

Weeds...Yipes!!

By Bill Houston



Catherine Heideman is using one of the new rakes purchased by the BLPA. It does a great job of pulling out the eelgrass and other grasses. You can borrow one to use on your shoreline by contacting Bill Houston. It is very important to keep our shorelines clean, otherwise the weeds decompose and the nutrients go back into the lake.

Where do weeds come from? What can we do to control these weeds? This is a common refrain expressed by many homeowners. Plants of varying types grow in most lakes and are generally classified as native plants (desirable) or invasive (undesirable) plants. The plants that are viewed in the shallow water areas are submerged vegetation and interfere with one's unobstructed access from shore to the water. Control of the plant growth has been addressed by the introduction of grass carp this past December and April. The quarterly survey of the lakes by Seminole County Lake Management Team has reported no evidence of hydrilla (invasive) being present. Hydrilla is the most aggressive of unwanted plants. The grass carp will continue to harvest on the existing plants and more sightings are reported as the carp forage. Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) advise that carp may need 12 to 18 months before control of

plants are in evidence and results may vary from lake to lake comparisons. Plant control is available to homeowners by using weed control applications or manual clearing of shoreline vegetation. FWC has guidelines and requires a permit (free). This is the website available from FWC on invasive plant management and permits: http://www.myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/InvasivePlants_index.htm.

"Aquatic plant management" means an activity designed to control the growth of aquatic plants so as to protect human health, safety and recreation, and, to the greatest degree practicable, to prevent injury to non-target plants, animal life, and property.

One rule for removal allows up to one-half on the property shoreline not to exceed 50 ft. Example: shoreline is 150 ft. removal amount is 50 ft. - shoreline is 90 ft. removal amount is 45 ft.

BLPA November 2010 Membership Meeting Info

Guest Speakers:

Seminole County Engineering Department - Kim Ornberg and Environmental Research & Design -

Dr. Harvey Harper will be discussing the status of the Bear, Little Bear, Cub & Asher Lakes Nutrient & Hydrologic Budget Study
An important update!

Come to the meeting and learn more about the study focusing on our watershed and the quality of our lakes!

November 16th, 2010
7:30 pm

St. Andrews Church
at Bear Lake Rd.
& Cub Lake Dr.
Fellowship Hall

Refreshments
and door prize

**Get involved in
your lake!**

BEAR LAKE RAKES AVAILABLE

A big help for your waterfront & your lake! The BLPA has purchased two 30" rakes with a 5' handle for our residents to borrow.

Contact Bill Houston at 407 721-0219 today.

**GOT ALGAE? WHY?
SEE PG 6 FOR
INFORMATION ON
THIS SMELLY
VISITOR!**

Cub Lake Update

By Margaret Sullivan Bundy



Margaret Bundy pulls water lilies out by the roots from Cub Lake.


Hooray! Cub Lake received 100 Triploid Grass Carp on June 25, 2010. The fish were 10" to 12" in length. Dan McKenzie met the delivery truck and the fish were released at his lakeshore. Thanks to everyone who

contributed to the funding and preparations needed to make this happen.

Mike and Margaret Bundy have been busy removing the non-native water lily plants in Cub Lake in the shoreline areas around their property and neighboring properties. Also, members of University of Florida lake management have been harvesting the water lily plants and transplanting them in Lake County lakes.

Thanks to Nancy Dunn for contacting Mark Hoyer, University of Florida, and arranging for him to visit Cub Lake and offer his advice on our lake and its current condition.

We hope everyone will be enjoying the lake and the more pleasant weather as fall settles in. Contact BLPA and your neighbors if you experience any new developments on Cub Lake.



In Memory of Bob Heideman

Our friend, Bob Heideman, started the Bear Lake Preservation Association in 1991. He helped to develop OUR PASSION TO KEEP A CLEAN LAKE CLEAN. HIS MISSION WAS TO EDUCATE THE RESIDENTS OF THE Watershed who all play a part in polluting or preserving the waterways.

He was taken from us two years ago on Oct. 19, 2008, from a short battle with cancer. Bob was a hero to the Bear Lakes' residents, we miss and will always remember him.



Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

Never before has there been such a great opportunity to live on Bear Lake. Again, interest rates are the lowest in over 30 years. Many fantastic opportunities abound. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions (407-222-3917).

