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Greetings!

Happy Valentines Day. Show your love to mother earth by planting a tree. Please come join us at our next monthly meeting on February 9th. We also have our conservation committee meeting at 6:30 PM. Come see what you can do to help.

Hope to see you there!

General Meeting - Upcoming Speakers

General Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. Social Time is at 7:00 PM. Club news and updates start at 7:30 PM, and the speaker starts at approximately 8:00 PM.

February 9th- 7:00 PM - Coconut Grove Sailing Club - 2990 South Bayshore Drive

The Sierra Club Miami Next General Meeting is on February 9th.

Why not bring some cookies, baked goods, cupcakes and share it with friends at the meeting? Start the Sierra New Year off with our get-together at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. Great venue, and good company.

The guest speaker this month is TJ Marshall from Ocean Conservancy.

The Miami Group holds a general meeting each month for people to come and meet fellow Sierrans, hear a guest speaker on an environmental topic, sign up for outings, and volunteer to help on issues in South Florida. The Sailing Club where we now hold out meetings is located at 2990 South Bayshore Drive, Coconut Grove, right next to Peacock Park. Meeting night is the second Monday of every month and doors normally open at 7 p.m. We start with outings sign up and socializing and the guest speaker/program begins at 8 p.m.

Festival Volunteers Needed

The Sierra Club Miami Group will have a booth at the Annual Native Plant Day sponsored by the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. This free event will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 9 am - 4 pm. It will be held at A.D. Barnes Park, Natural Area -- 3401 SW 72nd Avenue, Miami. Volunteers are needed to man tables for this event and Efor EarthFest at Crandon Park on April 16, 2009.

Please contact Maria Papazian m.papazian@miami.edu

Florida Water Usage

by Stephanie Conesa

For over sixty years, Florida's population growth and subsequent increase in water usage have been recognized as threats to water availability. During this time, concerned parties have convened to discuss the possibilities of saltwater intrusion and water shortages. Utility companies have been ordered to restrain groundwater mining. To deter overconsumption, regulations have been enacted and residential water rates have escalated.

Throughout this period, Florida's population has expanded dramatically. Florida is now the fourth most populated state, behind California, Texas, and New York. It is also the seventh fastest growing state in the nation. Between 1990 and 2000, the state has experienced a 23 percent increase in population growth. Miami-Dade county's population has grown by 16.3 percent during this period and, according to the 2000 Census, the city of Miami is both Florida's second most populous city and metro area.

These trends are reflected in water use. The United States ranks seventh in international water usage, with American single-family homes consuming more than that of other nations. Florida is the third most water consumptive state in the U.S., after California and Texas. On average, residents use about 140 gallons a day per person. Over half of Florida's residential water use goes toward lawn maintenance. Given the relationship between population growth and water consumption, some estimate that Florida's demand for water could double in as little as twenty years.

Groundwater is being mined before it can be replenished, leading to water shortages and a more vulnerable natural environment. All over the state, many reservoirs have already been critically depleted. Some report that in several areas, officials are attempting to moderate consumption by issuing fines and ordering court appearances for violating Florida's water rationing regulations.

Still, officials have been criticized as being ineffectual, not putting enough effort into enforcing these rules. Many citizens, citing a lack of adequate response from local government, have become discouraged from reporting offenses.

Officials contend that in many cases they have neither the staff nor the time to investigate these claims. They point out that it is also difficult to thwart violations as they are happening. Backed by such arguments, officials in South Daytona admit to never having issued a ticket for disobeying restrictions on water use. In November of 2008, the Southwest Florida Water Management District appealed to local governments for stronger implementation of existing regulations in response to extreme water shortages.

In order to alleviate stresses on Florida's water supply, it is essential that both residents and local municipalities recognize their responsibility to maintaining this natural resource, and work collectively towards this goal. Governments must reassess existing rules and determine the plausibility of their enforcement. Such considerations crucial to the establishment of effective regulation. Consumers must be made aware of the importance of respecting these rules, and ought to be held accountable for evading them. Conservation remains the primary means by which Florida residents work to sustain the health of their water supply.

Miami Marine Stadium Progress

Our seminar, 'The Future of Miami Marine Stadium' was a big success. We had 150 people including City Commissioners Marc Sarnoff, Joe Sanchez, Tomas Regalado and County Commissioner Carlos Jimenez.

During the first half of the program, Jorge Hernandez, Don Worth, and Enrique Nunez, Planner with the City of Miami, talked about the challenges and time frames involved in bringing the Marine Stadium back and moving forward with the Master Plan for Virginia Key.

During the break, we watched a dragon boat race: Dragon Slayers vs. Puff Dragon Team.

During the second half of the program, 15 promoters and organizations discussed their plans for events at Miami Marine Stadium. We have posted summary comments below. Anyone who was in attendance came away with the tremendous potential of the Stadium.

At the conclusion of the event, tours of the Marine Stadium were provided by dragon boat.

