

# BEAR LAKE News

Preservation Association

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • November 2013

## BLPA Family Pot Luck Dinner November 12, 2013

Please join the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 6:00 pm, for a Pot Luck Dinner at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church. Bring your entire family, meet neighbors, and enjoy great food. We encourage you to invite a neighbor to 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. If you can bring a side dish or dessert for the Pot Luck dinner, it would be greatly appreciated.

"Best Dessert Contest" for all you bakers — bring your favorite dessert to be judged and a chance to win a prize for the best dessert!

RSVP by Thursday, November 7th, so we can order the right amount of chicken and pulled pork. To RSVP, please contact Catherine Heideman at 407-538-1097. In the alternative, you can email her at [cwjclafin@hotmail.com](mailto:cwjclafin@hotmail.com). Please make sure you let Catherine know what you are bringing and how many will be attending.

The Pot Luck dinner will be held in the Social Hall at the church. The church is located at 9913 Bear Lake Road in Apopka where we have all the BLPA General Meetings.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, November 12th, at 6:00 pm, for great conversation, food and fun!



**BRING A  
DISH...BRING  
A NEIGHBOR!**

**SAVE ROOM  
FOR GREAT  
DESSERTS!**



## BLPA Annual Holiday Boat Parade, Saturday, December 14, 2013



***The Holiday is a Great Time  
to Celebrate***

The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) is hosting its Annual Holiday Boat Parade on Saturday December 14, 2013, at sunset. We invite you to decorate your boat and join us in the parade around Bear Lake. Prizes will be awarded for the best decorated boat and dock!

If you are not entering your boat in the parade, gather your family and friends around your decorated docks or shore line — bring your flashlights to wave as the boat pa-

rade goes by to join in the holiday fun!

Please contact Brenda Vallancourt at 407-291-6808 to register your boat in the parade, and for the sign-in meeting location and time prior to sunset (start of the parade).

In case of rain or other bad weather, the "Rain Date" will be December 15th.

Thank You Volunteers! Unless Someone Like You Cares, Nothing is Going to get Better, It's Just Not!



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 yourself that we can rise to meet the

challenge of our mission statement.

Thank you to all the BLPA board supporters and volunteers!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact a BLPA Board Member today.

## Educate Yourselves 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!

**STOP THIS HARM TO THE BEAR LAKES NOW AND HELP KEEP THE BEAR LAKES CLEAN!**

## St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:30 am  
Sunday School: 9:15 am



### 2013 Board of Directors

#### Officers

- President.....Bill Houston  
407-721-0219
- Vice President .....Bob Shields  
321-354-4449
- Treasurer ..... Jim Maki  
407-683-3732
- Secretary..... George Helm  
407-808-2089

#### Committees

- Ecology .....Bill Houston  
407-721-0219
- Lakewatch..... Nancy Dunn  
407-920-4975  
Jan Brown  
407-295-6739  
Margaret Bundy  
407-523-1064
- Membership..... Jon Albert  
407-718-2494
- Newsletter ..... Judy Ihrig  
407-292-4632  
Margaret Bundy  
407-523-1064

#### Directors

- Dr. Jay Goebel .....407-295-9457
- Nancy Dunn .....407-295-6335
- Margaret Bundy .....407-523-1064
- Mark Leavitt .....407-578-9993
- Jon Albert.....407-718-2494
- Catherine Heideman .....407-538-1097
- Judy Ihrig.....407-292-4632

#### Board Supporters

- Patsy Cumbie .....407-886-5588
- Susan Burton .....407-521-8212
- Erma Cardilli.....407-293-5227
- Anne & Walt Juergensen.....407-299-7147
- Ned Woolfolk .....407-292-5128
- Jan & Sandy Brown .....407-295-6739
- Vicki & Marc Renner.....407-569-0494
- Sue Parker .....407-294-6026
- Michael Bundy .....407-523-1064
- Holly Gosney.....407-774-0859
- Buddy Hutson .....407-298-3681
- Anne Armistead .....407-293-1188
- Tealea Fortune .....407-694-9297
- Denise Fitzgerald.....407-467-7889
- Jim and Janice Maki.....407-683-3732
- Matt Rayl.....765-437-5118
- Brian Allen .....407-580-6979

# Recruiting to Build a Quality Board

***“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” — Elizabeth Andrew***

Every year BLPA needs new board members. Below is a list of job descriptions for each board position. Please read through them and ask yourself could I do that job? You may not have time but you could be a board supporter. After looking over the list, please contact the board member who is currently holding that position and let them know you would like to be considered for that position or committee, and become a board supporter or director. Remember, this is your neighborhood and your lakes to protect. Get involved.