Active Listings

3402 Holliday Ave.....\$375,000
 6181 Linneal Beach Dr\$499,900
 3151 Cecelia Dr\$500,000
 6035 Linneal Beach Dr\$549,000
 3304 Holliday Ave.....\$585,000
 3050 Holliday Ave.....\$624,900
 6259 Linneal Beach Dr\$1,200,000

3524 Holliday Ave.....\$1,300,000
 2790 Neil Rd\$1,900,000
 9730 Bear Lake Rd\$1,950,000

Pending Sales

3161 Cecelia Dr\$399,000
 6007 Linneal Beach Dr\$449,500
 6130 Linneal Beach Dr\$800,000



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Cub Lake Residents Host an Important Visitor from Florida LAKEWATCH Program

By Nancy Dunn

The Bear Lakes residents are honored by a visit from Mark Hoyer on Sept. 1st to observe our lake's features and the concerns being addressed by the BLPA Ecology Committee. A **historical review** of aerial maps of local watersheds was followed with tours of Lake Asher, Bear Lake, Little Bear and Cub Lake. Mark stressed the good news that historical LAKEWATCH data shows that our water chemistry is not changing rapidly and the quality of our lakes look great compared to most in the state.

The primary problem of the lake at this time appears to be an **aquatic plant management problem**. This type of problem is a real one giving an example that one hyacinth can produce growth that would cover an acre in only one year. He noted that **carp** are a tool that can solve the problem with excessive eelgrass because they will eat eelgrass after they have selectively removed their favorites, such as hydrilla and southern naiad (already gone). However, when all of the plants are gone there is a potential for water clarity to decrease.

The **Bear Lakes nutrient study** with Seminole County, being conducted by Harvey Harper of ERD, will show if watershed loading, groundwater and/or sediments are loaded with **phosphorous** or other nutrients, which can turn our lakes green. **Alum** is a tool that can successfully remove phosphorous increasing water clarity of lakes and it is used across the country as well as in Florida.

The three main issues affecting the health of Cub Lake are **sediments, plants and trash**. The Bear Lake Road Project, along with years of storm water has created a large delta out into Cub Lake where the three lakes overflow into Cub Lake. Plant growth, fed by the nutrients and runoff is choking Cub Lake along with the sediments filling in once deep areas of the lake. Trash and debris now flows in the bypass from the lakes since the street runoff (newer curbed area of Bear Lake Road) was connected



L to R: Dr. Jay Goebel, Dan McKenzie and Margaret Bundy of Cub Lake, Mark Hoyer from LAKEWATCH, Janet Brown of Little Bear and Bill Houston of Bear Lake observe the drainage outfall of water from Bear Lake to Cub Lake. (photo by Nancy Dunn).

to the bypass and not the detention pond as planned. As sediments fill in, muck builds up and plants take over in newer shallow areas. Proper Lake management with sediment removal can relieve this problem.

The BLPA is working with experts, such as Mark Hoyer, to study and preserve our lakes. They may be seen as clean and beautiful, but that has been our mission from the beginning. We strive to prevent the urban changes that have potential to harm our lakes, thus keeping them clean and preserving them for future generations to enjoy. Thank you Mark for your expertise and visit to our Bear Lakes Watershed.

Mark Hoyer is a Scientific Research Manager in the University of Florida's Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. He is Assistant Director of Florida LAKEWATCH. He received

a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University; his Master of Science in Limnology is from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He has worked extensively on the interrelationships of water chemistry, aquatic macrophyte communities, fish populations, and aquatic bird populations. In Iowa and Missouri, his primary interest was lake eutrophication, including nutrient loading models and the relationship between in-lake nutrients and chlorophyll a. Mark came to the University of Florida in 1983; the vast range of aquatic systems he has encountered in Florida has made him aware of the state's great resources. During this time, Mark has authored several books and many technical publications. Currently, Mark is President of the North American Lake Management Society (2009-2010).

The primary problems of Cub Lake at this time are sediments, plant growth and trash from the street.

A Walk Down Memory Lane...

By Ed and Ruth Ann Gillis, Mountain City, TN



The alligator was found floating while we were skiing. Picture taken Nov. 1975.

When we moved from Michigan in 1968 to the Orlando, Florida, area we searched for a rural area called Altamonte Springs. A road called Palm Springs Drive sounded nice so we drove down the dirt road from the blinking light on 436. How serene it looked and we thought it would be a nice place to raise the children. Highway 436 was narrow with few stores and NO traffic lights until you came to Highway 50 or to Apopka in the opposite direction. Life was good until there was talk of building a mall in one corner of the woods, then apartment buildings across from us, then a hospital. Before we knew it roads were being widened, condos replaced the cows, huge construction was going on, and traffic lights were added up and down 436. We decided to do something, so we started over.

We searched for a rural area in 1972 way out near Apopka where Ed was building homes near Big Bear Lake. We drove down a dirt road named Balmly Beach. We passed the woods to Holiday Drive and came upon a beautiful wooded area with small cottages where some people lived and others fished in their rowboats. We found the country again and knew it was a great place to raise the children.

