



## Florida Boating Safety Rules and Regulations

By USCG Licensed Captain Michael C. Bundy

It is the responsibility of each lake lot owner and their families to operate their vessels safely and courteously, as well as abiding by all boating regulations. All U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Florida Marine Patrol rules and regulations apply to all Florida waterways. 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). For more information on boating laws in the State of Florida visit the Florida Fish & Wildlife website at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com). For the purpose of the BLPA Newsletter, Florida boating and safety laws state in-part:

- All powered watercraft (herein after referred to as PWC) must travel in a counter-clockwise direction even when picking up a skier, knee-boarder, etc;
- All boaters in Florida who were born on or after January 1, 1988, must

have in their possession a valid Boating Safety Education ID Card when operating any motorized vessel of 10hp or more (*Florida Boater's Guide*). The following are exemptions to Education Requirement:

- If you hold a valid U.S. Coast Guard Marine Operator's License;
- If you are operating on a private lake or pond;
- If you are a non-resident of Florida and have completed a NASBLA-Approved course in your state;
- If you are operating a vessel that has been purchased within 90 days or less (the bill of sale must be made available for inspection upon request);
- All operators of a PWC must be fourteen (14) years of age (*Florida Boater's Guide*). *Note: It is unlawful for a person to knowingly allow a person under 14 years of age to operate a PWC (a second-degree misdemeanor);*
- Speed and operation of any PWC

should be applicable to lake conditions, i.e., the number of watercraft on the lake, weather, etc. (*Florida Boater's Guide*);

- There must always be at least two (2) people in or on your PWC or such watercraft must be equipped with a wide-angle rearview mirror when towing a skier, knee-boarder, etc. (*Florida Boater's Guide*);
- PWC should maintain a safe distance from skiers, knee-boarders, and other watercraft;
- All skiers and PWC operators are required by law to wear U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (*Florida Boater's Guide* for types);
- All PWC operators and passengers are recommended to wear U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices. *NOTE: All children under the age of six (6) are required, by law, to wear such a*

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# So What's the Big Deal About Stormwater Runoff?

By Margaret Sullivan Bundy

One of the Bear Lakes biggest sources of water pollution is stormwater runoff. Think about all the paths a heavy downpour will take the next time it rains.

Naturally, some of the rain water will be absorbed into our soil and directly into our lakes. However, some will run off your roof onto your driveway and down the street. The rain water that runs off paved surfaces is called

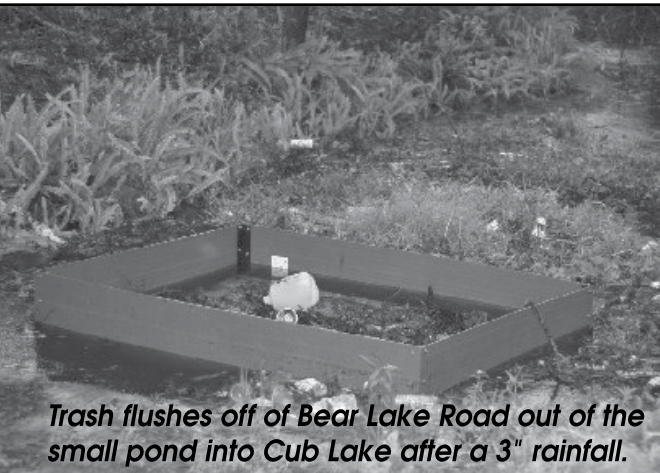
streets and storm water drains. Some examples of the heavy metals mentioned above are found in automobile exhaust, tires, paints, household batteries, and are all toxic pollutants. Unfortunately, untreated storm water runoff is considered Florida's leading source of water pollution. Did you know that storm water will deposit about 80 to 95 percent of the heavy metals into the Florida waters?

As we have learned, storm water runoff can be limited through the use of a storm water settling pond, which collects and filters storm water runoff. Aquatic plants along the banks and in the shallow areas of these settling ponds will use the excess nutrients and prevent erosion. Storm water settling ponds can also provide habitat for many animals. It's unfortunate that most of our area storm water drains were constructed to flow directly into our lakes and we do not have the benefit of

a settling pond. Only time will tell what impact this will have on our Bear Lakes.

So what can and should you do? How we use and maintain our lake front property is very important. We can minimize the impact on our lakes by being educated, vigilant, and getting involved. Whether you maintain your own lake front properties or hire a company to do it for you, educate them and yourself. If you must use fertilizers and insecticides on your property, make sure they are environmentally friendly and recommended for water front properties. Never put or blow grass clippings, pine needles, leaves, or trash into storm water drains, ditches, street, or in the lakes.

