



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

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

Alum Update: Our Special Meeting Was a Big Success

On April 17 we had about 60 members participate in our alum meeting. It was one of our best turnouts ever. Everyone is real excited about restoring our lakes to their former glory...the lakes we moved here for.

We have sent mud samples from the three Bear Lakes to the lab for phosphorous analysis and we expect to get the results in another two weeks. Shortly after that we hope to get our consultants recommendations which will include exactly how much alum and buffer we will need to restore our lakes. Of course, your Ecology Committee will keep you posted.

Dr. Dan Canfield, the limnologist from the University of Florida and the founder of LAKEWATCH, was our guest speaker.

Here are some of the highlights of his message:

He made the point that water clarity is what you want to pay attention to as

opposed to the other water quality indicators. He said water clarity is the only thing you can see and it is what all the other indicators culminate in.

Our problem is most likely the mud at the bottom of our lakes. To prevent the mud from recycling its phosphorous, we should use alum. If we apply enough, we should expect many years of improved water clarity. He suggested that the best time to do it is in the winter.

He suggested that we try to get matching funds from the Florida Game and Fish Commission by doing the alum treatment with the help of LAKEWATCH, which would conduct a study.

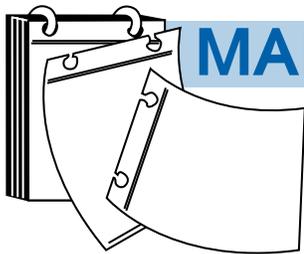
Mr. Mark Leavitt commented on how much the restored water clarity would raise property values and what a bargain an alum treatment will be. Even at this early stage, our members are so supportive that they have already donated \$9,200.00!

Bear Lakes Alum Project

The Bear Lake Preservation Association has undertaken efforts to interdict the increasing decline of water quality of our lakes. This plan was introduced recently at the general meeting on Apr. 17th. Donations will be the funding source for the alum project along with the possibility of receiving matching funds from the State of Florida. The funding began at the Apr.17 meeting when several homeowners wrote checks to BLPA Alum Project and expressed support for the need to take action. A separate bank account has been established for the project and donations are dedicated solely to the alum project.

This project is directed at all four lakes in the Bear Lakes watershed and needs the support of the 1,654 property owners which comprise the Bear Lake's watershed. Your donation should be mailed to Bear Lake Alum Project, Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Ave., Apopka, FL 32703, or given to any of the BLPA board members. When you are contacted by a BLPA member please be generous.

*Please mark your calendar
for the next BLPA
general meeting on May 15.*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BLPA March General Meeting

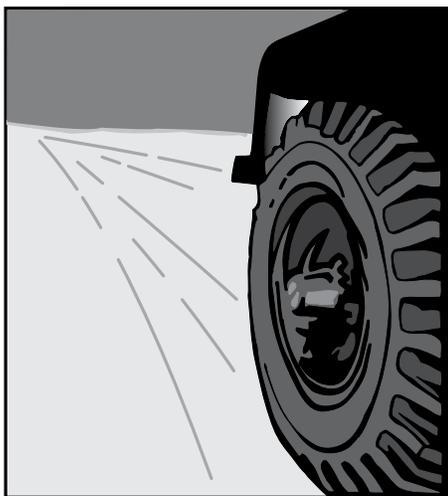
May 15, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Door prize drawing for paid members: gift certificate to Positano's

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.

Bear Lake Road Progress Report



quality treatment. Therefore, no drainage improvements are being proposed for this area.

Due to the number of pavement cuts required to construct the storm sewer improvements and utility adjustments, the County has decided to mill and resurface Bear Lake Road from north of Maitland Boulevard to south of SR 436 except for the area between Bunnell Road and McNeil Road. Temporary detours are anticipated during construction, although the maintenance of traffic plan will not be finalized until a contractor is selected. The project is anticipated to begin in September 2007 and take approximately 12 months to complete.

Bowyer-Singleton & Associates, Inc. (BSA) is scheduled to submit their final design plans for the Bear Lake Road Drainage Improvements to Seminole County on April 20, 2007. The SJRWMD Environmental Resource Permit was issued on October 26, 2006. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) Nationwide Permit has already been issued for the project.

Coordination with the utility companies is on-going, and BSA has spent the past several months preparing construction plans to adjust/relocate the water and sewer lines that will be in conflict with the proposed storm sewer pipes and inlets. The Utility Adjustment Plans will be part of the construction documents, and the utilities will be adjusted at the same time as the drainage improvements are being constructed.

Listed below are a few changes to the design since the last update in this newsletter.

