

Thirty-five New Homes Coming Soon at The Enclave at Bear Lake



The Enclave at Bear Lake subdivision is well underway. The homes are being built on what was formerly known as the Bowles property and pond, which is south of Little Bear Lake near Maitland Boulevard. At the initial construction, the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) was out at the site inspecting the barriers which were installed to protect our lakes. We requested they place hay bales and additional barriers. Despite our requests, they informed us their barriers were adequate (as shown in the photo, the barriers were inadequate).

BLPA inspected the construction site daily and received numerous phone calls once the project started, as mounds of dirt and rain can only go to the lowest point being Little Bear Lake. BLPA continued to request more storm water barriers with the Seminole County Inspector, Water Quality Staff, and Saint John's River Water

Management District (SJRWMD), as the Bear lakes flow out to the Little Wekiva River. They were quick to respond to our urgent calls the very morning after a 3-inch rain, and required the developer to install several additional safe guards to stop the muddy water from entering the lake. Seeing is believing – the residents knew the history of the pond flowing through wetlands to Little Bear Lake.

The new Enclave at Bear Lake subdivision will have a total of three retention ponds. Madden Civil Engineers have designed for two retention ponds to flow into a third pond which will hold the storm water runoff from the roads. The bottom of the third pond is designed at a 97-foot elevation and the top is at a 106-foot elevation. There will be a 102.5-foot draw down which will allow the water to spill out into the ditch when it reaches that elevation. Eventually, the filtered storm water runoff will then flow into the ditch which



Pumping out Bowles pond.

In Memoriam Dick Dominica



Dick Dominica, a former President of BLPA and previous Board Director for 15 years, passed away on May 9, 2013. Dick was a kind and motivated friend and neighbor, and will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him and had the pleasure of working with him. Our many years of friendship will always be a cherished memory.

currently flows into Little Bear Lake.

The average lot size for a home will be 40 X 100 feet. The developer has designed swales in each backyard to hold the first 1" of rain fall. They will also have water and sewage from the City of Altamonte Springs (no septic).

Some of the older residents reported that years ago you could boat from Little Bear Lake to the former Bowles pond. However, over time the land was filled and the volume of water was reduced. Then, Jessica drive was built for the Bear Lake Woods subdivision.

High Waters Mean Caution and Courtesy: Slow-No-Wake!

With a good chunk of the boating season left and current high water levels, people who live on the Bear Lakes (Big Bear, Little Bear, and Cub) are concerned about shoreline erosion, safety, and damage. Creating a wake while the lake water is high, risks damage to property shorelines, docks, and boats.

We received almost 16 inches of rain in one month (May 24 through June 24). Our Bear Lakes' waterways are flowing full in the pipes and ditches, and slowly out to the Little Wekiwa River. The current water elevation of Big Bear Lake rose to 104.49 feet above sea level with many docks under water.

Over flow elevations for the Bear Lakes are: Asher 105.78, Big Bear 103.50, Little Bear 102.78, and Cub 100.19. See Information on Lakewatch and Rainfall Data for current lake levels or go to: www.blpa.net.

In August of 2008, we received 15.5 inches of rain in just 7 days when Seminole County declared all waterways a no wake zone due to damages occurring from boat wake. We will advise all lakefront homeowners and associations should this occur.

The following notice was sent by Florida Power Clubhouse to all their members on Sunday, June 23, 2013: "Due to the high water levels on Bear Lake, our boat ramp has been closed at this time and we will not be allowing any watercraft on the lake." As the water receded, launching of watercraft was permitted by its members.

Be cautious! Check on your

docked boats. If the lake water is high and there is not enough slack in your line, the line can snap and your boat can float away. But make sure not to have too much slack to where your boat can end up on top of your dock. Boats on lifts are also at risk. Make sure to have your boat tied to your lift.

During high water, if you have canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, chairs, fishing equipment, etc. on your dock, you may want to consider moving them off your dock or further away from the shore.

"Slow-no-wake" means that speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control. "Hazardous conditions" mean those conditions that may exist on the lake as a result of high water that threatens public safety and property damage. Such conditions may include the presence of floating debris that pose a threat to safe boating and that may damage shoreline structures, boats, docks, and affect safe operation of a water vessel.

