



CauseWays



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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The Newsletter for the Sierra Club Miami Group

November 2007

Vol. 37 No. 11

"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."

Very Important Issues - Your help needed.

Florida Hometown Democracy

Please take some time, to be sure your friends and neighbors and anyone else you can persuade-- sign the Florida Hometown Democracy petition now.

There's a link, here, to a Miami blog that has a copy of the petition you can print out, make copies, and distribute. Let's get enough signatures before the end of January to ensure that in 2008, the state of Florida will have an election on the future of growth management. It's time.

*Alan Farago
Coral Gables, FL*

<http://eyeonmiami.blogspot.com/2007/10/i-am-talking-tough-to-you-readers-by.html>

Vote for Florida Solar in the Sunshine State.

The Florida Solar Initiative will result in a world-class solar market in Florida, replacing the equivalent of 20 average coal-fired power plants.

It's critically important that the Governor knows that this plan also has the support of the people. That's why we'd also like to deliver a petition signed by renewable energy supporters. To be effective, we need something huge--A veritable mountain of signatures--add your name to the list of people supporting the Florida Solar Initiative.

<http://www.votesolar.org//state-initiatives/florida.html>

(Note from editor: Type in just as written, **with** the hyphen.)

Help Congress "Flip the Switch"

This month Congress has the unique opportunity to put America on the path to energy independence when it takes up the Energy Bill. The key is combining the best of the House and Senate Energy Bills passed earlier this summer. The Senate bill raises fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. The House bill requires that 15 percent of our electricity be generated by wind, solar or other renewable power.

A final push is needed by all of us to make sure an Energy bill is passed that combines both measures and truly builds a clean energy futures and cuts global-warming gases. Get informed and get active. Find out more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/flip>.

According to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), if Congress "flips the switch," the bill will cut 20 percent of our global warming emissions by 2030 and make significant progress on the long-term reductions in global warming pollution. Consumers would also save more than \$25 billion at the pump and billions more on their home energy bills.

Investing in renewable energy not only diversifies America's energy sources, it also protects the environment. Consider this: Nearly 40 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are created by the production of electricity!

Time is of the essence. A vote could come as early as mid-November. To find out what you can do, including calling your Congressional representatives, writing letters to the editor or participating in events, call Blanca Mesa, Sierra Club Miami Office, (305) 860-9888 or email at bmesa@bellsouth.net.

Save the Dates!

November 12th—7:30 PM

Sierra Club Miami Group

General Meeting

the Coconut Grove Sailing Club
2990 S. Bayshore Dr, Coconut Grove

"Living Green" Meeting

November 20th —7:00 PM

Sierra Club & Beer

Titanic Brewery, 5813 Ponce De Leon
Blvd, Coral Gables

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Causeways is going digital. To continue receiving the Causeways via email, please send an email to Debbie Matthews at:

treehuggerdeb@gmail.com.

Please put *Add me to E-Newsletter* in the subject line, and you will be added to the newsletter distribution.

November—Living Green Meeting

Miami Group Board Members Ken Smith and Stephen Mahoney address Living Greener. Ken Smith will focus on detoxifying our homes and spending your money in line with your commitments by identifying and supporting companies with a true commitment to the environment. Choose between "green" and "green-washed".

If the company isn't green, how can the product be green? The second part of Ken Smith's presentation is on the dangers of toxic household chemicals and the benefits to both you and the environment of choosing non-toxic cleaning and personal care products.

Stephen Mahoney will present ideas for living well and doing good, including the solar decathlon, insulating made easy, building a better light-bulb air-fresheners, ecofriendly alternatives, etc.

Hold the Line Needs You.

Urban sprawl strikes again! In 2006, with your help, the Hold the Line successfully kept the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) from being moved west into Florida's Everglades to accommodate sprawling development that would strain Miami-Dade's already backlogged infrastructure. Four new pending applications have been filed to open another 178 acres of Miami-Dade to development outside the line. An additional application is expected, that seeks to add another 7,000 residential homes to the county's roads, schools, and utilities increasing both traffic and pollution.

Only 1 out of the 4 applications recommended for denial.

Miami-Dade's citizens can't afford to pave wetlands and permit new developments that will draw from our already taxed water supply and jeopardize the Everglades. Attend the Board of County Commissioners meeting Monday, November 19, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. to tell your Commissioner to take a stand against sprawl! The meeting will be held at the Miami Commission Chambers, 111 NW 1st Street at Government Center, Miami, Florida.

