BROWARD SIERRA CLUB
EXCOM ELECTION RESULTS
This past December the Broward Sierra Club held its annual Executive Committee election. The four people who were elected or re-elected to serve a 2-year term on the Excom are Barbara Ruge, Mara Shlackman, Matthew Schwartz, and Ina Oost Topper. Continuing their 2-year terms are Barbara Curtis, Max Goldstein and Judy Kuchta.

One of the first responsibilities of the Excom is to appoint the Club's Leaders, who are now as follows:

Chair - Mara Shlackman
Vice Chair - Barbara Curtis
Treasurer - Max Goldstein
Corresponding Secretary - Barbara Ruge
Recording Secretary - Tanya Tweeton
Conservation Chair - Matthew Schwartz
Education/Recycling Chair - Ina Oost Topper
Legal Chair - Mara Shlackman
Newsletter Editor/Web Master - Carole Walsh
Outings Chair - Judy Kuchta
Program Chair - Barbara Curtis
Political Chair - Brion Blackwelder

We congratulate the new Excom members and Club leaders, and appreciate their commitment to the environment and their efforts on all our behalf.

We'd also like to express our appreciation to Phil Busey, our outgoing Excom Chair, for his 2 decades of service to the Sierra Club and for the wonderful job he's done over the past two years as the Broward Group Chair. Phil will continue to be involved with the Club and environmental issues as always, and we look forward to seeing him at the meetings and outings.

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers for Fundraising Chair and Volunteers Chair. If you are interested in either of those positions, please contact Mara Shlackman at 954-523-1131 or marashl@hotmail.com. If you would like to volunteer to help out with programs for the general meetings, please contact Barbara Curtis at 954-946-7359 or legalbarb2@yahoo.com.

If you would like to find out how to become an outing leader, please contact Judy Kuchta at 305-308-8913 or judykuchta@yahoo.com.

The Broward Sierra News will be available every other month in electronic format. Additionally, to keep you apprised of current Broward Sierra Club events, they will be 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” icon and follow the instructions. You may have to create a Yahoo ID first, which is easy and free. This will also allow you to sign up for any of the other numerous Yahoo groups.

Broward Sierra Club’s General Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at the Fern Forest Nature Center. In addition to committee reports and updates on local environmental matters, each month we have an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.

Thursday, Feb 2:
Speaker TBA

Thursday, Mar 1:
Speaker TBA

Check our website for more information as the dates get closer. http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward/ and click on the “Meeting Info” link.

DIRECTIONS:
The Fern Forest Nature Center is located at 201 Lyons Road South, Coconut Creek, just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (If you are coming from the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave., and then Lyons Rd. as you pass under the turnpike). Make sure to check our website for changes or updates of the programs. 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.
The Broward Sierra Club Conservation Committee

The Broward Group is pleased to announce its Conservation Committee for 2012.

Members are:
Matt Schwartz, Chair
Tanya Tweeton, Secretary
Stan Pannaman
Mara Shlackman
Ina Topper
Barbara Curtis
Hawk Arachy

The Broward Group has always played an active role in conservation issues in our community. Recent issues we have engaged have concerned the expansion of Ft. Lauderdale International Airport, sewage outfall pipes, sea turtle nesting, sand dune protection, and mass transit. Regionally the Broward Group has worked hand in hand with other Sierra Groups and conservation organizations - fighting against excessive motorized recreation on public lands, against the construction of powerlines across Everglades National Park, against offshore drilling in Florida’s coastal waters, and most recently, against a proposed power plant in the heart of Florida panther habitat in nearby Hendry County. And in spite of the power of the “Florida growth machine” we’ve even had a couple of big successes - blocking the construction of both the Cocomar Shopping Center on one of the last remaining hardwood hammocks in Broward County and the Everglades Corporate Park bordering Broward County’s Everglades.

With our newly formed Conservation Committee, we expect to take on more challenges. We are already engaged in the fight over aspects of the proposed Port Everglades expansion, and expect to be taking on Corrections Corporation of America as they attempt to build a massive immigration prison just a stone’s throw from the Everglades. We will also encourage conservation on all fronts and encourage economic opportunities which take advantage of Broward’s dynamic labor force without jeopardizing its fragile environment.

