



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

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • November 2006

Bear Lake Road Progress Report

Bowyer-Singleton & Associates, Inc. (BSA) submitted their 100% design plans for the Bear Lake Road Drainage Improvements to Seminole County at the end of September, and the plans are currently being reviewed by the County. The SJRWMD Environmental Resource Permit is close to being issued — we have responded to the District's single Request For Additional Information, and expect to have a staff-issued permit by early November. 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 is coordinating with the County on 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 become part of the construction documents. The utilities will most likely 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 Public Information Meeting.

In order to maintain the existing sidewalk on the east side of the project, the portion of Bear Lake Road from the abandoned railroad tracks north of Maitland Boulevard to Pine View Way will be converted to an urban section with curb and gutter and curb inlets, which will match the roadway section through the curves. This approach will also allow the stormwater to be collected off of the roadway surface before it has a chance to flow either onto the sidewalk or onto private property. The proposed storm sewer system will convey the

stormwater to the existing storm sewer system between Pine View Way and Bear Lake Circle, which will be upgraded to improve conveyance and reduce the risk of clogging. A treatment pond will be constructed in the outfall ditch leading to Cub Lake by constructing an earthen berm near the downstream end (before it discharges into Cub Lake), with an outfall structure, and the outfall pipe from Bear Lake and Little Bear Lake will be piped around the proposed pond to avoid any impacts to the stages of those lakes.

The existing pond immediately north of Bunnell Road will be reconstructed to transform this facility to a wet pond. Since the required volume was not provided with the proposed flatter side slopes, the existing slopes and the fence will remain.

Coordination is continuing with the Ballentyne Place Home Owners Association and it appears that we will be able to route the stormwater from the portion of Bear Lake Road between Jamison Drive to Bonnie Drive to their

pond for water quality treatment.

Erosion and sediment control are important components of the construction plans and careful attention has been 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 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, Florida 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@bsaolr.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BLPA General Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2006 • 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Guest Speakers: Joe Martini from Middleton Pest Control will discuss phosphorous free fertilizer & best practices for lawn care and Susan Burton will speak on property values vs water quality.

DOOR PRIZE TO BE AWARDED!

Are You a Casual Polluter?

Just as we are addicted to oil we are also addicted to modern living habits that damage our environment. It has always been that way. "People equal pollution" has been an often repeated phrase in the environmental sciences for a long time. Thirty-three years ago, while on a kayak trip near the Artic Circle, I was advised, "You can drink the river water everywhere...except in the areas where people live."

The truth is that we all live downstream. Simply put, the rain falls down, it washes our property, and runs down hill, into our lakes and our groundwater. You probably don't think about it when you are buying fertilizer or hiring a landscape firm, but much of the fertilizer and pesticide used to keep beautiful lawns washes into our lakes during thundershowers. That makes us "casual polluters" because we don't know, or we don't care, about the damage that is taking place. We think that as long as we are just doing what everyone else is doing, and there is no law against it, there is no reason for us to stop doing it.

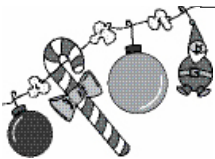
If you over use fertilizer you are living a contradiction. "As you beautify your private landscape you are damaging OUR communal environment." A beautiful yard gratifies us personally while improving the look of the neighborhood. But when we use fertilizers, pesticides, etc. to make our private property beautiful we are in fact polluting the public water sup-

ply and turning our beautiful clear lakes an ugly green making them unswimmable. The cause and effect relationship is difficult to see because of the delayed reaction and the unmeasurable affect each bag of fertilizer has on the whole. To a lake it is like a death from a thousand cuts. Because our private landscape can be seen and attributed to us individually and the corresponding degradation to our communal water cannot, the "out of sight, out of mind" phenomena is in full force. Galbraith said it best back in 1908, "...private affluence is consistent with public squalor."