For more ways to help fight sprawl, please contact South Florida organizer, Dawn Shirreffs at (305)489-5949 or by email htl@cleanwater.org.

www.udbline.com

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New Lab at University of Miami, Rosenstiel School To Study Climate Change Impact on Coral

A modest new lab at the Rosenstiel School is the first of its kind to tackle the global problem of climate change impacts on corals. Fully operational this month, this new lab has begun to study how corals respond to the combined stress of greenhouse warming and ocean acidification. The lab is the first to maintain corals under precisely controlled temperature and carbon dioxide conditions while exposing them to natural light conditions.

The National Science Foundation, the Packard Foundation, Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society have made the new lab possible through their funding of research and the actual facilities and instrumentation necessary to ensure precise monitoring.

Betsy Grass
University of Miami Alumni Association

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Letter Writing Campaign

Global warming is here, its happening and we need to take steps as a community to avoid its most devastating effects. As Americans, the biggest polluters worldwide, we can prevent much of global warming's impact if we start demonstrating true leadership and take serious steps to cut emissions that cause global warming. I'm sure you know, to make that happen, we need our elected officials to push for those cuts. We need to show Senator Mel Martinez that citizens here in South Florida see global warming as the most significant problem to tackle in our lifetime.

Handwritten letters are one of the most powerful ways of reaching and influencing our elected officials. For this reason, we are working right now to get 500 handwritten letters mailed to Senator Martinez and we need *your* help. Please email Melisa Stodieck at melisa@greencorps.org for more information.

Melisa Stodieck
Miami Field Organizer
National Environmental Trust

A Message from Karen Orr, Florida Chapter Sierra Club, Water and Wetlands Issue Chair.

The Gulf of Mexico is a critical natural resource. The Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes the state of Georgia's efforts to undermine the Endangered Species Act and severely limit downstream flows from Georgia into Alabama, Florida, and the Gulf of Mexico.

These actions pose a dire threat to endangered and threatened species, and would endanger the human communities and economies of the Gulf Coast of Florida and Alabama.

The state of Georgia's failure to manage growth and conserve water must not be allowed to harm the environment and economy of Florida and Alabama.

Stay tuned for more information (and what you can do) to follow while we join our friends at the Gulf Restoration Network to fight this fight.

Upcoming Events

November's General Meeting will be a Living Green Meeting. Learn how to "green-up" your life.

December's General Meeting is our annual Holiday potluck dinner. Volunteers will be needed to set up and coordinate. This year we are asking everyone to label their food with the following labels: **Vegan**—(No meat, no dairy, no animal products), **Vegetarian** (No Meat products), or **Contains Meat**. We will have more food stations this year to eliminate the long lines from last year. We will open up the outside to dining as well.

Please contact Debbie:
treehuggerdeb@yahoo.com.

Elections are almost here for the Excom Board—**calling all Sierra Club Members**—throw in your hat and run for the board! Please email Debbie Matthews at Treehuggerdeb@yahoo.com if you are interested by 11/20/07. Help make a difference.

We need help covering our legal expenses for the Lake Belt Mining Lawsuit. If you would like to contribute, please contact Barbara Lange at bjlange@bellsouth.net or send your check to Debbie Matthews, c/o DESIMONE, 800 Brickell Avenue, Suite 600, Miami, FL 33131.

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\$35—1 Month for Business Card Size

\$70—Quarter Page

We reach 3000 member subscribers by e-mail each month.

Sierra Club & Beer

September's Sierra Club & Beer takes place on the 20th at 7:00 PM. Sierra Club & Beer happens the third Tuesday of every month at Titanic Brewery (5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd Coral Gables). Each month's gathering features a different environmental topic with plenty of opportunity for socializing and interaction. Plus, you'll get a FREE BEER just for showing up! All are welcome, but only 21 and over will be served alcohol. Contact Ken Smith at (305) 801-6876 for more information. Also, find us listed under "Miami" at www.greendrinks.org.

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treehuggerdeb@gmail.com. **This email was set up for this sole purpose.** Please put *Add me to E-Newsletter* in the subject line, and you will be added to the newsletter distribution.

This will save over \$1,000 a month, and it will help keep the planet greener as well.