## PRESIDENT

- Set dates for all events one year out
- Facilitate Board meetings and General meetings
- Secure Speaker for General Meetings
- Email/Call reminder for Board Meetings
- Develop and distribute agenda to all board members present at meetings
- Submit minimum of one article per newsletter
- Recruiting to build a quality board
- Responsible for Board Members
- Board Supporter: Assistant

## VICE PRESIDENT

- Secure Church and organize General Meetings
- Agenda Board for General Meetings
- Secure Picnic Site
- Web Site Development
- Recruiting to build a quality board
- Work with Board Supporter as Website Assistant

## SECRETARY

- Record minutes at Board Meetings
- Distribute minutes to board members
- Attend all Board Meeting or assign a substitute
- Secure backup for recording minutes when absent from Board Meetings

## TREASURER

- Maintains Balance Sheet
- Generate Membership List
- Forward updated membership list to Membership (Board Member)
- Forward non renewal member list to Membership Board Member
- Maintain Email List
- Distribute License Plate Tags to new members (or Social Board Member)
- Forward all new members to Social Board Member

## CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

- Oversee all corporation responsibilities

## ECOLOGY

- Hold Monthly Committee Meeting
- Set Dates for Committee meetings
- Present Ecology findings at General Meeting
- Education (with annual budget for promotional products, flyers, and other educational tools)
- Submit minimum of one article per newsletter
- Bird Count
- Coordinate with Board Supporter

## LAKE WATCH

- Monthly Lake Watch water test
- Recruit/train lake watchers for all four lakes
- Present Lake Watch findings at General Meeting
- Attend annual Lake Watch picnic
- Oversee annual donation to Lake Watch
- Distribute educational material from Lake Watch to Ecology/Board Members
- Submit minimum of one article per newsletter
- Maintain, Store and set up Aerial Photos
- Coordinate with Lake Watch Board Supporters for each lake

## NEWSLETTER

- Complete newsletter by deadline
- Set Dates for Next Year Deadlines
- Real Estate Watch
- Work with Board Supporter to Develop Flyer for Picnic, Boat Parade, Sell ads for Newsletter, Proofread Newsletter

## SOCIAL

- Organize Annual Picnic (food, entertainment, tables/chairs)
- Organize Quarterly Social Pot Luck Dinner
- Set Dates for Social meetings
- Gift for General Meeting & Picnic Drawing
- Tickets, 50/50
- Submit minimum of one article per newsletter
- Work with Board Supporter to Organize Picnic
- Call new members and welcome them to the Association

## MEMBERSHIP

- Maximize membership
- Manage welcome basket creation distribution
- Maintain Mailing List
- Email reminder for General Meeting
- Create and oversee mailing of annual renewal notice
- Follow up with non-renewal members
- Store, maintain and set up signage for all events
- Submit minimum of one article per newsletter
- Coordinate with Board Supporter to Manage Calling Bank (make phone calls, report results to membership)

Board Supporters will be assigned to a specific Board Member's responsibility

# Eelgrass...



Eelgrass, being a native plant, has provided the lake with excellent fisheries' habitat and nutrient uptake capabilities leading to greatly improved water qual-

ity. **That's great but have you seen my shoreline?** Undoubtedly, the negative aspects of living with eelgrass are seen on any given day. Unfortunately, piles of floating leaf blades from uprooted plants wash ashore. Depending on which way the wind is blowing, it seems like it all ends up on your shoreline. Daily you are raking and bagging up the dying vegetation before it rots and sinks to the bottom of the lake which turns to muck.

Since we all assumed an obligation to share the responsibility of good management of our water body, we are seeking your help as neighbors. Randy Harvey, one of the homeowners on Big Bear, has taken the lead on finding ways to help clean up the massive amounts of floating eelgrass. He recently discussed this

problem and possible solutions with the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) Board of Directors.

If you are impacted with the eelgrass washing ashore on your beach, contact Randy at 407-415-7231. Please determine approximately how much eelgrass accumulates on your shoreline, within a specific period of time, and provide that information to Randy. Once the data is collected, he will obtain estimates and options for removal of the floating vegetation. Randy will also be soliciting any suggestions from lakefront homeowners for eel grass removal. Perhaps working together as neighbors we can come up with a mutual solution to the nuisance of floating eelgrass.

## Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

The following data collected for the University of Florida LAKEWATCH program covers the past 6 months on the 3 lakes sampled.

The Bear Lakes area received approximately 49.85 inches of rain since May 2013. Many of these rains were downpours. The rains saturated the watershed and flushed fertilizers from lawns into the lakes. The water levels came up and over the tops of the outflow manholes in Bear and Little Bear Lakes, filling the pipes to Cub Lake. Downstream, other tributaries also filled storm water pipes flowing to the Little Wekiva River as fast as the capacity would allow. Shoreline erosion from

winds and boating also occurred as the water levels came up.

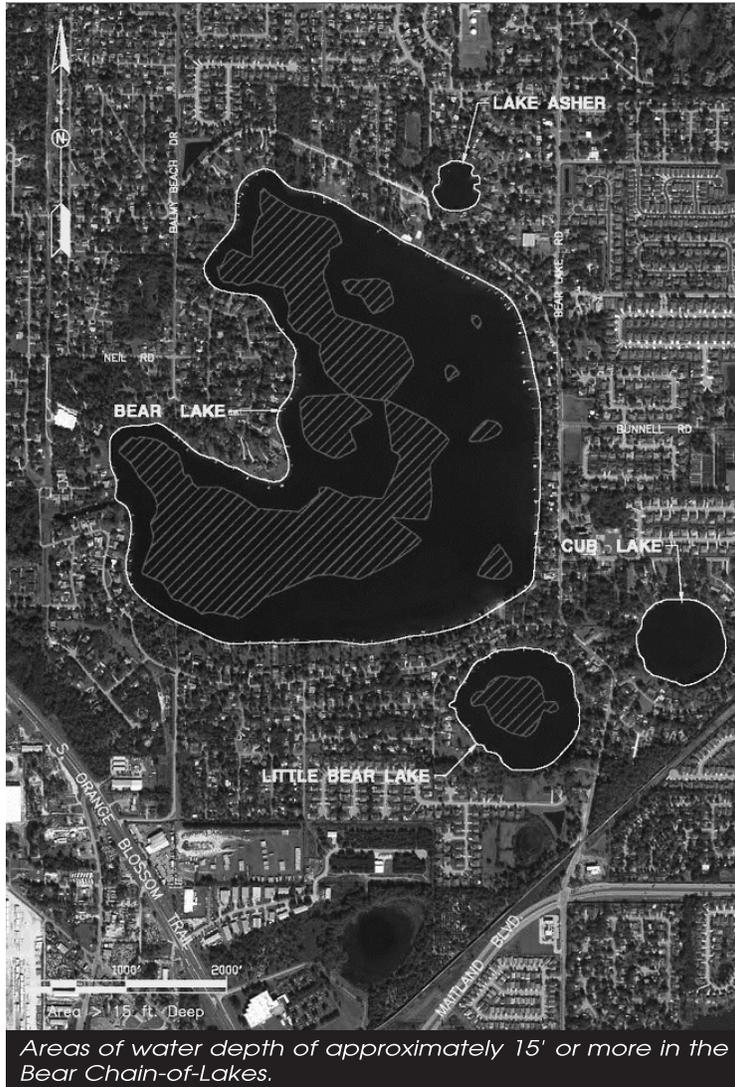
In the past 22 years of monthly water samples, the data collected show summer rains flush in damaging nutrients (Phosphorous and Nitrogen) from fertilizers feeding algae & turning the lakes green (not clean) historically, in the fall months. Overflow elevations for the Bear lakes: Asher 105.78; Bear 103.50; Little Bear 102.78; and Cub 100.19.

