has been present for several years resulting in a stalemate which could not be resolved by the normal elective procedure.

The good news is that a new governing board for the State of Florida has been formed to assume the financial, lobbying, conservation, administration and other functions of the chapter. The new organization is called Sierra Florida. I was proud to attend a session of the Sierra Florida where group chairs from all over the state were invited to help them devise campaigns to carry out specific conservation goals. We met the weekend of September 27 at Eckerd College in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

The session was facilitated by Greg Casini of the National Sierra Club; several Sierra staff persons and other officers of the groups stood by to assist us. Greg was able to assist the fourteen Florida groups who officially attended, along with other interested persons, to plan new campaigns, set achievable conservation goals, and learn to work together. We also learned how to work with elected officials, other environmental groups, and our own members as well as how to recruit new volunteers.

I personally volunteered to help create three campaigns. One campaign already in motion is the organization and mobilization to encourage coastal areas of Florida to create and strengthen fertilizer ordinances to lessen the Red Tide outbreak which has caused damage on the West Coast. Other algae blooms and red tide threaten the east coast of Florida as well as lakes and rivers. I am working with Debbie Matthews, chair of the Miami Group, and Drew Martin of the Loxahatchee Group, as well as the staff and other volunteers on the west coast of Florida. We also plan to tackle enforcement of regulations to stop the dropping of anchors and damaging coral reefs. We intend to set up an 800 number for callers to report violations.

Third, and most important I will be working with Frank Jackalone of the St. Petersburg office of the National Sierra Club on fundraising in Broward and throughout the state.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO CARRY OUT OUR CAMPAIGNS: CONTACT ME AT 954-946-7359 or <Legalbarb@aol.com>.

SIERRA CLUB / BROUARD COUNTY
P.O. Box 350432
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Broward Sierra Programs

Wednesday, Nov. 5: Environmental Illnesses presented by Dr. Albert Robbins, will be addressing building related health problems, new emerging allergic diseases and the silent epidemic of multiple chemical sensitivities. He will also play a few of his original environmental songs, including “Polluted Indoor Air,” “American Chemical Dream,” and “It’s Not IgE.”

The meeting and program will be held at the Anne Kolb Nature Center on Sheridan St. in Hollywood (see map on next page). We will meet in the Main Exhibit Hall instead of in the Mangrove Hall where we usually meet.

Wednesday, Dec. 10th: Holiday Pot Luck Dinner & Silent Auction. Bring a dish to share, and join us for fantastic food, friends & fun, and our fabulous silent auction (camping gear, art work, books, native plants, collectibles, and more). Contact Barbara at 954-946-7359 or <Legalbarb@aol.com> to donate items for the auction or to volunteer to help out.

The meeting and program will be held at the Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek.
Broward Sierra Executive Committee Election Ballot

MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2008.

Please vote for ONLY up to 5 candidates.

5 people will be elected to the EXCOM board this year. The Nominating Committee has selected 6 candidates. If you have a joint membership, both members should select candidates for office by using the “First Member” and “Second Member” spaces. When you have completed your ballot, clip on the dotted line and mail to:

Broward Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Members may bring ballots to the December meeting.

All valid ballots must have either a printed newsletter mailing label on the reverse side or your membership number in the space provided:

Membership number: ___________________________

Please vote for ONLY 5 candidates

First Member Second Member
Phil Busey x x
Barbara Curtis x x
Max Goldstein x x
Judy Kuchta x x
John Shave x x
Patricia Widener x x

Write-in Candidates ____________________________________________________________

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please print your name in the space of any volunteer positions you would be interested in.

Conservation Chair ____________________________________________
Program Chair ____________________________________________
Fundraising Chair ____________________________________________
Newsletter Mailing Coordinator ____________________________________________
Outings Leader ____________________________________________

The Broward County Sierra Club regrets to announce that because of financial constraints, we will only be publishing the Broward Sierra News every other month (six times per year, instead of the usual 10). To keep you all apprised of current Broward Sierra Club events, we will have them all listed on our website:

http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward/

If you would like to receive reminders of these events e-mailed to you, you will need to subscribe to our Yahoo newsgroup. The address is:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra/

Simply click on the blue “Join this Group” and follow the instructions. You may have to create a Yahoo ID first, which is easy and free. This will also let you sign up for other Yahoo newsgroups, of which there are many.