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 go to: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MiamiSierra or email anakanpa@yahoo.com. You will be sent reminders for upcoming meetings.

EarthSave—Vegan POTLUCK Dinner Sat, Nov. 24, 6:30 PM

"A TURKEY-FREE THANKSGIVING"

Bring traditional holiday fare or other favorite recipes. EarthSave provides a festive atmosphere: linen tablecloths, table decorations, tasty desserts and sparkling cider. Top that off with entertainment, and two great RAFFLE PRIZES.

TIM TYE Raw Food Guy Singer-Songwriter performs humorous works from his CD "RAW FOOD BOOGIE" **Not-Prime-Time Players** read "MONA LISA'S SMILE" a short play by Rynn Berry about renaissance man Leonardo Da Vinci's vegan ethics.

Where: Coral Gables Congregational Church (across from Biltmore Hotel)

3010 DeSoto Blvd., Coral Gables, 33134

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).

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

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By Kevon Andersen
(Sierra Club member since '99)

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Evening and Weekend Hours available

Outings—Sign Up Now

November 2007

November 4th—Turner River Canoe. This beautiful river goes 8 miles through very narrow channels from the Tamiami Trail, starting as fresh water and becoming increasingly salty as it flows into Chokoloskee Bay. Moderate...BUT the last hour may be strenuous depending upon open water wind/weather/tide. Limit 16. Cost \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401, e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. Asst: TBA

November 23, 24, 25 - Jonathan Dickenson State Park/Loxahatchee River Camp/Hike and Canoe. Canceled. A campsite was not available for this date as of August. Thanksgiving is a popular camping time, most campsites fill up quickly.

December 2007

December 15 - Everglades National Park Day Hike. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We will walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the nearby Gumbo Limbo trail and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch (included) and walk a trail there. Time permitting we'll go on to Pa-hay-okee Overlook. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll see gators, birds, turtles, fish, insects and maybe a snake or two. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551, e-mail: kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net. Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250, e-mail: mrhitnmiss@aol.com.

January 2008

January 6 - Hells Bay Canoe Orienteering. Enjoy a challenging day of orienteering with map and compass while canoeing through mangrove-lined channels and islands in Everglades National Park. Strenuous depending upon wind/wave conditions. Limit 16. Cost: \$35 members, \$40 non-members. Leader: Jim Gross, 305-665-2401, e-mail: JMGross3013@aol.com. (C)

January 12 - Everglades National Park Day Hike. Introductory hiking for beginners and a refresher for veterans. We will walk the Anhinga Boardwalk Trail and the nearby Gumbo Limbo trail and then drive to the Pinelands area and have a gourmet lunch (included) and walk a trail there. Time permitting we'll go on to Pa-hay-okee Overlook. Each trail is less than one mile long. We'll see gators, birds, turtles, fish, insects and maybe a snake or two. Leisure. Limit 10. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551, e-mail:

kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net. Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250, e-mail: mrhitnmiss@aol.com.

January 26 - Big Cypress Wild Orchid Day Walk/Slosh. Get your feet wet and your senses filled. Discover wild orchids in a pristine corner of Big Cypress National Preserve. This spectacular trail experience ends at the Three Graces. Moderate. Limit 4. Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Leader: Kaatje Bernabei, 305-223-6551, e-mail:

kaatjebnabei@bellsouth.net. Asst: Alan Nowell, 305-253-4250, e-mail: mrhitnmiss@aol.com.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630.

Inner City Outings

The Miami Inner City Outings (ICO) program provides youth from inner city and underserved communities in South Florida the opportunity to interact and fall in love with the natural environment. ICO works with a number of agencies in the area including Urgent Inc - Rites of Passage, The 100 Black Men of South Florida, Oakland Grove Neighborhood Association and Family of Humanity. Kids camp, kayak, snorkel and do service projects such as river clean-ups, exotic plant removal and seedling harvests. Volunteers are welcome. Visit the ICO website at www.icomiami.org or contact Mark Walters at mark@icomiami.org

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Name: _____

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Membership Categories—Circle One

| | Individual | Joint |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| Introductory | \$25 | |
| Regular | \$39 | \$47 |
| Supporting | \$75 | \$100 |
| Contributing | \$150 | \$175 |
| Life | \$1,000 | \$1,250 |
| Senior | \$24 | \$32 |
| Student | \$24 | \$32 |
| Limited Income | \$24 | \$32 |

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