Lake front homeowners should minimize use of septic tanks due to groundwater saturation. Also, you should not fertilize lawns or landscape before or during heavy rains as it will not absorb into the ground, but run off directly into the lake.

For your safety, be cautious while boating during extremely high water and be courteous and conscience of possible damage. Florida lake levels normally run in 5-year cycles of high and low water.



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Left: Low water at outfall manhole from Bear Lake to Cub Lake.



Above: High water at outfall manhole from Bear Lake to Cub Lake.

Swimmer's Itch



Brenda Vallancourt and a couple of her neighbors had an awful experience recently with an itchy rash after swimming in the lake. Her neighbor sought medical treatment for relief and was told it was swimmer's itch. They are not the only ones. The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) had several reports from other lake swimmers.

Brenda said it was good to know the parasites die right away. The extreme itching lasted a couple of days and the awful looking red rash lasted about a week. Benedryl got her and her family through those first couple of uncomfortable days.

According to the Limnologists at University of Florida, the hundreds of migrating cormorants which visited the Bear Lakes (Big Bear, Little Bear, Cub) earlier this year, could have contributed to why our problem skyrocketed. With permission from the University of Florida Lakewatch, the following is a reprint of a very informative article about swimmer's itch in The Beginner's Guide to Water Management

AN UNWELCOME SUMMER VISITOR: SWIMMER'S ITCH (SCHISTOSOME CERCARIAL DERMATITIS)

Summer is here once again in all its hot, humid, buggy glory and chances are dedicated lake-goers are smack dab in the middle of it all as they enjoy any number of aquatic activities.

However, there is one summer occurrence that folks should be aware of as it can certainly take the fun out of playing in your favorite lake.

It's known as swimmer's itch and similar to poison ivy, anyone who has ever had an outbreak usually doesn't forget it.

Swimmer's itch is the result of a parasitic flatworm that makes its presence known

to lake-goers on rare occasions. It is most often experienced in the warmer summer months when greater numbers of people are out swimming in and enjoying their lake.

Initial symptoms are usually experienced soon after swimming or submersing oneself in a lake and they include a tingling sensation soon after drying off the exposed parts of the body. Later, the development of small red spots occurs, then the tingling ceases and the red spots become itchier. The degree of discomfort varies among individuals, depending on the severity of infestation and prior exposure. The more often one is exposed to swimmer's itch, the more sensitive they could be to future outbreaks.

So where does this aquatic pest come from? This tiny parasitic flatworm that is capable of causing so much discomfort among humans originates in the bloodstream of some aquatic bird species. Adult worms live in the bird's digestive tract and their eggs are transferred to the lake via the excrement of the bird.

Once in the water, the eggs hatch and the larvae search for a certain species of snail, which they will invade and use as the secondary host. Larvae live in the snail and eventually emerge as a secondary microscopic larval stage that is known as cercaria. At this point, the cercaria normally will seek out aquatic birds such as ducks to complete the life cycle but sometimes mistakenly invade human skin instead. Since humans are not the correct host species, the cercaria soon dies and leaves the swimmer with an itchy but harmless welt.

If symptoms develop, over-the-counter anti itch medications can help such as lotions and antihistamines. Your pharmacist can recommend something suitable for you.

One way to reduce your chances of contracting swimmer's itch and still enjoy your lake is to avoid

swimming for long periods in shallow water. It is believed that cercarias are more concentrated there.

Also, if an area has a history of producing swimmer's itch, avoid swimming there, especially if there is an onshore wind.

Drying off immediately after getting out of the lake may help as some species of cercaria only enter the skin as the water dries on the body.

A few more words of wisdom: Don't feed aquatic bird species, as this can encourage them to defecate in areas where people swim and it also makes the birds dependent on humans for food. One way to reduce your chances of contracting swimmer's itch and still enjoy your lake is to avoid swimming for long periods in shallow water.

For more information, feel free to contact your LAKEWATCH regional coordinator at 1-800-LAKEWATCH (1-800-525-3928).

