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From: "Debbie Matthews" <treehuggerdeb@gmail.com>

To: treehuggerdeb@yahoo.com

Subject: Causeways - June 2008



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Dear Debbie,

Summer is here and it is time for vacations. Are you going to see an amazing natural place? If so, send us your photos, along with your name and where you snapped the photo and I will put the best ones in our photo section.

Article Headline

A Big Thank You to Maria Papazian our Education Chair:

Thank you Maria Papazain for another successful Green Awards, our 18th Annual Awards. Congrats to all the deserving recipients. A great time was had by all.

Here are all the winners one more time:

1 6th Grade Gifted Students & Sponsors
Kitchka Petrova, James McNair, Stephanie Davis,
Nora Gay-Betton, Carmen Oletta, & Robert Trujillo
Ponce de Leon Middle Community School

2 Michelle Elkelin Faull
Catharina Bernabei, Teacher
Braddock Senior High School

3 YES Club
Eugenio L. Machado, Sponsor
Ponce de Leon Middle School

4 WMMS - Environmental Club
Lisset Perez-Munoz, Sponsor
West Miami Middle Community School

5 The Dream in Green Team
For their Creating an Eco-Friendly Environment for the Community
Fienberg-Fisher K8 Center

6 Liannys Capote
WMMS - Environmental Club
Lisset Perez-Munoz, Sponsor

7 Vanessa Baztan

WMMS - Environmental Club, President
Lisset Perez-Munoz, Sponsor
West Miami Middle Community School
8 Green Team 2007-2008
Ann Donaudy
Gifted Program
Flagami Elementary School

9 Art II Students
Margaret Mahoney
Miami Country Day School

10 2nd/3rd Grade Team
Deborah Levene
Virginia Shuman Young Elementary School
STATES PARADES; GOING GREEN

11 Project PRIDE
Lisset Perez-Munoz, WMMS Environmental Club Sponsor
Dr. Suzanne Koptur, FIU, Dr. Joyce Maschinski & Donald Walters FTBG
West Miami Middle Community School

12 Lil Peppi
Creator and Performer of Grassroots Music and Video
"Mother Nature's Crying"

13 Nancy R. Sale
Butterfly Bonanza
Lillie C. Evans Elementary School

General Meeting - 7:00 PM - Monday, June 9th

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

This month, we welcome Sean O'Hanlon from American Biofuels Council. He will be speaking about biofuels alternatives and their economic and environmental impact.

Come join us, find out about alternatives to high gas prices. For more information, go to:
<http://www.americanbiofuelscouncil.com>

Volunteers

The Sierra Club Miami Group is an all volunteer organization, and we need more man-power to get the job done. We need a few good people to join our Executive Committee. (EXCOM). All you need is one night a month and a desire to help the community you live in. We discuss environmental issues, actions to be taken to protect our water, and the everglades, fundraising events, and much more. Contact an EXCOM Member for more information, or email Debbie at treehuggerdeb@gmail.com. We can use your help.

Hometown Democracy News

Our official petition tally has hit 594,563 towards our goal of 611,009! The Florida Chamber of Commerce petition is at 443,511. Mind you, the Chamber spent \$3,255,000 dollars to get there. Most of it came from the National and Florida Association of Homebuilders and big landowners (developers in waiting). They paid for 650,000 petitions, and all dumped them all at once on the Supervisors of Elections around the state in January, just before the deadline. Since the Chamber train-wrecked the process, they haven't submitted even one

more petition. Job done. The Florida Attorney General has sent the Chamber Trojan horse petition on to be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. Hometown Democracy filed its opposing brief Friday. We're confident the court will put the Chamber petition where it belongs, in the garbage. Also, the State is appealing the revocation slapdown to the Florida Supreme Court. Got to keep hope alive for the developer crew! That will make six appearances by Hometown Democracy before Florida's highest court. All this just to secure each of us the right to vote on the local decisions that make or break the future of our community. Given the way government fights against your right to vote, you might wonder, is this the America the rest of the world dreams about? Fact is, even here Democracy can't defend itself. It's up to you and me. Please get behind our final push for petitions to get to the 611,000 goal, we only need another 15,000 petitions or so, PLEASE send money and petitions to help get us there!

Hometown Democracy

Bottled Water

Are you a bottled water user? Think about using a reusable container and filling it with tap water or filtered water.

