



May /2009

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Dear Debbie,

Greetings! I hope you were able to participate in some Green Events last month. There were plenty to chose from. Sierra Club Miami Group participated in numerous events all over town.

Please join us for our 19th Annual Green Awards at our General Meeting on Monday, May 11th. We will be presenting 19 awards to deserving students and schools.

General Meeting - Speakers

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.

May 11th - 7:00 PM - Coconut Grove Sailing Club - 2990 South Bayshore Drive

This month is our 19th Annual Green Awards. It would be very appreciated if you could bring some cookies, treats, or juice as we expect lots of kids and parents.

The kids worked very hard on their projects and we look forward to seeing what they did, and presenting them with awards.

Next month, we have a speaker from NPS.

19th Annual Green Awards

The Sierra Club Miami Group is proud to announce this

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

year's Green Award Winners:

1. Virginia Shuman Young Elementary (VSY)
Pre-K - Fifth Grade Students
Robyn Harper and Deborah Levene, Coordinators
2. YES-Science Club
Ponce de Leon Middle School
Mr. Eugenio L. Machado
3. Marianela Noguera Ferris Art students
Eco-Cubes Art Projects
South Dade Middle School
4. Max Olszack-Marews
Environmental Club
Robert Morgan Education Center
5. Alexi Garcia
Endangered Sea Turtles Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center
6. Hendrik Lam
Water Pollution Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center
7. Richard Larrieux
Water Pollution Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center
8. Alexandre Denizé
Acid Rain Project
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center
9. Jaelin Turner
Air Pollution
Frank C. Martin International K-8 Center
10. Flagami Elementary

The Green Team
Flagami Elementary School

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18. Environmental Education Program
La Scuola

19. Jr. Greenleaves Club
Hubert O. Sibley Elementary

Everglades Benefit Concert Planning Meeting

There will be an Everglades Benefit Concert Planning meeting at 6:30 PM before the General Meeting on Monday the 11th at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. Are you a music lover, are you good at organizing? We need help! Please join us! We will find a quiet place outside to meet prior to the meeting. Please email Shirley Lowe if you have any questions. shirleylowe107@gmail.com

Fund Raising Appeal for Sierra Club Florida

Dear Sierra Club Florida Member:

We are writing to you today, our Florida Sierra Club members, to seek your financial support to continue to protect Florida's precious environment, and also to push Florida forward into the new energy economy. As we write this, we're battling heavily bankrolled campaigns at the state and local levels, from nuclear and coal power plants to strip-mining and irresponsible developments. We're also taking practical steps to reduce the pollution that causes Red Tide and devastates our water resources, while at the same time promoting mass transit and the use of solar energy.

When you respond to this once-a-year appeal, every penny you donate stays right here in Florida to help defend our state's irreplaceable natural resources and our right to clean air and water. In Florida, your Sierra Club makes every dollar count because we rely mainly on volunteers--people like you who give time and energy because you care. But we still need financial resources to keep supporting our public outreach and education, lobbying and advocacy, and legal action when necessary.

Please take a moment to make a donation based on your ability by sending a check to: Sierra Club Florida, P.O. Box 28353, Kenneth City, FL 33709 We understand these are difficult times for many members, so we appreciate your consideration. Like other non-profits, Sierra Club Florida resources are shrinking rapidly, and we've significantly cut spending.

Yet special interests are trying to use these hard times as an excuse to weaken Florida's environmental protections. Some are using the economy as a reason to put oil rigs off of our coasts, and threaten the state's best natural resource-our beaches. We know there is a clean energy future ahead that can create jobs and boost our economy - and this is the Florida Sierra Club is fighting for!

Sierra Club Florida has many challenges in 2009. We're targeting over 32 environmental issues this legislative session in Tallahassee and many more regional and local schemes that threaten sensitive and endangered lands, waters and wildlife across Florida. Here are just a few of the critical issues we're working on:

- Local control: Several bills aim to restrict local governments from adopting measures to protect local land, wetlands, and water resources from mining, pollution, and inappropriate development.
- Offshore oil drilling: Even though we defeated efforts to lift the ban on oil drilling off Florida's shores in 2008, both Florida's House and Senate have bills urging Congress to lift the ban.
- Energy and climate change: Help us support renewable energy, clean car and mass transit initiatives to leverage federal stimulus funding and protect Florida's coastline from rising sea levels.

