



**GET INVOLVED IN
YOUR LAKE—
IF YOU DON'T,
WHO WILL?!**

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • March 2007

ALUM UPDATE • ALUM UPDATE • ALUM UPDATE

Your BLPA Board of Directors, along with the Ecology Committee, has been studying the prospect of adding alum to the lakes to restore the water clarity that we enjoyed just a few years ago. We have attended an Alum Workshop in Madison WI, sponsored by the North American Lake Management Society (at no cost to the BLPA), consulted with Dr. Dan Canfield with Lakewatch, and we have gotten some estimates from a consultant. So far, it looks very doable and very economical.

One low cost dose of alum will instantly double our water clarity! That kind of water clarity will significantly boost our property values. And not just the values of the lakefront residents either. The value of a property with deeded access will also shoot up as the Bear Lakes become known as the cleanest lakes in Central Florida. Actually, everyone in the watershed will benefit in the form of property appreciation. Have I mentioned that we will get to enjoy the super clean lakes until we think about moving?

The cost can take two forms. The first method is to spend a little and get only one or two years improvement. The second is to spend a lot more and get as much as 10 years improvement. With about 250 homes around Bear Lake alone, the first, where we'd only get one or two years of improvement, would only cost each resident about \$200. The long-term treatment would cost about \$1,200 each. (The long-term treatment uses a lot more alum so that it will be in place when the phosphorous either comes in from the watershed or comes out of the

lake bottom.) We plan to make a recommendation very soon on which method we think is best. No permit is required and we can add the alum at any time; however, the Spring would be best, while the water is the clearest.

Alum is the same thing you buy at the grocery store spice rack for making pickles and other edible foods. It will not harm the fish, animals, or the envi-

ronment. It is perfectly safe. The City of Winter Park and Orlando have used it for years. We would probably order a tanker truck load of liquid alum and then have it sprayed on the lake's surface. As it falls to the bottom it will lock up all the phosphorous it comes in contact with then it will blend in with the bottom sand and sediment. Come to the next BLPA meeting to learn more.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BLPA March General Meeting

*March 13, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church*

***A drawing for the 2007 paid members
will be for a \$25 gift card from Home Depot!***

BLPA April Special Meeting for All Homeowners

*April 17, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church*

The mission of the Bear Lake Preservation Association is to provide environmental and civic stewardship for the Bear Lakes watershed. This is achieved through water quality monitoring, scientific understanding, public education, governmental intervention, and watershed improvements for the enhancement and preservation of the water quality and biological integrity of clean lakes.

SAVE A LAKE

Our Position: New Fertilizer Restrictions Won't Succeed Without Strong Campaign for Them

Reprinted from the February 1, 2007, Editorial section of the Orlando Sentinel

Orlando Sentinel

Beautify your lawn; harm a lake. That's the lousy trade-off in Florida, where property owners and others spread fertilizer over thousands of acres, only to see it leach into waterways, polluting them.

Sadder still is that one of the fertilizer's most potent polluting agents is unnecessary in maintaining a healthy looking lawn.

Thankfully, the state of Florida appears ready to better the landscape. In April, it's expected to impose its first statewide restriction on fertilizing yards. It may amount to changing some fertilizer formulas, limiting fertilizers containing some phosphorous to new lawns, and instructing those maintaining established lawns to use phosphorous-free fertilizer.

That's a start, but more is needed. An effective education campaign is essential

so property owners will understand the benefits of using phosphorous-free fertilizer. Or, that they can use less fertilizer in growing new yards.

The state also needs to make more headway in limiting threats from agriculture to lakes and wetlands. The coming restrictions apply only to non-agricultural users.

Some progress is being made. Farmers in few counties are using time-release fertilizers that result in less nitrogen penetrating the soil for potato and cabbage crops. That lessens the chances of it making its way to nearby rivers and lakes, where it nurtures algae.

But the state should do still more to further research that can lead to other, less threatening fertilizer applications for other crops. And then to get farmers, like other users, to see their worth.

