



# CauseWays

The Newsletter for the Sierra Club Miami Group



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

February 2007

Vol. 37 No. 2

*"To enjoy and protect the natural places in South Florida, to teach others to understand and respect the fragile environment in which we live, and to practice and promote the responsible use of South Florida's ecosystems and resources."*

## The Watershed Study

Many enjoy living in south Miami-Dade County, but what would happen if 730,000 more people moved in with us? Even now traffic is unbearable, canals are polluted, schools are overcrowded, and the cost of housing is out of sight. How bad would it get?

The Miami-Dade County Commission wanted a plan to protect all of the county's assets that contribute to a high quality of life. The County Commission teamed up with the South Florida Water Management District and the South Florida Regional Planning Council to create such a plan. It's called the South Miami-Dade Watershed Study and Plan and it took 5 years and 4 million dollars to complete.

This study, written by an engineering firm, received guidance from local community members. Important thresholds were extensively researched and 21 parameters were selected, analyzed, and scored. This process produced a future land-use plan that will maintain high community standards through the year 2050.

Difficult decisions were made. Not all of the community members were pleased with the results. Our Sierra Club representatives spent years helping guide this study to its completion. The Club believes the results of this study are worthy and fair. The Miami-Dade County Commission needs to implement all of the study's provisions for the well-being of our present and future county residents.

*Mark Oncavage,  
Conservation Chair*

Would you like to get more involved? Find out how, come to a general meeting, come to a Sierra & Beer, contact a board or committee member from page 4! Get involved, the Earth needs you!

## Skyway Support Needed for MPO Meeting on Feb. 22nd

The Skyway campaign has been building and the Coalition is growing every day. Our most recent endorsers are the City of Miami Gardens, ChamberSouth, the Miami Lakes and Green Thumb Garden Clubs and the Builders Association of South Florida, bringing our list of supporters up to 35!

February 22<sup>nd</sup> is the next big day for the Everglades Skyway. We will be going before the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of Miami-Dade County to get their support through a resolution. The MPO has discussed the Skyway before, at their December meeting, where there was much support for the idea, but a vote was not taken.

At the December meeting, the members of the Board of Directors were encouraged by the 25 or so Skyway Supporters that were in the audience, identified by large blue buttons stating "Build the Skyway." We need just as many supporters in the audience on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The MPO meets in the County Commission chambers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Clark Government Center, at 111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, in downtown Miami. The meeting begins at 2:00pm and is not expected to go longer than 2 hours.

The Skyway is a key project in moving Everglades Restoration forward and we must get the support of the MPO in order to take the next step in the campaign. If you are interested in attending the meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, or would like more information, please contact [Kristina.trotta@sierraclub.org](mailto:Kristina.trotta@sierraclub.org) or visit [www.build-the-skyway.com](http://www.build-the-skyway.com)



EVERGLADES SKYWAY COALITION

## Save the Dates!

**Every Second Monday—Sierra Club Miami General Meeting at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club 2990 S. Bayshore Dr, Coconut Grove**

7:00 PM—[Sign up for Outings/Social](#)

8:00 PM—[meeting begins](#)

**Feb. 20th—Sierra & Beer**

7:00 PM -Titanic Brewery, 5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables

**March 24th—4th Annual Everglades Awareness Concert at Tobacco Road**

This year's benefit is in support of the Everglades Skyway, the 11-mile bridge that could save the Everglades. Featuring the best local music of all styles, educational speakers, and outreach by our local environmental community

**Expanded Outings—See Page 4**

## Will 3 30-Story Condos Destroy Vizcaya's Beauty?

The Miami Commission Thursday night (1/25/07) at 11:05 p.m. voted 3-2 to approve a move by Mercy Hospital to modify the Comprehensive Land Use, a land change issue, to allow the institution to sell and develop land for three 30 story high end condominiums and despite a six hour contentious debate on the item, the Related Groups development plans moved forward. The ordinance will come back in front of the commission one more time since it was a first reading.

