



CauseWays



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Vol. 36 No. 4

The Newsletter for the Sierra Club Miami Group

April 2006

2006 SIERRA CLUB PICNIC

Spring is in the air and it's time again for the Sierra Club Miami Group's Annual Picnic. This year's picnic will be held at A. D. Barnes Park Sunday, April 23rd. The park is located on the northeast corner of Bird Road (SW 40 Street) and SW 72nd Avenue. The entrance is on SW 72 Avenue. After you enter the Park, take the first right.

We will be at a new location! We have reserved Shelter 2, the first shelter on your right overlooking the lake after the first turn. Parking is anywhere along the road. Come out and enjoy this beautiful park. We'll have the volley ball net up and we'll organize a nature hike at their Nature Center.

The picnic will start at 1:00 pm and end at 6:00 pm with food cooked and served between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Bring your own pot luck (salad, veggie dish or dessert to share. We'll have regular and veggie burgers and hot dogs. Of course, we'll provide the beer and soft drinks.

Advance tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. If you wait to the day of the picnic, the price will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Please buy your tickets early so we know how much food to buy and prepare. You can get your tickets at the next meeting or send your money to Jim Gross, 6470 SW 74 St, Miami, FL, 33143 (305-665-2401).

The picnic is a fund raiser for the benefit of the Miami Group Outing program and is being organized and run by the Outings Committee. If you want to help out or are not sure what to bring, please call Diane Jacobs at 305-667-6962.

Don't forget to bring your own utensils (cup, plate, knife, fork, spoon and napkin). We have extra plastic sets of dinnerware, but they will cost you an extra dollar. Come rain or shine for a great time. We'll see you there.

Jim Gross
Outings Chair

UDB—April 18, 19 & 20

The Miami-Dade County Commission will soon be making their decisive votes on the applications to move the Urban Development Boundary.

The next step is for the County's Planning Advisory Board to meet and make final recommendations for the County Commission.

At present the hearings for the applications to move the Urban Development Boundary are scheduled to take place **APRIL 18, 19, & 20 at 9:30 am** at the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 N.W. 1st Street, Second Floor Chambers, Miami, Florida 33128. Note: these dates are subject to change by the County Commission; be watching for confirmed dates.

Nate Geisler—South Florida Community Organizer, Clean Water Fund

Controversial 14th Street I-95 Ramp Raises Safety Concerns

A little known proposed I-95 ramp project (#4107261) along Overtown's 14th Street is causing quite a stir in this community. It seems as if the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) wants to place ramp access next to a high school, park and youth center.

Student pedestrian safety concerns are serious issues in the Overtown community. Out of all the Miami NET neighborhoods, only Overtown has 4 elementary schools and a high school with no working school zone flashing lights.

The proposed ramps would interfere with the entrance of Booker T. Washington Senior High School and would place students in jeopardy as they cross this corridor on their way home or to extracurricular activities.

Why would FDOT propose a project? They cite a 1998 study by FIU stating that this ramp would provide greater access to Overtown residents to I-95. This would help make up for the construction of I-395 which negatively altered Overtown forever.

Yet, The overwhelming majority of Overtown Residents do not drive cars and there are numerous ramps within a 6 block

radius where access is convenient. FDOT also failed to mention other ideas which were never implemented (like the extension of the metromover into Overtown.) Nor did FDOT cite the over 200 annual accidents along the 12th street I-95 ramp. Can you imagine 200 accidents outside a high school?

The Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) has proposed a draft resolution to deny this projects's construction.

Continued on page 5

Judge: Corps failed Glades

A federal judge ruled this week that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to protect the environment when it approved permits allowing limestone miners to blast to bits more than 5,000 acres of wetlands in the Everglades according to the article in the St. Petersburg Times published on 3/24/06.

Save the Dates!

Sierra Club Miami General Meeting

April 10th—Coral Gables Woman's Club,
1001 Ponce E. Ponce De Leon Blvd.

7:00—8:00 PM— Sign up for Outings/Socialize/
Committee Meetings

8:00 PM—Meeting Begins

April 18—Sierra Club & Beer

6:00 PM—Titanic Brewery
5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd— Coral Gables

April 22—Earth Day—ICO Art Sale

7:00 PM— Jakmel Art Gallery (147 NW
36th St) in the Wynwood Design District.