Please be sure to sign up on the Broward Sierra Yahoo Group to find out about any breaking conservation related news:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrowardSierra/

Feel free to contact Matt Schwartz, Conservation Chair, with any difficulty signing up or any other questions. You can also share concerns with regard to conservation issues you believe our group should be aware of or engaged in. You can reach me at matthew3222@yahoo.com or 954-634-7173.

MAKE A RESOLUTION TO REUSE IN 2012
– By Mara Shlackman, Broward Sierra Chair

No doubt we are all familiar with the environmental mantra of “reduce, reuse, recycle.” With all the emphasis on recycling, reuse is an aspect of eco-friendly living that is often overlooked. In 2012, in addition to donating your unneeded goods to thrift stores, commit to making second-hand sources of goods your first choice when you do need to make a purchase or acquisition. Thrift stores in our community support a variety of charitable causes, from job training for persons with disabilities to pet adoption shelters. Besides thrift stores, there are numerous other stores in our community selling used goods, including but not limited to consignment shops, used book stores, and used sporting goods stores. Church rummage sales, garage and yard sales, and websites and listservs such as Freecycle (freecycle.org) are additional sources of used goods.

Not only does buying second-hand merchandise keep goods out of the landfill, but it may also help the local economy. Retail stores that sell used goods are “mom and pop” stores that keep dollars circulating within our community. Studies have found that more of the dollars spent at independent retailers stay in the community as compared with expenditures at chain stores, which funnel more of their earnings to corporate headquarters and distant suppliers (see http://www.bigboxtoolkit.com/images/pdf/Premium.pdf and http://www.livingeconomies.org/aboutus/research-and-studies/studies for more information).

In short, throughout the year in 2012, when you consider buying something, after you ask yourself if you really need it (remember, reducing consumption is the first part of the environmental mantra), your next question should be “can I buy it used rather than new?”
Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

We would like to invite you to come on one of our fun and educational outings! If you have any questions about an outing, please check with the certified Sierra Outing Leader listed for the outing. Some of the outings need no experience; others require some level of proficiency. All participants are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, contact the leader of the outing or go to <www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>.

Florida Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST37115

Unless otherwise stated, the costs for each outing represent a best estimate of actual shared expenses, for food and transportation and other direct expenses. For sign-up, payment and further information, please contact the outing leader.

Look for updated information on our website: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/broward>
Join the Sierra Club and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag! (While supplies last)

☐ Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! I want to help safeguard our nation’s precious natural heritage and receive a free Sierra Club Weekender Bag. My payment is enclosed.

Name _________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
City _______________________________ State _____ Zip _____________
Phone (optional) (_____) __________________________________________
E-mail (optional) ________________________________________________
Check enclosed, payable to Sierra Club ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx
Cardholder Name _______________________________________________
Card Number ___________________________________ Exp. Date ____/____
Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Membership Categories

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You can help protect the Florida Panther and wilderness through litigation and education. This is fund of The Sierra Club Foundation created by your Broward Group. Your tax-deductible gift will support our lawsuit challenging the National Park Service plan to put 130 miles of off-road vehicle (ORV) trails in Big Cypress National Preserve, habitat of the Florida Panther.

DONATE TO PROTECT THE FLORIDA PANTHER

You can help protect the Florida Panther and wilderness through litigation and education. This is fund of The Sierra Club Foundation created by your Broward Group. Your tax-deductible gift will support our lawsuit challenging the National Park Service plan to put 130 miles of off-road vehicle (ORV) trails in Big Cypress National Preserve, habitat of the Florida Panther.

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Name _________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
City _______________________________ State _____ Zip _____________
Phone (optional) (_____) __________________________________________
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Sierra Club
Enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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Please make your check payable to: The Sierra Club Foundation
In the notes, write “for Florida Panther”
Mail your donation to:
Broward Sierra, P.O. Box 550561, Davie, FL 33355