

## Bear Lake Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping

The BLPA has received the latest mapping of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation.

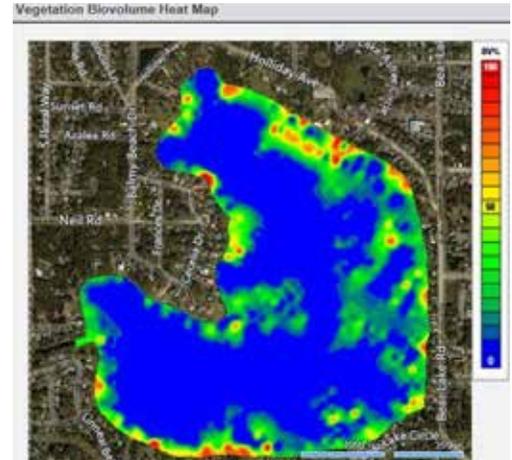
SAV coverage has decreased over all in surface acreage by about 40% since 2015 including a 20% decrease from 2016 to 2018 as you can see by the map.

From 2015 to 2016 there was 25% reduction in SAV. Then 2016 to 2018 a 20% reduction. That's a total of 45% in less than a 3 year time span.

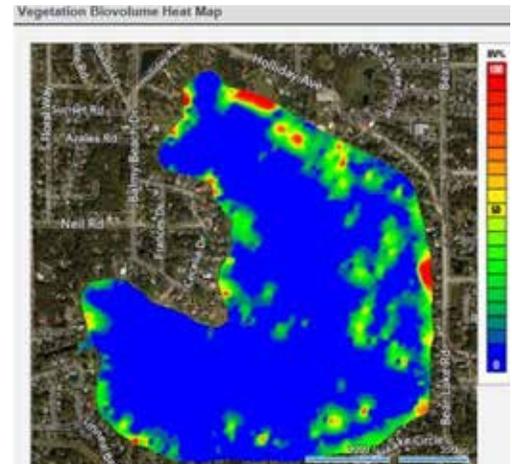
There are many factors affecting the changes from year to year, including carp activity and weather such

as the longest drought in the State of Florida since 1917 (Oct. 16 - June 2017) followed by the large amounts of rain in the summer of 2017 in a very short period of time. These rains flush loads of nutrients and pollutants from the watershed into the lakes from the storm drains feeding the vegetation. The map shows vegetation with higher intensities near the storm drain inlets and shallow areas where runoff occurs.

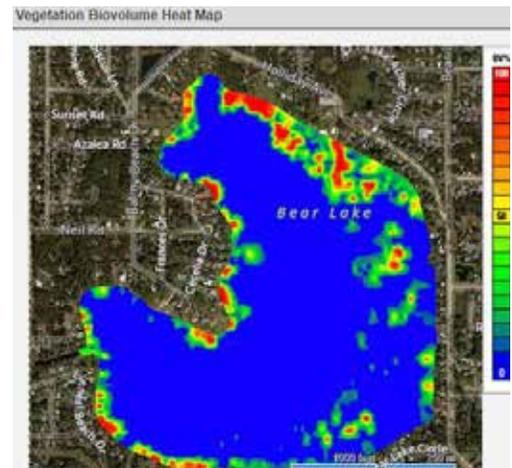
You can view the bio-volume heat maps on the Seminole County Watershed Atlas ([www.seminole.wateratlas.org](http://www.seminole.wateratlas.org)).



September 2015 = 125 ac SAV



September 2016 = 93 ac SAV



January 2018 = 74.8 ac SAV



**DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT MEETING! WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BEAUTIFUL SWIMMING LAKE? WHY DO THE BEAR LAKES NO LONGER HAVE CLEAR WATER WITH A SANDY BOTTOM WE ENJOYED 20 - 30 YEARS AGO?**

**Thursday April 26, 2018**  
**St. Andrews Church**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**9913 Bear Lake Rd.**  
**7:00 p.m. (note time change)**

## BLPA's General Meeting Mark Your Calendars

### TOPIC:

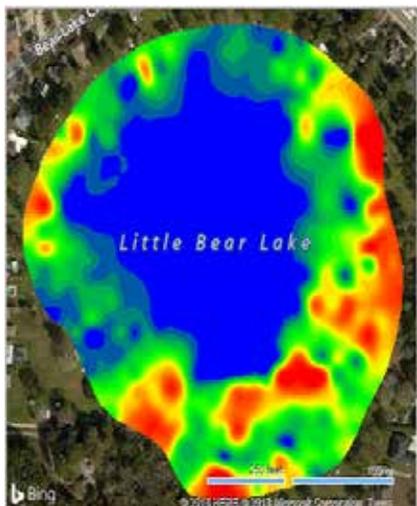
Recent History and Look into the Future of the Bear Lakes.

