

## Why Keeping the Bear Lakes Clean is So Important

**"The sacred lamp of day now dips in Western clouds his parting day." -- William Falconer**

At the end of everyday if we stop and look we can take in one of the most beautiful sights too often overlooked. The early evening light is as if God is opening up the heavens above to give us a tiny glimpse of its beauty. How fortunate we all are to live on the Bear Lakes and enjoy such splendor. Nothing is like the magical streak of glittering light reaching across the water at sunset.

Water is one of the most mesmerizing thing from an early age. The movement of water often calm us. We are drawn to it. We love every interaction with it. The sight, smell, feel, and sound. It's one reason you moved here. One of the best parts about raising children in our area is the clean lakes. Did you know the Bear Lakes are some of the cleanest lakes in Seminole County and in the State of Florida? More than twenty-five years ago the Bear Lake Preservation (BLPA) was formed by a small group of lakefront property owners. Even back then, we saw the impact of human activity and the affects it had on our lakes. Thanks to this small group we have grown to a strong association dedicated to the preservation of our lakes, which include the Lake Lotus, the Little Wekiwa, and Saint Johns River.

The most vital step in keeping our drinking water clean is to keep the source clean. We all want our children, and children's children to look out on these lakes with the same awe we have now. We all must understand and educate ourselves on the negative impacts of human activities on the quality

of water--human action pollute water. We must understand ways that good water quality can be maintained--prevent water pollution, and keep our water clean. And understand that our actions affect the quality of water and its ability to sustain life--pollution kills and makes people or animals sick.

Children do as we do. They mimic our behavior. They are the future of our community. There is hope for tomorrow if we all adopt the behaviors to help keep our water clean.

Here are a few tips to help keep the Bear Lakes clean for many generations to come:

- Avoid using lawn fertilizers and pesticides.
- If you have a septic tank, keep it maintained annually and have it pumped at least every 2-3 years (depending on size).
- If you have a water vessel, keep it maintained annually. Good maintenance can reduce the leaking of

oil, coolant, antifreeze, and other nasty liquids carried by rainwater down driveways or through parking lots and then seep into groundwater supplies. Go a step further by always choosing a car wash over hosing down your ride yourself. The pros must drain their wastewater into sewer systems, where the water is treated for all the bad stuff before being discharged. Many even recycle that water.

- When enjoying the lake, take all garbage with you. If you see floating garbage or debris, pick it up.
- Avoid blowing grass clippings from mower, edger, or weed whacker into the lake. Educate your lawn maintenance crew.
- Dump nothing into storm drains! How sad it is to drive down a busy street/highway and see trash and debris in the storm drains. Most

***Bear Lake Sunset on the  
Eve of Independence Day -  
July 3, 2017***



# Keeping the Bear Lakes Clean...

Continued from page 1

storm drains flow directly into our waterways with no filtration so this pollution ends up in our lakes, rivers, streams, oceans.

- Take a hard look at your outdoor surfaces. Stormwater flows across hard materials, like concrete or asphalt, and into storm drains—bringing all the dirty stuff it picked up along the way. Stop these pollution streams on your own property by using gravel, paver stones, wood, or other porous materials. If a hard surface is unavoidable (say with a driveway), dig a shallow trench along the border and add plants or gravel to catch the runoff before it travels too far. Consider creating a natural landscape berm/swale on your property.
- Remember, your toilet is not a trash can. Never flush non-degradable

products, like baby wipes or plastic tampon applicators. And never dump old pills in the toilet, either. Instead, bring them to a local pharmacy with a take-back program.

- Your sink is not a trash can either. Don't let paint, used oil, chemical cleaners, or other questionable household products go down the drain. These items contain toxic ingredients (think sodium hypochlorite, ammonia, formaldehyde) we don't want in our water supply.
- Pick up after your pets. You're not just being a good neighbor. Scooping up pet waste keeps that bacteria-laden crap (literally) from running into storm drains and water supplies.

## Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping of Cub Lake

At the request of the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA), Seminole County Watershed Management Department (SCWMD) plan to conduct mapping of the SAV in 14+ acre Cub Lake using BioBase. The BioBase study helps to establish data that will reduce costs to SCWMD for equipment, staff, and hours normally required to produce bathymetric and vegetation maps.

While on the lake, the SCWMD's depth finders passively collect data and store it to an SD card (like the digital memory cards typically used in digital cameras and other portable devices). Once all the data is collected on Cub Lake, SCWMD will upload the information to BioBase's computer network. The software then evaluates the data collected using custom acoustic algorithms, GIS tools, and mathematics. The results are interactive layered maps and standardized reports of Cub Lake.

### Why Map?

- Invasive Plant Monitoring**
- Eradication Measurements**
- Communication Tool**
- Construction and Excavation**
- Aquatic Weed Control**
- Grass Carp Stocking**

The SAV mapping data on Bear, Little Bear, and soon Cub Lake, provided a base map to observe carp progress on removing eelgrass. It will show the changes in the lakes' vegetation over time which will provide a guideline for lake management. The history of data collected for more than twenty-five years by BLPA and the data collected by SCWMD will be an invaluable tool to preserve the Bear Lakes. To learn more, visit our website at [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net) and to see the mapping of Bear Lake, please refer to the November 2015 and Little Bear, please refer to the April 2016 Newsletters. BLPA will publish the results of Cub Lake in a future newsletter.



(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher)  
Post Office Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

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## Enforcement of the Fertilizer Ordinance in the Bear Lake Community Begins October 1, 2017

Although the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) strongly recommends **NO FERTILIZER**, it is important for us to report on the key highlights of the Fertilizer Ordinance in our area that will begin in October 2017. If you use a lawn care professional, know the checklist provided by Seminole County below:

- Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorous cannot be applied to turf during the restricted season from June 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup>. Fertilizers containing Iron, Manganese and other "micronutrients" also called "summer blends" can be applied during the restricted season to keep lawns healthy and green (as recommended by Florida Yards & Neighborhood/Florida Friendly Landscape Program).
- Fertilizer containing nitrogen used during the **non**-restricted season (October 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 31<sup>st</sup>) must contain *at least* 50% or more slow release nitrogen. This slow release nitrogen content will increase to 65%, three (3) years after adoption of the Fertilizer Ordinance, to allow time for educational outreach to residents and retailers.
- Fertilizer containing phosphorus cannot be applied to turf or plants unless a state certified soil or tissue test verifies there is a phosphorus deficiency. For more information about soil and tissue testing, contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office at 407-665-5560.
- Use of deflector shields is required when applying fertilizer with a broadcast or rotary spreader.
- No fertilizer may be applied within fifteen (15) feet of any pond, lake, stream, canal, or other waterbody, including wetlands.

**Know Your Lawn Care Professional Checklist:** How we maintain our yards has a big impact on our surrounding environment. Excessive water use, improper fertilization, or blowing grass clippings/leaves down the storm inlets/drains can degrade our waterways. A knowledgeable and well-trained lawn care professional will manage

your yard through "best management practices" that benefit you and the environment. Does your lawn care professional have the proper training and certification? Use this checklist to better know your lawn care professional, your yard, and your role in the environment!

### ARE THEY QUALIFIED?

- Is your lawn care professional Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) certified?
- GI-BMP is a 6-hour training program administered by the University of Florida's Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He/she should be able to show you a certificate or wallet card.
- If they are applying fertilizer, does your lawn care professional have a Commercial Applicators License? The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) requires all commercial applicators to obtain this license if they apply fertilizers.

### DO THEY KNOW YOUR YARD?

- Have they had your soil tested for pH or phosphorus deficiency?
- Do they know the square footage of your yard to apply the right amount of fertilizer?