The Ballentyne Place Home Owners Association voted against accepting stormwater runoff from the portion of Bear Lake Road between Jamison Drive to Bonnie Drive to their pond for water

The County understands how important the water quality of Bear Lake is to the community, and has taken a serious approach to protecting this valuable resource. Erosion and sediment control are important components of the construction plans and careful attention will be paid to this aspect during the construction process. Sand cement and rubble riprap is being proposed at all the outfall locations throughout the project, and a detail Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan has been prepared that addresses erosion control, water quality monitoring, stabilization practices, waste disposal, and maintenance and inspections schedules.

We encourage you to contact our Project Managers with any questions or concerns you may have. You may contact either Brett Blackadar of the Seminole County Public Works Department, 520 W. Lake Mary Boulevard, Suite 200, Sanford, FL 32773 (407-665-5702) (BBlackadar@seminolecountyfl.gov) or Barry Switzer, Bowyer-Singleton & Associates, Inc., 520 South Magnolia Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801 (407-843-5120) (BSwitzer@bsaorl.com).



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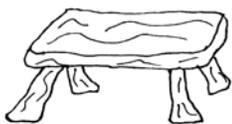
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LOST & FOUND ON BEAR LAKE



Lost: Hand-carved cedar step stool. The otters love to kick it out of my boat! If found, please call Nancy at 407-295-6335.

A Little History from John Dollins, Bear Lake Resident Since 1952!

John Dollins met a man named Mr. Taylor when he was in active duty for the Navy about 1950 or so. He made friends with this man during this time. At some point, they discussed the Lockhart area and Bear Lake. He offered a lot to John on the lake, now 3222 Holliday Avenue, and John and Mickie bought it in 1952. There were many weekends of boating, skiing, and swimming on the lake before the house was ever built.

The lot was pure white sugar sand with pine trees! John said there were too many weekends that he got stuck in the sand and had to have someone pull him out. Down by the lake was pure black muck! We would jump up and down and watch it squeeze through our toes...had black feet for weeks! The Taylor's had a two-deck dock that we used to swim to from our lot.

John and Mickie built the homesite in 1960 and we moved from Orlando to the lake. At this time, it was real country. SR 436 was a two-lane road with only Forest Lake Academy built there. We can remember when the original wood structure academy burned. Apopka was a totally separate town and we never went there! It was too far. We did our shopping at Exum's grocery (Mickie's family store) in Lockhart and picked up milk and bread at Begg's store on Bear Lake Road.

One of the first families on the lake were the Young's. Howard Johns married Yvonne Young. Howard was John Dollins uncle. The Dollins used to go to parties and swim at the Young's house.

Many fishing days were spent on the lake. The speckled perch were plentiful and easy to catch. We had great fish fry's with the big catches.

When John and Mickey moved to the lake, the Florida Power Clubhouse was already there. It is one of the oldest structures on the lake. Most of the property on the lake was occupied with camps and not full time living. The lake was so clean then, that you could use the lake water for drinking and bathing.



The Dollins' 50th anniversary photo.

It was years before anyone put in wells for water.

John and Mickie grew up in Lockhart, lived in Orlando for years, moved to Bear Lake in 1960. Mickie died in 1996, but John still lives in the original home (with some renovations).

A Walk Down Memory Lane...

Left: The Dollins' pictured here some time after they were married.



Right: The 90th birthday celebration of John Dollins.



Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

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
9730 Bear Lake Road.....	\$2,486,000
6007 Linneal Beach.....	\$1,150,000
6115 Linneal Beach.....	\$1,390,000



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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>
	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
	2/07	4-3/4"	12-1/2'	102.8
3/07	7/8"	9'	102.5-1/2	
4/07	1-1/8"	8'	102.4	

Little Bear Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	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
	1/07	4-1/2"	—	—
	2/07	4-3/4"	8-1/2'	103.7
3/07	7/8"	6'	103.3	

Cub Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	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
	2/07	4-3/4"	10'	101
3/07	7/8"	10'	100	

Go Green and Save!

Contributed by Paul Ihrig



If you are considering buying a new boat or personal watercraft, please consider upgrading to one with an efficient four-stroke motor. Many of the new four-strokes on the market today meet the California Air Resources Board's low emission ratings. The highest rated four-star motors, rated 'Super-Ultra-Low,' produce only 2% of the emissions of most of the two-stroke motors on the lake today! And since the exhaust from most motors is vented under water, that's a lot of unburned hydrocarbon emissions that won't be filtered through our lake waters – and into the air we breath. In addition to greatly reduced emissions, the low-emission four-strokes have these advantages:

- Much quieter – This will be appreciated by your fellow Bear Lakers!
- Greater fuel economy – Some of the new four-strokes will burn half the fuel of their two-stroke cousins and with gas approaching \$3.00 a gallon, this can add up.
- No need to buy two-stroke oil to be mixed or injected. Most of this ends up in the lake anyway.
- More reliable – Due to engineering advances and constant internal lubrication, these motors should last longer and have fewer problems than two-stroke motors.
- Higher resale value.