### SPECIAL GUEST AND LAKE EXPERT:

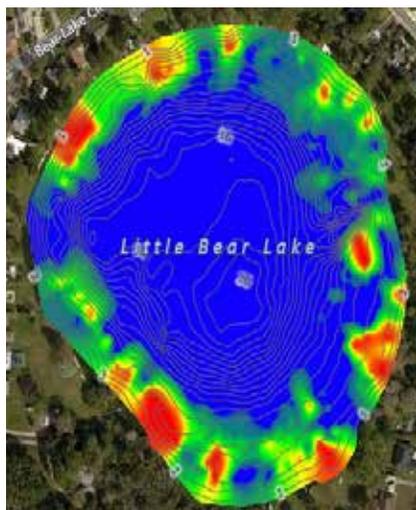
Dr. Harvey Harper, Ph. D., P.E.,  
 Environmental Research and Design,  
 Water Quality Engineering  
 Dr. Harper conducted and prepared the Bear Chain-of-Lakes Hydrologic/  
 Nutrient Budget and Water Quality  
 Management Plan for Seminole  
 County

Please join us on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at St. Andrews Church in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m., to hear about important topics affecting all the Bear Lakes!

# Little Bear Lake Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping



December 2015 - Percent Area Coverage: 66.2%



March 2018 - Percent Area Coverage: 44.5%

Overall there was a reduction in the amount of total submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV).

This reduction was to the native species nitella and southern naiad, with minimal impacts if any on the eelgrass. By observation > 90% of the SAV was eelgrass. Carp will eat their favorite plants first.

According to Florida LAKEWATCH limnologists, carp will clear out the deeper areas of vegetation first, as a preference to shallow area vegetation. They are easily spooked; however, we will see them in the shallows looking for favorites when those plants are no longer in the deeper areas.

## Anti-Wake Law

In 1998, the Seminole County Board of Commissioners approved a law that prohibits wakes within 50 yards of the shoreline. A wake is defined as moving waves — a track or path that a boat leaves behind it when moving across the water. The ordinance reads as follows:

“It is unlawful to navigate or operate on any waters of Seminole County, any vessel, aquaplane, or similar device in any bathing, swimming or launching area at a speed creating a wake.

“The term bathing, swimming or launching area shall include any area within (50) yards of the shoreline, docks, piers, bridges or boathouses, or any other object arising from the water (excluding ski jumps or slalom courses) except when picking up or dropping off a water-skier in a man-

ner otherwise consistent with this Code and State law.

“The fifty yard distance (150 feet) shall be measured from the vessel, aquaplane or similar device or from any extension thereto including, but not limited to: a skier, or other device being towed.”

Violators are subject to fines of up to \$500 and/or 60 days in jail. Seminole County Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma and his staff and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (www.myfwc.com) will vigorously enforce this law and other existing boating laws.

The Anti-Wake Law is designed for safety and water quality for swimming conditions.

DO NOT STIR UP THE LAKE BOTTOM OR ERODE THE SHORELINE.

## BEAR LAKE

Preservation Association

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

### 2018 Board of Directors

#### Officers

- President.....Dr. Jay Goebel  
407-295-9457
- Vice President .....Bob Shields  
321-354-4449
- Treasurer .....Tim Clifford,  
407-341-4222
- Secretary..... George Helm  
407-808-2089

#### Directors

- Nancy Dunn ..... 407-920-4975
- Bill Houston..... 407-721-0219
- Judy Ihrig..... 407-292-4632
- Sheri Walls..... 407-298-8877
- Valarie Kenski..... 407-869-5637
- Jerry Smalley..... 407-256-3723