If you are on a septic tank, keep it pumped every three years. Minimize the use of your garbage disposals. Properly dispose of paint, oils, batteries, household cleaning materials, and



**Trash flushes off of Bear Lake Road out of the small pond into Cub Lake after a 3" rainfall.**

storm water run off. To understand the problem of runoff, consider the number of heavy downpours we have in our area each year.

As Seminole County grew over the years and more homes, schools, parking lots, sidewalks and streets were built, our area was left with less open space. Where there were swales and berms, we now have curbs and sidewalks. Where there were dirt and gravel roads, we now have paved streets, driveways, and storm water drains. As the storm water runs across the areas' covered surfaces, it's washing harmful pollutants and sediments (loose soil) into our lakes.

So what does the storm water run off pick-up along the way? From our own area lawns it will pick up pesticides and fertilizers, bacteria from animal wastes, top layer of soil from the ground or sediments, grease and oil from our driveways and area streets, metals, chemicals, and trash from our



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# A Bit of the Bear Lakes and Cub Lakes History

By Dan McKenzie



*Dan McKenzie observes a patch of pickerelweed on Cub Lake.*

Daniel McKenzie and his wife Rita moved to Cub Lake in June of 1971, after Dan retired from the Air Force in California. Having relatives in Plant City, they decided to look in Florida where, at the time, Orlando had more jobs available than Plant City. When looking for rural property, they discovered their property on beautiful Cub Lake which included 40 citrus trees, and a one bedroom home built in 1921.

Dan has a wealth of knowledge, is a gem to talk with, and history intrigues him like a hobby.

He writes: I was asked by Margaret Bundy to write maybe just a paragraph about the history of our Bear Lake region. It seems that living about 40 years here on Cub Lake makes me a historian of this area. Being a long-winded Yankee from New Hampshire, of Scottish folktale descent, there is nothing in my mind's eye of just a short paragraph about the area history.

I had the good fortune to make immediate contact with a nearby neighbor, Mr. Bunnell, who has been a grove owner since 1914. He also was a Road Commissioner for Seminole County back in the 1920s. He filled me in on the property I had just purchased from friends of his, Tillie and Justice Boettcher.

Back in 1921, John Bell from Connecticut purchased a 10-acre spread on Cub Lake from Mr. McNeil for \$280, which was to be paid in \$2 a month payments to Mr. McNeil who owned most of the property from Bear Lake to

Forest City Road. Mr. Bunnell described to me how they used a team of oxen dragging railroad ties to run a path through the palmettos, thus the beginning of what is today Cub Lake Drive.

Florida was an open range state and Bunnell's cattle would wander down to Cub Lake to quench their thirst. The picture of my 1921 cottage that Mr. Bunnell showed me, had a barb wire fence around John Bell's house to keep the cattle and other wandering livestock from coming into the house for lunch.

Now Mr. Bunnell also told me that his first house was built on Bear Lake with his back porch on pilings over the lake. When it burnt down in the 1920s, he built the home, still there today, on the street named after him.

Mr. Bunnell also talked about his early work as Road Commissioner in extending Bear Lake Road (which ended at Cub Lake Drive) to Rose Avenue (which only went as far as the old railroad tracks). They cut giant cypress trees, layered the logs, and hauled in tons of fill to make this road passable. Prior to this, the area was swampy as the overflow waters from Little Bear Lake trickled in small streams across the area into Cub Lake. Bear Lake Road was impassable during high waters, so the first ditch was formed to convey the water to Cub Lake when the road was built. In the 1950s, Mr. Bunnell, reflecting back, could not believe they would build homes on this area between the two lakes.

## Bears Seen Around Bear Lakes

There have been several sightings of bears this year as well as this one seen last summer in the back yards along Holliday Ave. and Bear Lake Road. Recently, a large black bear has been seen on north Holliday Ave. crossing into the woods as well as disturbing trash cans and bird feeders in the back yards of



homes on the canal on the west side of Bear Lake.

To learn more about the Florida Black Bear, go to the Fish & Wildlife Commission website. <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you- conserve/wildlife/black-bears/>

Problems arise when bears have access to food sources such as pet foods, garbage, barbecue grills, bird seed or even livestock feed. Bears are adaptable and learn very quickly to associate people with food. Even though black bears are normally too shy to risk contact with humans, their powerful need to find food can overwhelm this fear.

Bears can smell food from over a mile away. Bears will travel great distances to track down these tasty smells and often cross roadways and bridges to do so — which creates risk to not only themselves, but to motorists as well.

