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Sierra Club Miami Group Website

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CauseWays

June 2009

Dear Debbie,

Welcome to Rainy Sesaon! Are you feeling a bit soggy? Why not come to a Sierra Club Meeting and hang out with some great people? See below for more details. Hope to see you there.

General Meetings

General Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. The social time starts at 7:00 PM. At 7:30 PM we make announcements, and the speaker starts at approximately 8:00 PM.

June 8th - 7:00 PM - Coconut Grove Sailing Club - 2990 South Bayshore Drive

This month we have a speaker from the National Parks Service. Come check-out what is happening in our own backyard: Everglades National Park, and Biscayne National Park.

Virginia Key Master Plan to go to City Commission in June

Is This the Plan our Community Wants?

The final proposed Master Plan for Virginia Key was unveiled May 20 and will go to the Miami City Commission June 25.

The plan created by EDSA is a far cry from the vision of a resource-based, environmentally compatible future for Virginia Key, the 1,000-acre environmentally fragile island in Biscayne Bay, home of the Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area. And it certainly doesn't reflect the public input provided at numerous public meetings, including the well-attended planning charrette two years ago at La Salle High School, where the request was for "less is more" on Virginia Key.

Although the planners included trails and wildlife observation decks, it

also packed the island with dozens of sports fields with stadium lights near turtle nesting areas, parking garages and parking lots to accommodate thousands of vehicles, a conference center and other intensive commercial activities, including a shopping center.

The plan can be seen at www.virginiakeymasterplan.com. Also, please join the Friends of Virginia Key group on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=88158191391>

What you can do to help:

Contact City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and City Commissioners
http://www.miamigov.com/City_Officials/

Write to the Mayor and the City Commission! Tell them the EDSA plan doesn't reflect the community's vision for the future of Virginia Key. Tell them to scrap the proposed plan and go back to the drawing board to come up with a plan that is feasible, that benefits the community and protects the island's natural resources. Or, my personal favorite, turn the island over to a Conservancy to manage as the wildlife refuge that it really is.

Blanca Mesa
blancamesa@att.net

Choose 75% Recycling or Watch 100% go up in Smoke

The stage is set to achieve 75% recycling of municipal solid waste (MSW) or have 100% go up in smoke using it as a fuel--it is up to us to decide by making our choice known to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Legislation enacted in 2008 (FS 403.7032) requires that the DEP recommend to the legislature by January 2010 how to reduce the amount of recyclable solid waste disposed in waste management facilities, landfills, or incinerators by 75%. Fantastic, except for the huge fly in the ointment specifying that solid waste used for the production of energy counts as recycling.

An obvious criterion for counting waste used as a fuel as recycling should be that a net energy is obtained from the fuel. Burning MSW to produce energy is like making ethanol from corn--it takes more energy to produce than is obtained by burning it. The EPA has calculated the energy it takes to produce a ton of each constituent of MSW from both virgin and recycled materials. The energy saved by recycling is three to five times that produced using waste as a fuel. Energy saved by recycling is the greenest available.

The economic benefits of recycling make a compelling case for choosing recycling MSW over use as a fuel. EPA data on jobs through recycling at 75% indicate that waste-based industries could support over 100,000 additional jobs in Florida with an annual payroll of up to \$6 billion. Materials recovered in recycling programs in Florida would have a value of \$600 million for recycling at 75%. Increasing recycling would provide many of the jobs needed to reduce unemployment, now at 12%.

Producing new products from virgin raw material requires processes such as mining, use of fossil petroleum for plastics and fuel, and the cutting or growing trees, all of which damage the environment and are not sustainable. Recycling paper and plastics, which are not renewable fuels, would save energy, mean fewer trees cut from the world's few remaining virgin forests and less of Appalachia destroyed in ripping coal from mountain tops.

Achieving the 75% Recycling goal will require collection of food and other organic waste for biological decomposition such as is being done in San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto and numerous other cities. Just as we now separate yard waste to keep it out of landfills, organic waste needs to be collected separated from recyclables. The technology for collection of source-separated waste is well developed.

In addition to the 75% recycling goal, DEP is examining how to address the problem of plastic bags that are considered by many to be the bane of the earth. Plastic bags require 12 million barrels of oil a year to manufacture and kill 100,000 marine animals each year, having already contaminated large areas of the oceans. Ask DEP to come up with a clear goal to reduce plastic bags, one of the four major conservation goals of the Florida Chapter this year. The Waste Minimization Campaign has been charged with developing a strategy for reducing use of plastic bags that can easily be replaced with reusable cloth ones. Volunteer to help in the campaign!

