EXPAND, EXPAND, EXPAND AND BLAST AWAY
– By Stanley Pannaman, Program Chair

Since February of 1928 when local developers blasted away the rock barrier between the harbor and Atlantic Ocean in Fort Lauderdale creating the beginnings of Port Everglades, we humans, in the name of progress, have systematically destroyed coral reefs that have taken hundreds of thousands of years to develop, destroyed sea grass beds that are habitats for juvenile fish and sea turtles, and uprooted and destroyed mangroves colonies that have protected us and acted as barriers between the sea and land.

Once again, the developers that have the expand, expand, expand mentality have gotten the Army Corps of Engineers to submit a draft environmental impact statement (EIS), which states their objectives as:

1. Decreasing costs caused by vessel congestion, channel restrictions, and berth deficiencies.
2. Decreasing transportation costs through increasing economies of scale for vessels at the Port, and
3. Increasing channel safety and maneuverability at the Port for existing and larger vessels.

In short, these stated objectives are to accommodate the new super Panamax ships, the new Behemoth cruise ships, and the new colossal oil tankers. The developers and ship owners, in their infinite wisdom, believe that to accommodate these new ships, it’s perfectly okay to dig out the existing canal from 42 feet to 50 feet, creating over 6,000,000 cubic yards of debris by blasting away the rock bottom of the canal and the existing sidewalls. This will destroy staghorn coral (currently threatened), elkhorn coral (currently threatened), pillar coral lobed star coral, mountainous star coral, knobby star coral, and rough cactus coral. And yes, they also would like to decimate the existing

Thursday, Oct. 3rd: Our speaker for October will be Britten Cleveland who is the Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club’s Florida Healthy Air Campaign. Her presentation will be on how the widespread adoption of electric vehicles will reduce air pollution and curb our dependency on oil, and how we can work together to make this happen.

Thursday, Nov. 7th: At our November meeting, our guest speaker will be Larry Perez from the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, author of the book, Snakes In the Grass. His presentation will be on the invasion of the Burmese and African rock python in the Everglades and their detrimental affects on our native wildlife.
The Broward Sierra News is 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, 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.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW SOUTHEAST FLORIDA ACTIVIST WEBSITE!
 – By Tanya Tweeton, Volunteer/Organizer, South East Florida Sierra Marine and Water Quality Team

The old Sierra Activist network website was so unwieldy, no one wanted to use it! Now we are announcing a great new activist web site that contains all of the Sierra Activist teams, available for you to explore. John Barry, our national Sierra Activist Administrator has developed the exciting new website for the Activist Teams. If you are interested in Activism and want to be involved either locally or nationally then this web site is for you. Our SouthEast Florida team mission is, of course, pertinent for those living in Florida. You can find the new website at http://content.sierraclub.org/activistnetwork/teams/south-east-florida-sierra-marine-and-water-quality-team.

Thanks to new technology, it is far more organized and easy to use than the old one. Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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Local Sierra Club Outings & Events

**SEPT. 29, SUN. BROWARD OUTINGS LEADER PLANNING DAY FOR THE BROWARD GROUP.** 10 am in Hollywood. We’ll set up our outings for the upcoming winter season and more. You will see what supplies are accessible for outings. Bring your calendar. Contact Outings Chair Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.


**OCT. 19, SAT. EVERGLADES ECOLOGY 101.** Fall is a great time to visit the Everglades! Join us and discover one of the National Parks in your own backyard! Explore the Anhinga and Gumbo Limbo trails and more. Lots of wildlife including birds and alligators while learning about Everglades ecology, and the things that make it unique. Pack a lunch and bring lots of water. Rated leisure - this trip is great for beginners or veterans looking for an easy walk (a few miles total) with interesting company. Suggested donation: $10. **Park entrance:** $10/vehicle. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact the leader if you would like to carpool or can take someone in your vehicle and for details. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei 305-223-6551 <kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net>.

**OCT. 27, SUN. DAY CANOEING/KAYAKING.** west of Lake Okeechobee on Fisheating Creek. Our outfitter, www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com, will provide rental canoes and kayaks plus transport to the Burnt Bridge put-in. $45 to transport your own canoe or kayak and one person, $5 for each additional person; $60 to rent a single kayak, $75 for a canoe. Rated moderate. Limit 17. Leader: Chas Hunt 561-967-4770 <loxoutings@comcast.net>.

**NOV. 16, SAT. FULL MOON BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER AT SHARK VALLEY.** If you have never experienced this 15 mile ride you are in for a treat because we’ll experience the sunset and moon rise almost simultaneously. Learn about Everglades ecology as well as the benefits of the construction of elevated sections of the Tamiami Trail. The Sierra Club has been working hard for years to promote this Everglades restoration project. You MUST have a bike in good repair, with a front and rear light (in case the moonlight is obstructed by clouds). A spare tire inner-tube and helmets are strongly recommended. Wear clothing that is appropriate for the season. We’ll have healthy and hearty snacks at the observation tower. Rated moderate. Age limit 16. Yes, you will see alligators and other wildlife. Time 4 pm to approximately 8:30 pm. Directions will be provided. Suggested donation $10. Leader: Manuel Monteiro 954-815-6230 <manuel_monteiro@yahoo.com>. Asst. Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 <judykuchta@yahoo.com>.

