

## Here We Go Again — Another Water Main Break on Bear Lake Road

Back in October 2011, there was a 10" water main break on Bear Lake Road. At the time, hundreds of gallons of mud flushed into the stormwater drains/pipes and into Bear Lake at Bunnell Road. After being alerted by Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) Members, the Stormwater Department of Seminole County responded. They worked quickly to install a silt barrier fence in and around the ditch to slow the turbid water down. Unfortunately, the muddy water flushed a 500' plume, which stretched across 16 waterfront homes located south of the ditch on Bear lake.

Fast forward to the early hours of June 3, 2015, another 10" water main break happened south of the same area above, at Saint Andrew's Church on Bear Lake Road. It was a large wash out of mud onto the streets



*October 2011, 500' Plume in Bear Lake from water main break.*

and into the storm drains. Again, the County was alerted by BLPA Members to protect the lakes involved. Although the County responded quickly, they originally assumed the turbid water had flushed into retention pond 1 at Cub Lake. Regrettably, the muddy water entered through the bypass

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*June 2015 water main break.*

## Youth Ecology Group Hard at Work



The Bear Lake Youth Ecology group started with the thought that if we try to do some effort to keep, or improve the quality of this beautiful lake we live on, it will be a good thing. It made it so much easier for us since Bear Lake already had a well established association that was dedicated to maintaining the lake's quality...the Bear Lake Preservation Association. So with

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# Here We Go Again — Another Water Main Break on Bear Lake Road

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and flushed directly into Cub Lake. Again, BLPA Members contacted the County and as soon as they received our pictures, the County immediately responded. Bob Ballerino, the Senior Team Leader of Roads/Stormwater Division at Seminole County Public Works Department, reported the stormwater team cleaned the pipe system and removed the dirt off of Bear Lake Road and Cub Lake Drive the morning of June 4, 2015. The silt in the pipe system was mainly about 200 feet away from the water main break. The County flushed/cleaned the system from Bear Lake outfall and up toward pond 1 at Cub Lake,

past the break. The County also applied two Polymer (alum) Floc blocks and removed total suspended solids (TSS) inside the structure closest to Bear Lake outfall. The curb and gutter were swept that same night by the County's contractor. They also applied some wood fiber terra tubes (fiber filtration tubes) around the exposed area at the church entrance to catch any runoff from the area.

The quicker we report this type of problem, the sooner the County can respond. Thanks to the diligent BLPA Members and to the County for their response in helping to prevent further damage to our lakes.



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# One of the Top Five Improvement Projects is Currently Underway

According to Seminole County, the purchase of property adjacent to the existing ditch/pond at Cub Lake is near completion, and a work order for final design and permitting is currently in progress. The property will be used to divert the outfall systems from Bear and Little Bear Lakes, and to filter the stormwater runoff and outfalls prior to entering Cub Lake. The cleaner water entering Cub Lake will flow out to Lake Lotus and eventually to the Wekiwa River. The Bear Lake Preservation Association will continue to keep its Members informed of any new development of any of the top five improvements.

The top five recommendations of Bear Lakes' Watershed Hydrologic/Nutrient Budgets and Management Plans' scientific study are as follows:

**Alton Drive Stormwater Pond Modification (Lake Asher):** This project will redirect the stormwater runoff from the drainage channel into the existing treatment pond. The stormwater water will filter in the treatment pond before entering Lake Asher which will provide a substantial reduction in

nutrient loading runoff generated into the lake. Thus, the overflow from Lake Asher into Bear Lake will be cleaner.

**Cecelia Drive Nutrient Separating Baffle Boxes (Bear Lake):** Install underground baffle boxes from the sub-basin located near the intersection of Frances and Cecilia Drive. This area contains the highest mean concentrations of total nitrogen and phosphorus of any sub-basin area monitored. In fact, it was two times greater than the next highest total phosphorus concentration measured. This will treat and filter the inflow from stormwater runoff into Bear Lake. Thus, significantly reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the lake.

**Bear Lake Road Stormwater Pond (Cub Lake):** Construct stormwater ponds and divert outfall systems from Bear and Little Bear Lakes, to filter the stormwater runoff and outfalls prior to entering Cub Lake. Thus, creating cleaner water entering the lake which flows out to the Wekiwa River.

