

Board of Directors Election Scheduled at Meeting on March 11, 2008



Brian Allen



Michelle Haynes



Bill Houston



Corrie Hungerford



Buddy Hutson



Judy Ihrig



Pam Ison



Bob Shields

The 2008 election of the BLPA Board of Directors will take place at the General Meeting on March 11, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

You may also vote by mail. Use the ballot on this page and mail it in an envelope with your name and return address to Bear Lake Preservation Association, c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703. Ballots must be postmarked no later than March 10, 2008.

After the ballots are in, all ballots, both absentee and those cast at the meeting, will be counted by a non-board member. There is only one vote per qualifying household (husband and wife owners may only vote once on the same ballot).

The BLPA would like to have as many interested, active Board members as possible (for a maximum of 11,

minimum of 7) to share the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the association.

If you know of someone who would be willing to serve, including yourself, write his or her name in one of the write-in candidate spaces on the ballot and place a check mark in front of it.

The time commitment required of Board members is not substantial. (Homemakers and retirees make excellent board members.) Any questions about what is required, please call Brian Allen at 407-580-6979.

If you are not already involved in the Bear Lake Preservation Association, and preserving the quality of our neighborhood and the Bear Lake watershed is important to you, please volunteer to help support the association. Remember that BLPA is only as strong as the support of its members.

BLPA Ballot

Place a check mark in front of your choices. (11 maximum or 7 minimum). Only one ballot per household:

- Brian Allen
- Michelle Haynes
- Bill Houston
- Corrie Hungerford
- Buddy Hutson
- Judy Ihrig
- Pam Ison
- Bob Shields

Write-in Candidates:

r _____
 r _____
 r _____
 r _____

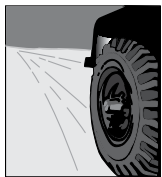
Only one ballot is allowed per member family. Bring your ballot with you to the March 11, 2008, meeting (extra ballots will be available). If you choose to mail your ballot, it must be postmarked no later than March 10, 2008. Marked ballots which are mailed should not be signed, but should be placed in an envelope bearing your name and return address. Address your envelope to: Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc., c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703.

Any person may be elected to the Board. Candidates do not have to be BLPA members but you must be a paid member to vote. Write-ins may be yourself or any person you think would do a good job.

Your Name: _____

BLPA thanks our Board Supporters:

Jan Brown • Margaret Bundy • Susan Burton • Erma Cardilli • Patsy Cumbie
 • Dick Dominica • Nancy Dunn • Holly Gosney • Michelle Haynes • Shirley Haynes
 • Bob Heideman • Paul Ihrig • Anne Juergensen • Walt Juergensen
 • Sue Parker • Jim Rawlings • Vicki Renner • Ned Woolfolk



Bear Lake Road Drainage Improvement Project Update

By Brett Blackadar

Constructions of improvements on Bear Lake Rd began on October 8, 2007. Construction is expected to be one year in duration and should be completed in October of 2008. The project will add drainage improvements to the roadway that will reduce flooding and will provide water quality to storm runoff from the roadway. We will also be resurfacing the roadway as part of this project. To date, most of the work on this project has consisted of the relocation of the existing water line which is required due to conflicts with the proposed drainage improvements.

There are two water quality ponds that are being constructed as part of this project. This existing retention pond immediately north of Bunnell Road is being reconstructed to transform this facility to a wet pond. This newly reconstructed pond will be able to treat Stormwater runoff from Bear Lake Road before it

outfalls into Bear Lake. Another treatment pond is being constructed in the first section of the outfall ditch leading to Cub Lake from Bear Lake Road. This pond will be able to treat Stormwater runoff from Bear Lake Rd before it enters Cub Lake. The existing outfall pipes that flow into this ditch 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 County and the construction contractor understand how important the water quality of Bear Lake is to the community. Therefore, we continue to make erosion and sediment control an important component of the construction of this project.

We encourage you to contact our Construction Field Inspector Tom Kline with any questions or concerns you may have. You may contact him at 407-947-5920 or at Thomas.Kline@hdrinc.com.

Urban Turf Fertilizer Rule Good News

The Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) issued a new rule pertaining to fertilizer on 12-31-2007. The amount of phosphate and nitrogen contained in urban turf fertilizer is restricted under the new guidelines. According to the FDACS Fact Sheet, "the rule will protect water quality by restricting phosphorous and nitrogen application rates in fertilizers for urban turf and lawns." The directions for use limit the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen for each application and per year. Lawn maintenance companies also must comply. Transition to the new rule for existing fertilizer supplies extends until 7-1-2009 thereafter sales of existing supplies are stopped.

Go to Dept. of Agriculture web site and review the August 2007 Fact Sheet. www.flaes.org Under Hot Topics choose the fact sheet.