There was a huge area of dense woods near the corner of Holiday and Balmly Beach and a neighbor allowed us to use their yard to go down to the lake to check it out. We went to the courthouse that next week and discovered the huge lot was actually designed for a small subdivision. We researched the owners and ended up purchasing it for \$7,500.00. We got busy chopping with a machete down the middle of the woods to the lakefront lot, then came a bull dozer to make way for construction trucks. Soon another interested couple came and bought the lakefront lot next to ours. The neighbors thought we were building a church because of its

unique design, but they soon realized we were just a normal family trying to raise three young children. Tim was 12 when we moved to Big Bear Lake, Todd was 11 and Tami was 7. I taught kindergarten at Altamonte Christian School in Altamonte Springs and Ed worked at Rinker Concrete in Orlando and also built homes in the Paradise Point area and Daytona Beach. Anytime there was any concrete left over from a job we added it to our 'road' down to the lake at \$5.00 a yard, which is why it was so 'rough' for so long. Because we wanted to prevent public traffic and use of our shoreline and dock we filed documents at Seminole County Courthouse to have the public access to the lake vacated and abandoned. All neighbors were notified and with no opposition it became the private property between the two adjoining lakefront lots.

We were asked by the post office to name our road and we liked the name of our former road, Palm Springs Drive. The post office said there were too many by that name in the area so we shortened it to Palm Drive.

Our children learned many things while growing up in this wonderful neighborhood, skiing, boating, camping, fishing and building. While out skiing, our son passed by an alligator and upon checking it out we discovered it was dead and was wired with a concrete block hoping it would sink. We hauled it back to the shore and took pictures with it.

Soon weeds became a problem in the lake, but we were not allowed to do anything, according to the County, EPA, or the Fish and Game. It was getting hard to even go for a ride in a boat because the engine prop would get caught up in some of the weeds. At times we even saw birds land on the tops of the weeds closer to shore and appeared to 'walk on water'! The residents took it upon themselves to do something. We researched and imported carp, a weed eating fish that does not reproduce. A small tanker of approximately 3000 6" to 8" carp were put into the weed infested lake. Within a few months we noticed a difference, and we were thankful we had acted to preserve BIG BEAR LAKE for future use.

There were many happy times, like taking our pontoon boat out to the middle of the lake to have a picnic, watching hot air



Notice all the trees! a typical look around the lake in the 1970's. The trees absorbed nutrients from fertilizers, pollutants & septic tanks, now many have been removed for better views.



We posted a sign for "No Lake Access."

balloons pass over our treetops and across the lake early in the morning, a seaplane landing in the lake, or an ultra light plane circling the lake. We are now retired and live in a cabin in the mountains of East Tennessee. Our adult children are now carrying on the circle of life with our nine grandchildren.

Thank you for letting us bring back many nice memories.



Jeff Belford

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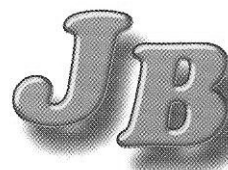
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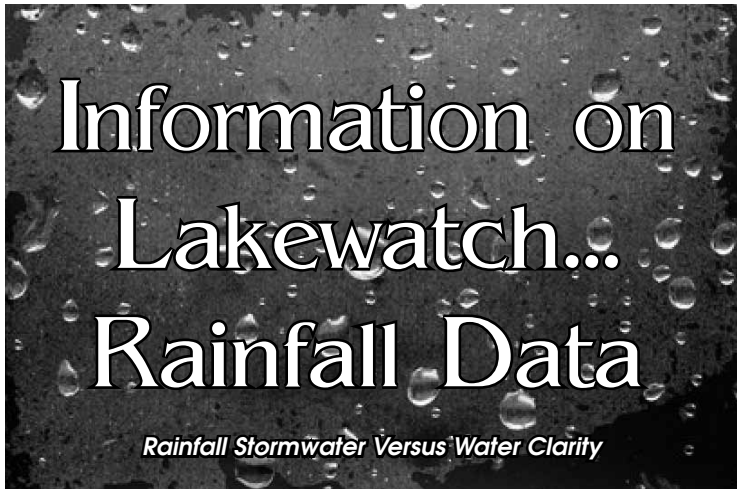
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PROUD SUPPORTER OF SHRINER'S HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN



The following LAKEWATCH data covers the past 7 months. Clarity readings are based on the average of 3 locations each in Cub Lake & Little Bear Lake and 4 locations in Bear Lake. Elevation readings are from the County gauges on each lake (elevation above Sea Level).

Due to the extended cold temperatures last winter, lakes in the region experienced better water clarity (Bear Lake had 20' in January 2010).

Larger areas of lake bottoms were exposed to sunlight with the clear waters allowing additional algae & plants to grow, mostly fed by a buildup of nutrients from lawn fertilizers. Eelgrass in Bear & Cub Lakes will continue to break off & float to shorelines. Please rake the decaying plants out of the lake!