What you can do:

Make it known that you choose 75% recycling, that MSW is not a renewable fuel, and that you want plastic bags drastically reduced. Post comments on the DEP website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75/default.htm>; and <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/retailbags/default.htm>.

Write to your newspaper, state legislators, and the Governor. For more information visit: www.gatorsierra.org, and <http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/index.htm>.

Email Linda Demler to volunteer to help: linda.demler@sierraclub.org.

Presentation of the Nineteenth Annual Green Awards

by Maria Papazian - Education Chair

On the evening of the May 2009 General Meeting, the Coconut Grove Sailing Club filled with new faces. Slowly, teachers, students family members and friends began to come in and set-up their projects for display. The purpose of the showcase was to share ideas with each other and with Sierrans present. The 19th Annual Green Awards presentation was about to begin.

After a while, the meeting was called to order and the Education Committee members were introduced: Coky Michel, Megan Fast, Paul Michel, Lee Jacobs, and Maria Papazian, who welcomed all guests and extended an invitation to the teachers present to join the

Environmental Education Committee.

Committee members took turns to introduce and provide a brief description for each of the recognized individuals or groups who worked on various environmental education projects. As each was introduced to the audience, the teachers and students stood in front and smiled with pride.

The Sierra Club Miami Group Executive Committee and Education Committee are pleased to recognize the achievements of so many young environmental activists and their adult leaders.

Virginia Shuman Young Elementary (VSY)
Pre-K - Fifth Grade Students
Robyn Harper and Deborah Levene, Coordinators

YES-Science Club
Ponce de Leon Middle School
Mr. Eugenio L. Machado

Max Olszack-Marews
Environmental Club
Robert Morgan Education Center

Alexi Garcia
Endangered Sea Turtles Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center

Hendrik Lam
Water Pollution Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center

Richard Larrieux
Water Pollution Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center

Alexandre Denizé
Acid Rain Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center

Jaelin Turner
Air Pollution
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center

Nadia Angeles
Work In Green House
G. H. Braddock Sr. High School

Carlos Guerrero
Work In Green House
G. H. Braddock Sr. High School

Joshua Contreras
Work In Green House
G. H. Braddock Sr. High School

Orlando Vargas
Work In Green House
G. H. Braddock Sr. High School

Flagami Elementary
The Green Team
Flagami Elementary School

Marianela Noguera Ferris Art Students
Eco-Cubes Art Projects
South Dade Middle School

Coral Reef Montessori Academy Charter School
"Growing Healthy After School Program

Southwood Middle School
Magnet Visual Art Students
Brenda Gilpin and Joy Parrish, Teachers
Sharon Biddix, Bromeliad Society

Anna Ivelisse Martin and 8th Grade Science Students
Project EARTH: "Help Mother Earth... or say Good-Bye"
Homestead Middle School

Nancy R. Sale and Students
Agriculture in the Classroom Project
Lillie C. Evans Elementary School

Jr. Greenleaves Club
Hubert O. Sibley Elementary

Environmental Education Program
La Scuola





Sierra Ambassadors

As of the beginning of 2009, the Sierra Club Miami Group has been represented in 10 festivals throughout the community with the help of many volunteers who generously gave of their time. Next time you see any of these fellow members, take a moment to thank them.

Saturday, Jan. 24 - Tropical Green Festival at the Coral Gables Farmers Market

Volunteers: **Jonathan Ullman**, and **Shalom Mayberg**

Saturday, March 14 - Native Plant Day at A. D. Barnes Park

Volunteers: **Jim Gross** and **Maria Papazian**

Saturday, March 28 and Sunday 29 - Food and Garden Festival at Fairchild

Volunteers: **Dr. Mahesh Joshi, Joe Dupree, Bill Fitzell, Olga Carteya, Valerie Robbin, Megan Fast, Jordan Gardner, and Allen Harris**

Saturday, April 4 - 13th Annual Miami River-day Festival at Jose Marti Park,

Volunteers: **Andres Mejides, Luisa Murcia, and Allen Harris**

Sunday, April 19 - EarthFest at Crandon Park

Volunteers: **Carole Troutman, Shalom Mayberg, Coky Michel, Paul Michel, Allen Harris, Valerie Robbin, and Maria Papazian**

Wednesday, April 22 - Earth Day at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Volunteers: **Luisa Murcia and Allen Harris**

Thursday April 23 - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

volunteers: **Allen Harris, Valerie Robbins, Joe Dupree, Bill Fitzell, and Maria Papazian**

Saturday May 16, 2009 - 1st Annual Health Fair at Coral Reef

Montessori Academy Charter School

Volunteer: **Allen Harris**

Friday, May 22 - Sweet Vine 5th Annual School E-FAIR at Dr. Gilbert Porter Elementary School.