### DO THEY FOLLOW THE SEMINOLE COUNTY FERTILIZER ORDINANCE?

- Have they discussed your fertilizer regime with you?
- A general recommendation is a complete fertilizer in spring (late March- early May), a summer blend in June – September (no Nitrogen or Phosphorus allowed) and a complete fertilizer application in the fall (October). This is suitable for St. Augustine and Zoysia grass, but not Bahia grass.
- If you irrigate with reclaimed water, has your applicator reduced the amount of fertilizer they use?
- Do not allow applicators to apply fertilizer within 24 hours of a heavy rain event or when soils are saturated.
- Make sure the fertilizer they apply

to your lawn is at least 50% or more Slow-Release Nitrogen (SRN).

- Check out the Seminole County fertilizer calculator at [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertcalculator](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertcalculator).
- Make sure they clean up spills so that no fertilizer is left on any driveway or sidewalk.
- After your applicator fertilizes, water the fertilizer into the lawn with ¼ inch of irrigation water.
- Do not allow applicators to fertilize within 15 feet of a waterbody or wetland. A deflector shield is required when using a broadcast or rotary spreader.

### HOW DO THEY CLEAN UP?

- Make sure lawn care professionals do not leave grass clippings, fallen leaves, or other debris on streets, sidewalks, or other impervious surfaces. They should blow them back onto the lawn or bag them.
- Make sure lawn care professionals are not blowing your grass clippings and leaves into the storm inlets/drains.

**Want to learn more? Visit [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer) or call 407-665-5575.**

## Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor® - 407-222-3917



Inventory is extremely low and lake-front properties are at a premium. Please call with questions.

### Active Listings

6043 Linneal Beach Dr ..... \$750,000  
3010 Holliday Ave..... \$800,000

### Pending Sales

6091 Linneal Beach Dr ..... \$1,590,000

# Lakewatch Up and Down Facts

| 2017 RAIN FALL TOTALS |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| January 2017          | 2.5          |
| February 2017         | 1.35         |
| March 2017            | .15          |
| April 2017            | 1.55         |
| May 2017              | 6.55         |
| June 2017             | 17.55        |
| July 2017             | 14.6         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>44.25</b> |

*\*Rainfall collected on NE side of Bear Lake*

The first chart depicts the rain totals from January thru July of this year.

The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) contacted Dr. Dan Canfield, University of Florida Lakewatch founder, to explain what happens to the watershed after a long drought, followed by daily heavy rains amounting to approximately 20 inches in one month. According to Dr. Canfield, this has been Florida's longest winter drought since 1917.

| BEAR LAKE   | LAKE LEVEL | OVERFLOW LEVEL |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Asher       | 106.3      | 105.78         |
| Big Bear    | 104.3      | 103.5          |
| Little Bear | 104.33     | 102.78         |
| Cub         | 101.6      | 100.19         |

The second chart depicts the Bear Lakes' level and outflow for peak high water, as read on July 5, 2017.

The entire watershed was powder dry before the rains started in June of this year. The heavy rains over the last two months have flushed phosphorous and nitrogen from fertilizers and other stormwater runoff back into the lakes all at once. This, mixed with warm water and hot weather feed algae and encouraged algae growth in the lakes.

