



The BLPA, a volunteer group of concerned residents, has been working for 17 long years to preserve the Bear lakes. We did what we could within our small budget while documenting the deterioration of our precious lakes. With your help, 2008 will be our turn around year. Here is our 2008 plan and request for donations.

A QUICK LOOK

1. We all purchased property here because of the clean clear swimmable lakes.
2. In the last few years the Bear Lakes have lost a lot of clarity.
3. It took the accumulation of 40 years of urbanized watershed for the lake to degrade to this condition.
4. We can restore the water clarity for \$200K using alum. It is the ONLY reasonable restoration technique and is approved by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS).
5. The 178 lakefront residents and the 450 with deeded access on Bear Lake have the most to loose if we do nothing. To restore our lakes we are asking you to do your part by funding this extremely important project.
6. Is it safe? Absolutely! You will find alum on the spice rack in the store.
7. Expectations: Alum always clarifies water. What we don't know is exactly how much it will take or how long it will last.
8. We expect to start the alum application on or about Feb. 20, 2008
9. Donations will be solicited by one of your neighbors that is a BLPA volunteer between Feb. 1 and Feb. 18.
10. You can look on www.blpa.net for Bob's short fund raising video.

EXPLANATIONS and DETAILS

1. A house/lot on a clean swimmable lake costs a lot more than one on a dirty lake. We all paid extra for the exceptional clarity of the Bear Lakes. Bear Lake is loosing its clean reputation and with it goes your property value. In 1996 thru 1999 we had many months where the clarity exceeded 15'. Some exceeded 20'! In 2007 our average was just 8'.
2. Our 16 years of Lakewatch data show a very disturbing deterioration trend. Lakes do not get better naturally. They need significant intervention. We encourage the construction of swales/berms with the County's assistance programs, but that alone will never restore our lakes in our lifetime. We need to lock up that 40 years of P accumulation and reduce fertilizer runoff.
3. People equal pollution. Our 600 acre watershed was developed over the last 40 years and it is that urban development with its fertilized yards, paved surfaces and broken septic systems that kill a lake over time like death from a thousand cuts.
4. The BLPA has employed world class consultants. Dr Harry Gibbons, president-elect of NALMS has used alum in over 250 lakes. Dr. Eugene Welch is a leading limnology researcher and author. They have studied our lake, mud samples, etc. and recommended we use alum to both clarify the water and permanently lock up pollutants, especially phosphorous (P). The algae that is responsible for our poor water clarity cannot grow without P. The alum will remove much of our 40 years of accumulated P by bonding to it and locking it in the lake bottom forever.

5. An increase in water clarity from 7' to 15' could increase your property an estimated \$50K! If we simply continue to do little stormwater projects while asking everyone in the watershed to curtail their use of fertilizer we will see our lakes continue to degrade along with our property value. Our consultants suggest that \$200K will buy enough alum (and its application) to improve our water clarity for several years. If we collect more than that amount we will be able to keep the Bear lakes cleaner longer. (We have created a special alum counter-signed account to hold the money.) If we fall short of our goal we will still be able to do a lot of good because alum and P have a 1 to 1 relationship. That is, 1 unit of alum will eliminate 1 unit of new or accumulated P... permanently. Every pound of P we eliminate will turn back the hands of time!

In 1978 Bear Lake was unusable by boats. It was covered by the sea weed Hydrilla. At that time another volunteer Bear Lake organization went door to door and collected money to purchase the grass carp that have keep our lake free of weeds for the past 26 years. You, the Bear Lake shareholders, the people that derive significant property value (both up and down) depending on the lake's water clarity, are being asked to fund this 2008 program in the same way Bear Lake shareholders did in 1978.

6. It is totally safe. Alum has been used in human foods and to clarify our drinking water for many years. Our application method will add only very small amounts at one time so there will be virtually no reduction in pH. (Some voiced concern about the alum causing a low pH but we will be putting in such small amounts in one place at a time that this concern is eliminated. Besides, we intend to have a 3rd party test the pH.)
7. Our consultant's calculations have given an estimate of the amount of alum needed and that is what we based our donation request on. If we are able to afford a significant amount then we can expect several years of clear water.
8. It is best if the alum is applied in the winter months so we are shooting for Feb. 20, just after the end of our fund drive. We expect to select an applicator from the bidders soon.
9. Please have your check book ready... and be generous. Someone will knock on the doors of those that have yet to contribute.
10. www.BLPA.net has lots of pertinent lake information and links.

If you have any technical questions you can call either Matt Rayl (407) 886-3939 or Dr. Gary Rogers @ (407) 886-3939.