



CauseWays

The Newsletter for the Sierra Club Miami Group



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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"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."

Miami-Dade County Officials Support the Everglades Skyway Coalition of Business, Community and Environmental Interests Praise the Vote

Miami – (February 22, 2007) Miami-Dade transportation planners voted unanimously today to support the Everglades Skyway, an 11-mile elevated road across Tamiami Trail. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) composed of the Miami-Dade County Commission and officials from the county's largest municipalities also voted to send the recommendation to Governor Crist, leaders of the Florida legislature and the South Florida U.S. Congressional delegation.

The resolution was backed by the Everglades Skyway Coalition, a diverse group of local governments, business organizations and environmental interests. The Skyway is a visionary plan to elevate 11 miles of Tamiami Trail that not only leads to Everglades restoration, but also brings a variety of benefits to our local community.

"Building the Skyway is a crucial step towards restoring America's Everglades," said Debbie Matthews, chair of the Miami Group of the Sierra Club. "By gaining the support of the MPO, it shows our state and federal legislators that Miami-Dade County is behind doing this project the right way the first time."

An aging road, Tamiami Trail must be renovated, and what better way to do so than to provide for scenic vistas of a restored Everglades. The Skyway is also a large construction project that will bring millions of dollars in business sales and provide more than 6,000 new jobs for South Florida. The Skyway is supported by 36 organizations including five Miami-Dade municipalities, Monroe County, Chamber South, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as a

number of local environmental and community groups.

Mayor Kevin Burns of North Miami, the sponsor of the MPO resolution, stated "The Everglades Skyway is a chance for us as statesmen to leave a permanent, positive mark on the landscape. This is something that will be there for generations, that we can point to and say we envisioned that."

Kristina Trotta

Associate Regional Representative

Everglades Awareness Benefit Concert—March 24th

The 4th Annual Everglades Awareness Benefit Concert at Tobacco Road happens Saturday, March 24, 2007. The concert is in support of the Everglades Skyway—the 11-mile bridge critical to Everglades restoration—with the proceeds going to your Sierra Club Miami Group to help fund our work. This year, our special guest speaker will be Dade County Commissioner Katie Sorenson.

You can't go wrong with this one. The Everglades Awareness Benefit Concert is an 11-hour annual event held at the historic Tobacco Road in downtown Miami (626 South Miami Avenue, Miami, FL, 33130). You'll have the opportunity to show your support for your Sierra Club group, learn about our conservation efforts, and find out how the Everglades Skyway may be the critical first step in Everglades restoration that might not happen without your help—all with plenty of live entertainment courtesy of local artists and musicians. Don't miss it!

The event runs from 4:00 pm-3:00 am, and there is a \$10 admission.

There are still plenty of slots available for sponsor tables! If you would like to support our efforts by sponsoring the

Everglades Awareness Concert, please contact Flash at 305-579-0069, or events@ploppypalace.com.

We need your help! If you would like to volunteer to help promote the concert and/or solicit sponsors, please contact Mike Matthews at 305-446-9848, or guitarlessons@bellsouth.net. With your help, we can make this event a huge success! For more information on the Everglades Skyway and Everglades Awareness Concert sponsorship, please visit www.build-the-skyway.com.

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](#)

Every Third Tuesday—Sierra & Beer
7:00 PM -Titanic Brewery, 5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables

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

Mayor Alvarez to Speak at General Meeting on Monday



We are proud to announce that Mayor Carlos Alvarez will be our speaker at the March General Meeting at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club on Monday, March 12th. Mayor Alvarez's topic will be the environment, and his new office.

Mayor Alvarez has been a strong supporter of planned growth, and fought hard to protect the Urban Development Boundary to ensure future generations will have sufficient clean water, a healthy economy and social well-being. Please come out and meet your mayor!

Opposition to Glades Power Park Growing

With a sense of urgency, a determined group of Glades and Hendry County residents, joined by prominent environmental groups, are confronting elected officials with the unpleasant specter of a coal-burning power plant being sited in a pristine area of Florida once described as “gloriously natural” Glades County.

In an effort to educate Floridians, and the small population of this county that borders Lake Okeechobee, about pollutants emitted from burning coal that are deposited into waterways and the air that we breathe, an organization has been formed called Save It Now, Glades, Inc., (SING).