Many thanks to Debi Mosely for her writing and assistance with this newsletter.

Wekiwa (We-Ki'-Wa) or Wekiva (We-Ki'-Va) — You Decide!

The name is derived from the Creek - Wekiwa meaning spring of water. The actual spelling of the Wekiwa or Wekiva river's name has often been disputed. Wekiwa was the original name used by the Indians who lived throughout the entire State of Florida. "We" refers to water and "Kiwa" means spring. Vague history shows the spelling of Wekiva most likely

came into official use in the late 1800s because of its spelling on maps. Developers and settlers of the area then adopted the spelling for roads and neighborhood development. Some later maps, however, show the spelling as Wekiwa. This is why you will see this word spelled two different ways. For the record, both are acceptable spellings.

Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

The following data collected for the University of Florida LAKEWATCH program covers the past 8 months on the 3 lakes sampled.

The Bear Lakes area received approximately 37.55 inches of rain since May 2013. Many of these rains were downpours. The rains saturated the watershed and flushed fertilizers from lawns into the lakes. The water levels came up and over the tops of the outflow manholes in Bear and Little Bear Lakes, filling the pipes to Cub Lake. Downstream, other tributaries also filled storm water pipes flowing to the Little Wekiva River as fast as the capacity would allow. Shoreline erosion from winds and boating also occurred as the water levels came up.

In the past 22 years of monthly water samples, the data collected show summer rains flush in damaging nutrients (Phosphorous and Nitrogen) from fertilizers feeding algae & turning the lakes green (not clean) historically, in the fall months. Overflow elevations for the Bear lakes: Asher 105.78; Bear 103.50; Little Bear 102.78; and Cub 100.19.

To report activities in the watershed affecting a lake's water quality contact your Lakewatch Volunteers: Nancy Dunn for Bear Lake & Lake Asher 407-920-4975; Janet Brown for Little Bear 407-295-6739; and Margaret Bundy for Cub Lake 407-523-1064.

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	1/13	2.2"	15'	103.5
	2/13	1.5"	13-1/2'	103.2
	3/13	3.0"	13'	103.1
	4/13	3.0"	12'	103
	5/13	8.95"	11.5'	103.55
	6/13	18.05"	11'	104.49
	7/13	9.7"	11'	104.05
	8/13	.85"	10'	103.9

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	1/13	2.2"	9'	99.9
	2/13	1.5"	6'	99.8
	3/13	3.0"	9.5'	95.0
	4/13	3.0"	7.5'	103.3
	5/13	8.95"	6'	n/a
	6/13	18.05"	7'	104.1
	7/13	9.7"	7'	103.91
	8/13	.85"	5-1/2'	103.73

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	1/13	2.2"	N/A	N/A
	2/13	1.5"	10'	103.3
	3/13	3.0"	8'	103.2
	4/13	3.0"	7'	100
	5/13	8.95"	8'	100.3
	6/13	18.05"	9'	101.8
	7/13	9.7"	9'	100.4
	8/13	.85"	5-1/2'	103.73



Floating Down Memory Lane

The Heath family enjoying a day in their new Chris Craft boat on Little Bear Lake in 1959.

If you have an old photo taken around the Bear Lake area and want to share it with BLPA please e-mail it to jihrig@yahoo.com

The Florida Barred Owl

By Margaret Sullivan Bundy



The Barred Owl (left) can pass completely unnoticed as it flies noiselessly through the trees to sneak up on its prey. They roost quietly on a tree limb during the day and hunt mostly at night. Occasionally, it can be heard calling in daylight hours. At night, they hunt small animals and give an instantly recognizable "Who cooks for you?" "Who cooks for you-all?" call; also a drawn out "hoo-ah," which is sometimes preceded by an ascending agitated barking.

The Barred Owl is a very attractive owl with mottled brown-and-white-striped plumage. It has soulful dark brown, almost black eyes. They are a large and stocky with a rounded head lacking ear tufts, a medium length, and a rounded tail. Their underparts are mostly marked with vertical brown bars on a white background, while the upper breast is crossed with horizontal brown bars. The wings and tail are barred brown (hence the name) and white. Both the male and female are 16.9 to 19.7 inches in length, have a 39 to 43.3 inch wingspan, and weigh 16.6 to 37 ounces. The bill is greenish-yellow to dull buff-yellowish; legs and toes are also yellowish and feathered buff-white. The talons (claws) are dark horn and become black at tips, which are used for hunting.

