Thursday, Sept. 1st: Our featured speaker will be Peter Gies, transportation planner for the Metropolitan Planning Organization. His talk will be on transportation projects planned for Broward County.

August: There will be no Thursday general meeting in August. Instead, we will be having our annual Picnic at the beach on Sunday, August 14th. See next page for details.

Thursday, Oct. 6th: Our featured speaker will be David Stout, Natural Resources Specialist for Broward County. His talk will be on environmental projects planned for Broward County, such as beach re-nourishment, coral reef protection, etc.

BIG SUGAR SUMMIT – By Sue Caruso, Broward Sierra Excom Secretary

As an environmental science teacher, I have attended many conferences and workshops over the years, but last June I was privileged to attend one of the best ever, organized by the Sierra Club. It was called the Big Sugar Summit. The organizers did a fantastic job of inviting speakers and panelists to cover the wide range of topics related to the unnecessary harm done by this industry. Everything, from the science, politics and economics to the health issues posed by the burning of the local fields after the harvest and the devastating effects of added sugar in our diets, was explained and discussed. Other sugar cane-producing countries, such as Australia and Brazil, use the remains of the harvested plant for things such as energy production and ethanol, eliminating the need for burning. The harvesting machinery used here in the United States is the same as that used in Australia, but with the part to harvest the stalks removed, showing the blatant disregard for human health caused by the burning of the remaining stalks. Also, in Australia, the industry is successful with less than one tenth of the subsidies provided to the sugar growers in the United States. Last year our state legislature failed to purchase a parcel of “big sugar” land that could have been used for water storage and retrieval, thereby reducing the devastating effects that polluted water has when released to the Indian lagoon and the Caloosahatchee River. That prompted this summit, to educate and bring together people who want to continue to fight for a solution to this problem. You now have the same opportunity to attend the upcoming Big Sugar Summit 2, this August 20 at the Embassy Suites near the Palm Beach Airport. Go to http://tinyurl.com/BigSugar2016 to register. You will come away with a greater sense of one of Florida’s biggest environmental issues and what you can do about it!
**Local Sierra Club Outings & Events**


**Aug 6, Sat. WHISKEY CREEK STAND UP PADDLEBOARD (SUP) LESSON.** Come learn how to paddleboard at John U. Lloyd St. Park. Cost $35. Park entrance $4.00 solo vehicle, $6.00 per vehicle (up to 8 passengers). Leader: Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913 judykuchta@yahoo.com, Assistant Leader: Michelle Berndgen michmaber@gmail.com.

**Aug 20, Sat. BIG SUGAR SUMMIT 2.** At the Embassy Suites near the Palm Beach Airport. Go to http://tinyurl.com/BigSugar2016 to register. (See article on previous page.)

**Sept 17, Sat. PEANUT ISLAND SNORKEL.** Peanut Island has one of the best snorkeling lagoons in Florida. We will be ferrying over from Riviera Beach to enjoy a day of snorkeling and a BBQ! Details TBA.

**Nov 5 - 6, Sat. - Sun. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/ CANOEING ON FISHEATING CREEK.** We’ll meet at the campground Saturday morning and the outfitter will transport us and our boats to the put in point. Sunday, we can explore some of the trails. You may bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one. The outfitter’s price for the transport is practically the same whether you bring your own vessel or rent from them. Suggested donation is $55 per person for members, $65 person for non-members if you will have two people in your boat. If you bring or rent a single kayak, the donation is $75 per person members and $85 per person non-members. $30 per person for non-paddlers. This includes the campsite (Friday and Saturday nights if you wish), 3 meals (Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast), upriver transport, and canoe/kayak rental, if applicable. RV sites are available at slight extra cost. Rated Moderate. Limit 24. If you wish, you may camp at our main campground campsite on Friday evening on your own – just provide your own meals. Leaders: Chas Hunt loxoutings@gmail.com 561-315-0677, Kaatje Bernabei kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net 305-223-6551.

**COME WIN A CASH PRIZE!**

**Broward Sierra Club’s Annual Summer Picnic at the Beach**

**Vegetarians and non-vegetarians welcome**

**Sunday, August 14, starting at noon**

**John U. Lloyd State Park, 6503 N. Ocean Drive (A1A), Dania Beach (Pelican Pavilion)**

Come have fun and enjoy the food, beach, swimming, snorkeling, and just plain lounging and socializing with other environmentally-minded folks.

This yearly fundraising event raises money to support the Broward Sierra group’s activities and environmental causes. A contribution of $10 for members/$12 for non-members will be gratefully accepted. There is a $4 entrance fee at the park, per car with 1 person, $6 fee for 2 or more in the same car.

There will be veggie-burgers and drinks supplied, but please bring a vegan (or at least vegetarian) dish or beverage of your choice to be shared. Attendees will vote for their favorite tastiest vegetarian dish.

1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners will receive a $30, $20 and $10 cash prize. Please also bring your own recyclable plates and utensils, in order for us to leave “nothing but our footsteps” behind, and set an environmentalists’ example.

**Please RSVP** to Max at maxgold@yahoo.com or 954-296-3411, so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone. Also contact Max if you need further information.

**Algae Bloom, continued from previous page**

However, there’s a double-edged sword in terms of the widely applauded objective to restore the natural flow of most of the Everglades to its previous, ancient state. While some projects North of Lake Okeechobee have been underway to restore the Kissimme river to its natural flow, shouldn’t the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have stepped up to the plate to bring the lake’s levees up to par? Or is it the eternal budget shortfall for this purpose, which was never a politically advantageous item for any politician to support?

As we can see, there’s enough blame to go around. Bottom line: WHAT does it take, now that it’s involving even larger portions of our state? And soon, besides killing off large numbers of fish and manatees, it will do the same to tourism in the affected areas.

Recently we’ve been informed that algae problems are developing all around the Gulf of Mexico, and even around the Chesapeake Bay and Lake Erie. Maybe there’s a golden lining here somewhere... If the algae problem advances to an even larger scale on a national level, perhaps prompt, aggressive solutions may be forthcoming.