We were very pleased with the event-a good step forward!

University of Miami Architecture Studio

Jorge Hernandez and Hilario Candela are teaching a preservation and planning design studio for graduate level students on the development relationship between the Marine Stadium and the Basin. Architecture students will survey potential users of Marine Stadium to determine how the Basin might be used for these events and bring current this Landmark into the cultural and social calendar of our community. This, in turn, will be used to map out requirements for the Basin. The purpose of this studio is to provide some useful information to EDSA and the City of Miami for the development of the Virginia Key Master Plan.

Lecture about the Marine Stadium by Hilario Candela

Hilario will lecture on the Marine Stadium at 6:00 PM at the Glasgow Hall, Jorge Perez M. Architecture Center at the University of Miami School of Architecture. Hilario will address the prevailing architectural context in Miami at the start of the decade of the 60s, at a point in time when our community was exposed to the serious civic attitude flourishing in America and the evidence that this future public facility offered. Candela will focus on the contribution of mid-century modernist design approach and the pursuit of the strength of elegance. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Next Steps

We continue to quietly work on operational, financial, and management issues that are involved with restoring the Stadium. These are key concerns and we continue to do more research.

We are thinking about doing another, more social event soon as we seek to keep the Marine Stadium in the public eye. Please continue to refer to us your ideas, leads, and contacts.

Below we have posted the summary of individuals who made presentations on events at Miami Marine Stadium at our January 10, 2009 meeting.

Jorge Hernandez
Becky Roper Matkov
Don Worth

www.marinestadium.org

EVENTS AT MIAMI MARINE STADIUM

The individuals below all spoke at our event, "The Future of Miami Marine Stadium" on January 10, 2009. They are all experienced event promoters-and strong supporters of the Marine Stadium.

This provides an overview of the marvelous potential of the Marine Stadium. We are adding more event promoters and organizations to this list all the time. Also check our website, www.marinestadium.org under the "Letters of Support" section to see more information from these individuals and other promoters and organizations.

Gene Delouse, Rhythm Foundation
Website: www.rhythmfoundation.com

The Rhythm Foundation is the foremost presenter of Latin and World Music in South Florida. Over more than 20 years, they have presented International legends as well as up and coming stars at the Fillmore Gleason Theater, Gusman Theater, Adrienne Arsht Center and many other venues. The Rhythm Foundation has a successful track record of using concerts to stimulate growth in business and neighborhoods (South Beach, Downtown Miami) and looks forward to doing a concert series at the Miami Marine Stadium.

Arturo Abalai (President), Fernando Mendoza (VP), Miami Rowing & Watersports Center
website: www.miamirowing.com

The Miami Rowing and Watersports Center (established in 1974) is the basin's longest running occupant and is the premier rowing and kayaking center in the Southeast. Home to eight US Rowing National Team Members and two Olympic Kayakers, MRCW rowers have won Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals in various World Championship competitions. MRWC has a very successful competitive youth rowing program for HS students, summer camp rowing for all ages, adult Learn to Row programs, home to collegiate Winter Training, and a prolific competitive masters rowing program. MRWC has hosted National and International rowing championships at the Marine Stadium, such as the US Masters Nationals (1990) and FISA World Masters Championships (1991) in addition to its annual international regatta.

The Marine Stadium basin is the region's best rowing venue for these competitions, and is certainly one of the most unique in the world, as evidenced by the response of the international rowing community. The Marine Stadium has been sorely missed by the United States, collegiate, and international rowing community since its closure in 1992. MRC looks forward to bringing back major National and International rowing events to the Marine Stadium.

Christina LaBuzetta, President, Location Resources
website: www.locationresources.com

Location Resources is a site location company, specializing in film, TV, and advertising. The Company has assisted on productions such as CSI Miami and The Fast and the Furious.

The Miami Marine Stadium is a very unique venue which will be very attractive to various media productions. More and more, advertisers are also interested in using unusual, architectural settings such as this. And concerts filmed on location (i.e. "Jimmy Buffett on The Bay") tend to have a very long shelf life. The Stadium is a great opportunity to promote Miami.

Bruce Orosz, President, Act Productions
website: www.actproductions.com

ACT is one of the most highly regarded event companies in South Florida, and produces the Fed-Ex Orange Bowl halftime show, many events for Art Basel, and the Miami Beach Polo World Cup.

The Marine Stadium is a remarkable setting that combines land, water, and sky. More and more, tourist destinations prosper if they can provide unique experiences-which the Stadium can certainly do. The Stadium has tremendous potential for water related events and family entertainment-something Miami is very lacking in. ACT Productions looks forward to the opportunity to produce events at the Marine Stadium.

Mike Schrieffer, President, F1 Champboat Series
website: www.champboat.com

F1 Champboats are a fast growing boat racing series, which utilize small, 17 foot hydroplanes, with a short turning radius. With a home offices in Charlotte, North Carolina (home of NASCAR), the series has become very popular and is currently on national television on the Speed Channel. F1 Champboat would like to return to Miami in February, 2010 to hold an event at the Marine Stadium site. They look forward to resuming boat racing at Marine Stadium.

