

BEAR LAKE News

Preservation Association

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • November 2008

What's That in Cub Lake?



This photo was taken on August 27, 2008, over Cub Lake after almost 16" of rain fell from Tropical Storm Fay. Water was sent through lake water over flows from Little Bear and Bear Lake into the new drain to Cub Lake mixed with the dirt from the road and ditch project under construction.

Unfortunately, this mix was poor timing for Cub Lake

which flows out to the Wekiwa Drainage Basin and to the St. Johns River. Cub Lake's water clarity dropped from 11' to 6' after the storm.

Alum Project Update

Phase two of the alum project is at hand. As a brief review, the initial application of alum was completed in April resulting in seven tanker loads applied. Consultants recommended 22 loads as the goal for Big Bear with application locations in depths 16' and greater. Phase two will be targeted for application during the cooler winter months and consist of the balance needed to attain the recommended goal. A summary of the project will be presented

as part of the BLPA General Meeting on November 18, 2008. Approximately 50% of lakefront property owners have provided donations. Several have made multiple contributions. Thanks to all for your participation. Please note that BLPA has changed the mailing address for all correspondence: Bear Lake Preservation Assn., PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716. Donation checks should be made payable to BLPA Alum Project.



A Special Thanks...

To Pam Ison for 17 years of selfless and dedicated service to the BLPA as its Treasurer.

In Memoriam Bob Heideman



Bob Heideman echoed these thoughts during his entire life, "Change your thoughts and change the world."

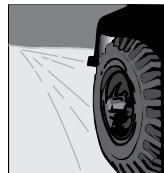
- Norman Vincent Peale

Bob Heideman, co-founder of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, helped to develop our mission to keep clean lakes clean. He was our ultralight flying "Air Bear" who looked after the Bear Lakes!

He often referred to himself as a "heretic," focusing on saving a clean lake before it becomes polluted rather than spending large amounts of money trying to restore polluted lakes. Our hero, with a passion for lakes, was taken from us on October 19, 2008, from a short battle with cancer.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Catherine during this difficult time. He will be missed by all who knew him.





Bear Lake Road Drainage Improvement Project Update

By Tom Kline, Project Manager, HDRCCC

Our project is rapidly approaching the end and I wanted to thank all of the residents for your patience in handling the inconveniences that go with a construction project like ours.

Since the project is nearly over, I wanted to go over one last time what the project encompassed to refresh the memories of the residents. We have added a large number of storm drain inlets and pipes at both the north and south ends of Bear Lake Road. These should greatly improve the drainage from McNeil Road to Gleaves Court and from Cub Lake Road to Jessica Drive from what existed prior to our project. Both areas have also had damaged sidewalks replaced, missing sidewalk sections constructed, new curbs and gutters as well as new driveways constructed to channel the rain water into the inlets and out of the residents' driveways and garages, and new sod placed to the right-of-way lines.

The area at the intersection of Bunnell Road and Bear Lake Road has also had the detention pond greatly expanded to hold and treat more rain water than before. Also, the ditch that sits on the east side of Bear Lake Circle and Bear Lake Road has been converted into a detention pond to

hold and treat the road runoff from the south that previously flowed untreated directly into Cub Lake.

Lastly, a 700' section of Bear Lake Road from W. Lina Lane to just south of Lake View Drive that was badly deteriorating has been completely reconstructed from the base up. Additionally, Bear Lake Road has been resurfaced with a new asphalt surface from just north of the CVS at Maitland Blvd. to just south of Bunnell Road, and from McNeil Road to just south of the 7-11 at SR 436. These areas will also have new thermoplastic traffic striping applied.

In the next couple of weeks, the contractor will be working on "punch list" of items, which are generally small items that need repair or tweaking on the items they have constructed or disturbed. Once those items have been satisfactorily completed, we will be cleaning up the area that has served as our field office and storage yard and leaving your area, hopefully in better shape than we found it. I sincerely hope that our efforts serve to improve the drainage and road as they were designed to do, and that all of your lives are slightly better because of our efforts.