Some parts of the country have strict laws banning the use of fertilizer because of what is now known about its water polluting effects. But without such laws we know it will be very difficult to get people to reduce their applications because of our innate desire for personal beauty. Difficult, but not impossible. I think if we can get the word out, that most of the residents of our watershed will want to do the right thing to protect both OUR environment and their own property values. Once they understand that clean lakes will help their property value much more than a lush lawn, they will have that selfish, personal reason to switch to a more natural yard.

We in the Bear Lake watershed must come to grips with this contradiction of

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Holiday Boat Parade Scheduled

By Mike Ison

Mark your calendar for our upcoming holiday boat parade. Saturday, December 9th, at 6:00 p.m. has been selected as our official parade date and time. Sunday, December 10th, at 6:00 p.m. will be reserved as the boat parade rain date alternative. We will again have impartial judges casting their votes for the best decorated boat and dock with prizes given for each!

Are you a new resident and unsure of what to do? Decorate your vessel (if

it runs and floats, it qualifies) and dock, and at 6:00 p.m. motor up to the Ison's dock located at 3010 Holliday Avenue. Look for parade participants on the north side of the lake at Balmy Beach and Holiday. We'll make one lap around the lake so bring candy for the spectators and if Santa approves, borrow his reindeer and elves to join you. Be sure to ask a boatless neighbor to accompany you if room is available and let's have some fun!



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Are You a Casual Polluter?

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private affluence (heavily fertilized landscaping) at the expense of our degrading public water supply (lakes, and ground water). I am referring specifically to excess fertilization, erosion, soaps, pesticides, insecticides, etc. washing into the ground, the streets, and our formerly clear lakes. Things that you know would kill your fish in your home aquarium you allow to wash into our communal environment. This is coming from over 1,000 homes and it is really starting to show its affects.

Most of us moved to "The Bear Lake Area" because of the clean, clear Bear Lakes. We say it with pride, "I live in the Bear Lake Area." But we are killing them! We are killing them with fertilizer. IF IT MAKES YOUR LAWN GREEN IT MAKES OUR LAKES GREEN. A few years ago, Bear Lake had 20 foot water clarity. Today, it has only 7 foot water clarity. What will it have in a few more years? Dead fish smelling up the neighborhood? What will that do to your pride and your property values?

Can we all agree on this statement? "An unpolluted environment with clean clear lakes and clean drinking water but without lush St. Augustine lawns is a more desirable environment than one with unswimmable lakes and undrinkable ground water with lush, green St. Augustine lawns." If we agree on that, we can act right away as intelligent proactive people that understand science and the laws of cause and effect OR we can do it some years later, after the water is irrevocably polluted, after our water bills go sky high, when we are forced to do it by the EPA or some other regulating body, when they outlaw fertilizers and other aquatic pollutants.

We are not in this alone. This problem is not unique to our area. There are many places in the USA and Europe that already have very restrictive laws on the use of fertilizer for the above reasons. Asking people to conserve energy, water, or anything else of a personal nature does not work with most people. You have to force them (like with rolling blackouts) or make it a law (like watering only on certain days) or make it cost prohibitive. The Florida Dept. of Health is now mak-

ing new laws concerning septic tanks and the Dept. of Agriculture is looking at restricting fertilizers but I hope that we don't have to wait for the laws. I'm afraid that, at the rate we are going, our Bear Lakes will be unswimmable by that time.

How can we get everyone in the watershed to see that the reduction or the elimination of fertilizer on their property as a good thing? To be proud of a low environmental impact landscape?

Here are some things that we should be doing to protect our community property, the jewels of our landscape, those things that we came to this area for, those things that can make our property values go up or down — our beautiful Bear Lakes.