Environmental issues can be handled because the boats race in a very contained race course. Spotters can be used to watch for manatees and they can be assisted by also

having spotters in the cranes that overlook the race course and are used for television cameras. In the event a manatee or other form of marine life is spotted the race is shut down immediately.

Russell Etling, President, Russell Etling Company
website: www.napoleonexhibit.com

Russell is a very experienced event promoter who produced concerts at the Marine Stadium (Kenny Rogers) and is currently a member of the Orange Bowl Committee. The Stadium has a marvelous set of amenities which will be extremely attractive to promoters and event organizations.

Julio Viyella, President, Team Row,
website: www.teamrow.org

Team Row is an organization that teaches young adults to row and is dedicated to promoting the sport of rowing throughout the community. Team Row proposes to conduct community based rowing programs during non-peak hours. Such use would serve the demand for sports opportunities in many of the downtown/Little Havana/Coconut Grove neighborhoods.

Mike Przytawik, President, Waltzing Waters
website www.waltzingwaters.com

Waltzing Waters is the foremost creator of "liquid fireworks" in the United States. These fireworks (water fountains that can be choreographed and lit) are a cost effective and environmentally sensitive alternative to fireworks. The displays can be massive-over 200 feet in length and 100 feet in the air, and can be stand alone entertainment, or be coordinated with live music or other events.

The Marine Stadium offers a remarkable venue for a waltzing waters display-which can be movable. In order to create interest, it would be a good idea to place one in the Stadium basin before the Marine Stadium is renovated.

Jonathan Strauss, Miami Sports International, Inc.
website: www.board-up.net; www.Swimgym.net

This sports event promoter produces the highly successful Board Up Miami, a wakeboarding competition that is held on the Marine Stadium site. This very exciting and highly visual event already attracts 3,000 people. Jonathan Strauss is also active with his brother and father in Swim Gym, the facility right next to the Miami Rowing Club that teaches people how to swim and is entering its 14th year of operating an all-aquatics sports camp for over 1,200 children a summer, ages 3-15.

Lance O'Brien, Kulchashok Muzik,
website: www.kulchashok.com

Lance is a highly respected DJ, promoter, and producer of Reggae and Surf Music. He has a radio show which is broadcast to college radio stations throughout the United States and the Caribbean. The Marine Stadium is a phenomenal location for "island" music like this. Lance looks forward to promoting events at the Stadium.

Steve David, American Boat Racing Association
website: www.abrahamhydroplanes.com

Steve has a unique perspective; he is a champion boat racer and also a past member of the Port Everglades Planning Board. The Marine Stadium was a very popular venue with boat racers and audiences. It should again take its place as a premier boat racing location in the United States. Boat racing takes up very little time (a few weekends a year) and environmental concerns can be met with careful planning and cooperation with regulatory agencies. The positive is that these events are very popular and can bring much needed support for Marine Stadium restoration and maintenance.

Joe Chi, President, Miami Dragon Boat Club
website: www.miamidragon.com

Dragon boat racing is the fastest growing outdoor spectator sport in the world. The Miami Dragon Boat Club has already hosted major events and next fall, the National Championships will be in Miami. The Marine Stadium offers one of the best-if not the best-venue in the world to view Dragon Boat races.

Bob Wild, Promoter

Bob Wild produced boat racing events at Miami Marine Stadium, and currently works with both the Miami Dragon Boat Club and Board-up Miami. He noted that rowing and powerboat events can be compatible, with complementary programs at each event.

Amaury DaCosta and Wilber Anderson, Miami International Triathlon,
website: www.mitriathlon.com

The Triathlon was held at the Marine Stadium site for the first time last year and was a big success; there were over 1,500 participants and thousands of spectators. Enrollment for this year's Triathlon, which will be held March 15, 2009, is up significantly. We would like to use the Stadium itself for this event. We would also like to use the Stadium for other athletic events.

For more information, go to www.marinestadium.org

Pirates, Indiana Jones and the Panama Canal

As odd as the title seems, Panama has throughout its history, up until today, been a magnet for adventure and lore. From exploring Darien National Park (Darien Gap), considered one of the wildest primeval rainforests in the Americas, where only Indiana Jones would dare to travel; to Panama City, where the infamous pirate Henry Morgan gained his reputation by ransacking, and ravaging this historic city; Panama, today, like her famous canal has bridged north and south, east and west, to create a new world of unimaginable richness in both culture and commerce.

Founded in 1519, present day Panama City is by far the wealthiest capital in Central America. She has long been considered the metropolis of the Pacific and the center of the New World for silks and spices of the Orient. Since her inception, Panama, or more specifically, Panama La Vieja, for 150 years profited mainly from Spain's famed bullion pipeline, which ran from Peru's gold and silver mines to Europe via Panama. As a result, Panama became a pirates dream come true - a virtual Fort Knox.