Here are the ratings to look for:

One Star – Low Emission: The one-star label identifies Personal Watercraft, Outboard, Sterndrive and Inboard engines that meet the Air Resources Board's Personal Watercraft and Outboard marine engine 2001 exhaust emission standards. Engines meeting these standards have 75% lower emissions than conventional carbureted two-stroke engines. These engines are equivalent to the U.S. EPA's 2006 standards for marine engines.

Two Stars - Very Low Emission: The two-star label identifies Personal Watercraft, Outboard, Sterndrive and Inboard engines that meet the Air Resources Board's Personal Watercraft and Outboard marine engine 2004 exhaust emission standards. Engines meeting these standards have 20% lower emissions than One Star – Low Emission engines.

Three Stars - Ultra Low Emission: The three-star label identifies engines that meet the Air Resources Board's Personal Watercraft and Outboard marine engine 2008 exhaust emission standards or the Sterndrive and Inboard marine engine 2003 exhaust emission standards. Engines meeting these standards have 65% lower emissions than One Star – Low Emission engines.

Four Stars – Super Ultra Low Emission: The four-star label identifies engines that meet the Air Resources Board's Sterndrive and Inboard marine engine 2009 exhaust emission standards. Personal Watercraft and Outboard marine engines may also comply with these standards. Engines meeting these standards have 90% lower emissions than One Star – Low Emission engines.

Many of the new four-strokes on the market today meet the California Air Resources Board's low emission ratings.



Bill Long's Fishing Guide

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Bear Lake and Access Privileges



A frequently asked question is "How do I get on Bear Lake?" The answer is to either live on the lake or have deeded access. Our recent poll of residents and vacant lots with deeded access is approximately 450. If you have additional information to add to our survey, please call Nancy Dunn at 407-295-6335.

Here are the preliminary numbers: Paradise Point Community Club: 360; Bear Lake Association - Lake Asher: 42; Bear Lake Community Club - Lynwood Drive: 19; and Bear Lake Heights - Linneal Beach Drive: 23.

Did you know that there are more residents with deeded lake access to Bear Lake than there are lakefront residents?

The Bear Lake Preservation Association has no lot, keys, or boat ramp access to Bear Lake!

BLPA Special Alum Fund

Show your support by donating to the BLPA Alum Fund...your lake depends on it!

- \$1000
- \$600
- \$400
- \$200
- Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Please send in this form with your check, payable to BLPA Alum Project, c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holiday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:00 am



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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!



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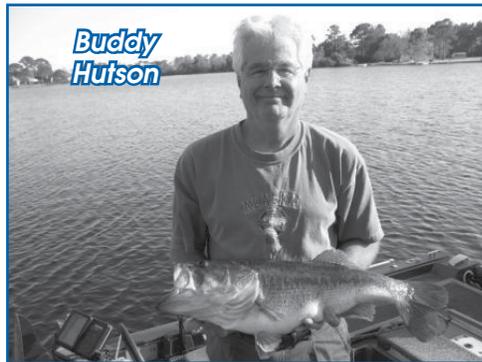
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This Ain't No Fish Tail!



I had fished half way around the lake with my fly rod and caught six small bass on top water flies along the edge. When I got to the other side of the lake, I put a 4-inch purple ribbed worm on the spin cast hooked South Carolina style and made a cast out into an area six foot deep that has hydrilla growing near the bottom. He, or she, took it on the second cast with just a little tap tap that many of us love to feel when using a plastic worm. When I set the hook, I knew that was not one of those yearlings I had been catching earlier. This hawg did not want to join me in the boat. I put it in the live well even though it was a bit cramped for swimming space. Paul and Judy were home so I took it over to their dock so the kids could see it. Photographs were taken then we all wished him well as he was released in hopes of one day giving another angler a similar thrill.

Calendar of Events

May 8.....Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 Positano's

May 15..... General Membership Meeting
 7:30 p.m.
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

July 17.....Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 Tony Roma's

August 17Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 TBA

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

www.blpa.net



c/o Pam Ison
 3010 Holliday Avenue
 Apopka, FL 32703