We can have it both ways — a beautiful landscape and clean water ONLY if we are super diligent with the use of fertilizer, pesticide, etc. That means using only "no phosphate" liquid fertilizer, non-toxic biodegradable pesticides, and preventing the first flush of rain water from leaving your property. Car wash water should go into the ground and not into the street or storm drain. Put food waste in the garbage, not in the sink's garbage disposal

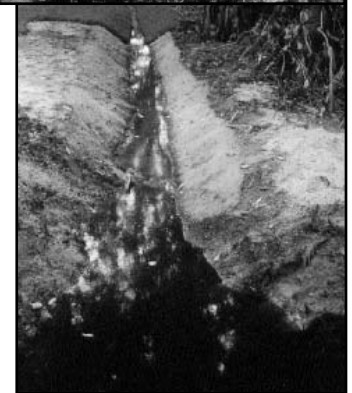
(remember that you are on septic, not city sewers.) Pump your septic tank every three years. Pick up pet waste.

Our watershed was originally sugar sand for the most part, with scrub oak, pines and palmettos. When it was like that, the lakes were exceptionally clear. We can never get back to that but we can stop many of our polluting behaviors. Look around at some of the older homes in the area, the ones that do not have St. Augustine grass and do not fertilize. They are impacting OUR environment the least. The homes with St. Augustine grass, which requires fertilizer and watering, are impacting OUR environment the most. Some properties do not need a lawn. If you have lots of pines you can let your lawn revert back to pine needles. No watering, no fertilizers, no pesticides, no cost. This is common in places like Arizona, Lake Tahoe watershed, and it is mandated on Captiva Island (a very wealthy island) and many other environmentally astute areas which put the common good above the private desire.

Please do your part to protect OUR Bear Lake Community. And, please... pass the word.

Improvements to Drainage Ditch

In June, Seminole County made improvements to the drainage ditch on Balmy Beach Drive between Azalea Rd. and Cecelia Dr. Stormwater crews performed maintenance on the ditch along with removing sediment buildup at its outfall into Bear Lake. Three crossover pipes were also cleaned going under Balmy Beach Dr. Two floating turbidity barriers were installed prior to starting the project. The ditch was sodded and erosion control products were installed around the outfall pipe. The BLPA was notified of the project in March, so we would be aware of the construction between the houses down to the lake. We appreciate the communication lines between the County Departments and the BLPA. And special thanks to Anne Juergensen, who lives nearby, for her efforts in convincing the county to cover the ditch with a sidewalk. The completed project looks great.



What's Being Put on Your Lawn?

Watershed residents, please fill in the blanks then give this agreement to your lawncare company/gardener/landscaper/husband/wife.

When using a lawn care service, whether existing or a new company, please add the following directions to the agreement and insist on mandatory compliance from the company.

Lawn Service Contractual Agreement

You are custodian of a property within the watershed of a uniquely clean, clear, swimmable lake. Fertilizer is the number one enemy of the lakes and is causing damage. The priority must be clear, clean water rather than greener grass.

1. Fertilize minimally. Use only no phosphorous fertilizer.
2. Never apply fertilizer within 15 feet of the lake high water level. Note: This could be 30 feet or more from the lake edge during low water conditions.
3. Never fertilize in ditches, swales, between houses, on steep grades, or in areas that flow during rain events.
4. If soil test indicates a need for phosphorous then use a liquid application.
5. Insist that granular fertilizer is not permitted.

I/we agree to abide by the above requirements.

Homeowner Signature: _____ Date: _____

Lawn Care Service Signature: _____ Date: _____

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LAKEWATCH Report

LAKEWATCH volunteers attended the annual picnic for Seminole County in August, picking up their packages of data collected over the years. The Bundy's represented Cub Lake, the Brown's represented Little Bear and Nancy Dunn represented Bear Lake. Information was exchanged among lake scientists and the Seminole County volunteers about current and past conditions of the lakes.

Nancy presented a check for \$1,000 from the BLPA for the new LAKEWATCH building to be built on the campus of the University of Florida. Nancy has been working as a volunteer to help raise money in the state through the LAKEWATCH volunteers since July. The BLPA will have the organization's name posted on the new building for the contribution.