Volunteers: **Mary Palazuelos-Jonckheere and Abigail Palazuelos-Jonckheere**

Saturday June 13 - 3rd Annual "Planting the Seeds, Growing the Future" Green festival at the Belafonte Tacolcy Center in Liberty City

Volunteer: **Mark Walters**

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 are 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.

2009 - 2010 Miami Group Outings
Stay tuned for more outings in the coming months!

South Florida Group Outings

Stay tuned for more outings in the coming months.

For Meetup references, please go

<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Northeast-Florida-Group/>

Many of these outings are FREE!!

Florida Training Events/Outings

July 17th - 20th - 9:00- 5:00

The University of Florida is sponsoring a SOLO **Advanced Wilderness First Aid (AWFA) course** at [Paynes Prairie State Park](#) (<http://www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie>).

Cost is \$300 (tuition only) for the 4 days. Receive a two year certification from SOLO. Instructed by UF staff. Contact Rudy Scheffer at 727-726-8375 or e-mail: rudy@adventuresworldwide.com.

August 1st - 2nd

The University of Florida is sponsoring a SOLO **Wilderness First Responder(WFR) Refresher course** (\$200). 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

Volunteers Needed for Open Committee Positions and More!

In the Miami Group we have committees that are busy at various times of the year. Some have meetings and some just work together online.

The Festivals Committee members staff a table with environmental information at the many events around town. If you like talking to

people about living green and saving the environment, this is a fun group. See our website for more information or email Maria Papazian, Miami-enviroed@florida.sierraclub.org.

The Education Committee works to encourage and support environmental clubs and leaders in our elementary schools. Maria Papazian is also leading this committee and looking for more help. Come to the general meeting and find out how you can help.

The Conservation Committee works to educate the public on environmental issues in Miami and encourage government leaders to Think Green. We are just starting-up so help us organize and get moving. Email Debbie Matthews (treehuggerdeb@gmail.com) or Shirley Lowe at shirleylowe107@gmail.com, or come and talk to them at the next General Meeting.

The Executive Committee makes the decisions for the club. We meet on the last Thursday of the month. Elections are held each December and we are always looking for new members. Email Debbie Matthews (treehuggerdeb@gmail.com).

Volunteers are always needed. The Newsletter Editor needs help finding and writing stories for our newsletter each month (treehuggerdeb@gmail.com).

The webmaster needs help. Email Betsy (Miami-webmaster@florida.sierraclub.org) if you have some web skills.

Volunteer interns are needed at the Regional Office of the Sierra Club here in Miami. If you have some time, we need help sorting and clearing out our files, and we need someone to help make phone calls. Call Jonathan at 305-860-9888, or e-mail jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org.

Inner City Outings (ICO) is part of the Miami Sierra Club committed to introducing underprivileged children to all the nature spots Florida has to offer. Field trips, beach cleanups, hiking, camping, canoeing are all great opportunities to reach out to a child. ICO meets on the 4th Thursday of the month in downtown Miami. Email Mark Walters for more information (mark@icomiami.org)

Miami Group Contact Info:

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

Vice Chair: Barbara Lange bjlange@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Stephen Mahoney rsmahoney@bellsouth.net

Treasurer/Website: Betsy Grass Miami-
Webmaster@florida.sierraclub.org

Conservation Co-Chairs: Barbara Lange /Shirley
Lowe shirleylowe107@gmail.com

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
Meeting Sponsors: Georgia Guerra georgiapg@msn.com
Program Director: Shalom Mayberg mrmayberg@hotmail.com
General Meeting Programs - Shalom Mayberg -
mrmayberg@hotmail.com
Web Assistant - Volunteer for this position!
email Miami-Webmaster@florida.sierraclub.org
Newsletter Assistant - Volunteer for this position! email
Debbie treehuggerdeb@gmail.com
Festival Greeters - Volunteer for this position! call Maria at 305-519-
0877
Student Outreach - Megan Fast
Legislative - Volunteer for this position! Email
Debbie treehuggerdeb@gmail.com

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

Local Environmental Events, Meetings and Classes

Educator Workshops

Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department

WET in the City

Tuesday, June 9, 2009; 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Crandon Park Visitor & Nature Center

Location: 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne, FL 33149

The WET in the City Curriculum and Activity Guide is a multidisciplinary, hands-on urban water education curriculum that promotes development of problem-solving and critical-thinking skills while engaging K-12 students in explorations of the science of water and complex issues surrounding its management and stewardship.