April 22—Earth Day Celebration

The Wallflower Gallery—10 NE 3rd ST

April 23 - Annual Sierra Club Picnic

1:00 PM—6:00 PM

A. D. Barnes Park—Bird Road
(SW 40th Street & SW 72)

April 30th—Everglades Awareness Art Auction at the

Wallflower Gallery —10 NE 3rd ST
All Proceeds Benefit Sierra Club.

For more information:

Www.myspace.com/WallflowerGallery

Eating for a Healthy Planet True Cost of Food - A Campaign Whose Time Has Come

In just two years some 20 Sustainable Consumption committees have sprung up nation-wide in the Club to promote an Earth-friendly diet. Events have varied from a few folks enjoying a pot-luck to hundreds of people attending a fund-raising concert with gourmet appetizers.

Why have these outings proved so popular?

They're a great new angle on having fun while helping the Earth. A mantra of the True Cost of Food campaign is "Eat for your health *and* your planet's health."

Multitudes of Earth-friendly people are conscientious about diet and health. This is a reservoir of environmentalism that Sierrans have not fully tapped.

Local Sierrans are always looking for innovative ideas to build membership while raising ecological consciousness.

Now for some background:

The planet simply cannot sustain our wasteful lifestyle indefinitely. In the U.S. we consume ten times more resources per capita than the median for all other countries, and about double that of the other industrialized nations. But that's not all. Goaded by U.S.-driven globalization, the rest of the world is scrambling to catch up. Take, for instance, the 1.3 billion Chinese - over four times the U.S. population - who *also* are striving to drive Hummers, eat fast-food jumbo burgers, and refrigerate their homes in summer. China has made it a top priority to surpass the U.S. economy by about 2020.

What can we, as individuals, do about this?

A lot, it turns out. The Union of Concerned Scientists states that individuals can make a big difference by shifting a few basic consumption choices. Not surprisingly, the number one choice involves energy, especially in transportation or in heating and cooling our homes. But a clear number two involves our diet. Three times a day we can help the planet by shifting our food choices towards more: Plant-based, Organic and Locally-grown.

This is nothing doctrinaire, simply the more you make these choices the better. How much better, you ask? The Club's True Cost of Food campaign wants you to know that: For each a pound of beef you pass up, you save a gallon of oil, 2500 gallons of water, five pounds of grain and an acre of land that went into its production.

By choosing certified organic food, you keep a toxic brew of pesticides and chemicals out of the soil, water, and air.

The average U.S. meal travels 2000 miles to reach our tables. If you avoid imported foods or support farmers markets, you can prevent thousands of pounds emissions from polluting the atmosphere.

These choices protect not only the environment's health but your own. The highest mortality in the U.S. now stems from an epidemic of degenerative diseases linked to all the saturated fats, empty calories, pesticides, and chemicals that we ingest. On the other hand, numerous studies have shown that a diet high in whole grains, legumes, fresh vegetables and fruit prolongs both length and quality of life. Buying organic, moreover, decreases our exposure to toxins, while locally grown foods retain more nutrients along with flavor.

American Agribusiness trumpets our diet as the most plentiful, tasty, and affordable in history, and pushes it relentlessly through saturation advertising, fast-food outlets, and hundred-acre supermarkets. We have seen, however, that this "cheap" food has an exceedingly high - and largely hidden - cost to our health and to our planet. But now the Club is exposing these costs through its True Cost of Food campaign and acclaimed video (See below).

So far we have laid out how your *individual* food choices can make a difference. But now, let's look at how you can magnify that impact through the grass-roots activism that is the Club's greatest strength. Here is a sampling of what is possible:

Terry Jensen has engaged both large Sierran groups in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. A current specialty is "Sustainable Sunday"- typical was a recent plant-based restaurant buffet that drew close to 100 for socializing, updates on sustainability, and a "walk-it-off" hike afterwards. These events have inspired a nearby Texas group - which had been struggling to put on meetings - to reinvigorate itself around similar events.

Diana Artemis of the DC area has reached out to both sides of the Potomac with a smorgasbord of outings. They can range from a trip to a local organic farm to a cooking demo by ethnic chefs at a member's home. These events often bring in a speaker on a relevant topic, say, smart-growth alter-

natives to the sprawl overrunning family farms and small businesses.

Lynn Heath in Orange County, CA included fellow food activists to form a local True Cost of Food committee that started off spectacularly with environmentalist actor Ed Begley Jr. who keynoted a hike-and-dine event with his message of simplicity and sustainability. Next they sponsored a concert with organic food and wine that drew 300 people, her local Club group's largest event in years. Now, along with regular restaurant events, they are planning an organic gardening party and a possible joint nutrition outreach with the Club's Inner City Outings.