We are sorry we have to reduce the number of mailings, but the economy is affecting everyone. We will still do our best to keep you informed of environmental current events and activities.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
ABOUT THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS

Please vote for ONLY up to 5 candidates

First Member Second Member
Phil Busey x x
Barbara Curtis x x
Max Goldstein x x
Judy Kuchta x x
John Shave x x
Patricia Widener x x

Write-in Candidates ____________________________________________________________

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please print your name in the space of any volunteer positions you would be interested in.

Conservation Chair ____________________________________________
Program Chair ____________________________________________
Fundraising Chair ____________________________________________
Newsletter Mailing Coordinator ____________________________________________
Outings Leader ____________________________________________
For two hours my faithful Sierra Club buddies and I cut and uprooted Virginia Creeper along the walkway to Hollywood Beach on Douglas Rd. Please go there and take a look..... It is absolutely beautiful now.

We collected 8 huge bags of live vine, roots, and clusters of old dead vines. We also collected a huge bag of trash, and about half of it was recycleable. There are many, many dead seagrape branches that need to be removed in order to really get in there, but we’ll need more help and a lot more volunteer hours. All of us want to do it again! We had fun!

 Shortly after this picture was taken we headed to the beach, swam, rested then went kayaking in West Lake Park until nearly sunset. It was a very fulfilling day.

PLANTING SEEDS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

The City of Oakland Park is having the next clean up day at the Lakeside Sand Pine Preserve on Saturday, November 1st from 8:30am to 12:00 noon. This is a great opportunity for residents of Broward County to volunteer to help clean up a rare and endangered natural community, a sand pine scrub! During the clean up day you will discover flora and fauna unique to the sand pine scrub.

Directions: At West Oakland Park Blvd. & NW 27 Ave., travel south on NW 27 Ave. until it dead ends at the preserve (about 2 blocks). The address is 2820 NW 27 Ave.

What to wear: Please wear clothes that you don’t mind getting dirty. Closed-toe shoes, gloves, sun screen and a hat are strongly recommended. The City will provide water and brochures on our Lakeside Sand Pine preserve.

To Volunteer: Please call Charles Livio, City Horticulturist, at 954-630-4511.

CANDY CANE PARADE

Join the Sierra Club at the annual Candy Cane Parade on Hollywood Beach’s Broadwalk, Saturday, December 6th, 7-10pm. Contact Pat Widener for details: patwidener@yahoo.com, 954-665-7615.
FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY UPDATE
– By Leslie Blackner

Although disappointed that Hometown Democracy won’t be on the 2008 ballot, our dedication to getting our petitioning finished up and to be certified to be on the 2010 ballot is unwavering, and still our TOP Priority!

Basically the Federal judge has ruled that the citizens’ initiative process is a State right and is not subject to Federal Constitutional guarantees, and so will not compel the State to put us on the 2008 ballot. It is a disappointing ruling, but nothing else has changed.

So, simply put, we must continue our ongoing effort to get certified for 2010 by the State standards, and to do so before the 2008 election. We are very close now, by the State’s own numbers, some 5,000 short, and with the revocation issue still up on appeal, we are determined to meet the state requirement as is.

The hardest part is behind us, the monumental task of getting over 840,000 petitions signed! We have had more asked of us, more dirty tricks pulled on us, and more obstacles thrown in our way than any other citizen initiative ever has. And yet here we are in the final stretch, and we will finish a WINNER!

We are truly appreciative for everyone’s contributions of time, effort and money to this historic campaign so far, and ask that we all now turn this energy and effort to the next stage of the campaign, to educate the electorate and have them prepared to vote FOR FHD at election. We are confident that Hometown Democracy will then take its hard-earned place in the Florida Constitution!

HELP SAVE WHAT’S LEFT OF FLORIDA...
LET THE PEOPLE VOTE to control growth!

Note from the editor: If you haven’t signed the petition yet, you can get the petition from www.floridahometowndemocracy.com

Whether you have signed the petition or not, funds are needed to keep the fight going.

Please make checks payable to: Florida Hometown Democracy And mail your donations to:
Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc.
P.O. Box 636, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170

Or donate on-line with a credit card on the website.

All donations go directly to support this grassroots effort.

ADVERTISE IN THE BROWARD SIERRA NEWS
Placing an ad in the Broward Sierra News does more than reach thousands of local, environmentally sensitive readers. It also helps to offset the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, making it possible to continue to alert you to issues of local importance and the actions you can take, as well as inform you of events, outings and meetings of the Broward Group of the Sierra Club.

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If you would like to place an ad, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or email him at <maxgold@yahoo.com>.