Perhaps the most legendary of all pirate exploits occurred in 1671, by the most legendary of all pirates - Sir Henry Morgan. He led 1200 fellow pirates in overtaking Panama City. In an adventurous charge down the Chagres River and into the city of Panama, Henry Morgan and his men plundered nearly everything in sight and later destroyed what was left standing by setting the city on fire. In ensuing years, Spain built numerous forts in Portobelo to defend her bullion and galleons.

No story is complete without including the tumultuous and adventurous accomplishment of the Panama Canal. Followed by the catastrophic French attempt to build the canal first, an effort that claimed 22,000 lives; the U.S completed construction in the early part of the 20th century with a cost of not only American lives, but also countless unheralded Panamanians.

On a geological level, Panama, acts as a land bridge between North and South America. As a result, parks like Darien National Park (Darien Gap), located on the border of Colombia, play a critical role as a biological corridor, which allows passage of flora and fauna between the continents. The Darien has historically been seen as a foreboding, and a dangerous place into which explorers venture. More accurately, she is one of planet earth's last great bastions of pristine tropical rainforests. Her biodiversity is so incredible, that she has been named both a World Biosphere Reserve as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Moreover, La Amistad National Park, also an enormous area, encompassing two countries (Costa Rica and Panama), is also considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a smaller scale, yet equally impressive, the small town of Boquete, which lies along the same Talamanca mountain range as La Amistad National Park, is known throughout Panama for her cool, fresh, climate and pristine environment. Other natural areas worth mentioning are El Valle, Penonome, Santa Fe, and Pedasi.

Although a lot has been written about Panamas' fabled past, nothing makes Panama so alluring as her beaches and Islands. An unprecedented 1518 islands with tan beaches, turquoise waters, swaying palm trees, colorful fish and sea turtles; make her Archipelagos some of the most visited in all of Central America. Archipelago de Las Perlas is just such an Island. The name of this Island is an appropriate name for this region, where oysters abound and where some of the world's finest pearls have been found. Yet another gem is Archipelago de Bocas del Toro, considered a biologist's fantasy as well as a favorite location for the T.V series 'Survivor' for a dozen countries. Other areas worthy of praise include Archipelago de San Blas, and Coiba Island.

Panama, whose Indian name means 'abundance of fish', has mostly evaded the tourist radar screen despite having more to offer than its wildly popular western neighbor, Costa Rica. However, recent events have begun a trend of economic boom in Panama, bringing many Americans to pack their belongings and move to Panama. As John le Carre writes in his novel, 'The Tailor of Panama', 'we've got everything God needed to make paradise. Great farming, beaches, mountains, wildlife you wouldn't believe, put a stick in the ground you get a fruit tree, and people so beautiful you could cry.'

*Our tours will range from 4, 7, and 10 days and must contain at least 4 per group.

Next Tour dates to Panama:

April 18

May 4 & 22 2009

Contact: Elston Raimundo Chavarria

www.latinamericanadventuresllc.com

raimundochavarria@yahoo.com

Phone: 954-662-1539

MIAMI GROUP 2008-2009 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

MIAMI GROUP OUTINGS INFORMATION

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 at the discretion of the leader.

2008 - 2009 Miami Group Outings Schedule

February 2009

February 14, 15, 16 - Ocala National Forest Camp/Hike/Canoe. Camp and recreate in beautiful Ocala National Forest. Camp, transportation, canoe rental, camp fees and most meals included. Camp in the pines, day hike a trail, swim in the spring, moderate canoe down Juniper Springs Run and back to camp for campfire and camaraderie. Moderate. Limit 8. Tentative cost: \$150 members, \$175 non-members. Email: Leader Kaatje Bernabei, kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net, 305-223-6551 and Assist: Alan Nowell, mrhitnmiss@aol.com 305-253-4250.

February 28 - Everglades National Park "101" Day Walk. Introductory visit and "walk-hike" sampler in the 'Glades for beginners and refresher for veterans and guests. We'll preview our experience with film, displays and visiting art show at the Coe Visitor Center then stroll the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and nearby Gumbo Limbo Trail followed by a visit to the Pinelands area for a gourmet lunch (included) and walk an unimproved trail there. Time and weather permitting we'll visit Pa-hay-okee Overlook boardwalk. Each trail less than one mile long. We'll look for gators, birds, turtles, fish, maybe a snake or two and bugs in season. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost \$20. Please email: Leader Kaatje Bernabei, kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net, 305-223-6551 and Assist: Alan Nowell, mrhitnmiss@aol.com 305-253-4250.