The goal is to halt FP&L from building a 1960 megawatt coal plant the electric utility claims will not harm the environment, or the health of the citizens in South Florida, or cause irreparable damage to the Everglades National Park and the Caloosahatchee estuaries.

“Coal is the hands down dirtiest method by which to generate electrical power. Hand waving promises by FP&L and the watered down EPA aside, this proposed Glades County coal plant will pollute in many, many ways,” said Dr. William Louda, Associate Scientist and Environmental Chemistry Professor, Florida Atlantic University. “This pollution will not be just a local occurrence but it will spread in the air and the water throughout South Florida and is contraindicated in light of the national 10 Billion+ dollar effort to rejuvenate the Everglades and associated watersheds,” he said.

The purpose of this organization is to oppose the construction of any new coal fired power plant in Glades County, or anywhere in the state of Florida, due to the serious consequences to public health, global warming and climate change and over concern for the deterioration of this region’s pristine natural heritage.

SING members also agree there are alternative and cleaner forms of energy that should be used in place of a coal fired power plant. This power plant, being called the Glades Power Park, is currently under review by the Department of Environmental Protection.

SING’s President, Rhonda Roff, an environmental scientist, founded the group in December, 2006 and the membership has grown in numbers as people

begin to understand the issue “Our beloved Everglades ecosystem and the health of its inhabitants are at risk from the pollution FP&L’s proposal would cause if constructed. In a state in which all of the coastal, and most of the interior fish are on the “do not eat” list due to mercury contamination, even the cleanest coal-fired power plant near Lake Okeechobee, its “Liquid Heart”, is unthinkable..”

The proposal; is expected to take up to 18 months of review and if approved FP&L will commence construction on 5,000 acres of land in 2010. Despite projections of economic development for a county that is considered one of the poorest in the State, the members of SING are convinced the environmental damage is not a trade off that anyone can afford. The Glades County commission met for months with FPL representatives and without public hearings, and changed the permitted uses under the agriculture zoning designation to allow for a power plant.

The group is planning to stage rallies and circulate petitions as well as testify at hearings. SING has developed educational materials to disseminate to the media, to citizens and to elected officials about the fallacy of supporting this proposal.

SING’s Vice-President Steve Hein stated, “With the dangerous emissions coming from a giant pulverized coal plant, the environmental injustice to the poor and disenfranchised residents of Moore Haven, Florida, may only be matched by the water and air quality degradation of an entire region”.

Any individuals who wish to obtain more information about this proposed plant and support the goals of SING are invited to contact SING at www.saveitnowglades.org.

Contact: Susan Etchey
azaroa40@earthlink.net—(863) 946-0371

Miami Dade County—Global Climate Change Task Force

Their mission is reduction of urban CO2 emissions to slow global warming.

The Miami-Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF) held their inaugural meeting Friday morning with Miami-Dade County Clerk Harvey Ruvin as the chair. Ruvin has been a diehard environmentalist for decades and in 1993 he introduced legislation to the county commission to reduce the emission of gases in

the county through a number of initiatives. While 34 million tons of CO2 emissions have been reduced from 1993 through 2005 in Miami-Dade, it was not enough.

The 25 member task force is a diverse group made up of environmentalists, FP&L, representatives from the mayors of Hialeah and Miami, Dan Kimball, the superintendent of the Everglades National Park, and developers are among the members.

The next meeting of the task force is scheduled March 15 and it will be held at the Lawson E. Thomas Courthouse Center, located at 175 N.W. First Ave., 11th Floor Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. and it is a Sunshine Meeting open to the public. For more information on this important task force go to http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/globalwarming/c02_reduction.asp

Sierra Singles

Calling all singles to help create a Sierra Singles activities schedule. Bring your ideas and sense of humor. Meet people who like to do what you like to do by helping create activities you like. Come meet with us at the General Meeting, on March 12th—be there at 6:30pm sharp!

Sierra Singles Are Back—By Popular Demand

Sierra club Miami is now offering activities for singles interested in the environment and like to participate in fun activities while they meet new people.

Our first activity took place on March 4th. We got together at Berrie’s for drinks and dinner, then saw the film “Manufactured Landscapes”, one of the films at the Miami Film Festival.

On March 11th we will meet again at Berries at 6:00pm for drinks and dinner. We will go to the Gusman Theatre at 8:30 PM to view another Miami Film Festival offering, “The Heart of the Earth”, (El Corazón de la Tierra).