**RAINS RETURN HIGH WATERS  
AND DAMAGE TO LAKES!**

## LAKEWATCH and Rainfall Data for the Bear Lakes

|                         | Date | Rainfall | Clarity Level | Water Level (Above Sea Level) |
|-------------------------|------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Bear Lake</b>        | 3/17 | 1.9"     | 11'           | 102.9                         |
|                         | 4/17 | 1.55"    | 11'           | 102.54                        |
|                         | 5/17 | 3.75"    | 9'            | 102.19                        |
|                         | 6/17 | 19.25"   | 7'            | 103.84                        |
|                         | 7/17 | 14.6"    | 7'            | 104.6                         |
| <b>Little Bear Lake</b> | 3/17 | 1.9"     | 11'           | 103.39                        |
|                         | 4/17 | 1.55"    | 8'            | 102.8                         |
|                         | 5/17 | 3.75"    | 8'            | 102.6                         |
|                         | 6/17 | 19.25"   | 8'            | 104.2                         |
|                         | 7/17 | 14.6"    | 9'            | 104.0                         |
| <b>Cub Lake</b>         | 3/17 | 1.9"     | 10'           | 99.9                          |
|                         | 4/17 | 1.55"    | 7'            | 99.4                          |
|                         | 5/17 | 3.75"    | 7'            | 99.4                          |
|                         | 6/17 | 19.25"   | 8'            | 100.7                         |
|                         | 7/17 | 14.6"    | n/a           | 101.8                         |

*Note: \*Rain data in this chart reflects the rain amounts collected during the time period from the last month's LAKEWATCH data collection date to the next month's data collection date, and not for the month itself.*



weed removal from lakes, retention ponds, canals  
407-339-4520 • Email: statelakesinc@ymail.com

## Cleaning and Reconstruction of Retention Ponds

hand and mechanical removal • beach cleaning  
spraying of weeds • planting of aquatic plants

weed removal from lakes and retention ponds • landscape clean-up  
vacant or abandoned property clean-up • hauling of debris

City or County Code Compliance Issues - Commercial & Residential

## LAKEFRONT WEED REMOVAL



1000 Wekiva Springs Road  
Longwood, FL 32779



- ◆ Homeowners
- ◆ Auto
- ◆ Life
- ◆ Personal Umbrella
- ◆ Rental Dwelling
- ◆ Boat
- ◆ RV
- ◆ Motorcycle
- ◆ Renters
- ◆ Flood
- ◆ Business
- ◆ Health



*We just moved onto Bear Lake and would love to help our new neighbors with all your insurance needs!  
- Bruce & Donna Morse*

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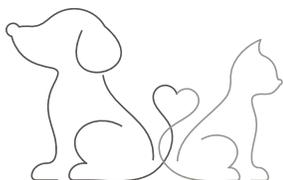
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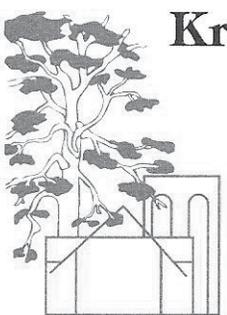
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## Bear Lake Preservation Association Big Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher 'The Bear Lakes'

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.

We are seeking additional volunteers to serve on the Membership Committee. Volunteers are critical to the success of any organization. Without their time and energy it would not be possible to accomplish the goals of this organization. It's only assisted by local volunteers such as you we can rise to meet the challenge of our mission statement.

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

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



## St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL  
407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:30 am  
Sunday School: 9:15 am

# Seminole County's Current Projects for the Bear Lakes: Asher, Bear, Little Bear, and Cub

The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) was provided updates on the County's projects for the Bear Lakes by Seminole County Watershed Management Division. The priority of the below listed projects are based on cost, design, and construction.

- **Lake Asher:** Work Order is in place to begin final design to reroute stormwater to the Alton Drive pond for Lake Asher. In May 2017, three herbicide treatments began on Lake Asher. The mechanical harvesting/dredging portion of the restoration project began July 10, 2017. The equipment will be placed in the lake for excavating and that will take place for approximately two weeks. In October 2017, Seminole County will begin routine herbicide services for invasive species funded by the MSBU. Next Spring, the County will host a volunteer event through their SERV Program to replant native vegetation along the shoreline to achieve sufficient coverage to provide long term benefits to the lake.
- **Bear Lake:** Cecilia Drive FY17/18 – assessment and design of nutrient separating baffle boxes; (Bear Lake):

Hibiscus stormwater pump a/k/a Balmy Beach Drain – pump to retention pond scheduled for FY18/19; (Bear Lake); Playa Way Underground Retention System and Power Easement - no Progress (BLPA must remain active in assisting in a backup project for the stormwater treatment due to Power Easement property use may not be approved);

