Broward Sierra is pleased to announce that Sierra Club has endorsed the Federal candidacies of Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-20), Rep. Lois Frankel (D-21), and Rep. Ted Deutch (D-22), to the United States Congress for the 2016 election cycle. The Florida Chapter supports their campaigns in appreciation for their demonstrated commitment to protecting America’s environment. You may look up the environment scorecard of Congress members by the environmental bills that came to a vote, made available from the League of Conservation Voters. The scorecard, which is made with input from a number of environmental organizations including Sierra Club, is an important tool in deciding federal level endorsements. It can be accessed at the following link: http://scorecard.lcv.org/sites/scorecard.lcv.org/files/2015_LCV_Scorecard.pdf

Florida’s Primary Election is Tuesday August 30th. If you have not already Voted-By-Mail or in Early Voting (Aug 20-Aug 28), please go to your designated poll on August 30th and VOTE! You can read the list of candidates competing for all political offices in Florida, by district, at this link: http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp

Check your Voter Registration Card for your Federal district and State Senate and State House districts AND your polling location. Always look at the back of your ballot, and make sure you vote on all offices and initiatives. Vote YES on Amendment 4, the SOLAR amendment. This amendment guarantees if and when you upgrade your home or business to solar, you will not pay additional property taxes. In November, vote NO on Amendment 1, the utility scam amendment. More on that later.

The Sierra Club national accepts donations to its political PAC fund which is used to promote the campaigns of endorsed candidates. Our clean air and water challenges and preservation of our land and wildlife cannot be resolved without putting these and more environmental champions into public offices. Write your checks payable to Sierra Club PAC. They are not tax-deductible. Also, feel free to send donations directly to the endorsed candidates, knowing these candidates support progressive environmental issues. Go to their individual websites.

REMEMBER *GENERAL ELECTION* NOVEMBER 8th. Happy voting and good luck environmental candidates!

In August some of our Broward Sierra Excom members attended the Big Sugar Summit in West Palm Beach. What a learning experience it was... It turns out there’s much more to this issue than we had thought from reading articles on the subject.

The big sugar companies here in Florida have played a major part in much of what’s ailing in our fragile environment. What was once meant to help the small fry, is now benefiting the BIG fish much more than was intended. There were, and still are, good reasons for governmental subsidies to aid small farmers or agriculture in general. Were it not for some form of governmental oversight and assistance regarding vital staples for our everyday food needs, most of what we consume daily would have been subject to arbitrary market forces, totally lacking projections for nourishment needs, to sustain a well fed population.

Sugarcane is a longtime big crop for our state. The major sugar corporations have benefited quite nicely for decades from government handouts and price protection, while at the same time ignoring the harmful side effects of grand scale cane sugar production. One culprit harming many of our residents is the constant cane burning in areas in or adjoining the Everglades. This scourge is now seriously affecting people living close to the fields. The everlasting clouds of smoke throughout the year cause black ash particles raining down on many neighborhoods, which has caused major respiratory ills - especially among children. We were all touched by one speaker, Kina Philips, a resident of an area much affected by burning, who eloquently enlightened us to this smoke

| 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. |
| 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. |
tribes of Florida, assurances were given that ALL tribal lands within our Florida have already started legal action, due to the fact that decades another speaker, Betty Osceola, informed us that the Indian tribes of issue - if not more so.

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Another speaker, Betty Osceola, informed us that the Indian tribes of Florida have already started legal action, due to the fact that decades ago in an agreement between the federal government and the Indian tribes of Florida, assurances were given that ALL tribal lands within our state should be kept free of ANY pollution affecting their tribal lands. Who knew? Thank you, Betty Osceola, for letting us know! United we'll stand....

While it's always easy to point out a problem, our task is also to find solutions. One of the things we learned: in Australia the big sugar corporations have successfully been using cane cutting machinery which blows the (now finely shredded) cane chaff back on to the field. Pray tell, why is this type of equipment not being used here? And, besides recycling the chaff in the field, we were made aware of a variety of uses for cane fiber too many to mention here. (Think: hemp residue made into fabric, etc.)

Time for us all to get on the sugarcane bandwagon! Something needs to be done....