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

It's Sierra Club election season! Our group bylaws require that an election for members of the Broward Group Executive Committee (ExCom) takes place in the fourth quarter of each year. ExCom has seven members who serve staggered two-year terms. This year, FOUR ExCom members' terms expire.

On Sept. 9, 2015, pursuant to Broward Sierra Club bylaws, ExCom appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of Judy Kuchta judykuchta@yahoo.com, Sue Caruso susan.caruso@att.net, and Art Joseph rogerwilcotj@bellsouth.net. Their task is to identify and evaluate candidates to run for the four vacancies on ExCom. Please contact one of them to be considered. Also any member may be placed on the ballot by petition by obtaining 20 signatures of 20 members of our Broward Group. We will have petition signup sheets at our next general meeting on Oct. 1. Nominations will be closed Oct. 16. Ballots will be sent to all Broward Sierra Club members during the week of Nov. 16, and members will have four weeks to vote. The deadline for arrival of your votes is Dec. 18.

Please refer to our website and November's newsletter for updates and reminders about our ExCom election schedule, future announcements of candidates and nominated candidate profiles. Please contact any member of your current ExCom for questions you may have.

It is so essential that our Broward Sierra members vote. Most importantly, we welcome any of our members to become more involved in Broward Sierra Group. Developing new leaders is needed to improve the well-being of the Club, strengthening Sierra's ability to educate the public and advance the goals of Sierra Club to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

We want to thank the many members who come and enjoy our monthly meetings. We appreciate the wonderful educational programs presented by renowned experts in conservation and the fields of physical, biological and earth sciences.

We thank everyone who participates in our outdoors adventures throughout the year, and those who support our public educational events. We have become a close and fun community of friends with like minds and on the same mission!

POSITIVE HUNTING
– By Ina Oost Topper, Broward Sierra Excom Chair

Yes, there is such a thing as the positive hunt.

At the risk of antagonizing fanatic environmentalists (and I do consider myself to be one), during all these upheavals and protests regarding the appalling idea of resuming the shooting of our Florida black bear, let's just for a moment consider other aspects of hunting. Our forefathers had no choice but to hunt for their everyday existence. Just less than a century ago there was no danger of people in rural areas decimating all wildlife by occasionally shooting a deer or any animal for the holidays. This, besides it being the frugal way to celebrate with ample food on the holiday table, was also often a sheer necessity due to low cost meat supplies being only available from far away. I remember as a small child being taken along by grandpa (who lived in a very rural, wooded area, hours away from civilization) who'd find a good pheasant and a hare or rabbit to put on the Christmas menu. And that's all he would shoot - just enough for our large extended family to eat during the two days of Christmas in the old country. (By the way, we're in no way taking issue with vegetarianism and vegans who for their own very justifiable reasons do not consume animal products. That's just fine, and a very personal choice.)

Then there's the other issue of, from time to time an atrocious situation where animals are either starving to death or for other reasons may just have to be culled. Our Conservation Excom Chair, Stanley Panaman, just brought up such issue at one of our meetings of having witnessed the painful wasting away of large numbers of deer in an area where there was no adequate means of subsistence left for large herds. Clearly, culling away too large a number of obviously starving and suffering animals was the right thing to do.

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Broward Sierra Club’s General Meetings

DIRECTIONS: The Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South. Coconut Creek is just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (From the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave., and then Lyons Rd. as you pass under the turnpike.) Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program begins at 8:00. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

Thursday, Oct. 1st: Our guest speaker will be John Pipoly, PhD, Master Gardener, Broward County Extension services, who will be talking about the value of urban forests in mitigating factors contributing to climate change.

Thursday, Nov. 5th: Our guest speaker will be the highly sought after public speaker Greg Hamra, an expert in LEED construction (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, a green building certification program). He will be speaking to us about a carbon tax that can benefit taxpayers, businesses and the economy while reducing our CO2 emissions.
One example of strongly voicing opinions against worthy causes without coming forward with alternatives was a recent article in an environmental magazine I read, in which a very well meaning author brought up the problems regarding disposal of medications, especially antibiotics, in trash cans, as it obviously ends up in landfills and thereafter in aquifiers (read: drinking water). As for flushing it down our toilets; it goes straight into the waterways, creating dangerous pollution. What was missing in the article? How to get rid of these items in any other way. I hereby invite our Broward Sierrans to come up with some good, tried out solutions.

As Ron Bergeron has done, we need to be pro-active in suggesting solutions to issues rather than saying only what should NOT be done.