Barred Owls are mostly active at night and a lot easier to hear than to see. If you listen carefully, you may hear the "Who cooks for you?" call. At great distance, their call can actually sound like a large dog. Try imitating the call with your own voice and then wait quietly. If you are lucky enough, a territorial Barred Owl may fly over to investigate you. My husband and I have imitated the call and to our surprise, we had one land above our heads on our pool screen and on top of our bat box to investigate. During the daytime hours, a quiet walk may reveal a roosting Barred Owl. If you pay close attention to your surroundings, you may see one follow you as you walk through their

territory. Some of the members of the Bear Lake Preservation Board were fortunate enough to experience this one morning a couple of years ago on Doctor Jay and Brenda Goble's property on Cub Lake. The owl followed us all from one end of the property to the other along the ditch (which flows from Big Bear into Cub Lake) flying from tree-branch to tree-branch. The experience was exciting to be that close to such a beautiful creature. Its mysterious dark watchful eyes made us wonder what it was thinking.

These owls hunt by sitting and waiting on an elevated perch, while scanning all around for prey with their sharp eyes and ears. They eat many kinds of small animals, including squirrels, mice, rabbits, birds (even large birds), amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates. They also may perch over water and drop down to catch fish, or even wade in shallow water in pursuit of fish and crayfish. Though they do most of their hunting right after sunset and during the night, they sometimes feed during the day. The Barred Owl may temporarily store its prey in their nest, in the crook of a branch, or at the top of a snag. They will swallow their small prey whole and tear large prey in pieces, eating the head first and then the body using their sharp talons.

Most Barred Owls are residents (non migratory) and will remain in a single area their whole lives. They nest in cavities 20 to 40 feet high in a large tree, often near water. They have also been known to use stick platform nests built by other animals (including hawks, crows, ravens, and squirrels), as their nesting sites. They will also move into human-made nest boxes (see below). Interestingly, the Barred Owl will prospect a nest site as early as one-year before actually moving into it. It is unknown whether the male or the female chooses the site. Considering the one-year prospect, I suspect it's the female.

Barred Owls are territorial all year round and will chase away intruders. If you wake in the night with what you thought was a loud haunting scream, it may have been a Barred Owl vocalizing a warning to an intruder to get out of its territory. The owl is even more aggressive during the nesting season, particularly the females, sometimes striking intruders with their feet. The Barred Owl is monogamous and it is believed to pair for life, raising one brood each year. Their nests are preyed upon by other large owls and hawks, as well as by raccoons. When humans interfere with a nest, the parent may flee, perform a noisy

distraction display with quivering wings, or even attack. The breeding season for this species is fairly long (February through August). Their clutch size is usually 2 to 3 eggs. The incubation, exclusively by the female, will last from 28 to 33 days. The young begin to leave the nest to nearby branches at about 4 to 5 weeks, by using their talon to latch on and hop around the tree, while flapping their wings for exercise. However, they do not fledge until they are about 6 weeks old and will receive food from the parents for as long as 4 months. The lifespan of captive Barred Owls has been documented as long as 23 years. The oldest recorded Barred Owl documented in the wild was 18 years.

Other birds recognize Barred Owls as predators. Perhaps you have heard and seen a commotion of small songbirds, crows, and woodpeckers which band together to mob a Barred Owl who has gotten too close for comfort.

Barred Owls do not migrate, nor do they move around very much. The most serious predatory threat to the Barred Owl is the Great Horned Owl (right), which eats eggs, young birds, and occasionally adults. Although the two species often live in the same areas, a Barred Owl will move to another part of its territory when a Great Horned Owl is nearby. However, they will not move farther than 6 miles away.

My husband Michael and I enjoy sitting on our porch drinking our coffee before dawn and listen for the calls. We will then watch a silhouette of one, followed by the other, fly across Cub Lake heading toward home for their rest during the day.