A number of modifications have been added to the deal but there was concern that the Catholic Arch Diocese and La Salle School might also want to sell its adjacent land to developers if the price is right.

It is rare at City Hall when you get the record attendance of residents as was the case the other night. The last time I saw this passion was when the Cloisters project in the Central Grove (continued on page 2)

## Spring Fling Plans in Motion

As announced at the December Holiday Party, the third annual Sierra Club Miami Group fundraising dinner is scheduled for Friday, May 5th, 2007. The first year that this fundraising event was held, it was in October of 2004 and called the Harvest Moon Dinner and Silent Auction. The second year, we had it planned for November 2005, but Hurricane Wilma dropped by 11 days prior to our event, and as you may recall, we had to reschedule it to March 2006. As a result, ExCom decided to change the Harvest Moon to the **Spring Fling** and avoid the hurricane season all together.

This year, the Spring Fling Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on the 20th floor of the Double Tree Hotel on South Bayshore Drive surrounded by great views. The buffet and open bar will be accompanied by music for your dancing and listening pleasure, and a silent auction. It all begins at 7:30 PM and lasts until 11:30 PM.

The cost per person is \$100 and includes valet parking, although there are limited parking meters to self-park on the street, if you prefer.

We are once again reaching into the Sierra Club's tradition of grassroots participation, to pull it all off. We have many jobs to accomplish before the big day, many from the comfort of your own home. Some of the tasks include: Invitations, Responses, Publicity, Center Pieces, Speaker and the Silent Auction.

To volunteer to help with the 2007 Spring Fling, contact Maria Papazian at [mdpapazian@msn.com](mailto:mdpapazian@msn.com) or at 305-519-0877.

The Spring Fling Planning Committee Meeting will meet from 6 to 7:30 PM at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club on Monday, February, 12th, 2007. Meetings will be kept to a minimum; most communication will be via email.

*Maria Papazian*

## Continued from page 1—3 30-Story Condos

was proposed around 1998 and it was to be built on the land that separated the Historic Barnacle from Peacock Park. The state of Florida waited for over two decades for Miami to acquire the land and make it into the Grove's little central park but that was not to be.

Former Commissioner J.L. Plummer was supposed to get the deal done but he failed and even voted for the high end development even though hundreds of residents opposed the deal. At the time his arrogance toward the dissenting public was appalling

and contributed to his loss in 1999 after 29 years being a commissioner.

The Watchdog Report writes about the Cloisters project because it was one of things that activated me to do what I am now doing and the Mercy deal may be another project that dooms a historical and environmental treasure, the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens.

In the museum's case, located north of the proposed condominiums the executive director and board members pleaded for a break noting this development will dwarf the community treasure and change the experience people get when they visit the museum.

The public might get one more crack at stopping this development but if the past is any indication, regardless of how many people turn out, it appears the Miami commission is committed to the project even though the district's commissioner Marc Sarnoff is against it along with 2009 mayoral candidate Commissioner Tomas Regalado.

*Dan Ricker- Watchdog Report  
Reprinted with his permission*

## Save the Manatee calls on Gov Crist

Save the Manatee Club is asking residents to contact the governor in an effort to stop the FWC's downlisting of manatees.

The FWC's recently released draft of their Manatee Management Plan, which is the final step in lowering the manatee's classification on the state's imperiled species list, allows a 30-percent decline in the population in three generations, according to the Save the Manatee Club.

**In the last 10 years, more than 3,100 manatees have died from all causes, with 760 of those animals killed by boats.** To that end, the FWC launched Operation Mermaid to remind boaters to slow down for manatees.

Although Save the Manatee Club praises law enforcement initiatives such as Operation Mermaid, and encourages the public to support additional funding for enforcement on the water, the concern remains about future plans to protect Florida's manatees.