Most of our Sustainable Consumption committees around the country hold Earth-friendly dining outings. We might ask a restaurant to feature a plant-based meal. Conversely, we might set up one that features organic, or perhaps a locally-grown menu that supports sustainable family farms. Restaurants are delighted to get the business, and local groups often add a fund-raising surcharge. These social events easily recruit new activists. Often people comment that they had been Club members for years, but had never attended a meeting before.

Would you like to get involved? The national Sustainable Consumption Committee is looking for folks to help locally with this campaign. Our popular 15 minute animated DVD, "The True Cost of Food," is a good way to get started. This gripping yet humorous video dramatizes what our so-called "cheap" food really costs and makes a great presentation for a local Club meeting.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for information, names of possible other interested people in your area, and guidance on how to approach your local Club leaders to include sustainable consumption and True Cost of Food among their outings and conservation efforts.

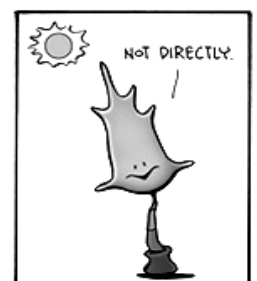
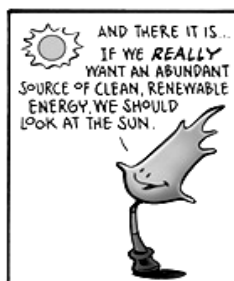
Contacts: By email: Gordon LaBedz at GLa-BedzMD@aol.com. By phone: Michael Beck at 818-246-3661 (24-hour phone number)

Websites: Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption: www.sierraclub.org/

sustainable_consumption, True Cost of Food Campaign and Video: www.truecostoffood.org

RUSTLE THE LEAF

BY PONCE & WRIGHT



Sierra Club Outings

Our outings are listed as Leisure, Moderate, or Strenuous. Be realistic about your physical condition and the degree of challenge you enjoy. Come ready to paddle, bicycle or hike and share the work. There are no passengers on our outings, only participants. Family trips are open to everyone. 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.**

Camping trip fees typically include food, transportation, canoes and campground fees. Trip participants need to furnish their own tents, backpacks, sleeping bags, and personal gear. Because of changing costs, outing fees 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 signup table at the general meetings. Reservations open at the general meeting three months in advance of the trip. At the leader's discretion, reservations close one week before the date of the trip. Please sign up early for planning purposes. **All reservations must be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit.** 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. Deposits are \$10 on trip fees of up to \$100 and \$20 on trips over \$100. Fees on trips of \$15 or less are to be paid in full with your reservation. **Full payment is due 30 days in advance of the trip.** Please send all payments to the trip leader.

If you must cancel, call the leader or assistant leader as early as possible. If you cancel 30 days or more in advance, your deposit will be refunded. **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.**

*Jim Gross
Outings Chair*

May—2006

May 21 - Biscayne National Park Snorkel. Snorkel a beautiful reef five miles from Elliot Key with a gourmet supper afterwards in Biscayne National Park. Moderate. Limit 15. Cost: \$55 members, \$60 nonmembers. Leader: Diane Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: diane@cobb-ebin.com. Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: eeljac@earthlink.net.

Sierra Club Miami Group—Outings Schedule for 2006 - 2007

June, 2006

June 10—Snorkeling 101 at Key Biscayne. Learn the fundamentals of snorkeling and have a great time doing it! In-water practice to familiarize you with equipment and techniques. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members. Leader: Ed Zaret, 305-586-3564. Asst: TBA.

June 10—Moonlight Culinary Canoe. (Fund Raiser) Enjoy an evening under the full moon on Biscayne Bay, with the delights of good company, delicious food, exquisite wine and a skyline view. No special diets. Rain or shine. Leisure. Limit 18. Cost: \$45 members, \$50 non-members. Leader: Ken Smith, 305-275-0180. (CV)

July, 2006

July 1 through July 16 - Appalachian Trail Hiking. Leave sweltering, hot Florida to hike all or part of these dates with experienced AT hikers. We can work out airport pick-ups/drop offs. Experienced or novice - M, F or couples. We'll start northbound from Hot Springs, NC and average 10 miles per day camping in AT shelters or tents. Be ready for possible day hiking, flip-flopping to avoid climbs, and/or grueling 4 plus day legs and layover days. Share camaraderie, shutting and expenses. Strenuous. Limit 4. Cost: Transportation, Sierra fees and other expenses to be determined. Leader: Kaatie Bernabei, 305-223-6551 (4 - 8 pm)

e-mail: cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net.
Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days),

e-mail: alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org.