Help us stand strong for the environment on these issues and many more by sending your donation today. Thanks to your help, we celebrated many successes in 2008-see the summary on back. We also encourage you to get involved. Whether it's an outing or an action, Sierra Club can help you enjoy and protect Florida's unique treasures.

Sincerely,
Linda Bremer, Craig Diamond, Al Donn, Betsy Grass, Tom Larson,
Marian Ryan, and Rudy Scheffer
Sierra Club Florida Steering Committee

P.S. We know you get many fundraising requests, but Sierra Club

Florida mails only one request a year. Please use the enclosed reply form and envelope to send your contribution.

Thanks to your support, Sierra Club Florida groups and members won these important victories in 2008!

Remember the "Drill Here, Drill Now" campaign?

By exploiting panic over high gas prices, Big Oil nearly pushed legislation through Congress to lift the drilling ban protecting Florida and allow rigs as close as 50 miles off our Gulf beaches. We fought this massive effort by rallying Sierra volunteers, tourism leaders and beach city officials, staging public events, generating media attention and even getting beachcombers to contact their legislators. Our work turned the tide: Florida is now the only state protected. But we must stay vigilant as both the Florida House and Senate have bills asking Congress to lift the ban.

Phosphate mining hits Sierra roadblocks

Phosphate mining giant Mosaic Fertilizer's plans to strip mine the wetland-rich Altman mine in Manatee County keep running into obstacles, thanks to years of activism by the Manatee-Sarasota and Greater Charlotte Harbor Groups, Sierra regional staff, and multiple legal challenges by the Sierra Club and our allies. Though we've won several victories there have been setbacks, too. The fight continues.

Florida to get cleaner cars, cleaner air

The Florida Environmental Regulations Commission adopted Gov. Charlie Crist's Clean Car rule based on California's strict emission standards on Dec. 2 by a 6-1 vote. Sierra Club generated more than 1,200 emails and calls to Crist, lobbied commissioners and organized a Florida Clean Car show/media event to help secure this win. Next step: Florida Legislature

Important victories for Florida's Everglades:

- Organized support for Florida's purchase of U.S. Sugar Corporation lands, an area the size of New York City's five boroughs, to store, clean and convey fresh water for the Everglades.
- Brought civil engineers and bridge builders together to plan the 11-mile "Skyway" to replace a stretch of the Tamiami Trail with an elevated road that would restore the water flow through parched Everglades National Park and into Florida Bay. The project would benefit wildlife by reducing

habitat fragmentation and preventing road kill. The work would also create jobs and increase tourism.

- Exposed the Bush administration's sudden removal of the Everglades from the United Nation's World Heritage Committee endangered list. Uncovered information about a science cover-up by a Department of Interior political appointee, which led to a Senate investigative hearing chaired by Senator Bill Nelson and extensive media coverage.

Major progress fighting Red Tide and reducing pollution to protect Florida waters:

- Passed groundbreaking new fertilizer ordinances that will significantly reduce nutrient runoff--linked to Red Tide and algae blooms--in Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, and Bonita Springs as well as the unincorporated areas of Lee County. The campaign continues city by city, county by county.
 - Sierra activists and staff played a major role in securing a unanimous vote of the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force to protect the rights of local governments to enact measures to reduce improper and excessive fertilizer use on residential landscapes. We also defeated Florida legislation supported by the fertilizer and landscape industry on the same issue, successfully protecting local control.
 - Filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking a court order requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to impose quantifiable--and enforceable--limits for fertilizer, sewage and animal waste runoff which contaminate Florida's water resources and trigger harmful algae blooms.
 - Co-sponsored three Red Tide Community Forums in Sarasota County, featuring four noted research scientists who explained the complex relationship between nitrogen, phosphorous and Red Tide.
- The Florida Legislature is in session NOW. See the Pelican newsletter or our website for news and to sign up for the Florida Report for weekly email updates and action alerts: www.florida.sierraclub.org

Legislative News

By David Cullen

Greetings from Tallahassee,

The regular 60 days of session are over and the House and Senate will return next week to finish passing the budget.