For information on weed reduction from carp go to blpa.net (aquatic plant survey). To report activities in the watershed affecting a lake's water quality contact: Nancy Dunn for Bear Lake & Lake Asher 407-920-4975; Janet Brown for Little Bear 407-295-6739; or Margaret Bundy for Cub Lake 407-523-1064.

Bear Lake	Date	Clarity Level	Rainfall	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/10	13'	2-3/4"	103.7
	5/10	12'	5-1/2"	103.6
	6/10	9-1/2'	4-3/4"	103.65
	7/10	11'	8-1/16"	103.42
	8/10	11'	7-1/8"	103.6
	9/10	10'	4"	103.5
	10/10	10'	1/2"	103.35

Little Bear Lake	Date	Clarity Level	Rainfall	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/10	8'	2-3/4"	103.73
	5/10	9'	5-1/2"	103.62
	6/10	5'	4-3/4"	103.73
	7/10	4'	8-1/16"	103.5
	8/10	3'	7-1/8"	103.8
	9/10	3-1/2'	4"	103.8
	10/10	4'	1/2"	103.64

Cub Lake	Date	Clarity Level	Rainfall	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/10	11'	2-3/4"	100
	5/10	15'	5-1/2"	100
	6/10	13'	4-3/4"	100.8
	7/10	11'	8-1/16"	99.7
	8/10	10'	7-1/8"	100.5
	9/10	10'	4"	100.3
	10/10	N/A	1/2"	N/A



The algae growth we have been seeing floating and on the shorelines is caused by the extreme cold temperatures last winter and clearer waters.

With increased water clarity, sunlight is able to penetrate to a greater portion of the surface area of the lake allowing further expansion of Vallisneria (eelgrass) and other aquatic vegetation such as benthic algae.

There are several factors that can cause these plants and algae to rise to the surface. First, as the water warms and the intensity of sunlight increases with the approach of summer, the metabolic rate of the plants and algae will also increase and with that the production of oxygen of these plants and algae. In some algae this production of oxygen can be great enough to "lift" (dislodge) the plant or break it from the bottom and cause it to rise to the surface. Along with the stink, the slimy mess has been difficult to remove.

The Bear Lakes Have a "Growing" Cat-tail Problem



Cat-tails (Typha Species), although a native plant, are highly productive and invasive. They can turn sandy shorelines into muck and they can block lake access and grow islands of muck, sometimes taking over small lakes. They need to be treated and removed before they become a greater problem in our lakes or to residential view and access.

Lake Asher has several large areas creating islands out into the lake.

Bear Lake has approximately 20 lakefront properties with cattails. Some of the lots are blocked from water usage by the cat-tails. Treatment and removal is currently taking place in the canal by a collective residential effort. For more information on Cat-tail removal, contact Bill Houston at (407) 721-0219.

Watch Out for These Important Things...



Ground water seepage meters located in the lakes are marked with orange and white floats.

This expensive scientific equipment is part of the study being conducted by ERD in our lakes and should not be disturbed. We are fortunate to have this study paid for by Seminole County. If you have questions about this equipment or notice a meter that has been damaged, please call ERD at (407) 855-9465



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

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In an attempt to be GREEN and to save money we are corresponding more and more by email if you would like periodic updates we must have your email address.

****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.**

Decorate Your Boat for the Holidays and Join Us at the Annual Bear Lake Boat Parade

WHERE: Start At Randy & Angie
Cranmer's Dock for registration
(9940 Bear Lake Rd)

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 11th*

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

*RAIN DATE FOR PARADE -
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12th
(same time/place)

Come down to the water's
edge or out on your docks with
flashlights to enjoy the boats and
good cheer! Boats will move
clockwise around the shoreline

Prizes will be awarded to the
best decorated boat and for the
best decorated boat dock/yard!

Please RSVP for the Boat Parade
to Holly Gosney 407-497-9556.



Calendar of Events

November 16..... General Membership
Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

December 11 Holiday Boat Parade

January 25 General Membership
Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

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

www.blpa.net

**Florida Power Bear Lake Clubhouse
Employees Association invites lakefront
residents to become members of their
historical clubhouse on beautiful Bear Lake...**



For nearly 70 years, the Florida Power Employees have owned and operated a four-acre lakefront clubhouse facility on Holliday Ave. We are happy to be a part of what makes Bear Lake and our neighborhoods so wonderful.

Recently, the Florida Power Employees Board has decided to create a membership level for homeowners on the Bear Lakes (Bear, Cub, Asher and Little Bear). For more information about becoming an Associate Member of our clubhouse, please see the following link: <http://www.bearlakeclubhouse.com> and the attached membership materials. Membership includes use of clubhouse, boat ramp, picnic pavilions, swim areas, and more.



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