Here are some good reasons why:

1. Bottled water costs 400 - 5000 times more than tap water. If you are concerned about the quality or taste of your tap water, it is much cheaper to install a water filter on your tap to remove the pollutants than to depend on bottled water.
2. The Pacific Institute estimates that production of bottled water for U.S. consumption in 2006 required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil, not including the energy used for transportation. This released over 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide, a major global warming gas.
3. More energy is used to transport the water to the bottling plant, then transport the filled bottles to warehouses, stores, homes, and finally to landfills or recycling centers.
4. 85% of all containers end up in landfills or as litter in parks and on roadways.
5. In 2006, more than 900,000 tons of plastic was used to package 8 billion gallons of bottled water. Production of this plastic leads to the release of a variety of chemicals. Most smaller bottles are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which generates more than 100 times more toxic emissions than an equivalent amount of glass (Berkeley Ecology Center).

The Sierra Club believes that all people should have access to affordable, clean drinking water. This means protecting water sources and adequate funding for upgrading municipal systems should be national priorities.

MIAMI GROUP OUTINGS

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.

July 2008

July 13 - Canoeing 101. Learn the basics of handling a canoe in a safe manner. Fundamental paddling (bow and stern) and elementary rescue techniques taught in a one day short course. Lunch is included. Leisure. Limit 16. Cost \$20 member, \$25 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401, e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. Asst: TBA (C)

July 19 - Moonlight Culinary Canoe. (Fund Raiser) Enjoy an evening under the full moon on Biscayne Bay, with the delights of good company, delicious food, exquisite wine and a skyline view. No special diets. Rain or shine. Leisure. Limit 18. Cost: \$45 members, \$50 non-members. Leader: Ken Smith, 305-758-3121, e-mail: kpsmith@gate.net. (C)

Environmental Meetings and Happenings Around Town

EEP Upcoming Workshops

1. Join Surfrider for a Dune Restoration program, Saturday June 27th at Collins and 34th St. Miami Beach 10:00 AM.
2. Deering Bay Summer Youth Camp - June 9th through August 15th 16701 SW 72nd Ave. Miami 33157.
3. July 7th-11th is the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium - Fort Lauderdale is searching for teachers and students. FLORIDA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE

REEF 2008

4. Butterfly Days Festival. Fairchild Tropical Garden, July 26 and 27th.

5. Grant Opportunities for Teachers

Please see the EEP calendar on our website at: www.eepmiami.org

Vegan* Potluck Dinner

Last Sat of Each Month, 6:30 PM

**Held at: Riviera Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall (NE corner of building)
5275 Sunset Drive (take SW 72 St. South Miami
½ mile east of US 1, on left)**

Free to EarthSave members and first-timers - \$5 for non-members
Bring a vegan* dish that serves 6-8 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.

A Message from NRDC

I'm thrilled to report that we just won an important interim victory in our long-term campaign to block Big Oil from drilling in Alaska's spectacular Western Arctic Reserve, one of NRDC's endangered BioGems.

Thanks to your support, most of the Teshekpuk Lake region -- one of the most important tundra-wetland ecosystems left on our planet -- will not be opened to oil and gas development for at least 10 years.

This victory is particularly sweet because we fended off the Bush Administration's plan to hand over this natural treasure to Big Oil before it leaves office next January.

Thanks to years of court battles by NRDC and the tireless activism of tens of thousands of online activists like you, we did it!

Next, we will focus our campaign on Congress, in support of legislation to permanently protect this world-class wildlife habitat.

In the meantime, this home to more than one million migratory birds, the legendary Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd, and the threatened polar bear will remain undisturbed by toxic oil and gas development for at least another decade.

Together, we succeeded in stopping the industrialization of this magnificent Arctic wilderness -- and that's a victory for nature that is well worth celebrating.

Sincerely,

Frances Beinecke

President

Natural Resources Defense Council

Contact Info for Sierra Club Miami Group

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

Vice Chair: Barbara Lange

Secretary:

Betsy Grass

Treasurer: Margarita Borda

Conservation: Mark Oncavage - 305-251-5273

Education: Maria Papazian- 519-0877

ICO: Mark Walters - mark@icomiami.org

Outings Chair: Jim Gross-JMGross3013@aol.com

Outings Sec: George Fedorko - 305-254-1716

Ads: Georgia Guerra georgiapg@msn.com

Meeting Coordinator: Ken Smith - 305-758-3121

Board Members: Barbara Lange, Betsy Grass, Debbie Matthews, Kristina Trotta, Margarita Borda, Maria Papazian, Mark Oncavage, and Stephan 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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