This is a very brief report on our top issues. A fuller report will follow when we have had time to examine the bills that passed and died.

First things first - offshore drilling did not pass! HB 1219 was passed by the House 70-43 but died in Senate messages. A possible candidate for an offshore drilling amendment was SB 1154, Sen. King's Energy bill. SB 1154 had passed the Senate 37-1 and was sent to the House but was never pulled to the floor. So we held off offshore drilling, but did not achieve a Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) bill. On other energy issues the Clean Cars bills also died.

Thank you for all of your calls. You made a big difference and should take comfort from the fact that widespread grassroots action was able to thwart big money, big oil, and big pressure. It wasn't easy, but we did it. The same goes for the terrible voter suppression act. SB 956 / HB 7149 contained bad language relating to paid petition gatherers as well as a raft of other voter disenfranchisement provisions. A broad coalition of activists coupled with outraged editorial boards made the legislature lie low and the bills died on the vine.

On Wetlands preemption HB 73 did pass both Houses and will be sent to the Governor. This bill requires DEP and Water Management Districts to expedite environmental resource permits for projects that are identified by local governments as "targeted industry businesses". A parochial economic calculation is allowed to supersede the state's responsibility to perform a thorough review of projects that affect our wetlands. Further, charter counties with more than 1.2 million people that have entered into a delegation agreement with the state have an even lower bar to expediting permitting.

The Springs legislation did not pass as the House had not even filed a companion bill. However, we did get seagrass and coral reef protection.

HB 1515 passed the both the House and Senate. The was the bill with the fertilizer model ordinance that incorporates the Urban Turf Rule. The bill is not as bad as in previous years, but it is unfortunate that it passed at all. However, Sierra Club has opened some new channels of communication with DEP and we are hopeful that the deficiencies in the model ordinance related to the exemption of 'weed and feed' products and slow release fertilizers can be addressed outside of the legislative process.

The worst of the "streamlining" bills all died. We will be examining the bills that passed to identify what made it through the process, but an early look at the results shows that we were able to stave off the elimination of demonstrated need and professional certification. We will include more in the full wrap up in a few days.

The US Sugar deal should be able to go through. We had reached a point before the end of session where

all the bills that would have killed the deal were gone and the only bills remaining would not have stopped it. The determining factor at this point will be Wall Street - will the South Florida Water Management District be able to sell the bonds to come up with the new (lower) purchase price?

On mass transportation, the CSX bill that included Sun Rail and Tri Rail did not succeed as an amendment to the Transportation package and will not happen this year.

Finally, the budget. The legislature is returning to Tallahassee next week. The House returns at noon next Thursday, and the Senate returns at 9 am next Friday. Preliminary skirmishes have revealed a number of cuts to Departments (not surprisingly considering the fiscal situation and the legislature's reluctance to increase revenues) and "sweeps" of trust funds. However, House Majority Leader Adam Hasner told Eric Draper of Audubon that there would be funding for Florida Forever and the Everglades in the final budget. Keep your fingers crossed! All those calls through the session helped!

I want to thank all of you for your participation and your reports on the responses you got from your legislators when you contacted them. I also very much appreciate the encouragement you gave me as your representative in the Capitol.

Finally, I want to give special thanks to the members of the Legislative Committee who worked with me from well before the session started right on through to the end. These volunteers gave of their considerable knowledge, energy, and determination to help shape our legislative strategy for the session. If you know these folks, give them a pat on the back, they deserve it. The members of the committee are Marian Ryan, Cathy Cantwell, Mark Oncavage, Linda Bremer, Drew Martin, Cecilia Height, Rosalie Shaffer, Tom Larson, Demetra McBride, Terry Janssen, John Miller, and Lisa Hinton.