# Florida Boating Safety Rules and Regulations

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device (*Florida Boater's Guide for types*);

- Never go a long distance with tow rope out. Always pull in tow rope as soon as skier, knee-boarder, etc. drops off;
- Raise your hand when your skier, knee-boarder, etc. is down or if you see that another is down;
- Skiers, knee-boarders, etc., must stay 30 feet from the shore or structures;
- As state law regulates, waterskiing is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise (*Florida Boater's Guide*);
- All U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Marine Patrol rules and regulations apply;
- Florida has a very strict law on operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The law makes it crystal clear that alcohol or drug-impaired PWC is a crime (*Florida Boater's Guide*);
- Children or adults should not be floating or swimming in PWC traffic pattern;
- All PWC are required by law to be registered and/or numbered (*Florida Boater's Guide*).

When operating your PWC, always be considerate of the effect you may have on the environment and others enjoying the waterways (See *Boater's Guide*):

- Jumping the wake of a passing boat, or riding too close to another boat, creates special risks and is prohibited. Visibility around the boat making the wake may be blocked, both for the PWC operator and for oncoming traffic;
- Vary your operating area and avoid repetitious maneuvers. Avoid congregating with other PWC operators near shore, as this can increase noise levels;
- Avoid making excessive noise near residential areas, particularly early in the morning;
- Avoid maneuvers that cause the

engine exhaust to lift out of the water; this causes increased noise levels. Do not modify your engine exhaust system if the result is more noise;

- Do not operate a PWC in shallow water (less than 24 inches deep). Bottom sediments or aquatic vegetation can be sucked into the water pump and damage your PWC and the environment;
- Avoid creating a wake, which can cause erosion, when operating near shore;
- Do not dock or beach your PWC in reeds and grasses. This could damage fragile environments;
- Take extra care when fueling your PWC in or near the water. Oil and

gasoline spills are very detrimental to the aquatic environment. Fuel on land if possible;

- Never use your PWC to chase wildlife such as birds feeding near shore, waterfowl, or other animals.

The above-summary of Florida's boating laws are found in Ch. 327 and Ch. 328, Florida Statutes and is included in all certified boating safety courses taught in Florida. The information provided is accurate and subject to change in May of each year. Please call the FWC's Boating Safety Section at 850-488-5600 for annual updates to this information or questions regarding boating safety course requirements or go to [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).



## Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

The national news continues to give us negative information contrary to that I have seen many positive things happening and especially amazing opportunities in real estate. Have a safe summer and don't hesitate to call me with any questions (407-222-3917).

### Active Listings

6007 Linneal Beach Dr .....	\$449,500
3304 Holliday Ave.....	\$499,000
6035 Linneal Beach Dr .....	\$549,000
3050 Holliday Ave.....	\$599,000
6259 Linneal Beach Dr .....	\$1,200,000
3524 Holliday Ave.....	\$1,300,000
2790 Neil Rd .....	\$1,900,000

### Sold Listings

3402 Holliday Ave.....	\$375,000
3153 Cecelia Dr .....	\$500,000
6051 Linneal Beach Dr .....	\$559,000

# So What's the Big Deal About Stormwater Runoff?

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chemicals. Never pour anything you wouldn't drink into the streets or in your lawn. Never pour chemicals or medications down the drain or flush them down your toilets. Maintain your boats, jet skis, and motor vehicles at least yearly. Properly dispose of old tires. Properly dispose of cigarettes and cigars. Clean up after your dog. Not only should you clean up after your pets on their walks, you should regularly clean up after them on your own property.

The following are more tips and ideas for directing storm water runoff. You can find out more information about any of the following projects on

the internet: Reduce the amount of impervious surface on your property; Replace concrete or asphalt slabs with pavers; Replace the pavement at the bottom of your driveway with a French drain or grate; Collect and use the water that drains off your roof for your garden or lawn; Dutch drains, gravel-filled barrels with holes at the bottom; Replace lawn areas with native plants; Add organic matter to your soil once a year; Cover exposed soil and dirt; Plant Native Trees and preserve existing ones; Wash your car on your lawn with an environmentally friendly wash; Reduce the slope of your yard; Install berms and vegetated swales.

Our Bear Lakes may not be what they were many years ago and will probably never be again, but thanks to you and the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA), we live on some of the cleanest lakes in Florida. Considering the number of polluted and very sick lakes in the state, we're doing okay. If we all do our part, we can slow down or prevent further damage to our beautiful Bear Lakes!

## Did You Forget Something?



BLPA Dues will pay for Lake Alerts and Future Projects to Keep Our Lakes Clean!