A New Home for Florida LAKEWATCH

August 2006 was Florida LAKEWATCH's 20th anniversary! The first water samples were collected by LAKEWATCHERS at Lake Santa Fe (Alachua County) and Lake Broward (Putnam County). Since 1986, LAKEWATCHERS have sampled more than 1,000 lakes and numerous near-shore coastal waters in 50 counties. The Florida Legislature in 1991 officially established Florida

LAKEWATCH within the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at UF/IFAS (Chapter 91-69; s. 240.5329, F.S.; now F.S. 1004.49). LAKEWATCHERS have made LAKEWATCH Florida's largest and the nation's premier citizen volunteer monitoring program. But, we now must look to the future. This is especially true as population growth in Florida put ever-increasing pressure on our water resources!

It is my hope that you believe in Florida LAKEWATCH as much as I do. Florida LAKEWATCH has always had and will continue to have in its mission working with the volunteers first! LAKEWATCHERS have through the sampling of their lakes provided themselves an "insurance policy" so if a change or changes were to occur at the lake it would be documented. The LAKEWATCH team has developed a database that is used by many groups and is a tremendous asset to international, national, state, regional and local water resource managers and researchers, lake homeowners associations, educational institutions, consultants, and the general public. Together, we have solved problems at individual water bodies, we have addressed not only water quality issues, but also aquatic plant management problems and fisheries problems and we have developed lake management plans for lakes. The LAKEWATCH team has also influenced public policy. Now, I believe that the present LAKEWATCH team needs to take a bold step to help insure that Florida LAKEWATCH will be there for future Floridians.

Florida LAKEWATCH needs a better "home" that can improve program services now and in the future. Florida LAKEWATCH staff members and facilities are currently scattered amongst multiple buildings and sites. The facilities cannot be expanded to meet growing demands. Florida LAKEWATCH needs a permanent "home" where it can improve program services now and in the future. New facilities will increase communica-



tion, create efficiencies and enhance the ability of staff members to deliver services to the citizens of Florida. Plans have been developed for a 10,000 sq. ft. complex on the UF/IFAS Millhopper site that will greatly expand current opportunities for research and delivery of services and permit much needed future expansions in the next 20 years. The new facilities will include a bacteriological laboratory, a toxic algal laboratory, a fish tissue laboratory and a general fisheries laboratory, to provide state of the art resources needed to continue critical water quality analyses. The facilities will provide office and laboratory space needed to attract internationally recognized eminent scholars to assist LAKEWATCH with addressing the issues raised by the LAKEWATCH team. A pavilion will permit Florida LAKEWATCH to continue its award-winning youth education program, Fishing for Success. Training youth to be future LAKEWATCHERS is a critical part of our mission. And lastly, the construction of a large conference room will finally provide a site where LAKEWATCHERS can meet to provide their insights and experiences on specific issues to each other and directly communicate their concerns to assembled scientists.

The vision for a new "LAKEWATCH HOME" is an exciting prospect. On July 8th, I met with leaders from various statewide LAKEWATCH groups. This group of dedicated volunteers agreed to help raise \$1,000,000. This money will be matched dollar for dollar by the Florida Legislature resulting in a total building fund of \$2,000,000. This money will not only

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Gators and Bears in the Area

5/27/06: ON LITTLE BEAR BETWEEN THE CURVES ON BEAR LAKE ROAD; Saturday morning around 6:45, my wife went out back with our new puppy and received quite a shock. A fisherman just out from our dock was yelling to get her attention and saying "Bear." I was sitting in the family room with our other dog when we both saw the bear come across our yard from Bob Shield's back yard just a few feet from the back steps of our deck. It looked to be a black bear about out 3/4 grown. It continued on through the back yards on Little Bear to the south. By the time I got the dogs settled down it was too late to take a picture. I suppose we officially live on "Little Bear" now, almost "Big Bear." (Reported by Buddy Hutson)