**NOV. 23, SAT. HIKE THE BIG CYPRUS NATIONAL PRESERVE WILDERNESS TRAIL.** This breathtaking hike is approximately 8 miles on a wilderness trail, off a section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, north of Alligator Alley (Less than an hour from downtown Ft. Lauderdale). Enjoy a leisurely walk through cypress forest, hammocks and prairie providing a unique opportunity to view all types of wildlife and learn to identify a variety of birds, wildflowers, plants and butterflies. Bring your own lunch to eat on the trail. Rated moderate, due to distance and uneven footing. Suggested donation: $3 members, $5 non-members. Leader: Jackie Fisher 954-434-2855 <jhf812@bellsouth.net>. Asst. Leader: Darla Ferrante 954-812-4127 <rdeferrante@aol.com>.

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

Join elected officials, federal agency representatives, experts from local governments, scientists, nonprofit and business leaders, and others for this year’s Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, held Thursday, November 7, and Friday, November 8, 2013, at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, go to http://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/2013-broward-county-in-fort-lauderdale/.

The Broward Group of the Sierra Club invites you to join our outings to beautiful and interesting natural areas with friendly and mutually supportive people, and enjoy the variety of experiences that few other places in the world have to offer. Our outings are fun and educational and some even offer the opportunity to have hands-on service in some of our parks and natural areas. If you have any questions about an outing, please contact 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>.

Once you have made a reservation, we ask that you make a serious commitment to attend the trip. Cancellations are detrimental to our program. Our outings leaders are unpaid trained volunteers.

Trip expenses (some park fees, food etc.) are covered by participant donations. Some outings may require a refundable deposit to guarantee a place. Contact the outing leader for details. Because of changing costs, outing fees/donations listed may be changed at the opening of the trip. If you are interested in a trip, call or e-mail the trip leader and ask for details, or come to the sign-up table at the Sierra Club Broward Group’s general meetings (first Thursday of each month). Please sign up early for planning purposes. Make all checks payable to Sierra Club Outings. Please write the name and date of your trip on your check and include your phone number. Please send all payments to the trip leader.

If you must cancel, contact the leader or assistant leader as early as possible. If you cancel less than 30 days in advance, you lose your deposit. If you cancel 7 days or less in advance, you will forfeit all fees at the discretion of the leader.

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>
we have developed a Speaker’s bureau where we are trying to
We must absolutely fight to change that. Time is so critical!
have passed 78 ballot initiatives to support land conservation,
for Everglades restoration for example. Since 1988, Floridians
more likely to vote for a candidate who would support funding
in taxable sales in 2011 alone, and supported over a million jobs! We
know that Floridians do favor Conservation policies. 63% were
beaches. Tourism and Recreation in Florida, produced $61 billion
of dying of some amoeba that we caught swimming, ) and clean
is power! Our tourism, thus our economy, and so many jobs
depend having clean drinking water, clean lakes (without danger
to earlier. The degradation of our waters, our fish and wildlife is
Florida by educating yourselves on the various issues. Knowledge
problems have become quite serious. It is imperative that we
Our waterways are all linked and eventually what
potential danger to our drinking water, as well as the pollution
of our oceans. Our waterways are all linked and eventually what
happens in northern Florida will also happen down here. The
problems have become quite serious. It is imperative that we
Floridians decide to get involved to do our part to help clean up the
mess that unfortunately we have made and that we did not attend
to. The degradation of our waters, our fish and wildlife is not only a threat to our environment but to our economy. Help
educate Floridians about the National Ocean Policy. Drew Martin
and Scott Sheckman have been doing a really great job speaking
to tri-county area Rotary and Lion’s groups about the policy that
was finalized several months ago. If you are interested in being a
speaker, then you must educate yourselves on the NOP itself and
what it means to Floridians locally, as well as nationally. We also
have several very interesting DVD’s on the subject that we present
to the groups. Questions will be asked afterward and you will want
to be prepared as a speaker to answer most of them.
As we go forward, more ideas hopefully will be developed as far
current environmental laws and regulations. A potential new activity for our team is that we may soon be developing a new team of scuba divers that will monitor the anchoring of boats around Miami and the Keys and help stop the damage some of them do. All is still in the planning stage and we have divers so far only in Dade county, who are interested in
in developing this program. But if you live up the coast into Palm
Beach County, and you are a scuba diver and you want to help
develop a plan to monitor the Coral reefs up there, then please do
contact me with your ideas. We have the potential with this Marine
team to make a difference with our water issues. We need your help in doing so.
Tanya Tweeton, Volunteer/Organizer
SouthEast Florida Sierra Marine and Water Quality Team
Tweeton204@yahoo.com
954-472-3704

Expand, continued from page 1
seagrass and destroy approximately nine acres of mangroves.
In a joint public comment letter submitted to the Army Corps of
Engineers in opposition to the statements given in the draft EIS, the
Tropical Audubon Society, Biscayne Bay Water Keepers, Cry of the
Waters, the South Florida Audubon Society, and the Broward Group
of the Sierra Club stated that, among other things, the premise used
by the Corps was flawed and the need for expansion overstated.
It should also be mentioned that the NOAA Fisheries Service and
the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have submitted public
comments highly critical of the draft EIS. In brief, “NOAA believes
that the draft EIS significantly understates the project’s impact to
seagrass, coral reefs, and mangroves habitat. We also believe that
the EIS significantly understates the level of mitigation required
to compensate for the projects affects.” The EPA stated, “EPA’s
primary concerns involve potentially significant impacts to public
water supplies, water quality, aquatic ecosystems including corals
and hard bottoms, mangrove wetlands, seagrasses, and associated
mitigation”.

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.
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