Special thanks also go to fellow lobbyist Sue Mullins and Sierra Club staff: Phil Compton, Jon Ullman, Cris Costello (my fertilizer guru), and last but not least, Frank Jackalone.

Thank you for all you do to protect the planet. (I'm looking forward to some exploring and enjoying...)

Dave Cullen
Sierra Club Lobbyist

Please make sure to check out our legislative web page, (thanks to our webmaster Betsy Grass), www.florida.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp.

UM Marks Earth Day

From hundreds of people joining hands for a symbolic hug of Lake Osceola to an Eco Shopping Experience where local designers displayed their eco-friendly products, the University of Miami marked Earth Day by hosting a series of events last Wednesday to raise awareness about the most pressing environmental issues.

Earth Day celebrations on the Coral Gables campus started with an Au Natural Art Show at the University Center lower lounge, where student artistic expressions about the Earth and conservation were on display. Other activities throughout the day included a showcase of the University's "green" transportation options, a concert, and a Eco Fair where student groups and organizations gave interactive demonstrations and passed out information on eco-friendly initiatives.

Copies of the new "Green U to Go Brochure: A Pocket Guide to Reducing the Cost of Living-On Your Budget and the Environment" were distributed, (Sierra Club Miami Group sponsored this brochure), and flags designed by renowned artist and alumnus Xavier Cortada were sold, with proceeds earmarked to help raise awareness about sustainability through the Reclamation Project.

The Hug the Lake event was the signature activity of the day, drawing hundreds of students, faculty, and staff members who all joined hands while encircling Lake Osceola in a demonstration of solidarity with each other and with nature. The event was organized by the student group Random Acts of Kindness.

Sierra Club Picnic

Annual Sierra Club Miami Group Picnic Great Success

Our Annual Sierra Club Picnic was a great success thanks to Jim Gross, Lee and Diane Jacobs, Esther Dileo, Kaatje Bernabei and Coky and Paul Michel. Thanks to all that attended. If you missed it this year, then you missed a great time! It was a gorgeous day, and we all had fun eating great burgers and hot dogs cooked by our grill master Jim Gross. We ate delicious salads, deserts and goodies brought by our members. We played volleyball, we had a water gun war and blew lots of bubbles thanks to our biggest kid Don How bringing all his toys to share. Coky Michel and Mike Matthews played guitar and we all joined in singing. We called ourselves the "Sierranaders". We sounded pretty darn good on some songs if I don't say so myself! (But, I would not give up the day jobs yet guys.) We were able to shop at Amy Werba's traveling handmade Jewelry store, and Vernon brought some of his famous handmade cutting boards to sell as well. Esther and Diane led a nature walk that ended up being a clean up walk with all the garbage they collected en route. That is the mark of a true Sierran, someone who leaves a natural place

cleaner than they found it! Thanks to all who pitched in to clean up after the picnic too.

Look at the bottom of the email for tons of photos!!

Sign Up to be an Email Warrior

We need you to be our email warrior! Here is something that we can all do to help our environment. We need help from time to time emailing our elected officials to make sure they know how we as Sierran, as environmentalists, want them to vote on bills and issues.

To sign up for our email warrior list... click on this link or copy, and paste into your url.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/miamisierra/>

Click on the blue join this group button.

You will then receive emails only when we need action. We will not abuse the system and send you 20 emails a day, it will only be for action alert items. Please forward these emails to all your friends and family so we can get the word out.

Thank you for you help! This is something everyone can do at anytime of the day or night, from you home, in your jammies and bunny slippers.

Environmental Writing Class - MDC

The Florida Center for the Literary Arts at Miami Dade College is offering an environmental writing class this summer:

Writing Earth -- An Intro to Environmental Writing
Six Tuesdays: June 2-July 7, 2009, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
\$125 (Current MDC faculty and credit students: \$100)

Course will take place at Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus

Want to register? Click [here](#) for instructions and registration form.