Jan Brown received an engraved paddle from the University of Florida LAKEWATCH Staff for more than 15 years of service in the program. Jan has been collecting water samples on Little Bear Lake, checking for amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous, algae, and measuring the water elevation and clarity each month. We thank Jan for her dedication to monitoring Little Bear Lake!



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Bob Heideman...A Remembrance

By Mark Leavitt

I really did not know Bob that well; but I would like to think I did. As a result, my thoughts of Bob might not be wholly accurate and may be a little romanticized. To me, Bob was the true Renaissance Man. He was an adventurer who lived life with gusto. Bob never seemed to be the type to park in front of the television or the computer, life in the big world outside was much too interesting. He lived life with a passion that is rare to find. Everything he did he wanted to do well. Not many people are truly intellectually curious, and even fewer put to use the information born from that curiosity — Bob was a voracious finder and user of knowledge. Certainly, his bright spirit could not be tamed.

My first memory of Bob goes back 18 years ago when a handful of us got together to consider how best to protect Bear Lake. The "B" in BLPA (Bear Lake Preservation Association) could just as easily be for "Bob." Bob loved Bear Lake. It was more than just the site of his home, it was his child. He was determined that it would grow well. Bob was an avid outdoorsman and Bear Lake served as the runway for his plane, the pond for his boats and as his own aquatic ecosystem. Most of all, the lake served as the still life that made him feel at peace. The place he shared with friends and family.

Bob loved his big boy toys as well. Besides the plane and the myriad of boats, Bob had a wonderful collection of fun and different cars. Perhaps Bob's favorite toy was his house. As it changed from time to time, it always stayed eclectic like Bob. Eventually, this house became a home when Catherine moved in with the big boy and his toys. With Catherine, the toys were even more fun and home was even warmer.

Bob and I disagreed about several matters over the years. But for a man who was so knowledgeable and capable of winning a debate, he never let such disagreements become a distraction. When some of us wanted speed humps to be installed on the roads around the lake, Bob said, "no

thanks," it caused his Corvette to bottom out. He argued that the humps might slow emergency vehicles and he fought like crazy to keep them out. But he never made this battle personal, and when he lost his fight, he treated those of us on the other side the same way as always...with a smile and an extended hand.

Thankfully, for many of us, Bob did not lose too many arguments because his number one mission and fight was to keep our lake clean and clear. Even in his last days, he was working on our collective behalf to better our lake. His environmental acumen is beyond measure and his common sense recommendations were always on the mark. We need to make sure that we collectively fight the fight Bob waged for us for the last two decades. When someone we love or appreciate dies,

we often look for a way to honor their memory, with flowers or a donation in their name; if you want to honor Bob, then honor his lake and always keep it a treasure.

I know it is selfish, but I miss Bob because of how it will affect me. I am saddened to think that Jeannie and I never went out to dinner with Bob and Catherine. I am saddened that I will not see the twinkle in his eye that always inspired me. I am saddened that my children are too young to appreciate such a great and unusual man. Despite these feelings, in the best tradition of Bob's positive outlook on life, I look forward to celebrating Bob and raising a glass of my best sipping tequila as I miss him and thank him for being a small but important part of my life and the lives of all who call the Bear Lakes home.

In loving memory...



"Yes Sir, I'm Going South!" Part II

By Edith Finney



*Thanksgiving Day 1946:
Family of Shirley Hagen
Haynes and Dick Hagen
on Bear Lake. Top l to
r: Lionel and Ella Lilley,
Grandparents Edith May
Lilley Finney and Ray
Finney; Mom, Stepdad;
Jack & Doris Lilley, Great
Uncle and Aunt. Front l
to r: Shirley, age 14 and
Dickie, age 11.*

Back in the 1920s, the ukulele was the thing everyone was playing and I had one too. My father and I loved music and he had a fine voice. We sang as we drove along. Driving didn't take much concentration then. The car didn't go very fast and there were few cars on the road. We sang the latest songs of the 20s. One of our favorites was called "Yes Sir, I'm going South," and it went, "taste the sugarcane right in my mouth, all the world is sweet away down south, where I've spent these happy days." There were lots of songs about the south then. Another popular one was "Carolina in the Morning." We played music so much that when we were camping in the tent in Georgia, we had a small snake come in with us. Folks said maybe the snake was charmed by the music, I think it just wanted to come in out of the rain. I stopped playing the ukulele until we left, just in case.