BLPA board directors and supporters met for the first meeting of 2008 at Roma Ristorante Italiano. The restaurant has been on S.R. 441 in Apopka since 1964. If you would like to be a BLPA Board Director or a Board Supporter, please contact Dr. Brian Allen (pictured at bottom left) at 407-580-6979.



2008 Board of Directors

Officers

President.....	Brian Allen 407-580-6979
Vice President	Bill Houston 407-721-0219
Secretary.....	Corrie Hungerford 407-947-2901
Treasurer	Pam Ison 407-325-9512
Correspondence Secretary.....	Corrie Hungerford 407-947-2901

Committees

Ecology	Bill Houston 407-721-0219
Lakewatch.....	Nancy Dunn 407-295-6335 Jan Brown 407-295-6739 Margaret Bundy 407-523-1064
Membership.....	Holly Gosney 407-774-0859
Newsletter	Nancy Dunn 407-295-6335
Social	Nancy Dunn 407-295-6335 Holly Gosney 407-774-0859
Political.....	Brian Allen 407-580-6979

Directors

Judy Ihrig.....	407-292-4632
Bob Heideman	407-865-3333
Bob Shields.....	407-294-9093
Paul Ihrig.....	407-292-4632
Buddy Hutson	407-298-3681

Board Supporters

Patsy Cumbie	407-886-5588
Susan Burton	407-521-8212
Erma Cardilli.....	407-293-5227
Mike Kafer	407-298-5865
Anne Juergensen.....	407-925-5123
Ned Woolfolk	407-292-5128
Dick Dominica	407-522-4402
Shirley Haynes.....	614-565-1819
Jan Brown	407-295-6739
Vicki Jameson	407-822-4202
Sue Parker	407-294-6026
Margaret Bundy	407-523-1064
Walt Juergensen	407-299-7147
Janice & Jim Maki	407-774-1128

What's New with Weeds and Alum?

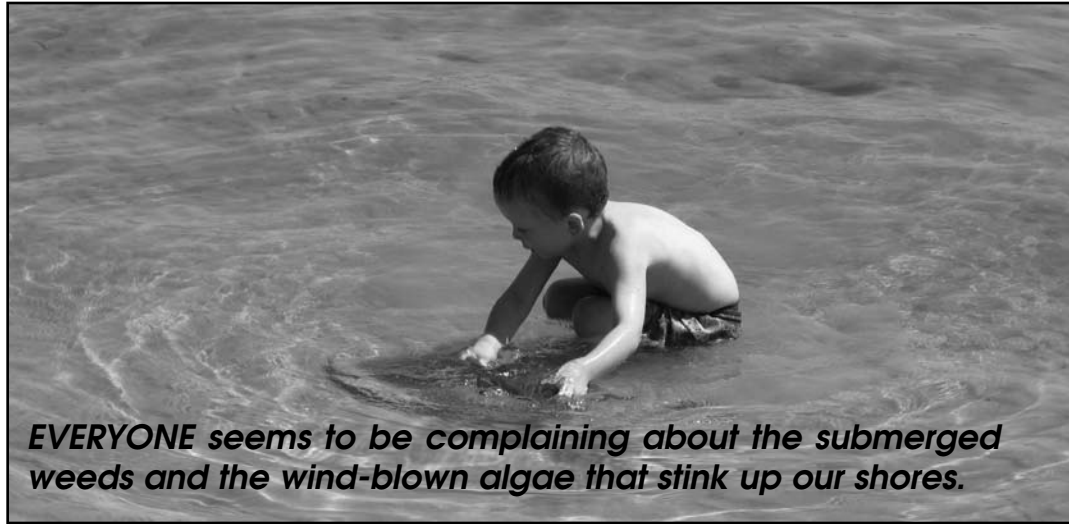
By Bob Heideman

How many of you remember when Bear Lake was unusable for boating and swimming? That was in the late 1970s when we had a severe Hydrilla infestation. The Hydrilla was quickly eliminated after the lakefront residents collected donations for grass carp. That solution gave us 25 wonderful years of excellent water quality in a weed-free lake.

How many of you remember the three year period, from April 1996 through April 1999 when our water clarity averaged 16.2' in our weed-free lake? (Thank you Nancy Dunn, and Lakewatch, for your monthly labors.)

Well things have changed a lot and now it's time for another collection from all lakefront residents. Our water clarity averaged only 8' this past summer. The mayflies, indicators of excellent water quality, haven't been seen on our screens now for several years. EVERYONE seems to be complaining about the submerged weeds and the wind-blown algae that stink up our shores.