March 2008

March 7, 2009 - Florida Trail/Loop Road to Oasis Ranger Station Day Hike. Come slosh with us north from the southern terminus trailhead of the Florida Trail (at Loop Road) past Robert's Strand to Oasis Ranger Station on Tamiami Trail. Orchids, bromeliads, dwarf cypress, giant sword ferns. Rough, wet, beautiful and remote. Potentially strenuous 7.7 miles for the fit, experienced hiker. Limit 6. Cost \$15. Email: Leader Kaatje Bernabei, kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net, 305-223-6551 and Assist: Alan Nowell, mrhitnmiss@aol.com 305-253-4250.

April 2008

April 26 - Annual Sierra Club Picnic. Join your friends for a fun day at the Miami Group's annual picnic. Details: TBA. Leisure. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401, e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. Assts: Lee and Diane Jacobs, 305667-6962, email: eeljac@bellsouth.net.

South Florida Group Outings

Training Events:

February 14-15 - 9:00- 5:00 The University of Florida is sponsoring a SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course at Paynes Prairie State Park. <http://www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie> Cost is \$150 (tuition only) for the 16 hour course. No CPR just WFA. Receive a two year certification from SOLO. Instructed by UF staff. Contact Rudy Scheffer at 727-726-8375 or e-mail: rudy@adventuresworldwide.com.

March 6-14 - The University of Florida is sponsoring a SOLO Wilderness First Responder (WFR) course. This class is for those interested in a more intensive course. For more information Contact Rudy Scheffer at 727-726-8375 or e-mail: rudy@adventuresworldwide.com or www.soloschools.com

March 28 - Outing Leader Training OLT 201. A requirement for Outing Leaders who want to lead overnight trips away from cars. Location in the Tampa Bay Area. For more details contact: Rudy Scheffer, 727.726.8375 or email: rudy@adventuresworldwide.com

March 21-22 - 9:00- 5:00 The University of Florida is sponsoring a SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course at Paynes Prairie State Park. <http://www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie> Cost is \$150 (tuition only) for the 16 hour course. No CPR just WFA. Receive a two year certification from SOLO. Instructed by UF staff. Contact Rudy Scheffer at 727-726-8375 or e-mail: rudy@adventuresworldwide.com.

February 14-16 - Camping at Fort DeSoto Park (St. Petersburg) Invite your sweetheart to celebrate Valentine's Day or come solo to one of America's favorite pristine beaches. Active participants can enjoy swimming, hiking, paddling and biking or rollerblading on a paved trail that winds its way around this large park on the southern tip of Pinellas County. Those that just want to relax on a white-sanded beach or under palm tree canopies can do that instead. Planned group activities will include a ranger-lead interpretive hike on Sunday morning, tour of Fort DeSoto, and shared meals. All campers will be expected to help prepare or clean up one meal. \$75 participant fee includes camping fee, fort tour, and five meals. Trip leader has some extra tents available. Limited to 12 people. Reserve early with Brigita at 239-337-1857 or

bbgahr@embarqmail.com (Calusa)

February 20 - Women's Crystal River Kayak Trip. We will explore King's Bay, a critical habitat for the manatees who winter here. Cost \$45 to rent kayaks, free to launch your own. Please reserve a spot at least a week in advance. Sue Brandon, brandon11@earthlink.net , 813-622-1800. (Suncoast)

February 21 - Leisurely Urban Bicycling in the Lake Worth Area. Explore local parks, open spaces, and neighborhoods with fellow Sierrans. Leisure. Limit 20. FREE. Ron Haines, 561-964-1995, RonaldHaines@bellsouth.net (Loxahatchee)

February 22 - Morning bike ride. We will ride on the Pinellas Trail from Curlew up to Tarpon Springs for a Greek meal by the sponge docks. Learn about the Pinellas Trail, a linear park stretching almost the length of Pinellas. An easy ride of about 18 miles. Leader Ben Berauer, 727-392-2821 or bferauer@aol.com. (Suncoast)

February 28-1 - Overnight backpacking trip in the Ocala National Forest, Juniper Springs Wilderness Area. Easy total 9 mile trip. Learn about forest fires and forest management. Primitive camping. Limited to 10 participants. Leader: Rudy Scheffer, 727.726.8375, rudy@adventuresworldwide.com

March 1 - Ecowalk at High Ridge Scrub in Lantana. We will walk, with frequent stops to look, listen and absorb, for about 1½ hours. Maybe the lupines will be in bloom and maybe we'll spot lots of warblers. Bring your water, hat, sunscreen and binoculars. There is parking but NO facilities at this natural area. Leisure/moderate because of deep sand in areas. Limit 10. Lisa Hanley, 561-732-9578, lisa.hanley@Juno.com. (Loxahatchee)

March 7-8 - Backpack to Bee Island in Myakka River State Park. 11 mile loop trail. Discover and explore a Florida grassland prairie park and learn how it is being restored. We camp under large old oaks and hike through varied habitat. Leader Ben Berauer, 727-392-2821 or bferauer@aol.com. (Suncoast)

March 13 & 14, 7 PM to 7 PM - Yes, this is a 24-hour event! Muir Trek™ through J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. This sunrise to sunset journey, conducted in the "here and now," emphasizes the Muir-inspired qualities of zest, celebration, joy, and adventure. The focus of the Muir Trek is on the individual in the natural world, not the group. Group bonding is not emphasized on a Muir Trek. Instead, the day is accented with leader inputs which include readings from John Muir's journals and which help the participants explore their own perceptions and experiences in nature. More info about Corbett can be found at http://myfwc.com/recreation/jw_corbett/default.asp. We will camp at the Everglades Youth Camp and spend the day Saturday exploring the natural area. Moderate. Limit 10. \$30. Joan Hourican, 561-306-2462, hourican@fau.edu.