When we drove through cotton fields on the dirt roads it was hard to believe we were on a main highway. The cotton pickers would raise up and wave at us and we

would wave back. There couldn't have been much traffic or they would have spent all of their time waving and would not have gotten any picking done! I often wondered how many years they continued that practice.

I'll never forget the thrill we felt when we saw our first orange growing on the trees — those beautiful golden balls against the thick dark green foliage. The Spanish moss hanging so gracefully from the trees along with the palm trees were a real thrill. It was more exciting then for it wasn't easy to get very far from home. To see the things you've only read about but never expected to see is a dream come true! The southern terms were so different from the industrial north where we came from. They seemed to have a charm all their own. We loved Florida on first sight. The bright warm sunshine in the winter, the lovely lakes everywhere and the piles of orange groves with the perfume of orange blossoms for miles all around was a thrilling experience! The palms and flowers blooming all winter made us decide to stay.

There is a saying that there is nothing new under the sun and that customs run in cycles. Camping is coming back now as a fun vacation. In those days it was necessary if one wanted to travel at all. I have made many trips since, all much more comfortable. But I often think back on that leisurely trip we took in the old Ford on those bumpy roads. Neither bothered us then, it was the best there was, but I'm sure we wouldn't have the patience for a trip like that now. I'm glad I have the memory of it!

— Edith Finney, 1955



Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

Call me if you have any questions (407-521-8212). There have been no closed sales since the last newsletter. This is the current information regarding Bear Lake properties:

Active Listings

1411 Balmy Beach Dr	\$2,999,999
6007 Linneal Beach Dr	\$649,900
6013 Linneal Beach Dr	\$679,000
6259 Linneal Beach Dr	\$1,300,000
6165 Linneal Beach Dr	\$1,392,000
6103 Linneal Beach Dr	\$1,999,000
9434 Bear Lake Rd	\$580,000
5802 Bear Lake Rd	\$640,000

9410 Bear Lake Rd

\$775,000

9730 Bear Lake Rd

\$2,375,000

3153 Cecelia Dr

\$875,000

3121 Cecelia Dr

\$925,000

3402 Holliday Dr

\$550,000

3304 Holliday Dr

\$799,900

Pending Sales

6115 Linneal Beach Dr

\$696,500

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.

TROPICAL STORM FAY rain events began August 18, dropping 15-1/4" of rain through August 24. The rains saturated the watershed of the Bear Lakes to the point that it washed muck and soils along with fertilizers, pollutants from roads to roofs into the lakes. The lakes filled up and flushed overflows from Little Bear and Bear Lake into Cub Lake to the Little Wekiwa River, eventually contributing to the flooding of the St. John's River. No Wake zones were declared on all lakes in Seminole County on August 24, until the waters drained out to normal levels. Water clarity has dropped in Cub and Bear Lake from dirt being washed in from storm drains. We continue to work with the County during road projects to protect the quality of the lakes once known as oligotrophic.

Bear Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
1/08	6"	9'	103.4
2/08	1-3/8"	13'	103.4
3/08	5-1/4"	12'	103.4-1/2
4/08	4-5/8"	13'	103.6-1/2
5/08	11/16"	10'	102.9
6/08	4-7/16"	9'	102.9
7/08	9-7/8"	10'	103.3
*8/08	4-5/8"	10'	103.2-1/2
9/08	18-5/16"	6-1/2'	104.05
10/08	7-3/4"	8'	103.5

Little Bear Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
1/08	6"	—	—
2/08	1-3/8"	10'	103.8
3/08	5-1/4"	7-1/2'	103.8
4/08	4-5/8"	7-1/2'	103.7
5/08	11/16"	5'	103.3
6/08	4-7/16"	4'	103.6
7/08	9-7/8"	3'	103.8
**8/08	4-5/8"	5'	104.6
9/08	18-5/16"	5'	104.5
10/08	7-3/4"	5-1/2'	103.83