There are some people who say that submerged weeds are beneficial because they provide a food source for waterfowl, a habitat for fish, and a buffer for erosion. But Bear Lake is not needed to feed waterfowl with so many other weedy lakes in the area. We have the personal experience of living on this weed-free lake for 25 years with no complaints about the fishing. Ask around, fish-



EVERYONE seems to be complaining about the submerged weeds and the wind-blown algae that stink up our shores.

ing has always been good. And we don't have erosion problems. Bear Lake is a unique sand bottom lake where generalizations, like weeds being beneficial, do not apply.

Not only do we not need the submerged weeds for any purpose, we don't want the weeds because they actually pollute the lake! I can quote many peer reviewed scientific papers that agree with the following statement:

"It has been shown that submerged plants mobilize nutrients from the sediment. The nutrient-pumping mechanism results in relocation of nutrients from the sediment to the overlying water. Aquatic plants build and modify lake sediments by the sloughing of leaves and stems. Because decay is rarely complete, organic matter (mud) builds sediment and lakes become shallower."

Why is our water quality getting so bad so quickly? A combination of two things: first is the increased use of fertilizer in our watershed. As more expensive homes replace the old you see many more yards with green St. Augustine lawns than we did 10 years ago. The other is the natural die off of the 25+ year old grass carp. Both of these factors have allowed the filamentous algae that has been growing on the lake bottom for the last few years to get out of control. It covers and smothers much of the filter feeding clams and mussels Bear Lake relies on for its unique water clarity.

Lakes get worse over the years because they store some of the nutrients from the previous year. It's called nutrient recycling and all lakes have it from one degree to another. This is where the upcoming alum treatment comes in. Alum is the only thing proven to prevent this nutrient cycling. It is relatively inexpensive and it works...all the time. We put in a little and it helps a little. We put in a lot and it helps a lot. So be generous. Now it is up to us. Bear Lake is the community's greatest natural resource and its health affects us all. Please visit www.blpa.net for a two-minute video on the subject.

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Make Your Yard Florida-Friendly

USE THE RIGHT PLANTS FOR YOUR AREA: How can your choice of landscape plants affect our lakes? Fertilizers and pesticides can make its way from your lawn to lakes through stormwater runoff and groundwater seepage. The water that runs off your property during a storm event makes its way to the lakes.

By choosing plants that are native to this region, you can eliminate the need for watering and for fertilizer and pesticide applications. By removing trees between your house and the lake (for that great view), you take away the vital resources which remove huge amounts of nutrients from the groundwater before they reach the lakes. This is one of the reasons the Bear Lakes' have been turning green since 1999. Don't remove the trees in your backyards! View the lake through filtered trees and many of you won't have to close your blinds from the direct sun.

Keep the pine-needled, bahia lawns for low maintenance and less nutrients which is what helped to keep the Bear Lakes' clear for so long.

Maintaining turf, particularly St. Augustine lawns, requires huge amounts of irrigation water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

Many people have much larger lawn areas than they need or use. Consider replacing unused lawn areas with native

or other drought-tolerant species.

HANDLE LAWN DEBRIS PROPERLY: Leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste contain nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen. When these materials enter the lakes, the nutrients they contain lead to the degradation of the water quality. Follow the tips below to help protect water quality. You may also find you can spend less on fertilizers because you will be recycling nutrients your lawn and shrubs need to thrive!

- Never blow leaves, grass clippings, sand or other debris into the street. The streets drain directly to our lakes and these materials will be carried in with the stormwater.
- Leaves make excellent (and free) mulch and can be used to enrich the soil in your flower beds and planters. Excess leaves can be bagged and placed at the curb for pick up on your lawn waste pick up day.
- Grass clippings can be mulched back into your turf to recycle the nutrients they contain. Any clippings that end up on the street, sidewalk, driveway, should be swept or raked and used as mulch or bagged for pick up.
- If you use a lawn service, make sure they are aware of and follow these guidelines. Do you know what your lawn service provider is doing with

your grass clippings when you are not around?

ELIMINATE OR MINIMIZE CHEMICAL USE: Chemicals we apply to our lawns and homes to make our plants grow or to control pests can have unintended impacts on our environment. Nutrients in fertilizers can fuel unwanted algae growth in the lakes. Herbicides and insecticides can harm beneficial plants and wildlife when used improperly. When you have to use these products, please help prevent unnecessary pollution by following these tips: 1) use chemicals accordingly to the label instructions; 2) never exceed the label rates for any chemical. More is not usually better and can often be harmful to you or the environment; 3) dispose of unwanted material according to the label; 4) treat only the areas that are in need; 5) if variable rates are given, try the lower dose first; and 6) clean up spills and sweep excess fertilizers off of any paved surfaces.

2008: WHAT'S OUT?