5/29/06: ON BEAR LAKE OFF BEAR LAKE ROAD SOUTH OF BUNNELL Our neighbors here on Bear Lake Rd. saw it at 6:20 a.m. swimming at the end of their dock having fish for breakfast! It was quite a large bear but happy and swam along the end of the docks appearing to be quite happy for the bath, food and drink. At no time did the bear approach anyone or cause any trouble that we could see. We

too wish they had time to get a picture! (Reported by Corrie Hungerford)

8/19/06: ON SOUTHWEST SIDE OF LITTEL BEAR LAKE; I watched a 6 to 7 foot alligator swim back and forth about 100 yards from shore. For several hours it stayed on the surface but would submerge when I walked out on the dock. A gray heron kept circling and diving at it. The next day, some children said they saw a large splash on that side of the lake and several shore birds taking off in a hurry as if something was after them. I have not seen it back but if you have children or pets that play along the water's edge, it would be wise to take precaution. (Reported by Buddy Hutson)

9/23/06: A TRAPPER WAS CALLED TO LITTLE BEAR WITH A BOOM BOX & CHICKEN MEAT ON A HOOK. RESIDENTS ON LITTLE BEAR WERE STILL SEEING A GATOR AND BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT CHILDREN & PETS. (Reported by Jan Brown)

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LAKEWATCH Report

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build a facility for future LAKEWATCH activities, but it will also show the State that Florida's citizens are willing to do what it takes to be good stewards of the water resources of Florida.

So, I am writing to ask for your help. Construction costs are significant, but our goal is very reachable if we all work together. LAKEWATCHERS can contribute individually and/or each LAKEWATCHER can reach out to their lake neighbors and others in their community that benefit from healthy water resources. Each of you probably knows other individuals or groups in your communities that might contribute. I hope you will contact them, or work with our Director of Development – Josh McCoy at 352-392-1975 to determine the best course

of action. Often it is not what you know, but whom you know! With networking, creativity and hard work, we can make this happen.

Florida LAKEWATCH is housed within the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. All contributions to Florida LAKEWATCH are tax deductible and should be made payable to the University of Florida Foundation, Inc. Please include a note or a memo on the check indicating that you would like this gift designated to the Florida LAKEWATCH building fund. Josh is also available to discuss non-cash gifts as well.

Please mail any donations to: IFAS/SHARE Development Office, 1001 McCarty Hall D, PO Box 110170, Gaines-

Neighborhood Watch



BLPA needs help with Neighborhood Watch. It would be great if you could join our committee and help gather e-mail addresses from your neighbors. Then, when a problem comes up, we could do a broadcast e-mail to all our neighbors and everyone would be informed about the problem very quickly. This will take some time in the beginning but once all the e-mails are gathered it would not take much effort to keep the e-mail list current.

Please call Judy Ihrig at 407-292-4632 or e-mail her with addresses you have collected (atvc@bellsouth.net).

ville, FL 32611-0170, Attention: Josh McCoy.

For the 20 years that Florida LAKEWATCH has been in existence, the LAKEWATCH group has worked hard to gather the funds needed to keep the program alive. I have never asked volunteers for more than their time to take water samples. However, funds are becoming ever more difficult to obtain and now I need your help! I look forward to working with you on this great endeavor. With your help, Florida LAKEWATCH will successfully obtain a needed stability that will serve current and future LAKEWATCHERS for many years to come!
Daniel Canfield, Jr., Professor of Limnology, Founder and Director of Florida LAKEWATCH

Yard Work — As Viewed from Heaven

(A conversation between God and St. Francis)

God: Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What is going on down there in the U.S.? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and the stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of color by now. All I see are patches of green.

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. They are called the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds, and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it is so boring, it's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it. Sometimes two times a week.

God: They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of

them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis: No sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize it to make it grow and when it grows, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this Lord, but when the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep the moisture in

the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves become compost and enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St. Francis: You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No way. What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing the leaves away, they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

St. Francis: They cut down the trees and grind them up to make mulch.

God: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a really stupid movie about...

God: Never mind. I think I just heard the whole story from Saint Francis.