March 15 - Paddle the Estero River and picnic dinner at Koreshan State Park. Canoe rentals available at the park for only \$5/hour plus tax per boat. The two hour paddle will take us upstream into the "Estero jungle". We'll work up an appetite for a picnic dinner in the park afterwards. Optional stroll through the bamboo forest alongside the river. Park entrance fee is \$4 per car. Limit: 10 boats. Reserve with Em at 239-472-8973. (Calusa)

March 19-20 - (Thursday/Friday) Women's Chassahowitzka River Kayak&Canoe Trip on Friday. We will learn more about this 30,000-acre National Wildlife Refuge as we paddle the river. Nearby camping available on Thursday night. Please reserve at least a week in advance. Sue Brandon, brandon11@earthlink.net , 813-622-1800 (Suncoast)

March 21 - Shark Valley 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 and a tower to climb halfway through with a terrific view of flat Florida everglades terrain. 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.

March 28 - Public Transportation Adventure and Mangrove Park Ecowalk in Boynton Beach. Explore the mangrove system along the Intracoastal waterway and hopefully see migrating birds from the short walking trail and boardwalk. More info can be found at www.boyntonbeach.com/points/mangrove/index.html. Meet your leader at the Boynton Tri-Rail station and we'll take the free trolley to the park at 9:46. This is a great opportunity to explore a natural area via public transportation! After the walk, we will have lunch at a local restaurant (at your own expense) and then return to the Tri-Rail station via trolley. Leisure. Limit 10. FREE. Sabrina Carle, 561-732-4486, Carles@bellsouth.net.

March 28 - Hike the Alligator Creek Trails at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (near Punta Gorda). We will begin with a leisurely one-mile interpretive walk lead by a center volunteer. Those that are interested in additional hiking will continue for 2-3 miles at a more moderate pace on other trails. Bobcat, bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and red-shouldered hawks inhabit the pine flatwoods. The exhibits at the visitor's reception center and the Nature Gift Shop are open from 9-3. Reserve with Brigita at 239-337-1857 bbgahr@embarqmail.com (Calusa)

April 11 - Ocean to Lake Trail Day Hike. We'll hike from Riverbend Park west of Jupiter to the Jonathan Dickinson State Park marina. The total distance is 11 miles. More details are available at <http://lox.floridatrail.org/our-trails/the-ocean-to-lake-trail/> Strenuous. Limit 10. \$5. Donna Brown, 561-317-8288, donnabrownintl@gmail.com,

Environmental Meetings and Happenings Around Town

Sierra and Beer - February 17th - at Titanic Brewery - 7:00 PM

All welcome, 21 and older will get a free award-winning local micro-brew beer thanks to Titanic Brewery. Come socialize and talk about all things green.

5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd
Coral Gables, FL 33146
(305) 668-1742
(Right next to the University of Miami Baseball Field)
<http://www.titanicbrewery.com/>

1st Annual Ocean Awareness Week sponsored by: Rho Rho Rho- Marine and Atmospheric Science Honor Society University of Miami

Schedule of Events

Monday

Opening Ceremonies-UC Patio

Come help kickoff the week with games, fun, and music at the UC.

Sharkwater Viewing and Panel

The award-winning documentary written, directed, and produced by Rob Stewart Sharkwater is back!

Come see this amazing film and learn about the problems in shark conservation we're facing today.

Tuesday

Marine Science Career and Graduate School Fair

Talk with representatives from top graduate schools and employers from around the country. Bring copies of your resume; business casual is required.

Beach Restoration Debate

Wednesday

An Introduction to Sea Life

Join the Ocean Awareness Week team on the UC Patio for interactive touch tanks, games, food, and fun.

Global Warming 411

What is global warming? How is global warming affecting our oceans? Learn more about this subject while talking to our expert panelists.

Thursday

Underwater SCUBA Experience

Ever wonder what it's like to breath under water? Join SCUBA club for a free trial session in the UC Pool to find out!

Conservation and Preservation 101

Everyone can take part in ensuring a good future for our oceans. Come learn some simple methods to cut down on waste, convenient ways to recycle, and everything else!

Art Show

Come to the Lowe Art Museum to see this year's art competition pieces and get a chance to take something home with you.