July 15, 16—Looe Key Snorkel. Snorkel on beautiful Looe Key Reef in the Florida Keys. Trip to Key West for dinner. Overnight stay at the Looe Key Resort. Visit Key Deer Refuge of Big Pine Key on Sunday. Leisure. Limit 14. Cost: \$125 members, \$135 non-members. Leader: Ed Zaret, 305-586-3564. Asst: TBA.

August, 2006

August 12 - Canoeing 101. Learn the basics of handling the canoe in a safe manner. Fundamental paddling (bow and stern) and elementary rescue techniques taught in a one day short course. Lunch is included. Moderate. Limit 16. Cost \$20 member, \$25 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401
e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. Asst: TBA

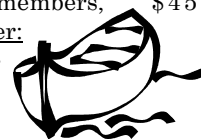
October, 2006

October 14 - Noble Hammock Canoe. Paddle an interesting canoe loop trail in Everglades National Park located just north of West Lake. We will attempt to find the hidden canoe trail to West Lake. Join us in this adventure, observing lots of wildlife and gators as we go. Moderate. Limit: 16. Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401, e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. Asst: TBA. (C)

October 21, 22—Jonathan Dickenson State Park Camping. Join us for car camping, hiking and canoeing and BBQ. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Ed Zaret, 305-586-3564. Asst: TBA.

November, 2006

November 18 - Turner River Canoe. This beautiful river goes 8 miles through very narrow channels from the Tamiami Trail, starting as fresh water and becoming increasingly salty as it flows into Chokoloskee Bay. Moderate...BUT the last hour may be strenuous depending upon open water wind/weather/tide. Limit 18. Cost \$35 members, \$45 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401. e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com.



Asst: TBA (C)

November 24, 25, 26—Jonathan Dickenson State Park/Loxahatchee River Camp/Hike and Canoe.

We will tent camp two nights, walk the short Kitchen Creek Trail and /or the Sand Pine Nature Trail. Saturday we will canoe the wild and scenic Loxahatchee River. Transportation, canoe rental, campsite fees and most meals included. Moderate. Limit 6. Cost: \$110 members, \$130 non-members. Leader: Kaatie Bernabei, 305-223-6551,

e-mail: cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net.
Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days),
e-mail: alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org.

December, 2006

December 2 - Everglades National Park Day Hike. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We will walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the Gumbo Limbo trail and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch and walk a trail there. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll see gators, birds, turtles, fish, insects and maybe a snake or two. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatie Bernabei, 305-223-6551,

e-mail: cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net.
Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days),
email: alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org.

December 9 - South Dade Bike. Meet at Black Point Park in South Dade, bike 12 miles to Homestead Bayfront Park, swim, then bike back to Black Point for a Sierra lunch. Moderate to strenuous (24 miles). Limit 18. Cost: \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401.

e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. Asst: TBA

Sierra Club Miami Group—Outings Schedule for 2006 - 2007

December 27 thru 31- Everglades Wilderness Waterway Canoe Trip. End 2006 with a quiet, unforgettable canoe trip with kindred spirits. Paddle 8 to 10 miles per day with us for five days amidst lush mangroves of the Ten Thousand Islands. Camp on beaches, chickee platforms or land sites. Watch the dolphins frolic, pelicans dive, mullet jump and other wild life celebrating the end of the year. Strenuous. Limit 6 with strong canoeing experience. Cost: \$350 members, \$380 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551

e-mail: cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net.

Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days),

e-mail: alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org (C)

January, 2007

January 6 - Hells Bay Canoe Orienteering. Enjoy a challenging day of orienteering with map and compass while canoeing through mangrove-lined channels and islands in Everglades National Park. Strenuous depending upon wind/wave conditions. Limit 16. Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401,

e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. (CV)

January 13 - Everglades National Park Day Hike. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We will walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the Gumbo Limbo trail and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch and walk a trail there. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll see gators, birds, turtles, fish, insects and maybe a snake or two. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551

e-mail: cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net. Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days), e-mail: alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org.