**Playa Way Underground Retention System (Bear Lake):** Construct an underground stormwater diversion

structure/retention system along Power Line easement, preventing direct stormwater runoff from Playa Way into Bear Lake. Thus, filtering the water prior to it entering the lake.

**Hibiscus Lane Stormwater Pump Station (Bear Lake):** Construct Pumping Station to pump untreated runoff back to existing pond at Balmy Beach and Holliday, for further treatment and filtering prior to overflowing to Bear Lake. Thus, creating a cleaner overflow of water into the lake.

All of the above projects will significantly improve the quality of all the Bear Lakes. To learn more about the County's projects, visit our website: [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net)

## A Bird's Eye View




**Wood Stork in Flight**

A frequent visitor around the Bear Lakes is the Wood Stork, about the size of a Great Blue Heron. Although it's not the most attractive of birds, it's enjoyable to watch one move slowly and gracefully through shallow waters feeding on fish, crayfish, snakes, frogs, and hatchling alligators. It has a long neck and a huge white body with black wing tip feathers. Adult Wood

Storks lack feathering on their dark head. Their highly sensitive bill is thicker and more drooped than herons, and will snap shut with lightning speed when it meets potential prey. The Wood Stork was formally one of the most abundant wading birds in Florida. However, alteration of wetland hydro periods, and loss of habitat, led to a sharp decline in population. The Wood Stork is very susceptible to water level manipulation and excessive rainfall, especially during the nesting season when they have to find additional food for their young. The Wood Stork was endangered for more than thirty years, but in June 2014, was classified as "Threatened." We are fortunate to enjoy these and other birds in and around the Bear Lakes.

**Educate Yourself and Your Lawn Maintenance Crew!**



**When Mowing and Edging Your Property:**

- Do not blow grass clippings, leaves, or other yard debris into streets, ditches or storm drains!
- When mowing near the water's edge, use a grass catcher. Do not blow grass clippings into the lake from your mower, weedwackers, or edgers!

Stop this harm to the Bear Lakes now and help keep the Bear Lakes clean!

# Negative Impact of Eelgrass on the Bear Lakes and Its Residents

- \* Heavy loads of floating eelgrass causes the outfall/drain structure to clog frequently and not drain properly. The high water issues cause erosion of shorelines, flooding of docks and properties.
- \* Eelgrass feeds algae as it releases loads of nutrients back into the water when it breaks off and floats around. Residents constantly rake it off of their shorelines and out of the lake, disposing of it as yard waste.
- \* Recreation is affected by the loss of the former beautiful sand bottom. This makes swimming undesirable in areas of eelgrass growth or where heavy loads of broken eelgrass float to shorelines by winds (varies daily according to wind direction).
- \* "Swimmers itch" increased by apple snail population explosion as snails feed on eelgrass, and when mixed with shoreline water bird excretion, mainly ducks, the combination has created a "swimmers Itch" problem on Bear Lake <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/learn/>

swimmers-itch/

- \* Native plants and shoreline re-vegetation (recommended for the Bear lakes in our Nutrient Study) has not been possible due to high waters and heavy loads of floating eelgrass being tossed onto surrounding shorelines by winds and wake, smothering existing native plants. Algae clings to the eelgrass adding to the mess on and along shorelines
- \* Property values and home sales are lowered due to an ugly mess along shorelines.

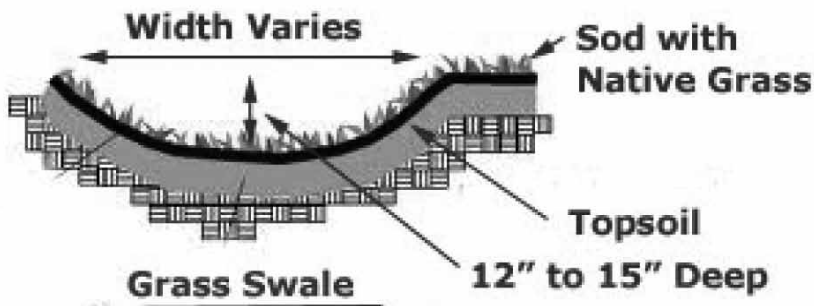
So what is happening with the Bear Lake eelgrass? The BLPA Ecology Committee reports a slow decrease of eelgrass growth in Bear Lake. The committee is initiating a current *Lake Bottom Area Eelgrass Survey* to further analyze the eelgrass removal rate by carp. Many shallow areas once covered by a thick growth of eelgrass are now clear and restored to a sandy lake bottom. Eelgrass is