BLPA Boat Parade Highlights

The BLPA held its annual Boat Parade on December 9, 2006. After meeting at the Ison's dock, a parade of four brightly lit boats slowly circled the lake. Those who participated included Mike and Pam Ison, Doug and Corrie Hungerford, Dave and Nancy Kaplan, and John and Sue Parker. The Parker's were the winner of this event.

All of the boats looked great! Many people exchanged holiday greetings.

Awards will be presented at the next BLPA general meeting on March 13, 2007, to the Parker's for the first place. We will also present an award to the Cramner's for the best decorated dock/yard.

The annual parade provides another opportunity for all of us to share the beauty of our lake together as neighbors. Thanks to all who participated and all who waved from the shore.



2006 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Brian Allen 407-580-6979
Vice President.....	Vacant
Secretary	Sue Parker 407-294-6026
Treasurer.....	Pam Ison 407-682-5485
Correspondence Secretary ...	Sue Parker 407-294-6026

Committees

Ecology.....	Bill Houston 407-521-8031
Lakewatch	Nancy Dunn 407-295-6335 Jan Brown 407-295-6739 Margaret Bundy 407-523-1064
Membership	Holly Gosney 407-774-0859
Newsletter	Nancy Dunn 407-295-6335
Social.....	Mike Ison 407-682-5485
Political	Brian Allen 407-580-6979

Directors

Judy Ihrig.....	407-292-4632
Bob Heideman	407-865-3333
Bob Shields	407-294-9093

Board Supporters

Patsy Cumbie.....	407-886-5588
Susan Burton.....	407-521-8212
Pat Brown.....	407-774-2028
Erma Cardilli	407-293-5227
Buddy Hutson	407-298-3681
Mike Kafer	407-298-5865
Anne Juergensen.....	407-925-5123
Ned Woolfolk.....	407-292-5128
Dick Dominica	407-522-4402
Holly Long	407-290-1593

Board of Directors Election Scheduled at Meeting on March 13, 2007

The 2007 election of the BLPA Board of Directors will take place at the General Meeting on March 13, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

You may also vote by mail. Use the ballot on this page and mail it in an envelope with your name and return address to Bear Lake Preservation Association, c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703. Ballots must be postmarked no later than March 12, 2007.

After the ballots are in, all ballots, both absentee and those cast at the meeting, will be counted by a non-board member. There is only one vote per qualifying household (husband and wife owners may only vote once on the same ballot).

The BLPA would like to have as many interested, active Board members as possible (for a maximum of 11, minimum of

7) to share the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the association.

If you know of someone who would be willing to serve, including yourself, write his or her name in one of the write-in candidate spaces on the ballot and place a check mark in front of it.

The time commitment required of Board members is not substantial. (Home-makers and retirees make excellent board members.) Any questions about what is required, please call Pam Ison at 407-682-5485.

If you are not already involved in the Bear Lake Preservation Association, and preserving the quality of our neighborhood and the Bear Lake watershed is important to you, please volunteer to help support the association. Remember that BLPA is only as strong as the support of its members.

BLPA Ballot

Place a check mark in front of your choices. (11 maximum or 7 minimum). Only one ballot per household:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Allen | <input type="checkbox"/> Shirley Haynes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Houston | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Brown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Heideman | <input type="checkbox"/> Pam Ison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrie Hungerford | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Shields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Ihrig | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Hutson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Burton | <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Dunn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holly Gosney | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Ihrig |

Write-in Candidates:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Only one ballot is allowed per member family. Bring your ballot with you to the March 13, 2007, meeting (extra ballots will be available). If you choose to mail your ballot, it must be postmarked no later than March 12, 2007. Marked ballots which are mailed should not be signed, but should be placed in an envelope bearing your name and return address. Address your envelope to: Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc., c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703.

Any person may be elected to the Board. Candidates do not have to be BLPA members but you must be a paid member to vote. Write-ins may be yourself or any person you think would do a good job.