January 13, 14, 15—Myakka Backpacking. Hike in Florida's largest state park, six to nine miles per day for three days. Abundant wildlife and nicely marked trails. Strenuous. Limit 8. Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Leader: Dan Cruse, (305) 661-2975. 6580 Santona St. #27, Coral Gables, 33146. Asst: Pat Lopez, 305-279-5354.

January 20— Outing Leader Workshop. One day workshop for leaders and potential new leaders. Sharpen and learn new skills for running outings. Lunch included both days. Leisure. Limit 15. Cost: \$15 members, only. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401.

e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com.

Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962

e-mail: eeljac@earthlink.net. (CV)

January 20, 21 - Florida Trail/Big Cypress Preserve Backpack. Backpack carrying all your gear, food, water and tent on the at times rugged Florida Trail, wet or dry, north of the Tamiami Trail amidst cypress, pine and prairie. Listen at night for owls, panthers, bobcats, feral pigs, deer and the soulful whippoorwill. Strenuous. Limit 6. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551

e-mail: cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net. Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days)

e-mail: alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org.

February, 2007

February 17 - Everglades National Park Day Hike. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We will walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the Gumbo Limbo trail and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch and walk a trail there. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll see gators, birds, turtles, fish, insects and maybe a snake or two. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551

e-mail: cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net. Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days)

e-mail: alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org.

February 17, 18, 19 - Long Pine Key Camping, Biking and Hiking. Camp in



beautiful pine rockland in Everglades National Park. Explore the wildlife and plant communities by off-road biking and hiking in our national treasure. Park admission and transportation not included. Moderate. Limit 13 people in seven tents. Cost: \$70 members, \$80 non-members. Note: Must sign up and pay in full no later than February 1. Leader: Diane Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: diane@cobb-ebin.com. Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: eeljac@earthlink.net.

February 21 - Outings Schedule Signup Meeting. Outing leaders and assistant leaders will meet Wednesday evening for snacks and beverages to planning of our new Outings Year 2007-2008. Leisure. No limit (the more, the merrier!) No cost. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401, e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com.

March, 2007

March 3—Everglades National Park Day Hike. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We will walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the Gumbo Limbo trail and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch and walk a trail there. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll see gators, birds, turtles, fish, insects and maybe a snake or two. Leisure. Limit 8. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551
cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net, Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days), alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org.

March 4 - South Dade Greenways Bike. Off-road bike trip on the



Southern Glades Trail along the C-111 canal in the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area. Look for manatees in Manatee Bay. Lunch is included, but we will not have a sag wagon! Moderate. Limit 16. Cost: \$10 members, \$12 non-members. Leader: Diane Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: diane@cobb-ebin.com.

Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962

e-mail: eeljac@earthlink.net.

Note: Must sign up and pay in full no later than February 25!

March 17 - Noble Hammock Canoe. Paddle an interesting canoe loop trail in Everglades National Park located just north of West Lake. We will attempt to find the hidden canoe trail to West Lake. Join us in this adventure, observing lots of wildlife and gators as we go. Moderate. Limit: 16. Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401.

e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com.

Asst: TBA. (C)

April, 2007

April 14, 15—Prairie Lakes Backpacking. Overnight trip to Prairie Lakes for backpacking. Easy fun trip for all. Leisure. Limit 8. Cost: \$25 members, \$30 non-members.

Leader: Dan Cruse, 305-661-2975, 6580 Santona St. #27, Coral Gables, 33146. Asst: TBA.

April 22—Annual Sierra Club Picnic. Join your friends for a fun day at the annual picnic.

Details: TBA. Leader: Jim Gross.

May, 2007

May 20—Biscayne National Park Snorkel. Snorkel a beautiful reef five miles from Elliot Key with a gourmet supper afterwards in Biscayne National Park. Moderate. Limit

15. Cost: \$55 members, \$60 non-members. Note: Must sign up and pay in full no later than May 1st.

Leader: Diane Jacobs, 305-667-6962

e-mail: diane@cobb-ebin.com.

Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962

e-mail: eeljac@earthlink.net.



Inner City Outings Earth Day Fundraiser

Inner City Outings Miami is proud to announce EARTH DAY EXTRAVAGANZA. ICO will co-host this exciting fundraising event with "Papaloko4Kids", a not-for-profit organization created to empower children through the arts. The event will take place April 22nd—Earth Day—7pm at the Jakmel Art Gallery (147 NW 36th St) in the Wynwood Design District.