now sparsely found growing in areas deeper than 10'. Six years ago, 200 acres of lake bottom (of the 310 acre Bear Lake) was covered with eelgrass growing to 16' deep. Lake clarity yearly averages have not changed and sunlight reaches those areas of 15' to 16' deep. It is common for carp to edge areas in the deep holes first, as they are shy when food is plentiful. The fish have also cleared large shallow areas on the east and south sides of the lake. Growth is now in patches, being "thinned out" by the carp. This is a good observation, but Eelgrass continues to grow thick and is covered with algae in areas where stormwater enters through pipes and ditches into Bear Lake. According to the University of Florida LAKEWATCH scientists, the carp have taken a long time to keep up with the growth of the eelgrass in Bear Lake, however, they seem to be working better at it now, after a long six years. **By reducing use of lawn fertilizers in the Bear Lakes watershed, residents can reduce feeding the eelgrass and algae.**

## Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
<b>Bear Lake</b>	2/15	1.65"	12'	104.05
	3/15	4.2"	13'	103.91
	4/15	4"	11'	103.7
	5/15	.35"	12'	103.22
	6/15	6.33"	9.5'	103.22
	7/15	6.1"	10'	103.45
	<b>Little Bear Lake</b>	2/15	1.65"	n/a
3/15		4.2"	5-1/2'	103.80
4/15		4"	6'	103.61
5/15		.35"	7'	103.14
6/15		6.33"	7'	103.41
7/15		6.1"	n/a	n/a
<b>Cub Lake</b>		2/15	1.65"	9'
	3/15	4.2"	9'	100.00
	4/15	4"	8'	100.0
	5/15	.35"	7'	99.6
	6/15	6.33"	7'	100
	7/15	6.1"	6'	100.5

# Stormwater - The Importance of Swales!



*Example of a Grass Swale*

Development in our area over the years has led to flooding concerns and to increased pollutants flowing into Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher from stormwater runoff such as fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, motor oil, and heavy metals that wash off lawns, driveways, sidewalks, roads, and parking lots. **A stormwater system is an important tool for managing the stormwater runoff from rainfall.** This is why the Bear Lake Preservation Association encourages its members to create a natural swale in your landscape. A man-made stormwater swale will mimic nature's natural filtering process from these pollutants. The cleaner the water that enters the lake, the cleaner the Bear Lakes will be for us and for future generations to enjoy.

Swales are either man-made or natural areas shaped to allow water to be quickly absorbed into the ground

immediately after a storm but are typically dry at other times. They are open systems and allow stormwater to settle and filter before slowly flowing into water bodies.

The greatest threat to the lakes is indifference — the belief that someone else will fix the problems. It will take everyone's participation in and around the Bear Lakes to improve the health of all the lakes. Each of us can modify behavior to reduce or eliminate our impacts on Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher. Grassed Swales are an appropriate stormwater management practice. Swales are a low cost low maintenance option to remove sediments, nutrients, and pollutants from entering the lakes. They increase stormwater infiltration and add a visually aesthetic component to your landscape.

BLPA would like to remind the

or to allow the water to flow to other waterways. As in a shallow ditch, a swale promotes water absorption through soils. Swales hold water during and

residents on the Bear Lakes and in the watershed, not to alter the size of any existing stormwater swale or ditch. The stormwater system is designed and constructed to an appropriate size. Any reduction in treatment volume will interfere with the swale/ditch's ability to hold stormwater runoff. Filling stormwater swales, ditches, and retention systems can cause flooding and endanger the Bear Lakes. As reported in the Hydrologic studies of the Bear Lakes, the existing swales in our area have assisted in prolonging our lakes from being un-swimmable, green with algae, and thick muck bottoms.

Our own city neighbors, Maitland, Winter Park, and the City of Orlando, are all seeing the damages and effect to their lakes from filling-in their existing ditches and swales for stormwater collection. Now, the curbs and gutters send stormwater runoff (fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, motor oil, and heavy metals) directly into underground pipes which flow into the lakes without any retention/filtering. Our neighboring cities are left with a long and costly task of cleaning up their lakes.