Friday

Meet the Writer

Come Skype with Finding Nemo writer David Reynolds and learn about the conservation efforts put forth by Pixar Animation Studios.

Dive-In Movie

Double feature: Finding Nemo and Planet Earth. Come dressed to get wet! Mocktails sponsored by Pier 21.

Saturday

Sea Service

Beach cleanups, dune restorations, and natural habitat reconstruction, join us for a day of giving back.

Benefit Concert

After a hard day of work, relax at our benefit concert featuring local UM bands. Food and drink will be available for sale.

Environmental Educator Providers of Miami-Dade

Next Meeting:

Wednesday February 11, 10 am - noon

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Research Center, 11950 Old Cutler Rd

Speaker: Sam Wright, Conservation Biologist

Special Note: if you are interested in having your organization's educational materials distributed to teachers county-wide through the Education Fund, please bring with you to the next meeting. There will be a representative from the Education Fund present to pick up these materials.

Announcements:

The Green Urban Living Center at Miami Dade College North is seeking gardening/horticulture/etc instructors, also environmental education instructors and people knowledgeable about native SFL ecosystems and wildlife. We are offering many new classes - and we are seeking both students and instructors. Please check out the website www.greenurbanlivingcenter.org and contact the Coordinator, Susan Lewis at slewis3@mdc.edu or 305 237 1218.

Wildlife Research Team is seeking advertisers for Volume 1 Number 1 of The Canoe View News, our all-online, super-green monthly webzine. Free to subscribers, The CVNews will be embedded in our website: www.wildlife-research-team.org. Its purpose is to further our 15-year mission of hands-on environmental education. Each issue will be approximately 16 pages, with many gorgeous color photos of Florida wildlife and waterways. For more information on how to purchase advertising, please contact Donna Kazo at paddle4research@yahoo.com; or at 954.554.5902.

SFWMD is looking for a Senior Scientist with the Vegetation and Land Management Dept. For more information, contact Kelly Lynn Bayarri, (561) 682-2856 or E-mail: kbayarri@sfwmd.gov.

The Center for Earth Jurisprudence presents "Precautionary Principle Academy: Walking the Green Line" at two locations in South and Central Florida

Miami: February 5 - 6, 2009, co-sponsored by Earth Ethics Institute

Three nationally recognized leaders from the Science and Environmental Health Network join forces with local Miami and Orlando experts to discuss the Precautionary Principle and explore its practical application to local issues. 6.5 hours of CLE credit approved.

Registration for general public: \$30; for CLE credit: \$80. For more information see attached flyer or e-mail CEJ.reg@gmail.com or visit <http://earthjuris.org/events/>.

North Miami Beach Water Fest will take place Sun March 1, 1pm to 5pm, on Hanford Blvd (164th st) between NE 18th ave and 20th ave. For more information please see attached flyer, or contact John Deck at savewater@citynmb.com or 305.957.3509.

The Mustard Seed Initiative will be hosting the Seeds of Hope Children's Festival on March 7, 2009 at Blakey Park 32601 SW 187 Ave, Homestead, FL 33030. We plan on seeing 1000 kids plus their families.

We have an area called "Mother Earth's Living Room" where we will ask our environmental groups to set up booths and we will have a tent or chickee in which the environmental organizations can offer informative (and, hopefully, interactive!) seminars. For more information, contact Laurie at laurie_johnson@bellsouth.net or visit www.mustardseedinitiative.org.

Miami Beach Botanical Garden presents its 8th annual tour of private residential gardens on Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 10AM to 3PM. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 305-673-7256 Ext 206 or email lajamieson@mbgarden.org.

Ada Merritt K-8 would like to formally request the participation of your organization in our annual Earth Day event which is scheduled for Friday, April 24th, 2009. For more information, see attached flyer.

If you wish to make an announcement through EEP, please email the coordinator with the text you would like included. If you are sending attachments, please keep the file size 1 MB or smaller.

GLEE Creates Green Jobs!

Green Living & Energy Education is seeking experienced sales professionals or fundraisers Keyswide to help identify and approach potential exhibitors and sponsors for GLEE's 4th Annual Green Living Expo, on March 28. Some leads provided, good potential and 20 percent commissions. For more information, send resume and email relating experience to GLEE's Program Coordinator Bridget McDonald at info@keysglee.com.



Looking for ways to green your life and save money? The 4th Annual Green Living & Energy Education Expo, coming to Marathon High School on Saturday, March 28, will once again provide visitors free workshops and a chance to speak to exhibitors offering services and products that can save money and natural resources.

Organized by Florida Keys Green Living & Energy Education (GLEE), last years Expo featured more than 80 green technology exhibitors and 30 free consumer and professional workshops that taught attendees how to make better sustainable choices in their lives and businesses.