"Such a catastrophic loss is effectively being sanctioned by the state and will be absolutely unacceptable to Floridians and people around the world who care about these unique and defenseless animals," said Patrick Rose, executive director of Save the Manatee Club. "And since the plan is geared toward avoiding greater than a 30-percent loss rather than attaining an optimum sustainable population, it will be

impossible to hold the state accountable for protecting manatees from escalating human-related threats such as watercraft strikes, loss of warm-water habitat, and destruction of habitat associated with development and climate change." The club encourages the public to contact Gov. Charlie Crist at [charlie.crist@myflorida.com](mailto:charlie.crist@myflorida.com), or by phone at (850) 488-7146.

*Helen Spivey*

## Sierra Club - Best in Show at 25th Annual King Mango Strut

What did 45 Miami Sierrans do on December 31st in Coconut Grove with ten buildings, three cranes, and six cars? We participated in the annual King Mango Strut, the wackiest and funniest parade in the U. S., where nothing or no one is sacred. 2006 marked the Strut's twenty-fifth year; the Miami Sierra Club group has been a highlight of this parade for the past eighteen years.

Anybody who lives in Miami will understand our "tongue-in-cheek" theme: "SIERRA CLUB SALUTES DEVELOPMENT: TOO MUCH IS NEVER ENOUGH!"

In our entry we featured "three dancing cranes" and ten immense buildings made of cardboard. Four of these buildings were continuously moved and pushed in front of the audience by "developers" and "construction workers" in hard hats who carried megaphones and "Over-Building Permits" and who happily blocked everyone's view. All the while, six cardboard cars were in a continuous gridlock, their obnoxious occupants speaking on the phone, applying makeup, and blowing the horn throughout the parade.

We couldn't have been the huge success that we were without the help of our Master Prop Builder, Vern Vurkhart, and of my husband Paul, Don Howe, and Amy Werba. Ours was really a collective effort, involving a lot of hard work and some great ideas from everyone. We had our photo published in The Miami Herald, and we were judged best of the fifty groups by Antoinette Baldwin, King Mango Strut organizer. More importantly, we delivered our message to about 10,000 people in a fun and entertaining way, and had a blast in the process.

<http://www.kingmangostrut.org/>

*Coky Michel*

### Sierra Club & Beer



February's Sierra Club & Beer takes place on the 20th at **7:00 PM**. This month's topic is the Everglades Awareness Benefit.

Sierra Club & Beer happens the third Tuesday of every month, starting at 7:00 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 [anakpanpa@yahoo.com](mailto:anakpanpa@yahoo.com) or Ken Smith at (305) 801-6876 for more information. Also, find us listed under "Miami" at [www.greendrinks.org](http://www.greendrinks.org).

#### Sponsors and volunteers needed for Everglades Awareness campaign and concert!

Help raise awareness for the Everglades Skyway by helping promote or by sponsoring this important event. For more info, contact Mike Matthews at (305) 446-9848 or [anakpanpa@yahoo.com](mailto:anakpanpa@yahoo.com)

### Get On The Miami Sierra Club Email Lists!

To receive the Miami Sierra email newsletter, please contact Mike Robinson at [miamisierra@gmail.com](mailto:miamisierra@gmail.com).

To join our Yahoo! Group (interactive list-serve) go to: [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MiamiSierra](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MiamiSierra) or email [anakpanpa@yahoo.com](mailto:anakpanpa@yahoo.com). Be kept in the loop!

### Full Moon Concert at the Lighthouse

#### GRANT LIVINGSTON

An Evening of Acoustical Music and Storytelling at Beautiful Cape Florida State Park.

Saturday, March 3, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

A Benefit for the Friends of Cape Florida  
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### Clyde Butcher Reception and Book Signing

The Center for Visual Communication is pleased to present **dramatic large scale black and white photographs of Florida's natural landscape by internationally acclaimed Master Photographer Clyde Butcher** at the inaugural exhibition of its Wynwood location.

At the reception for the exhibition Mr. Butcher will be presenting his new book **Apalachicola River: an American Treasure** with a foreword by Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Bob Graham. His other publications including the 2007 calendar will also be available.

**FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.**

541 NW 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33127

Exhibition Dates: Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>—Mar. 6, 2007

Gallery hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday; 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays. Reception and exhibition are open free to the public. The Center for Visual Communication is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization that provides community based arts programs visual arts resources.

