BROWARD SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2015
– By Barbara Ruge, Broward Sierra Excom Vice-Chair

Our ByLaws require that an election for members of the Broward Group Executive Committee (ExCom) takes place each year. This year, FOUR ExCom members’ terms expire. There are FOUR available seats.

Nominations were closed on October 16th. Four candidates were approved by the Nominating Committee and are running this year. We received no nominations by petition. The candidates are:

Barbara Ruge, Darryl Rutz, Ina Oost Topper and Stan Pannaman. Postcard ballots will be going out by postal mail to all members of Broward Sierra during the week of November 16th. Please watch for your ballot. Vote for up to FOUR candidates and return your ballot by the December 18th deadline. Follow the instructions for mailing it back, or bring it to the Holiday Party on December 3rd. Valid ballots must show your Sierra Club membership number which is on your address label.

Please provide a working email address for our database so that we can keep all our members regularly informed of timely Sierra events

The ballots will be counted by an Elections Committee appointed by the ExCom at its meeting which was held on October 7th. The Elections Committee is Phil Busey, Max Goldstein and Terry Greene.

It is so essential that our Broward Sierra members vote for their executive committee. In this way, you strengthen the Sierra Club’s ability to provide the informative programs you enjoy, the environmental outings to explore, and the positive actions you demand to protect our planet.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Barbara Ruge
Barbara has been an active member of Broward Sierra since 2010 and has served as ExCom Vice-Chair for 3 years. Her strengths are administrative and she strives to keep the many facets of Sierra Club orderly. She manages our Facebook page and moderates our Yahoo Group, posting daily about Sierra news, events and critical actions. She passionately works on Sierra’s Political Committees. Barb represents Broward Sierra for planning and public transportation as a voting member of the Community Involvement Roundtable, an advisory board to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. Barb regularly attends Sierra leadership meetings and workshops and you can see her rallying for wildlife and Mannsi Sierra tabling events throughout the year. As a Realtor who cares about community, Barbara serves on several community involvement boards, where she continuously promotes Sierra Club’s actions for conservation and environmental justice.

Darryl Rutz
Currently serving on the Broward Excom and seeking another term. I serve as the Membership Chair and am on the Outings Team. I love to take folks out to enjoy our natural landscape. I also was elected to the State Sierra Chapter Excom. I serve on the Our Wild Florida Committee and am a liaison between the Chapter Excom and our attorneys who are working on our bear litigation. I have gone to many Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and South Florida Water Management Commission meetings, speaking out on Sierra Clubs Causes. Let’s keep moving.

Ina Oost Topper
Currently the Excom Chair, and a longtime Sierra member. Her professional background is in teaching Social Sciences & Foreign Language Instruction, with a Masters Degree in International Studies. She has also, for many years, extensively guided groups of people as a professional Tour Guide, throughout all of North America’s National Parks. While also holding the...
The 2 mile hike will follow a trail that will show you parts of the old train trestle, Hugh Taylor’s favorite oak tree, picnic areas, mangrove swamps, fresh water coastal dune lake and the Intercostal Waterway. Most of the trail is shaded and hopefully the weather will have cooled down. We hope to have a nice lunch at the California Pizza located close by. Hikers will need to bring a bottle of water. It is suggested that you bring bug spray and sun tan lotion. Rated easy. Leader: Darryl Rutz, 954-892-1740 dmrtz2@msn.com.

BEAR UPDATE – By Darryl Rutz, Membership Chair and Outings Leader

Last week I visited friends of mine that live in a planned community north of Atlanta named Big Canoe. It is 8,000 acres of woodlands and piedmont mountains. Over 3,000 residents live there year around and another 3,000 live there part time. The neat thing about Big Canoe is that the governing body (non-governmental) has declared it a wildlife sanctuary. My friends showed me pictures of many bears that have come visiting their house and community. No one bothers them and they don’t bother anyone. All their garbage is deposited at a centralized location which is bear proof. The Big Canoe community prospers from having bears. They have an annual Bear Run and have a Bear Pub where folks can get together. This type of arrangement could easily be adopted for Florida’s bear habitat locations. But no, Florida is having their bear hunt! This was the decision of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. The word Conservation is supposed to precede the word Commission but I really don’t think it is appropriate! This governmental body is made up of developers. One bought a bear hunting permit. Is this a conflict of interest? The State Sierra Chapter joined the Speak Up Wekiva, Inc. to try to stop the hunt but that effort failed. We are currently joining them in another effort via filing an amicus. The St Petersburg Sierra Group is planning a Hug Your Bear event the day before the hunt. And our group’s Big Bear purchased by Judy Kutcha has been popping up at various events around the state.

Educational & Recyling Chair, her objective is to aim for more recycling here in Broward County and throughout Florida.

Stan Pannaman
Programs Chair and Conservation Chair for the Broward Sierra Club. I am also the team leader of the South East Florida Marine and Water Quality Team, and have been appointed to the Everglades Restoration Team, which is a statewide committee. I am the representative of the Broward Group to the Everglades Coalition, which is a coalition of 57 different groups and organizations dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem.
Please join us for the December Broward Sierra Club meeting and Annual Pot Luck Dinner Holiday Party

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Fern Forest Nature Center
201 Lyons Rd. S., Coconut Creek, FL 33068

After announcements and meeting business, join us for fantastic food, friends & fun, and some fabulous raffles!

We'll also have a slide show of photos from some of this past year's outings.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our holiday dinner once again. We had a great turnout last year, with everyone very involved with environmental causes. And the raffle was a great fundraiser for our nature preservation work.

So bring your friends and neighbors, and let them know it's a time to celebrate with great food, a glass of wine or soda, meet wonderful people, and contribute to an important cause.

And if you'd like to donate any items for the raffle, please bring them with you. For more info contact Ina at 954-722-9944 or irtopper2000@cs.com.

Bring a pot luck dish to share. Donation $5 if you bring a dish to share, $10 without a dish.

Please also bring your own non-disposable plates, cups and utensils.

Raffle tickets will be available for $2 each or 3 for $5.