- **Little Bear Lake Carp:** It's been a little more than a year since 42 Triploid Grass Carp (Carp) were introduced to Little Bear (June 2016). An additional 15 were requested/permitted due to non-effective and possible mortality rate as the size of carp were small. Little Bear reports a lot of vegetation, and the Carp are slowly making progress around the lake.
- **Cub Lake:** Ditch/pond - The County has designed and permitted this project. Funds are ready and project is pending ditch easement completion.

BLPA will continue to keep its members informed of any new developments.



*Lake Asher's Water Elevation Gauge sits in Treated/Dying Vegetation to be Removed as part of the Lake's Restoration Project*



(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher)

## BLPA 2017 DONATION FORM/ CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

The Bear Lakes need Contributors and Volunteers just like you!

Please make your check payable to "BLPA":

\$85.00.....Requested Donation-BLPA Contributor

\$50.00.....Requested Donation - BLPA Senior (62+)

Mail to: BLPA, Post Office Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32716

Please mail this form and your payment to BLPA, PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-2605  
Alternatively, you can pay on-line! To easily contribute or make donations online by using a credit card, your checking account, or PayPal, just go to [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net) and click DONATE!

PLEASE CHECK:  New Contributor(s)  Current Contributor(s)  Change of Contributor(s) Contact Information

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

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

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

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

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

CHECK AN OPTION BELOW FOR A BOARD MEMBER TO CONTACT YOU AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLY VOLUNTEERING FOR BLPA:  
 Serve as a Board Member  Serve as a Board Supporter  Serve on a Current Committee  
 I prefer to be contacted by:  Home Phone  Cell Phone  Email

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. Under the new Obama Administration Ruling for 501(c)(3), social security or personal information will not be provided to the IRS for any past or future contributions made to this organization.

## BLPA's UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

(Bear, Little Bear, Cub,  
and Asher)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
Thursday, August 24, 2017  
Saint Andrews Church  
Fellowship Hall  
7:30 p.m.

Topic:  
Maintenance of Septic Systems, Effects  
of High Water Table on Septic System  
Function and Government Regulations  
Regarding Septic Systems

Guest Speakers:  
Scott Mathis, Mathis and  
Sons Septic Service

Please join us on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at  
St. Andrews Church in the Fellowship Hall  
at 7:30 p.m., to hear about important topics  
that effect all the Bear Lakes!



PO Box 162605  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

## Hazardous Paint Spill at Bear Lake



On Friday, July 14, 2017 at approximately 7:00 pm, a full 5 gallon bucket of paint fell out of a paint truck around the Linneal Beach Drive curves near Oranole Way. The recent standing rain mixed with the spilled paint caused it to run down the street to the stormwater drain and ditch leading into Bear Lake.

Responsible residents immediately called 9-1-1 and requested a hazmat unit so the hazardous materials could be cleaned up before it reached the lake. Seminole County fire Department, with the Special Hazards and Operations Unit responded for the initial clean-up of the streets and drainage ditches. However, Special Hazards and Operations Unit determined they did not have the appropriate equipment

to solve the problem. They immediately contacted Seminole County 24-Hour Emergency Response Team dispatching a vacuum truck. Sean and Steve from Seminole County arrived around 10:00 pm and used the Vacuum Excavation truck to do a final clean-up. The job was completed around 11:00 pm. Because of the prompt action of all involved, the Bear Lake Preservation Association is happy to report no paint entered Bear Lake.

A special thank you to the quick response of residents, the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Seminole County Fire Department, including the Special Hazards and Operations Unit, and Seminole County 24-hour Emergency Stormwater Response Team.



**Additional Carp Delivered to Bear Lake**



**Helen Lindsey at Bear Lake's shoreline watching as the Carp swim thru tube for release into the Lake**