Below is a Barred Owl Box Plan created by Woodcrafting for Wildlife. Before you know it, you may have a family of Barred Owls in your backyard. Remember, you need to be patient, it can take up to a year before you get your new residents.

**THE BEAR LAKE PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION (BLPA) IS A TAX-EXEMPT,
NON-PROFIT 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION**

BLPA would like to remind you that all contributions are tax deductible. Should you wish to make a contribution, please request a receipt from Jim Maki, Treasurer. Your tax deductible contributions can be made to any of the following categories: General Operating, Dues, Carp, Alum.



Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

The following is the current information regarding real estate listings. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions (407-222-3917).

We are finally seeing the real estate market activity getting more active. The inventory countywide is the lowest it has been in years. Calls have increased for waterfront properties. Interest rates have risen slightly but not so much as to keep buyers from purchasing.

Active Listings

3050 Holliday Ave.....	\$549,900
3524 Holliday Ave.....	\$950,000
6135 Linnal Beach Dr	\$974,000
9832 Bear Lake Rd.....	\$1,130,000

Pending Sales

6500 Bear Lake Rd.....	\$349,900
6103 Linnal Beach Dr	\$695,000
3218 Holliday Ave.....	\$599,000

Closed Sale

6011 Linnal Beach Dr	\$469,900
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Pam Oropeza
Realtor
407-446-5861

Happy Oropeza
Realtor
407-446-5859



Pam Oropeza
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407-446-5861
Ploropeza@bellsouth.net



Frank "Happy" Oropeza
Realtor
407-446-5859
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9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

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 Sunday School: 9:15 am



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

New Option - pay by Paypal! To sign up or renew your membership go to www.blpa.net and click on Join BLPA.

2014 BLPA dues.....\$85.00 Seniors 62+\$50.00

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!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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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.*

Removing Floating Eel Grass Contributes to Keeping the Lake Clean!



Wave action from boating in shallow areas breaks off eelgrass. Wave action from storms also breaks it off to float and be pushed up onto resident's shorelines. Rake out the dying eelgrass, as it is loaded with nutrients like lawn clippings; both are bad for the lakes.

If the dying eelgrass plants are left in the lake, they decay, turning into nutrients feeding algae which turn lakes green and creates muck.

Eelgrass (*Vallisneria*) has a couple of good qualities, even though we do not like the mess it creates in a recreational lake. It is an aquatic plant known for nutrient uptake in lakes, helping to keep algae levels down and it produces oxygen.

In Bear Lake, eelgrass is also holding some sediments/nutrients in place on the bottom of the lake aiding in water clarity.

Thank You Volunteers! Unless Someone Like You Cares, Nothing is Going to Get Better — It's Just Not!

Volunteers are critical to the success of any organization. Without their time and energy it would not be possible to accomplish all of the goals of this organization. It's only with the assistance of local volunteers such as yourself that we can rise to meet the challenge of our mission statement. Thank you to all the BLPA board supporters and volunteers!

WANTED

If you are interested in volunteering as the holiday boat parade coordinator, judge, or photographer, please contact a BLPA Board member today!



Have You Seen the Coyotes?

In the past two weeks the Seminole County Sheriff has received reports of coyotes seen on Bear Lake Rd. Bear Lake Cir. and on Holliday Ave. Neighbors have been discussing these sightings since mid August. It is best to keep your cats indoors at night.



Sept. 10
General
Meeting door
prize: Gift
Certificate to
Caffe
Positano!



PO Box 162605
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

Upcoming Events



**Guest Speaker: Fred Brummer,
Orange County Commissioner District 2**

Mr. Brummer will update us with the new regulations and laws as they pertain to septic tanks in Florida.

- SEPTEMBER 10** General Membership Meeting
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm
- OCTOBER 15** Board Meeting
- NOVEMBER 12** Pot Luck Dinner and Dessert Contest
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 6:00 pm
*Looking for volunteers to help with the
Pot Luck Dinner, call Jon Albert 407-718-2494.*
- DECEMBER 14** Boat Parade

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

www.blpa.net