Your Name: _____

BLPA thanks our Board Supporters:

*Vicki Jameson • Dick Dominica • Sue Parker • Holly Long
Margaret Bundy • Anne Juergensen • Walt Juergensen
Ned Woolfolk • Erma Cardilli • Patsy Cumbie*



Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

Welcome 2007! Call me if you have any questions (407-682-1214). The following is the most current information regarding the activity on Little and Big Bear lakes:

Active Listings

9410 Bear Lake Road.....	\$1,320,000
6007 Linneal Beach.....	\$1,150,000
6115 Linneal Beach.....	\$1,390,000

Closed Sales

3039 Cecelia Drive	\$895,000
9434 Bear Lake Road.....	\$519,900
3124 Holliday Avenue	\$1,950,000



Jeff Belford

Phone 407-474-4225
mobilemarinesvc@hotmail.com

1630 N. Singleton Avenue
Titusville, FL 32796



Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

Rainfall Versus Water Clarity

The following Lakewatch data covers the last 10 months. Clarity level is the average of four locations on Big Bear Lake and three locations on Little Bear Lake and Cub Lake. Lake levels determined by surveyed elevation markers set on the lakes by Seminole County.

Bear Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	4/06	1-7/8"	9'	104
	5/06	3"	10'	103.7
	6/06	4-3/4"	9-1/2'	103.6
	7/06	5"	8'	103.9
	8/06	7-3/4"	8'	103.8-1/2
	9/06	6-1/2"	7-1/2'	103.9
	10/06	n/a	n/a	n/a
	11/06	5-3/4"	7'	103.7
	12/06	4"	8'	103.7-1/2
	1/07	4-1/2"	10-1/2'	103.8

Little Bear Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	4/06	1-7/8"	8'	N/A
	5/06	3"	6'	102.63
	6/06	4-3/4"	6'	102.94
	7/06	5"	6'	N/A
	8/06	7-3/4"	6-1/2'	103.7
	9/06	6-1/2"	6'	103.8
	10/06	n/a	5'	103.85
	11/06	5-3/4"	n/a	n/a
	12/06	4"	8'	103.8

Cub Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	4/06	1-7/8"	9'	—
	5/06	3"	12'	—
	6/06	4-3/4"	10'	—
	7/06	5"	14'	101.1
	8/06	7-3/4"	11'	101.1
	9/06	6-1/2"	8'	101.2
	10/06	—	10'	101.0
	11/06	5-3/4"	9'	101.1
	12/06	4"	11'	101.1
1/07	4-1/2"	12'	101.1	

The BLPA Wants YOU!

The BLPA is committed to preserving the lakes and community to protect our lifestyle and property values. The BLPA invites you to join our organization. Be Aware! Get Involved!

Look at the membership advantages the organization provides:

- Free BLPA license tag.
- Lake preserving activities and ideas for residents.
- “Watchdog” challenges to encroachment by developers and government.
- Neighborhood social activities (picnics, block parties, boat parade, etc.)
- Monthly Lakewatch testing and analysis.
- Expert speakers on environmental topics such as lake management and water quality.
- Coordination of Neighborhood Watch communities.
- Town Hall forums for homeowners to express pros and cons of neighborhood projects.
- Liaison with the county on issues such as traffic, lake patrols, and water run-off problems.
- Other activity suggestions welcomed by members.
- Annual community picnic.

Please add your voice and financial support by joining this community enhancement group.

NOTE: BLPA annual dues have been increased for the first time in 15 years, covering printing and postage costs.

New/Renewal Member • Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc.
c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Ave, Apopka, FL 32703

Name(s) of Home Owner(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail this form to the above address with your check for \$75.00; senior citizens, \$35.00. Please make your checks payable to Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc.

GET INVOLVED AND DO YOUR PART! WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



SUSAN A. BURTON, P.A.
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Calendar of Events

- March 13..... General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- April 3..... Special Board Meeting
- April 17..... Special Homeowner Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 8..... Board Meeting

For committee meeting dates, please contact one of the Board members. The Ecology Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

www.blpa.net