Buy or just enjoy art from local artists, enjoy music, drinks and more! Come out and show your support for Mother Earth by supporting these two fantastic organizations.

Please contact Gloria Diaz, ICO volunteer coordinator at gloria@icomiami.org or Karen Gorenstein, ICO chair, at karen249@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer to help at this event or for more information.

*Karen Gorenstein
ICO Chair*

Baynanza- Deering Estate April, 22 2006

Come one, come all, help clean up the bay! The Sierra Club has reserved a site at the Deering Estate for Baynanza. The clean up is from 9 am -12 pm. The address is: The Deering Estate Foundation, 16701 S. W. 72nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33157.

Bags ,bottled water and a beautiful Baynaza t-shirt provided. Wear old clothes and old sneakers that can get wet , hat , sunscreen, and garden gloves.

There will be an an extra treat: a post Baynanza Celebration with Commissioner Katy Sorensen at the Deering Estate from 12-2 pm.

Email Catharina Bernabei at cbernabei@braddock.dadeschools.net or call her 4-9pm at 305 223-6551 (home) or 305 298-0277 (cell, not after 9pm). Also, you may call Alan Nowell 9-5 at 305 270-5262. The deadline is April 10, 2006.

Miami Streetcars: Blows Against the Empire

Finally. With gridlock growing like a steroid-crazed kudzu vine along the South Beach/downtown Miami nexus, a smart, technologically feasible transit alternative is nearly arrived. Three cheers for Miami for showing the *cojones* to confront the snarling gridlock monster that's threatening to overwhelm us! Hi-rise buildings and mega-parking garages, diesel-spewing buses, gas-guzzling SUVs and the increasing flocks of tourists and Kendallites in rentals are slowly, in the hot Florida sun, melding into one giant wheezing, choking, polluting puddle of massy metal. Streets can't get wider (and surely not safer!), so tempers get shorter, drivers drive riskier, and everyone gets nowhere fast. Yet, the Gridlock Empire grows exponentially with every new truck-size car, primed on expensive high-grade gas sucked from the sands of far-flung Arabia, that hits the street. Enough! When does a traffic jam finally become one too many?

Enter the trolley. Quietly whisking you past that fuming, fumbling mayhem of tin and tires as you read your paper, plan your day, and channel the vibe of passing palms—paradise and pretty people (hey, it's Miami!). Doesn't have a snowball's chance, you say? Well, dig this. It hasn't even laid a rail, yet it's already expanded! See, that's the thing about streetcars—they raise property values, bring infusions of cash for streetscaping and pedestrian-friendly improvements, and increase business wherever they go—people want them around. And unlike buses, they actually *ride* them! (Now there's a novel idea: think I'll leave the car home today and take the streetcar!).

Either way, it's the first tap on the funeral drum for the Miami gridlock monster. As streetcar lines weave further afield, those drumbeats will become faster and louder until they're one long, steady roll. See how cool your future looks at <http://www.ci.miami.fl.us/MiamiStreetcar/pages/FAQs.asp>.

J. Bradley

Great Park Summit—2006

the 2006 Great Parks Summit was held at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden February 17 . Highlights of a far-reaching program included an inspirational welcome by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez. The theme of the program was sustainability in park systems.

The first speaker was Fred Kent, president of the Project for Public Spaces, who said that if you define places around people, people will gather in these spaces. He cited examples in Mexico City and Barcelona. He went on to say that a city needs 10 places such as this and that the community itself should decide where to locate these public spaces.

Following was Jim Bowen, the vice president of the RiverCity Company, the company that spearheaded the Chattanooga Renaissance. He outlined how public and private cooperation created the Tennessee River Park and revitalized the city. This showed that a downtown in decline could be rejuvenated into one of the most livable cities in the US.

After a lunch spent enjoying Fairchild Tropical Garden, Charles Jordan, the Chairman of the Conservation Fund, spoke about the Progressive Park System and how it should be a place to keep the youth engaged and thereby plant the seeds for social harmony.

*Stephen Mahoney
Secretary*

(14th St.—Con't from page 1)—The Sierra Club-Miami Group passed a resolution on 3-27-2006 recommending to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that this project be removed from the Long Range Transportation Plan.

If you would like to have this project removed from the Long Range Transportation Plan please write to Carlos Roa rcf@miamidade.gov

For more information on this issue contact Denise Perry at info@poweru.org.