#### Committees

- BLPA Email....Happy Oropeza, 407-446-5859
- Ecology ..... Nancy Dunn, 407-920-4975  
Dr. Jay Goebel, 407-295-9457  
Bill Houston, 407-721-0219  
Bob Shields, 321-354-4449
- Lakewatch..... Nancy Dunn, Big Bear  
407-920-4975  
Jan Brown, Little Bear, 407-295-6739  
Margaret Bundy, Cub Lake, 407-497-0295
- Membership.....All Board of Directors
- Newsletter .....Nancy Dunn, Editor  
407-920-4975  
Judy Ihrig, Advertising, 407-292-4632
- Youth Group ..... Sherri Walls, 407-928-8877

#### Board Supporters

- Brian Allen ..... 407-580-6979
- Jan and Sandy Brown..... 407-295-6739
- Michael & Margaret Bundy..... 407-399-5605
- Susan Burton ..... 407-521-8212
- Patsy Cumbie ..... 407-886-5588
- Denise Fitzgerald..... 407-296-0079
- Tealea Fortune ..... 407-694-9297
- Buddy Hutson ..... 407-298-3681
- Anne and Walt Juergensen .... 407-299-7147
- Mark Leavitt ..... 407-578-9993
- Sue Parker ..... 407-294-6026
- Matt Rayl..... 765-437-5118
- Vicki and Marc Renner ..... 407-569-0494
- John Vick ..... 407-421-2620

# 2017 A Mess for Bear Lake Damaging Muddy Water and Debris Flushes Into Bear Lake from the Flooding Rains During Lake Asher Clean-Up...and Hurricane Irma Added Another Blow

**M**uddy water and vegetation debris washed into Bear Lake from Lake Asher at the end of June into July until the source was discovered by BLPA volunteers.

Bear Lake LAKEWATCH reported the sudden decline to 6 feet water clarity which occurred overnight after a 2 inch downpour and waking up to a muddy lake from the previous reading of 9 feet clarity in May 2017.

The Bear Lakes recorded over 35 inches of rain in June & July of last year. As the water levels in the lakes got higher, the Lake Asher Restoration project began the mechanical harvesting/dredging portion of the job. The summer rains began to flush the stirred up mucky water from Lake Asher into Bear Lake due to the timing of the Lake Asher Restoration Project, and a late placement of protective turbidity fences. The County did not block the drain as planned. No water was to wash into Bear Lake from Lake Asher during this project.

Just as the mud in Bear Lake was starting to settle and the water clarity for Bear Lake was back to 9 feet, Hurricane Irma added to the damage by flushing more mud and debris downstream into Bear Lake with a collapsed Lake Asher storm drain. The 6" downpour received on September 11th from Irma rushed over all turbidity barriers out of Lake Asher and flushed another mess into Bear Lake.

As the heavy summer rains saturated the Bear Lakes Watershed, the flows, over time from Lake Asher, stressed and collapsed the older drain causing depressions in the soil over the drain. (see photo) Irma took care of the rest, and the pipe has been replaced by the County.



*Prior to the rains from Hurricane Irma, the cone marks a sunken void of soil under the grass and over the broken storm water pipe on July 25, 2017 after 40" of rains in June & July.*



*Lake Asher storm water, mud and debris flushed out to Bear Lake during Hurricane Irma after drain collapsed.*



*View of Lake Asher and drain area wash out from Hurricane Irma.*

## ADVERTISE HERE!

Do you have a business?  
Would you like to advertise  
in the next BLPA Newsletter?

Full-Page Ad \$100

Half-Page Ad \$50

Business Card Ad \$30

If so, please contact

Judy Ihrig for details at 407-292-4632

## CLASSIFIED

Do you have a lake related item "For Sale?"

If so, consider advertising in the next BLPA Newsletter

Business Card Size is \$15

Judy Ihrig for details at 407-292-4632

# Bear Lake Drain Problem: Seminole County and the BLPA Ecology Committee Team Up on Eelgrass Problems



**S**eminole County is working with the BLPA Ecology Committee to better manage the problems from eelgrass at the Bear Lake Outfall Drain to Cub Lake (which flows out to the Little Wekiva and St. John's Rivers).

Wake from boats and storms wash eelgrass over the top of the skimmer and into the drain, clogging the grate. Flows become blocked often from the floating eelgrass.

The eelgrass releases harmful nutrients which feed algae when broken off & floating around the lake. Residents have worked with great determination to remove the harmful floating, decaying eelgrass from their shorelines and around the drain since 2008 (the year of tropical storm Faye). The growth exploded to approximately 200 acres in the clear

waters of Bear Lake and was found growing out to 16 feet deep by 2009.