For information on how to create a swale in your landscape, go to: [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/handbook/Reduce\\_Stormwater\\_Runoff\\_vSept09.pdf](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/handbook/Reduce_Stormwater_Runoff_vSept09.pdf) or ask your professional lawn service.

Save the existing swales and create your own to help keep the Bear Lakes clean and swimmable!

## Bear Lake Preservation Association - Big Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher 'The Bear Lakes'

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.

Volunteers are critical to the success of any organization. Without their time and energy it would not be possible to accomplish all of the goals of this organization. It's only with the assistance of local volunteers such as you that we can rise to meet the challenge of our mission statement.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or becoming a Board Supporter, please contact a current Board of Director today.

**We thank all the BLPA Members, Supporters, and Volunteers who make this mission possible!**

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# Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

The following is the current information regarding real estate listings. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions (407-222-3917).

### Active Listings

9335 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$275,000
9527 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$359,000
3542 Holliday Avenue.....	\$399,500
3436 Holliday Avenue.....	\$550,000
3045 Cecelia Drive .....	\$594,000
6135 Linnel Beach .....	\$899,000
3524 Holliday Avenue.....	\$935,000
3404 Holliday Avenue.....	\$450,000

### Sales

9616 Bear Lake Road .....	\$288,000
3428 Holliday Avenue.....	\$300,000
10020 Bear Lake Road .....	\$390,000
3416 Holliday Avenue.....	\$536,000
3030 Holliday Avenue.....	\$538,000



## BLPA NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2015 BLPA MEMBER(S) DUE PAYMENT FORM BLPA MEMBER(S) CHANGE OF CONTACT INFO FORM

**New Option - pay by Paypal! To sign up or renew your membership go to [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net) and click on Join BLPA.**

Please make your check payable to "BLPA":  
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Mail to: BLPA, Post Office Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32716  
 Alternatively, PayPal † pay online [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net).

**Thank you for continuing to support to help keep our lakes clean!**

## The Bear Lakes Need You!

PLEASE CHECK:    New Member(s)    Current Member(s)    Change of Member(s) Contact Info

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Questions please call Margaret Bundy (407) 497-0295  
 BLPA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. All financial contributions to BLPA are tax deductible.  
 BLPA will provide a receipt upon request for your donation.

## Upcoming Event

### SAVE THE DATE

#### BLPA ANNUAL POT LUCK BBQ PICNIC AND APPRECIATION DINNER

Please save-the-date to join the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) on **Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 6:00 pm, for a Pot Luck Dinner at Saint Andrews Church.** Plan to bring your entire family and enjoy great food. We encourage you to also invite a neighbor and meet others in the Bear Lake Community.

BLPA will be providing all the chicken and pulled pork from Keller's Real Smoked Bar-B-Q Restaurant in Altamonte Springs. BLPA will also be providing beverages. If you can plan to bring a side dish or dessert for the Pot Luck dinner, it would be greatly appreciated. Speaking of dessert, consider entering your family's favorite dessert to be judged to win a prize in the "Best Dessert" Contest!

As we get closer to the date, please make sure you check out the November 2015 Newsletter, and email notification from BLPA, for RSVP and other detailed information. We look forward to seeing everyone again and meeting new neighbors on **Thursday, November 19, at 6:00 pm**, for great conversation, food and fun!



PO Box 162605  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

## Youth Ecology Group Hard at Work

*Continued from page 1*

the help of Nancy Dunn, we learned how the process worked for lakewatch. Nancy showed us the process used for measuring lake quality and clarity. Then we went through the formal training to become certified lakewatch volunteers. Since then, we all try to help Nancy every chance we get.

Last October, we were nominated for the Presidential Environmental Youth Award (PEYA). This award is issued by the Environmental Protection Agency each year to recognize special efforts made by young people to preserve our environment. "Though our team

didn't win the big prize for our region, we still received recognition from the Office of the President of the United States for our work," said Daniel Walls. The group includes myself, along with Chase and Scott Morell, Nathan Eyal, Parker Brown, and Jesse Albert.

It has been such a pleasure to help Mrs. Dunn, and winning the regional PEYA award was an added bonus. I am headed to UCF this fall, but I hope that Scott, Chase and some of the others will carry on the lakewatch volunteer efforts for our group.



***Far right: Daniel Walls, Leader of the Youth Ecology Group, earned his LAKEWATCH "red hat" recently for sampling Bear Lake for more than one year. Congratulations, Daniel!***