If you recently received in the mail a dues renewal notice, send it in now!

BLPA dues and donations are tax deductible! For more information, contact Debbie Davenport (407) 294-8813



### BLPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716 • www.blpa.net

Current Members: 92

Goal: 125

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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 continuing support to help keep our lakes clean!

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**\*\*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.**

# Information on Lakewatch... Rainfall Data

The following LAKEWATCH data covers the past 7 months. Clarity readings are based on the average of three locations each in Cub Lake & Little Bear Lake, and four locations in Bear Lake. Elevation readings are from the County gauges on each lake (elevation above sea level).

## EELGRASS & CARP UPDATE

The eelgrass is blooming now. Winds and increased boating is cutting the blooms off, along with the leaves, sending them floating to all shorelines in Cub and Bear Lakes. The blooms are spiral strings with bean like pods on the tips reaching to just below the water surface.

Do your part! If floating weeds or algae collect on your shoreline or against your seawall, rake it out before it starts to decay and smell. If you have your shorelines & beaches cleaned off, do not let the weeds float off creating a problem for others.

Dying weeds, like grass clippings, create nutrients. Increased nutrients, from years of fertilizers in the watershed, are feeding algae and weed growth.

The carp continue to eat young eelgrass in the shallow areas on the south and east sides of Bear Lake. Many of their favorite plants (hydrilla & southern naiad) are completely cleared out by the carp. The top 20 plants are listed by order of carp preference on our website [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net) under "Bear lake Carp 2010." Eelgrass is #15 on the carp favorite list. 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	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	11/10	3-1/8"	10'	103.5
	12/10	1/4"	11'	102.8
	1/11	1-3/8"	16'	102.75
	2/11	7-5/8"	14'	103.1
	3/11	3-3/4"	14'	102.97
	4/11	6-5/8"	12'	103.5
	5/11	3"	10'	102.8

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	11/10	3-1/8"	n/a	n/a
	12/10	1/4"	6'	103.13
	1/11	1-3/8"	6'	103.63
	2/11	7-5/8"	9'	103.6
	3/11	3-3/4"	10'	103.43
	4/11	6-5/8"	8'	103.44
	5/11	3"	8'	103.2

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	11/10	3-1/8"	11'	100.6
	12/10	1/4"	12'	99.8
	1/11	1-3/8"	16'	100
	2/11	7-5/8"	13'	100.6
	3/11	3-3/4"	16'	99.8
	4/11	6-5/8"	11'	100.3
	5/11	3"	13'	99.7

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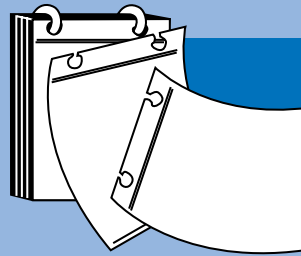
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**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011 • 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

You are invited to the shores of Bear Lake. Bring your entire family, meet neighbors and enjoy food, fun, and games. If you'd like to bring a dish, it would be appreciated. Please RSVP by Saturday, September 17th so we can get the right amount of food. Please contact Catherine Heideman at 407-538-1097 or email her at cwjclafin@hotmail.com with your RSVP and tell her what you are bringing. The party will take place at both the Helm's and Heideman's backyard located at 6043 Linneal Beach Drive. Things to look forward to: Best Dessert Contest - Bring your favorite dessert to be judged and win a prize for the best dessert at the picnic (judging @ 5:00 p.m.); an art drawing contest for the children - win a prize for the best art (details to follow as we draw closer to the date); a 50/50 drawing - \$1 a ticket, the winner takes 50% and BLPA takes 50% (bring cash for donation and fun - drawing @ 6:30 p.m.)! Boat arrivals are also welcomed and friendly pets are allowed. In case of bad weather, the picnic date will be moved to Sunday, September 25th.



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

## **BLPA General Membership Meeting**

**June 21, 2011, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

**Guest Speaker:**

*Dr. Harvey Harper, Environmental Research  
and Design, conducting the Bear, Little Bear,  
Cub & Asher Lakes'  
Nutrient & Hydrologic studies,  
will address the BLPA with  
important updates at this meeting.*

**Door Prizes  
Refreshments**

## **No Fish Tale!**



Parker and Nicholas Brown and the 10.5 lb. bass that Parker caught in Big Bear Lake last week. Parker is 12 and Nick is 9 years. Parker is our die-hard fisherman. Actually he caught this bass while casting from the shoreline. It is not unusual for him to catch several bass in one day but, of course, this one is his record high. He always catches and releases to leave this one to catch again another day!



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