The carp have now removed up to 125 acres of eelgrass making the eelgrass more manageable for residents. The carp only enjoy eating the eelgrass roots, and Bear Lake residents know we have had to do our part in also removing the whole plants carp leave behind and floating, as part of this process of reducing the amount of eelgrass growing in the lake.

We thank the Seminole County Water Quality, Engineering, Roads and Stormwater Divisions for lake reports, cleanup and design techniques to better control the outfall flow, preventing high waters and flooding.



*Daniel Walls takes a turn clearing the drain to relieve resident back yards of the high waters. The re-vegetation of shorelines with native plants is on hold until eelgrass can be better maintained.*



*Bear Lake Resident Volunteers, Jon Albert and Bruce Fitzgerald shown clearing eelgrass from the Bear Lake drain in September 2017. Water levels remained high from the rainy 2017 summer, followed by Hurricane Irma. We thank all volunteers who have been working to clear eelgrass from the drain since 2009 when an explosion of eelgrass growth occurred in Bear Lake.*

# LAKEWATCH and Rainfall Data for the Bear Lakes

	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
<b>Bear Lake</b>	10/17	9.75"	8'	103.9
	11/17	.25"	7.5'	103.5
	12/17	1.4"	8'	103.43
	1/18	2.8"	10'	103.51
	2/18	.75"	10'	103.48
	3/18	2.71"	8'	103.3
<b>Little Bear Lake</b>	10/17	.975"	7'	103.86
	11/17	.25"	7'	103.82
	12/17	1.4"	8'	103.82
	1/18	2.8"	8'	103.82
	2/18	.75"	10'	103.74
	3/18	2.71"	11'	103.74
<b>Cub Lake</b>	10/17	.975"	9'	100.8
	11/17	.25"	n/a	n/a
	12/17	1.4"	9'	100.1
	1/18	2.8"	10'	100.25
	2/18	.75"	15'	99.9
	3/18	2.71"	8.5'	100.0

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.



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

**Representing over 50 companies including...**



**Nationwide**  
is on your side



**PROGRESSIVE**



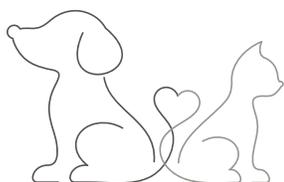
**FLORIDA FAMILY INSURANCE**

**Safeco Insurance**  
A Liberty Mutual Company



**insured.**





# SPRING RUN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

JAY GOEBEL, DVM

(407) 862-7579 • Fax: (407) 862-7016  
833 State Road 434 • Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

**Painting by Bob**  
int/ext painting, pressure washing,  
drywall repair, tile, texture



**Robert (Bob) Shields**  
Owner

321-354-4449  
robshields@aol.com

9638 Bear Lake Rd  
Apopka, FL 32703



**SUSAN A. BURTON, P.A.**  
REALTOR® RELOCATION SPECIALIST

407.682.1214 DIRECT  
407.222.3917 CELL  
800.669.5565 TOLL FREE  
sabornton@bellsouth.net  
www.floridamoves.com/susan.burton



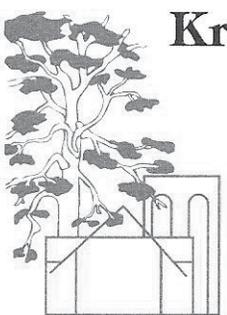
**COLDWELL BANKER**

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE  
2160 W HWY 434, SUITE 100  
LONGWOOD, FL 32779

Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC



**Mobile Boat and Jet Ski Repairs**  
Coert Voorhees • Full service boat repair • Phone 407-474-4225  
keylimecustoms@me.com • Visit us at 937 Stagg RD Winter Garden, FL 34787



**Krogman Homes INC.**  
*Custom Green Builders*

**Raymond R. Krogman**

Office: (407) 291-2375  
Cell: (407) 810-0952  
Fax: (407) 447-4465

Ray@KrogmanHomes.com  
www.KrogmanHomes.com

#CB CO18315      10026 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL 32703

**GENERAL  
AUTO REPAIR**



*Serving Central Florida Since 1988*

**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR SERVICE**

**ASE**      Rich Van Der Weide  
*Owner/Operator*      **407-682-5755**

**ACDelco**      Generalauto@cfl.rr.com  
www.generalautorepair.mechanicnet.com  
945 Sunshine Lane, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714



**TRANSWORLD**      407-718-6178  
*Business Advisors*  
Business Sales • Franchises • Mergers & Acquisitions

Ready to Buy or Sell a business?  
Call for a FREE business evaluation!