In this six-week workshop we will write and critique poems, stories and personal essays that take the natural world as their subject matter. In addition, we will attempt various writing exercises designed to develop students' abilities to write in organic forms and to think in ways that attempt to capture something of the "inner life" of nature as it exists in South Florida and the larger North American landscape. We will also examine examples of great nature writing as we attempt to extend and deepen our conception of the genre's possibilities.

Instructor: Michael Hettich has published a number of books and chapbooks of poetry, most recently *Flock and Shadow: New and Selected Poems* (New Rivers Press) and *Swimmer Dreams* (Turning Point), both of which were published in 2005. His most recent chapbook, *Many Loves*, was published in 2007. A new book, *Like Happiness*, is forthcoming from Anhinga Press in 2010. His poems have appeared in such journals as *Witness*, *Poetry East*, *Orion*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *TriQuarterly*. His website is www.michaelhettich.com.

Date and Time**Tuesdays**

June 2-July 7, 2009

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Fee

\$125, pre-registration required

This is a Community Education (non-credit) course.

TO REGISTER: go to www.flcenterlitarts.com or call (305) 237-3940

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

Stay tuned for more outings in the coming months!

South Florida Group Outings

For Meetup references, please go

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

Many of these outings are FREE!!

May 23rd - 25th - Attend the Florida Folk Festival on Saturday followed by an Overnight Canoe trip on the Suwannee River.
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/folkfest/Tickets.cfm> Learn why this is one of the most popular paddles, as we discover springs, wildlife, and natural Florida. Spend the first night in air-conditioned hotel followed by primitive camping along a sandy white river beach the next night. Rentals are available. There will be the cost of a shuttle depending upon group size. Limit 10 participants. This is an easy to moderate trip. Leader Rudy Scheffer at 727.726.8375 or rudy@adventuresworldwide.com (Suncoast)

Florida Training Events/Outings

May 16th - 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.

May 16th - 17th - 9:00- 5:00 PM

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.

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 Park.

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie>

Cost is \$300 (tuition only) for the 4 day.

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

Environmental Meetings and Happenings Around Town

Sweet Vine's 5th Annual School E-Fair at Dr. Gilbert Porter Elementary on Friday May 22, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The school is located 15851 SW 112 Street, Miami, Florida 33196.

Saturday June 13, 10-3, the 3rd Annual Planting the Seeds, Growing the Future Go Green Festival will take place at the Belafonte TACOLCY Center in Liberty City with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Activities will include demonstrations and workshops, planting activities, panel discussions on urban gardening and green jobs, and environmental exhibits. Exhibitors and panelists are needed. For more info, contact Alison at awalker@fairchildgarden.org or Roger at RHome@tacolcy.org

Mia Green, Miami Beach Conv. Center - June 11 and 12:

<http://www.miagreen.com/>



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.



Sunday, May 17th

Social 5:30 PM

Meal 6:15 PM

Speaker 7:00 PM

Topic: Deepening our Connections

We live in the midst of a paradigm shift, a time of increasing awareness of the need to move from a disconnected and dualistic world view to a life-sustaining society based on compassion and community. This interactive and experiential discussion focuses on the interconnectedness of all life as it promotes solidarity, empowers action and active participation in this shift and intensely deepens our connection to the Earth, each other and ourselves.

Speaker: Val Silidker Deep ecologist, Founder of The Voice of the Earth, VP of Rattle the Cage Productions and co-creator of the documentary, Lolita: Slave to Entertainment. Val is a community leader, event organizer, environmentalist, facilitator and public speaker, who has studied with Rainforest Activist John Seed as well as Deep Ecologist and Systems Scholar Joanna Macy. Along with her work as an activist, Val teaches Sivanada yoga and is a musician with the bands Ana Kanpa: Spirits of the Earth and Song of the Soul.

EcoCenter
 12399 W. Dixie Hwy., No Miami Arts District 33161
<http://www.miamiecocenter.com>
 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

Committees - Open Positions - Contact Info for Sierra Club Miami Group

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 Greener 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)

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

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

Picnic Photos







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