You will receive:

6 hours of interactive, hands-on experience with standards-based WET in the City and Water Watchers activities
demonstrations of how to connect WET in the City and Water Watchers activities to the Sunshine Standards and to Miami's water environment and real-life water issues

a complimentary copy of the 486 page WET in the City Curriculum and Activity Guide

a complimentary copy of Water Watchers: Conserving Water at Your School and Home (a handbook for mentoring a water stewardship project on campus)

a certificate conferring 7 Master Plan Points

coffee and morning refreshments. Please bring a bag lunch.

To register for this workshop, email:
gracetcee@aol.com and log-in to the

Miami-Dade Schools professional development portal.

This workshop is offered free of charge thanks to generous support from Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department.

Workshop presented by Council for Environmental Education (CEE) staff. CEE is the parent organization of the award-winning Project WILD program.

How to Construct a Rain barrel

presented by:
University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program

Saturday, June 13, 2009
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Belafonte Tacolcy Center
6161 N.W. 9th Street
Miami, Florida 33127

Phone: 305-248-3311
Barbara McAdam ext. 245
Lize Luna ext. 242
Fax: 305-246-2932

For more details, email: bmcadam@ufl.edu

In order to assure that you receive a rain barrel, you must register and pay by:
June 10th, 2009

\$45 for workshop & rain barrel
\$10 for workshop only
Additional Barrels \$40.00

Make Check or Money Order Payable to:
Miami-Dade Extension Program Account

We can not accept credit cards or cash

Fax Registration to: 305-246-2932,
Mail Payment to:
Rain Barrel Program
Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension Service
18710 SW 288 St.
Homestead, FL 33030

Belafonte TACOLCY Center, Inc., Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and Miami Workers Center Present:

**Community Go Green Festival
Planting the Seed, Growing the Future**

Saturday, June 13, 2009
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Belafonte Tacolcy Center
6161 N.W. 9th Street
Miami, Florida 33127

**MiaGreen
Expo & Conference 2009
June 11 & 12**

Miami Bike Summit #1

Jose Marti Community Center (351 SW 4 St, Monday, June 15th, 6:00-9:00 pm

You are invited to the first Miami Bike Summit to help create Miami's Bicycle Master Plan. Learn about some of the ways Miami is becoming a more bicycle-friendly city and show where bike lanes, bike paths, parking and signs are needed.

JoseMartiPark

For more information contact Collin Worth at 305-416-1022 or [CWorth](mailto:CWorth@miamigov.com) @miamigov.com

Vegan* PotluckNorth

Sun, June 21

Social 5:30 PM , Meal 6:15 PM , Film 7:00 PM

Healing Cancer From Inside Out

An awesome and compelling film from the makers of "Eating. It has the ring of truth and the facts to support. Don't miss it."

Part 1, Curing Cancer: the 'Cancer Industry's' conventional medicine exaggerates the benefits of treatments, while minimizing the risks; the history behind cancer treatments, and why chemotherapy, radiation and surgery are the only treatments available to mainstream medicine.

Part 2, Healing Cancer: cancer can be successfully healed with dietary treatments and natural supplementation; common misconceptions about cancer; diets designed to fight cancer are more successful than conventional treatments; startling cancer research findings and interviews with people who have reversed cancers using diet; why attitude is important in reversing not only cancer, but any disease. Participants : T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D. (The China Study), Brian Clement, Ph.D. (Hippocrates Health Institute), Brenda Cobb (The Living Foods Institute), Mirea Ellis (The Kushi Institute) et. al.

<http://www.ravediet.com/caResources.htm>

60 min, excerpts

EcoCenter

12399 W. Dixie Hwy., No Miami Arts District 33161

[Miami Eco Center](#)

Helpline: 305-607-9721, 786- 223-6005

EarthSave Members/First-timers - Free Guests - \$5

Bring a healthy*vegan dish (8-10 portions) and your place setting

*no meat, fish, eggs, dairy, GMO's, honey, transfats,
hydrogenated oils or chemical additives

NoFoodFee \$8 NoPlateFee \$1 Everyone Welcome: Taste,Share,Learn

EarthSave Miami

305-228-1116

www.miami.earthsave.org

A local Chapter of EarthSave International

YMCA - Jr. Marine Biology Camp

June 8 - August 14

Ages 10 -15

Come explore the undersea world while learning about marine biology
and enhancing math & science skills.

Virginia Key Beach Drive

4 pick- up and drop-off locations available in South Dade, Miami Lakes,
Liberty City and Allapattah

\$100/Week, \$25 Registration Fee

Enrollment limited, registration on a first come first served basis.

For more information or to register, call 305-357-6622

**Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends,
family and colleagues.**

**Do you want to contribute to the newsletter, do you
have photos to share? Email them to me. Thank you Mike
Matthews for helping me edit this edition, or for setting us up
with a new format!**

Sincerely,

**Debbie Matthews - Newsletter Editor
Chair - Miami Sierra Club**

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