**Paul N. Ihrig**  
Business Broker

pihrig@tworld.com • tworld.com/paulihrig



**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

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

# Top Ten Causes of Boating Accidents

Florida continues to lead the country in boating accidents. Most accidents are caused by a combination of the following top ten factors:

10. OVERLOADING
9. EXCESSIVE SPEED AND ALCOHOL USE (BOTH TIED FOR 9TH)
8. CONGESTED WATERS AND HAZARDOUS WATERS (BOTH TIED FOR 8TH)
7. FAILURE TO YIELD
6. RECKLESS OPERATION
5. EQUIPMENT FAILURE
4. WEATHER
3. PASSENGER AND SKIER BEHAVIOR
2. OPERATOR INATTENTION
1. OPERATOR INEXPERIENCE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF BOAT ACCIDENTS.

It is the responsibility of all boaters to operate their vessels safely and courteously, as well as abiding by all boating regulations. The Florida Boater's Guide, a handbook of boating, laws and responsibilities, can be viewed online at [www.boat-ed.com/fl/handbook](http://www.boat-ed.com/fl/handbook). The Bear Lake Preservation Association hopes you enjoy a safe, accident-free water craft season!

# Boating in Deeper Waters Best for the Lakes



Keep in mind that boat motor propellers and wake in shallow areas (10' deep or less) stirs bottom sediments, nutrients, chemicals, amoebas, muck and algae. Recycling of bottom nutrients creates a green lake by feeding algae growth. Boats with large wake (with onboard ballast tanks) create damage in areas of 15' deep

or less... Information provided by the Hydrologic/Nutrient Budget and Water Quality Management Plan for the Bear Lakes – Environmental Research and Design, Inc.

Above Aerial: Areas in the Bear Chain-of-Lakes Where the Water Depth is Greater than 15 ft.

### Seminole County Sheriff's Department Contact for the Bear Lakes

For suspected criminal activity on any of the Bear Lakes or dangerous behavior/activities on the lake, contact Sergeant Chris Stronko 407-708-7600. For ALL Emergencies dial 9-1-1



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

## BLPA 2018 DONATION FORM/ CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

BLPA, PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-2605

Please make your check payable to "BLPA":

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

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

Please mail this form and your payment to BLPA, PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-2605

You can 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 Representative       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 UPCOMING EVENTS

### UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher)

**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

St. Andrews Church Fellowship Hall  
9913 Bear Lake Rd.  
7:00 pm (note time change)

**TOPIC: RECENT HISTORY  
AND A LOOK INTO THE  
FUTURE OF THE BEAR LAKES**

**Special Guest and Lake Expert:**

Harvey Harper, Ph.D., P.E.  
Environmental Research and Design  
Water Quality Engineering

Dr. Harper conducted and prepared the Bear Chain-of-Lakes Hydrologic/Nutrient Budget and Water Quality Management Plan for Seminole County

Please join us on Thursday, April 26, 2018, to hear about important topics affecting all the Bear Lakes!



PO Box 162605  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

## Real Estate Update

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



This is a list of the current inventory and as you can see, the homes in this area are selling very quickly. There is very low inventory which is a strong positive for selling your home.

**Active Listings**

9800 Bear Lake Rd/Lakefront ..... \$850,000

**Sold Listings**

9502 Bear Lake Rd ..... \$440,000  
3010 Holliday Ave..... \$700,000  
3101 Cecelia Dr..... \$2,499,000

**Sold Listings**

1322 Palm Dr..... \$849,000  
6143 Linnel Beach Dr ..... \$980,000  
6091 Linnel Beach Dr ..... \$1,590,000

Please don't hesitate to call me with any of your real estate questions.

**Susan served the BLPA as Past President, Director of our Social Committee from 1995 until 2002 and has remained a Board Supporter since 2002 for 16 years.**



Miles Heath, long time resident on Little Bear Lake, caught and released this over 12 lb. bass in February 2018. Miles said he hooked the same bass on Super bowl Sunday but she broke off the line under his boat, as they so often do!



Ray Krogman enjoys a workout on Bear Lake. Ray and his wife Michele have lived on Beautiful Bear Lake since 1983.