St. Augustine lawns that need frequent watering to survive and removing trees around the lake that take up the nutrients in their roots before entering the lake through groundwater infiltration

WHAT'S IN? Bahia and zoysia lawns that can tolerate drought; Florida-friendly plants that use less water, have few pests, and are easy to maintain.



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 inventory on Little and Big Bear lakes. Interest rates are at an all-time low and it's a great time to invest!

Active Listings

3121 Cecelia Drive	\$1,100,000
6007 Linnal Beach	\$799,900
6013 Linnal Beach	\$925,000
6165 Linnal Beach	\$1,392,000
5802 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$659,000
9511 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$680,000
9616 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$750,000
6500 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$850,000
1600 Bear Lake Road	\$799,000
9410 Bear Lake Road	\$998,900
9730 Bear Lake Road	\$2,486,000



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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 three locations on Little Bear Lake and Cub Lake. Lake levels determined by surveyed elevation markers set on the lakes by Seminole County.

Conversion from the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) was completed in Seminole county February 19, 2007.

The conversion factor is -1.031 . The Bear Lakes' gauges were re-surveyed by the County in February 2007.

Although Bear Lake is at 13' water clarity this month, the water is very "green" compared to 10 years ago and algae in the lake recede with cooler temperatures.

Bear Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
5/07	3-1/8"	7'	101.9-1/2
6/07	5-7/8"	8'	102
7/07	9-3/8"	7-1/2'	102.5
8/07	4-3/4"	8'	102.5
9/07	11-9/8"	8'	103-1/2
10/07	6-1/2"	7-1/2'	103.3
11/07	2"	8'	103.2
12/07	1-1/2"	10'	103.1-1/2
1/08	6"	9'	103.4
2/08	1-3/8"	13'	103.4

Little Bear Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
5/07	3-1/8"	6-1/2'	102.7
6/07	5-7/8"	8'	102.74
7/07	9-3/8"	5'	103.43
8/07	4-3/4"	5'	103.24
9/07	11-9/8"	5'	103.8
10/07	6-1/2"	5'	103.83
11/07	2"	4-1/2'	103.7
12/07	1-1/2"	5-1/2'	103.7
1/08	6"	—	—
2/08	1-3/8"	10'	103.8

Cub Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
5/07	3-1/8"	10'	99.5
6/07	5-7/8"	10'	99.6
7/07	9-3/8"	11'	100.1
8/07	4-3/4"	10'	100.1
9/07	11-9/8"	9'	101.8
10/07	6-1/2"	10'	100.1
11/07	2"	10'	100.1
12/07	1-1/2"	9'	100.2
1/08	6"	10'	100.3
2/08	1-3/8"	—	—

Share Your Fishing Pictures in Our Newsletter!



BLPA's very own Nancy Dunn shows off a recent catch from Bear Lake of "Specks" (crappie) that she caught! Way to go Nancy!

2007 Boat Parade Highlights



Many of your fellow Bear Lake residents enjoyed the after party following the 2007 Boat Parade... join in the fun in 2008!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2007 Holiday Boat Parade. We had a great turnout this year! The creativity really kicked in this year and the judging was tough. The winning boat went to Randy Cramner, Angie Willis and John Smith. Their boat ensemble was beautifully decorated with Adirondack chairs along with a palm tree which made for a wonderful tropical Christmas!

We also want to thank everyone who decorated their docks with holiday lights and ornaments. This year's winner is Brenda, Gary and Garrett Vallancourt on Holliday Ave.

The evening concluded with a social affair at Bill and Deborah Houston's house on the canal. It was a great place to meet our neighbors and foster new friendships.

We'd like to see more of our neighbors join in the boat parade next year. It's fun and is a great way to meet your neighbors!

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DINNER 4:30 - 10:00
Tues. - Saturday



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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.

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: _____

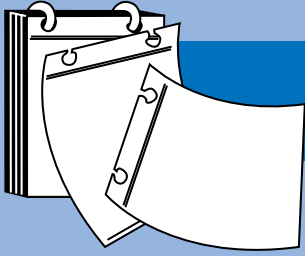
City/St/Zip: _____

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!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BLPA March General & Election Meeting

**March 11, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

**Door prize drawing for paid members:
gift certificate to Home Depot**

**Guest Speaker:
Terry Kraper, Prime Construction, Superintendent on the
Bear Lake Road Drainage Improvement project**



Picture from August 2007 of mess covering sand along shoreline of Bear Lake Identified as blue green algae by University Of Florida LAKEWATCH

BLPA Special Alum Fund

Show your support by donating to the BLPA Alum Fund...your lake depends on it!

\$1000
 \$600

\$400
 \$200
 Other \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Please send in this form with your check, payable to BLPA Alum Project, c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703.



c/o Pam Ison
3010 Holliday Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703