Cub Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
1/08	6"	10'	100.3
2/08	1-3/8"	12'	100.4
3/08	5-1/4"	11'	100.65
4/08	4-5/8"	13'	100
5/08	11/16"	11'	99.8
6/08	4-7/16"	11'	99.9
7/08	9-7/8"	11'	100.2
**8/08	4-5/8"	6'	103.7
9/08	18-5/16"	11'	101.7
10/08	5"	—	—

*Readings taken before Tropical Storm Fay (Bear Lake). **Readings taken after Tropical Storm Fay (Cub & Little Bear Lake).

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Please join the BLPA so you can stay informed! The BLPA is sending current neighborhood crime alerts and monthly notices concerning our lakefront & area residents. Members on the email list are receiving these informative emails.

BLPA is expanding outreach to our members using email. Provide your email address for timely alerts and notifications concerning our lakes and neighborhood. Send your email address to Nancy Dunn (nancylynn@cfl.rr.com) and mention BLPA Email List in the subject line of your email.



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ARE YOU A CURRENT BLPA MEMBER? DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please join the BLPA so you can stay informed! The BLPA is sending current neighborhood crime alerts and monthly notices concerning our lakefront & area residents. Members on the email list are receiving these informative emails.

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BLPA WANTS YOU TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION!

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. BLPA is committed to preserving the lakes and community to protect our lifestyle and property values. The BLPA Board of Directors invites you to join our organization and become involved in this effort. Be aware, get involved! Visit us at www.BLPA.net.

Membership Advantages:

- BLPA license tag;
- Lake preservation activities and ideas for residents;
- “Watchdog” challenges to encroachment by developers and government;
- Neighborhood social activities (i.e., Boat Parade);
- Monthly Lake Watch testing and analysis;
- Expert speakers on environmental topics such as lake management and water quality;
- Coordination of Neighborhood Watch efforts;
- Town hall forums for homeowners to express concerns regarding neighborhood projects;
- Liaison with the county on issues such as traffic, lake patrols and water run-off problems; and
- Members receive broadcast emails keeping them informed on happenings around our lakes such as crime reports, water management tips, etc.

**Please add your voice and financial support by joining this community enhancement group.
Get involved and do your part! We can't do it without YOU!**

New/Renewal Member * Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. *

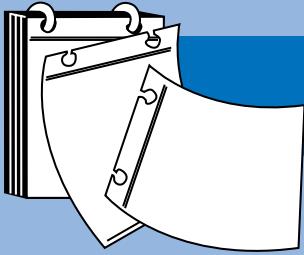
Name(s) of Homeowners: _____

Street Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

**Please mail this form to: BLPA, PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716,
with your check in the amount of \$75 (Seniors \$35). Make checks payable to BLPA.**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BLPA November General Meeting

November 18, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Guest Speaker:

Neta Villalobos-Bell

**University of Florida/IFAS Extension
Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
Program Coordinator, Seminole County**

Neta works with homeowners and businesses to promote protection of our natural resources through sustainable landscape practices.

She is a Seminole County/University of Florida (UF) Master Gardener, UF certified Florida Master Naturalist awarded the 2006 Central Florida Region Achievement Award, a volunteer with Seminole County Natural Lands leading nature hikes, Education Committee Co-Chair for the State Florida Wildflower Foundation, and a local Native Plant Society member.

Neta is a Habitat Steward with the National Wildlife Federation program that certifies "Backyard Habitats" and was featured in an Orange County Government TV series "Wildlife Matters" to promote the benefits of gardening for wildlife. Her yard has been on public garden tours sponsored by the Florida Native Plant Society and UF/Seminole County Master Gardeners.

Ms. Villalobos-Bell will be our guest speaker at the November 18, 2008, General Meeting. See you there!

BLPA Special Alum Fund It's Not Too Late to Donate!

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, PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716.



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