*Mike Robinson
Vice Chair*



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Call for Submissions

voice your opinion or share news regarding environmental issues and the Sierra Club.

Submit your articles or editorials to:

Debbie Matthews (treehuggerdeb@yahoo.com)

Mike Matthews (anakanpa@yahoo.com)

Submissions must reflect Sierra Club values. We reserve the right to edit for content, size, readability, and to decide what will be used.

Science Fair—2006

The Miami Group of the Sierra Club participated in the 2006 Dade County Science Fair by judging environmental projects. Over fifty dollars in prizes were distributed to two winners in the Senior and Junior Divisions. In addition to prize money, a one-year student membership in the Sierra Club was given to each. This year's judges were Benoit Jonckheere and Jim Gross. Lynn Zakevitch-Milano ably designed the award certificates and labeled the ribbons. This year's winners are:

Senior Division

Daniel Lage -- Honorable Mention (\$20)

Disrupting the Biogeochemical cycle: A Study of Lemna minor Eutrophication

Junior Division

Andrew Harrington -- Most Original (\$30)

Post Apocalyptic Sea Farm

Sierra Club & Beer April 18th at Titanic Brewery

April's Sierra Club & Beer takes place on the 18th at 6:00 PM. The topic of discussion will be Earth Day.

Sierra Club and Beer happens the third Tuesday of every month, starting at 6:00 pm, at Titanic Brewery (5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd Coral Gables).



Each month's gathering features a different environmental topic or fun activity with plenty of opportunity for socializing and interaction. All this, plus you'll get a FREE BEER just for showing up!

All are welcome, but only 21 and over will be served alcohol. Contact Mike Matthews at ananpa@yahoo.com or Ken Smith at (305) 801-6876 for more information. Also, find us listed under "Miami" at www.greendrinks.org.



The Wild Oats Natural Marketplace at 1020 Alton Road, Miami Beach and 11701 South Dixie Highway, Pinecrest will celebrate Earth Day throughout the month of April. To show its continued support of Earth Day, Wild Oats is proud to partner and raise money for the Sierra Club, a national grassroots environmental organization dedicated to protecting our communities and the planet. Throughout the month of April, Wild Oats customers can participate in fundraising efforts for the Sierra Club by adding \$1, \$3, or \$5 increments to their final grocery bill. In addition to customer participation, Wild Oats will match what is raised in-store with a donation of up to \$20,000 to benefit the Sierra Club.

To emphasize earth-friendly choices throughout the month, Wild Oats customers can register in-store to win a fully loaded Mercury Mariner Hybrid Car. As part of the Consumer Earth Day Sweepstakes, 200 customers will also receive a free Wild Oats/Mercury sponsored tote bag on Earth Day.

Inner City Outings

It was a perfect day: Saturday at the Fairchild Botanical Tropical Gardens with kids from Oakland Grove and two new volunteers. It's what every ICO leader dreams of.

Also adding to a great day was the glass forms that captured the natural beauty of the gardens by Dale Chihuly.

Juliette, the only girl in the group, went on-line before our outing and she was really excited about seeing the breadfruit tree and some beautiful palms. Juliette was so taken with nature and art she wants to take glass blowing when she goes off to college. Wesner was also in awe of the glass work, he wants to do the same. Kevin, learning that we were going to the gardens, thought the only thing to see was flowers. He was very surprised by the variety, the beauty and the fact that Fairchild was so large and contained so many different ecosystems—rainforests, orchid house, tropical fruits, flowers and much more!

Everyone enjoyed the day—good friends, great kids and an awesome lunch at beautiful Fairchild Botanical Tropical Gardens.

Karen Gorenstein
ICO Chair

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To join our Yahoo! group go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MiamiSierra> on the web and click on "join this group!" or email Mike Matthews at ananpa@yahoo.com. Join now and be kept in the loop! (Interactive listserve)

To receive Miami Sierra news by email, please contact Mike Robinson at miamisiererra@gmail.com.

Join the Sierra Club

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Membership Categories—Circle One

	Individual	Joint
Introductory	\$25	
Regular	\$39	\$47
Supporting	\$75	\$100
Contributing	\$150	\$175
Life	\$1,000	\$1,250
Senior	\$24	\$32
Student	\$24	\$32
Limited Income	\$24	\$32

Contributions, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible, they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra Magazine and \$1 for Chapter publication, Pelican.

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