**Sign up now for Outings! See the new expanded list on the next page. Hiking, biking, camping, canoeing, kayaking and more! Some are free!**

## BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER CRANDON PARK

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you'd be standing in a mangrove.  
Come see for yourself.



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305•361•6767 [www.biscaynenaturecenter.org](http://www.biscaynenaturecenter.org)

### Horse Creek Property for Sale

We are looking for a good owner for our spot on Horse Creek. We have the five acres next door to where Bob Kelly used to live, down the road from Solomon's Castle between Ona and Arcadia, Florida. It has a camper, solar power, running water, and a great platform for viewing the wildlife of the Peace River area. Send us an email to discuss how you can take over stewardship of this piece of Florida wildness. Lil and Jim Groves.

[rviiil@bellsouth.net](mailto:rviiil@bellsouth.net)



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West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
561.659.9886



**Outings—Sign Up Now!**

**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@dadeschools.net](mailto:cbernabei@dadeschools.net). Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days), e-mail: [alan.nowell@sfcfcu.org](mailto: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. Leader: Diane Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: [diane@cobb-ebin.com](mailto:diane@cobb-ebin.com). Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: [eeljac@earthlink.net](mailto:eeljac@earthlink.net). Note: Must sign up and pay in full no later than February 1!

**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](mailto:JMGross3013@aol.com).

**February 25— Loxahatchee River Canoeing/Kayaking—** This is a beautiful National Wild and Scenic River . See [www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/guide/regions/south/trails/loxahatchee.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/guide/regions/south/trails/loxahatchee.htm) for more information. An outfitter rents canoes and kayaks or provides transport if you have your own. Cost is \$50/boat for canoe or double kayak rental, \$40 for single kayak rental, and \$25/boat if you bring your own canoe or kayak. Moderate. Limit 20. Ron Haines , 561-964-1995, [RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net](mailto:RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net). Reservations must be made by February 15!!

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

**March 3 - Bird watching/ Ecowalk at Green Cay Wetlands, Boynton Beach .** We will walk a total of 1.5 miles and be out for about 2 hours, depending on the birds. Bring your binoculars, hats and sunscreen. The Green Cay Wetlands and Nature Center is located at 12800 Hagen Ranch Road , on the east side of Hagen Ranch Road, between Boynton Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue . FREE. Leisure. Limit 20. Lisa Hanley, 561-732-9578, [lisa.hanley@Juno.com](mailto:lisa.hanley@Juno.com).

**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](mailto:diane@cobb-ebin.com). Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: [eeljac@earthlink.net](mailto:eeljac@earthlink.net). Note: Must sign up and pay in full no later than February 25!

**March 11, - Meet at Shark Valley at 10:00 AM in Everglades National Park for a 15-mile bike ride.** Link: <http://www.florida-outdoors.com/9trail-sv.htm> Bike rentals are available. Lots of wildlife to be seen. We'll find somewhere tacky and funky for lunch afterwards and then head home. Shark Valley is about an hour and 40 minutes from Lantana. FREE except for bike rentals and park admission. Moderate. Limit 19. Ron Haines, 561-964-1995, [RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net](mailto:RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net). Reservations must be made by March 1!!

**March 17 - 5 to 7 mile hike in the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, www.floridaconservation.org/recreation/jw\_corbett/visitorinfo.asp. northwest of West Palm Beach.** FREE. Moderate. Charles Hunt, 561-967-4770, [sierra@smartsolutions.com](mailto:sierra@smartsolutions.com).

**March 18—Loxahatchee Canoe Trip.** Paddle the Loxahatchee River from near where the river crosses Indiantown Road near Jupiter, FL to Trapper John's Camp for lunch. Then canoe leisurely to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Join us in this adventure, hopefully observing lots of wildlife and gators as we go. Moderate. Limit: 16. \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Jim Gross, 305-665-2401, e-mail: [JMGross3013@aol.com](mailto:JMGross3013@aol.com). Asst: TBA.



**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.

**Join the Sierra Club**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Categories—Circle One**

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

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