Vegetation Study



On June 22, 2006, the LAKEWATCH experts conducted our 3rd vegetation study in 15 years on Bear Lake. The lake has less than 1% area covered (PAC) and percent volume inhabited (PIV).



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 our lakes:

Active Listings

9730 Bear Lake Road.....	\$2,500,000
9434 Bear Lake Road.....	\$519,900
6007 Linneal Beach Drive	\$1,150,000
6115 Linneal Beach Drive	\$1,390,000

Pending Sales

6245 Linneal Beach Drive	\$940,000
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Closed Sales

3004 Holliday Avenue	\$600,000
3124 Holliday Avenue	\$1,950,000
3039 Cecelia Drive	\$895,000

There have been no closed sales since last newsletter.

Hyacinth Report

During the past 12 months, BLPA volunteers have removed most of the hyacinth plants from the canal which is located on the western side of Big Bear. The canal "collects" most anything floating in the lake and acts as a trap once the winds push plants and debris to the west. Hyacinths form a patch or mat and grow rapidly in the nutrient rich water and would cover the canal surface without intervention. Hyacinth plants are considered among the fastest growing in the world. Thanks to our volunteer team, BLPA board members, BLPA members, residents who reside on Little Bear and residents along the canal for making a difference. Stay tuned for the next hyacinth party in 2007.



Gators and Bears in the Area

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10/10/06: LITTLE BEAR LAKE; In August, Buddy Hutson sent an email and pictures reporting an alligator in Little Bear Lake. Not only was the gator sighted in the lake, but at one time it was lying close enough to his dock to get pictures. Jan Brown called the Fish and Game Commission to report the gator and to see if it could be legally removed by them. Several days later, two licensed trappers from the Fish and Game Commission came out. Using a large boom box with a recording of a clutch of baby gators, they were able to call the gator out from hiding (they said a female gator would come to protect the babies, a male gator would come to eat them). Even though the gator came quite close, they were unable to get him on a hook that day. For several days the trappers put out bait to try to catch the gator. This consisted of very large hooks baited with either chicken or very smelly meat. The gator didn't bite.

On October 3, I got a call from the trappers that a 6 foot alligator has been caught and removed from the lake on the night before which would have been October 2. They did this by coming out about 2:00 a.m. on a couple of consecutive nights and calling it to them. Then they were able to get the gator on the hook.

This is great news; however, I'm not entirely certain there isn't another gator in the lake as Judy and Paul Ihrig think they saw one after the reported capture. We all have to keep our eyes open and be alert. The trapper assured me they would return if another gator was sighted. (Reported by Jan Brown)

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 Little Bear Lake and three locations on 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>
	12/05	3"	8-1/2'	104.5
	1/06	7/8"	10-1/2'	104.5
	2/06	3-1/4"	11'	104.5-1/2
	3/06	1"	10'	104.4
	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	

Little Bear Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	12/05	3"	10'	103.85
	1/06	7/8"	no data	no data
	2/06	3-1/4"	12'	103.8
	3/06	1"	12'	103.33
	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	

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	



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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!

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:00 am



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Calendar of Events

November 14..... General Meeting

December 9 Boat Parade

December 10 Boat Parade Rain Date

January 16 Board Meeting, Positano's

6:30 p.m.

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

www.blpa.net

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.

Over the years, many of you have referred to your home in the Bear Lake watershed as being in the "Bear Lake Area." Frequently you would hear comments like, "That is a really clean lake!"

It is now October, 2006 and you should now expect to hear comments like this: "That used to be a really clean lake, what happened to it?"

"We used to water ski on it when you could see the bottom 20 feet down. What happened?"

"Bear Lake has gotten so dirty that we now have to go to the springs to swim in clear water."

The widespread use of fertilizer throughout the Bear Lake watershed has finally exceeded the tipping point, the lakes capacity to process the fertilizer and still remain clear. We now have a thick blanket of algae covering the lake bottom and it has already suffocated the millions of clams and mussels that had been responsible for our great water clarity.

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NOTICE**



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