On a breezy Saturday in November, a dozen Sierra Club members and friends bicycled 8 miles through western Davie.

Our bike hike was organized by Sierra Outings Leader Jackie Fisher, who started us off with a sumptuous brunch at Robbins Open Space Preserve. We bicycled the Westridge-Robbins Park trail between pristine estates and rough agricultural lands, and Linear Park Trail alongside the C-11 canal. We visited Broward County's Long Key Nature Center and saw historical areas open only by prior arrangement. Long Key is one of Seven Islands of Sam Jones, and one of the few permanently dry areas when Davie was entirely within the Everglades.

With over 160 miles of recreational and equestrian trails, Davie residents successfully fought to maintain green areas accessible to the public. Davie's 700 acres of parks and open space include two large Broward County parks with bike and equestrian trails, Tree Tops Park and the brand new Vista View Park, which has a mountain bike trail. Other preservation areas, the Farm Park, Sunny Lake, and the Van Kirk property have recently been protected under the Town of Davie's 2005 Open Space Bond Referendum, and Broward County's 1989 Open Space Bond, and by grants from the Trust for Public Land and the Florida Communities Trust.

Davie's open space preservation has also been helped by the Davie Area Land Trust, a not-for-profit organization preserving historical and agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and scenic preserves. In accord with state statutes, property owners can voluntarily grant a conservation easement to a governmental body or charitable corporation or trust, to retain land or water in its natural state and eternally restrict future use of a property, while benefiting from a property tax deferral. With the largest land area of any city in Broward, and low population density, Davie will stay green only with relentless effort.

Preservation areas, while protecting water and wildlife, have opponents. Some voters say that too much tax money is spent on conservation easements and parks used only by a few horse riders. The preservation view is that green space is not only irreplaceable, it improves nearby property values and increases taxable valuations, thereby reducing taxes for others. Besides, all who choose to can use the parks. There have been issues with the agricultural classification, but overall, with good enforcement of the law, much land has been permanently spared from development.

Using the Broward County Bicycle Suitability Map, you would not realize Broward County Bicycle Suitability Map, you would not realize the Town of Davie has many additional miles of recreational trails suitable for bicycle use. Several Davie recreational trails interconnect with trails and bicycle routes in other cities. According to mapmyride.com there are a number of Broward bike rides from 1 to 100 miles using Davie trails.

We completed our short journey on the Robbins-Vista View Trail, another paved trail not normally known to outsiders, but marked on brochures available at the Town Clerk's office.

If you believe in saving what's left of Broward, call me at 954-579-3932 or email philip@busey.org.
**Broward Sierra Club General Meetings**

Broward Sierra Club’s General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (Between Atlantic and Commercial Blvds., Lyons Road, south of Atlantic is the same street as NW 31st Ave., north of Commercial). Make sure to check our website for changes.

Doors open at 7:00 PM. Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

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**Executive Committee Meetings**

Second Tuesday of each month. Contact Brion Blackwelder at 954-262-6135 for time and location.

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**Tell DEP How to Recycle 75%**

By Dwight Adams, Florida Sierra Club Waste Minimization Committee Chair

The 2008 legislature charged the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to submit recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2010 on how to achieve 75% recycling of municipal solid waste (MSW) by 2020.

DEP’s recommendations (posted at www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75) are not adequate to reach 75%, even if the rate is artificially inflated by counting incinerated MSW as recycling. [At the time of this printing, we do not yet know what happened at the November 5, 2009 hearing in Tallahassee.]

Mandatory recycling in the commercial sector must be followed with a timetable for source separation of all recyclables by all waste generators, to include multi-unit housing within two years, and single-family housing within four years. We already ban disposal of batteries, tires, motor oil, fluorescent bulbs, etc. It’s the only way to keep these materials out of landfills and incinerators – think voluntary speed limits.

Yes, enforcement with fines for violations will be necessary.

DEP recognizes the importance of organics recycling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from methane generation in landfills that is 25 times more harmful than CO₂. The DEP recommendation to capture landfill gas is a bandaid solution that should be replaced by one that keeps organics out of landfills in the first place.

15%-25% of MSW is organics, consisting of food, food-soiled paper, and other items suitable for biodegradation by anaerobic
digested (AD) or composting. AD of organic MSW would produce about 500 MW of power statewide, enough for 400,000 homes. Compost is valuable for landscaping, mulching, and as a planting medium in environmental horticulture.

Disposal of organics by grocery stores and the food industry should be banned beginning in 2015 to give jurisdictions time to establish biological treatment facilities. Collection of organics is the essential feature of all recycling programs throughout the country that achieve high recycling rates – 75% cannot be reached without it.

Counties will need State assistance to build the infrastructure to handle 75% recycling provided through a $2/ton surcharge on landfilled waste and unredeemed deposits on beverage containers.

What you can do:

- Contact Mike Sole, DEP Secretary, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 49, Tallahassee, FL 32399, and tell him DEP’s preliminary recommendations must be strengthened.
- Write a letter to your newspaper.
- Go to http://depflorida.com, join the forum and voice your opinions.

**FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY AND AMMENDMENT 4**

floridahometowndemocracy.com

The new Florida Hometown Democracy web site is up and a must see. You can follow up on lead-ins to a number of news stories from around the state. Especially look at the top link for Campaign Materials; you will find downloads for bumper strips, t-shirts, yard signs and the FHD slide show in two formats. There are also links to YouTube videos about FHD.

Everything you need is there to get actively engaged in saving Florida from further ravages by the growth industry. Opponents of Amendment 4 continue to broadcast disinformation and we need folks to counter at every opportunity. Use the comment option to challenge the lies that you see in news stories, columns, op-eds and on blogs.

Kick-off events have been taking place all over the state. FHD is gearing up to alert and arouse our citizens to participate in actions that began once our ballot initiative was approved for the November 2, 2010 ballot. The momentum must continue!
I’d like to talk a little bit about all the ‘stuff’ we buy for the holidays, often to be discarded after use. For instance, THIS time around, how about reusing the many sheets of aluminum foil (which only covered the turkeys ever so lightly) for wrapping up the left over turkey meat, veggies, rolls and, with foil that looks hardly used, the big chunks of cake, pies, cookies etc. You’ll find that not only does it save some pocket change in these meager times, but with so many leftovers, all those big plastic containers might not fit in the fridge as easily as tightly wrapped foil items. As for decorations, I just gathered a whole bunch of orange colored, half burned Halloween candles from different spots and they’ll look great in a harvest themed centerpiece for the dining table or elsewhere in the house at Thanksgiving. As for the multicolored ribbons, decorations or other related items you may use for festivities in December, JUST know the red stuff (esp. paper ribbons) can be rolled up (around a pencil for instance) to magically reappear for your Valentine’s Day party. And all the green stuff can be kept, just to reappear at a St. Patrick’s day get together. For all the giftwrapping, may I suggest looking at www.tightwad.com (environmentally friendly and creatively decorated brown bags, coffee cans, chocolate boxes, etc.) What impressed me greatly, just the other day, was the arts & crafts class at an assisted living facility where the residents were busy stringing used styrofoam cups, upside down and different spots and they’ll look great in a harvest themed centerpiece for the dining table or elsewhere in the house at Thanksgiving. 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