This year's Expo theme is "Greening the Economy." Workshop topics range from solar photovoltaics and reducing energy and water bills to alternative building materials and paying for green projects. Experts brought in from around the country will teach attendees how to harvest rainwater, compost to reduce waste, understand the origins and effects of the foods we eat, recycle and garden organically.

Exhibitors showcasing water-saving toilets and systems that produce water from air are just a few of the energy-saving, alternative products to be available. An organic farmers market and healthy, locally-grown food prepared by high school culinary students, as well as foods from other food vendors will be available.

Visitors can stroll through the extensive Alternative Transportation exhibit, where solar, biodiesel and electric vehicles will be showcased and owners and dealers will answer questions.

An Artists Village, offering recycled and sustainable art, is a new addition to Expo, as are Green Films with discussions following.

An extended Kids' activities area will teach the power of solar and many other concepts that will help young people understand the need to conserve resources and reduce waste.

Residents from Key West to Marathon can ride one of the many free Expo shuttles being provided throughout the day.

Green entrepreneurs and eco-conscious attendees can network at the pre-Expo Green Drinks Reception on Friday, while Sunday offers a Green Brunch, Green Home Tours and discounted eco-tours throughout the Keys.

For more information about Expo or to become an exhibitor or sponsor, go to www.KeysGLEE.com, write to info@keysglee.com or call 305-809-3509.

If you'd like to keep up to date on what's happening with environmental issues in the Keys, subscribe to the Green Living & Energy Education (GLEE) monthly online newsletter. It's free and provides current information about what the cities and the county are doing about reducing their energy consumption. The newsletter provides a helpful calendar of monthly events, news about GLEE activities, and information about how to get involved in the effort to make the Keys more sustainable.

To subscribe, go to www.keysglee.com and click on the subscribe button on the upper right hand portion of the page.



Last Saturday of each month - EarthSave Potluck dinners

Call below for more information.

Free to EarthSave members and first-timers - \$5 for non-members
Bring a vegan* dish that serves 8-10 and your own plate & utensils
(\$1 eco-fee for not bringing your own place setting)
We welcome everyone no matter what your dietary preference

*Vegan means free of all animal products: no meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, hydrogenated oils or chemical additives

Not sure what to bring? We suggest organic green salad or fresh fruits

EarthSave Miami
305-228-1116 · miami.earthsave.org
A local Chapter of EarthSave International

VOTE for SOLAR

Friends, The sun came up this morning, ready to help. How about Congress?

Congress is in the midst of debating an economic recovery bill that could funnel billions towards jumpstarting our domestic renewable energy economy. Can you take action to make sure that the solar provisions are as strong as possible? Since solar creates more jobs per megawatt than other energy resources and projects can be up and running within months, it is an obvious economic recovery tool. Last week, the House passed a version of the stimulus bill with \$32 billion in clean energy funding. This week, the Senate takes up the debate, and the current Senate version of the recovery bill is missing several key solar provisions. Our friends at the Solar Energy Industries Association have put together a handy guide detailing the solar provisions that need to be included in The Recovery Act. Check it out here.

http://seia.org/galleries/pdf/Stimulus_Energy_Side_by_Side_FINAL_2_2_09.pdf

If added to the final bill, these solar provisions-from a renewable energy grant program, to putting solar on federal buildings to a manufacturing tax credit--will help create close to 200,000 new jobs and install 3 gigawatts of solar over the next 2 years.
To take action:

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1179/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=26581

Onwards,
Annie + Vote Solar Team

Did you know?

\$210: Money saved in one year of energy bills by switching to a new refrigerator and clothes washer.

\$82: Money saved in one year by switching to eco-friendly cleaning products such as white vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice and olive oil.

\$135: Money saved in one year by a family of four when they recycle one bottle or can per day.

Contact Info for Sierra Club Miami Group

Chair/Newsletter Editor: Debbie Matthews - treehuggerdeb@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Barbara Lange bjlange@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Stephen Mahoney rsmahoney@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Betsy Grass

Conservation Co-Chairs: Barbara Lange /Shirley Lowe

Everglades Chair/Energy Chair: Mark Oncavage

305-251-5273

Education Chair/Festival Chair: Maria Papazian- 305-519-0877

ICO: Mark Walters - mark@icomiami.org

Outings Chair: Jim Gross-JMGross3013@aol.com

Outings Sec: George Fedorko - 305-254-1716

Political Chair: Kent Harris Robbins

Ads: Georgia Guerra georgiapg@msn.com

Program Director: Shalom Mayberg mrmayberg@hotmail.com

Board Members: Barbara Lange, Betsy Grass, Debbie Matthews,
Kent Harris Robbins, Margarita Borda, Maria Papazian, Mark Oncavage,
Megan Fast, Shalom Mayberg and Stephen Mahoney

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends, family and colleagues. Also, do you want to contribute to the newsletter? Share your nature photograph(jpg format please)? Email them to me, and I will put them in!

Debbie Matthews
Miami Sierra Club - Newsletter Edition

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