The 4th annual Everglades Awareness Benefit Concert at Tobacco Road is March 24th. Sierra singles will be present at this event giving support and enjoying the music and fun.

Other future activities we are planning include a snorkeling trip, bike rides to Key Biscayne and Shark Valley, Foreign film night, a “Spanish Night” dinner, ballroom dance groups, wine tastings and visits to other single groups.

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 ananpanpa@yahoo.com or Ken Smith at (305) 801-6876 for more information. Also, find us listed under "Miami" at www.greendrinks.org.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

Monthly Rates:

\$35—1 Month for Business Card Size

\$70—Quarter Page

We reach 3000 members and even more via email with the E-Newsletter.

Get On The Miami Sierra Club Email Lists!

To receive the Miami Sierra email newsletter, please contact Mike Robinson at miamisierra@gmail.com.

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

EarthSave Monthly Potluck Dinner

Please join EarthSave for dinner and a speaker every 4th Saturday at The Riviera Presbyterian Church on 5275 Sunset Drive at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$5 for non Earth Save members, and free for EarthSave Members. Please bring a vegan dish that feeds 6 - 8 and your own dinner ware. Vegan means no animal products.

We would like to thank EarthSave for bringing us yummy food to our general meetings!

Thank you to Dr. Ted Fleming, from University of Miami for the wonderful presentation last month at our General Meeting.

April's speaker will be James Woods—"Recycling electronic equipment" RecycledPCParts.com.

Exciting Inner City Outings News!

We'd like to announce a change of leadership for the Inner City Outings Miami program. Our new chair is Meredith Beattie! Ms. Beattie has been a core member of the ICO team for a couple of years now after instantly winning over kids and volunteers alike with her wit and contagious team spirit. If you have been thinking about volunteering with ICO now is a perfect time to start because we have some awesome trips planned. ICO will run a variety of outings this year introducing kids to the outdoors, thanks in part to a generous grant from the Edward S. Moore Foundation. Check it out ICO for yourself at our monthly meeting. Meetings are in the Roads section of Miami, near downtown the 4th Thursday of every month 7-9pm ; refreshments are served. Additional information can be found on our website www.icomiami.org. Email mark@icomiami.org for more information.

The Spring Fling Planning Committee Meeting will meet from 6 to 7:30 PM at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club on Monday, March, 12th.

Volunteers needed to come and help us set up chairs early before the General Meeting on March 12th for the Mayor. Please come at 6:30 PM if you can help us set up more than usual chairs as we expect a bigger crowd this month.

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Outings—Sign Up Now!

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: kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net. Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-270-5262 (days), e-mail: alan.nowell@sfcu.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.

March 4—South Dade Greenways Bike. Off-road bike trip on the Southern Glades Trail along the C-111 canal in the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area. Look for manatees in Manatee Bay. Lunch is included, but we will not have a sag wagon! Moderate. Limit 16. Cost: \$10 members, \$12 non-members. Leader: Diane Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: diane@cobb-ebin.com. Asst: Lee Jacobs, 305-667-6962, e-mail: eejac@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. 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.

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. Asst: TBA.

March 23-25 - Highlands Hammock State Park campground camping. This park near Sebring is one of Florida's oldest parks, www.floridastateparks.org/highlandshammock/default.cfm. We will do day hikes on the trails and see the complete life cycle of huge old oak trees from seed to fallen logs. Early Saturday arrival is permitted. \$35 includes campsite and 5 meals. \$25 for Saturday arrival. No charge for children under 12. Leisure. Limit 16. Mike Baird , 561-965-7237, GSDad@bellsouth.net.

March 24 - 25— 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 Santana St. #27, Coral Gables, 33146. Asst: TBA.

March 31, 4 PM - Ecowalk at Frenchman's Forest Natural Area in Palm Beach Gardens . We will walk, with frequent stops to look, listen and absorb, for about 1½ hours and hopefully, see some of the spring migration. Bring your water, hat, sunscreen and binoculars. There are NO facilities at this natural area. Frenchman's Forest is located on the west side of Prosperity Farms Road, one mile north of PGA Boulevard . FREE. Leisure. Limit 10. Lisa Hanley, 561-732-9578, lisa.hanley@Juno.com.

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

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