To report activities in the watershed affecting a lake's water quality contact your Lakewatch Volunteers: Nancy Dunn for Bear Lake & Lake Asher 407-920-4975; Janet Brown for Little Bear 407-295-6739; and Margaret Bundy for Cub Lake 407-523-1064.

|                  | <b>Date</b>             | <b>Rainfall</b> | <b>Clarity Level</b> | <b>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</b> |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Bear Lake</b> | 4/13                    | 3.0"            | 12'                  | 103                                  |
|                  | 5/13                    | 8.95"           | 11.5'                | 103.55                               |
|                  | 6/13                    | 18.05"          | 11'                  | 104.49                               |
|                  | 7/13                    | 9.7"            | 11'                  | 104.05                               |
|                  | 8/13                    | 5.75"           | 10'                  | 103.9                                |
|                  | 9/13                    | 7.4"            | 12'                  | 103.85                               |
|                  | <b>Little Bear Lake</b> | 4/13            | 3.0"                 | 7.5'                                 |
| 5/13             |                         | 8.95"           | 6'                   | n/a                                  |
| 6/13             |                         | 18.05"          | 7'                   | 104.1                                |
| 7/13             |                         | 9.7"            | 7'                   | 103.91                               |
| 8/13             |                         | 5.75"           | 5-1/2'               | 103.73                               |
| 9/13             |                         | 7.4"            | 5-1/2'               | 103.9                                |
| <b>Cub Lake</b>  |                         | 4/13            | 3.0"                 | 7'                                   |
|                  | 5/13                    | 8.95"           | 8'                   | 100.3                                |
|                  | 6/13                    | 18.05"          | 9'                   | 101.8                                |
|                  | 7/13                    | 9.7"            | 9'                   | 100.4                                |
|                  | 8/13                    | 5.75"           | 6'                   | 100                                  |
|                  | 9/13                    | 7.4"            | 7'                   | 100.2                                |

# Recommendations from the Nutrient Study on Boating & Depths

By Dr. Harvey Harper



**6.8.2 RECOMMENDATIONS:** Based upon the results of the boating impact evaluation performed by ERD and the study performed by Yousef, et al., it is recommended that normal motor boating activities within the Bear Chain-of-Lakes be restricted to water depths of approximately 10 ft or more. These areas should be clearly outlined within the lake using buoys, with no wake restrictions in force in areas between the buoys and the shoreline. Evidence of significant uprooting and cutting of rooted vegetation was observed by ERD in Bear Lake on many occasions during this study, resulting from boating activities in shallow water. The proposed 10-ft depth restriction for full-speed activities will also assist in minimizing impacts to beneficial vegetation within the lakes.

where full-speed boating using traditional boats would be allowed based upon these new recommendations. These areas include the vast majority of Bear Lake and Little Bear Lake, along with much of Cub Lake.

No areas in Lake Asher are greater than 10 ft in depth. Motorized boating would be difficult in Lake Asher anyway due to the extensive vegetation within the lake. Areas of water depth of approximately 15 ft or more in the Bear Chain-of-Lakes are indicated on Figure 6-16 from the report and as shown on this page.

The areas indicated on this figure are those which would be suitable for use by enhanced-wake boats.

**Areas of water depths of 15 ft or more include much of the western half of Bear Lake and central portions of Little Bear**

Some of the boats operating within the Bear Chain-of-Lakes are part of a new generation of ski and wakeboard boats which have onboard ballast tanks that can be filled with water to enhance the wake generated behind the boat. These types of boats have the potential to create water column disturbances to deeper depths than occur as a result of typical motor boating activities. Therefore, it is generally recommended that normal operation using these types of boats be limited to areas where the water depth is approximately 15 ft or more.

A diagram indicating areas within the Bear Chain-of-Lakes which are approximately 10 ft in depth or more. (are indicated on Figure 6-15 in the nutrient study). This represents the areas

**Lake.** No areas in Little Bear Lake or Cub Lake are greater than 15 ft in depth. Therefore, a minimum water depth of 10 ft is recommended for the Bear Chain-of-Lakes for normal boating activities, with a minimum water depth of 15 ft for enhanced wake boating.

Boating activities in water depths less than 10 ft would be limited to no-wake conditions only.

The recommendations outlined above are intended to apply to motor boats only. Personal water craft use a jet propulsion system which discharges water horizontally just below the water surface. These types of water craft create very little vertical disturbance within the water column and do not necessarily need to be limited to the same water depths recommended for traditional boats. However, even personal water crafts should not be operated in water with depths less than 5-6 ft for both water quality and safety reasons. Therefore, it is recommended that non-idle operation of personal water craft be restricted to water depths in excess of 6 ft.

*Article taken from a portion of the 355-page document for Bear Chain of Lakes Hydrologic/Nutrient Budget and Water Quality Management Plan.*

## THE BEAR LAKE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (BLPA) IS A TAX-EXEMPT, NON-PROFIT 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION

BLPA would like to remind you that all contributions are tax deductible. Should you wish to make a contribution, please request a receipt from Jim Maki, Treasurer. Your tax deductible contributions can be made to any of the following categories: General Operating, Dues, Carp, Alum.



# 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**

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 9616 Bear Lake Rd.....     | \$325,000 |
| 9602 Bear Lake Rd.....     | \$349,000 |
| 6135 Linnel Beach Dr ..... | \$974,500 |
| 9832 Bear Lake Rd.....     | \$995,000 |

**Pending Sales**

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1411 Balmy Beach Dr.....   | \$1,100,000 |
| 6007 Linnel Beach Dr ..... | \$449,900   |
| 3416 Holliday Ave.....     | \$549,000   |

**Closed Sales**

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 6500 Bear Lake Cir.....    | \$349,900 |
| 3218 Holliday Ave.....     | \$599,000 |
| 6103 Linnel Beach Dr ..... | \$695,000 |



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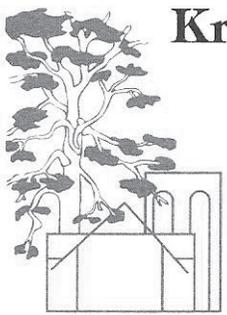
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# BLPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014

PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716 • www.blpa.net

New Option - pay by Paypal! To sign up or renew your membership go to www.blpa.net and click on Join BLPA.

2014 BLPA dues.....\$85.00

Seniors 62+ .....\$50.00

Please make checks payable to: B.L.P.A. and mail to: P.O. Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716.  
Thank you for your continuing support to help keep our lakes clean!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Effective June 13, 2009, BLPA is now a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. All financial contributions to BLPA are now tax deductible. BLPA will provide a receipt upon request for your donation.*



**Pam Oropeza  
Realtor**  
407-446-5861  
Ploropeza@bellsouth.net



**Frank "Happy" Oropeza  
Realtor**  
407-446-5859  
Fworopeza@bellsouth.net

**Buying or Selling in or around Bear Lake or Lake Brantley area? Contact Happy or Pam Oropeza for Results you can count on! Bear Lake area resident for over 25 years**

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Bear Lake  
residents*



Exit Real Estate Results

# Upcoming Events



**Guest Speaker: Fred Brummer,  
Orange County Commissioner District 2**

*Mr. Brummer will update us with the new regulations and laws as they pertain to septic tanks in Florida.*

**NOVEMBER 12** ..... Pot Luck Dinner and Dessert Contest  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 6:00 pm  
*Looking for volunteers to help with the  
Pot Luck Dinner, call Jon Albert 407-718-2494.  
RSVP by November 7th to  
Catherine Heideman 407-538-1097*

**DECEMBER 14** ..... Boat Parade

For committee meeting dates, please contact one of the Board members. The Ecology Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For information, contact Bill Houston at 407-721-0219.

[www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net)



PO Box 162605  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

## Did You See the Sandhill Cranes in August?

We have been living on Little Bear Lake since 1991 and we have never had Sandhill Cranes come to our backyard. Living on Little Bear Lake is like being on vacation.

Florida Sandhill Cranes are long-legged, long-necked, gray, heron-like birds with a patch of bald, red skin on top of their heads. Sandhill Cranes fly with their necks outstretched with powerful, rhythmic wing beats. Sandhill Cranes are usually seen in small family groups or pairs. However, during the winter, Florida's Sandhill Crane population increases as cranes from northern states spend the winter in Florida. They are a threatened species that are found in inland shallow freshwater marshes, prairies, pastures and farmlands. Sometimes they can be seen on lawns throughout Florida. They are sensitive birds that do not adjust well to changed environments and high human populations. Sandhill Cranes are omnivorous, meaning they eat a variety of plant and animal matter. Some of their favorite meal items include seeds, plant tubers, grains, berries, insects, earthworms, mice, snakes, lizards, frogs and crayfish. Unlike other wading birds, such as herons, Sandhill Cranes do not "fish." The voice of the Sandhill Crane is one of the most distinctive bird sounds in Florida. This "call of the wild" has been described as a bugling or trumpeting sound, and can be heard for several miles. Florida Sandhill Cranes stay with the same mate for several years and young Sandhills stay with their parents until they are about 10 months old. Like their endangered relatives the Whooping Cranes, Sandhills live to be older than most birds. In fact, some Sandhill Cranes live up to 20 years.

