

Teens of Bear Lake Take an Interest in LakeWatch and the Bear Lake Preservation Association

In February, a few teens approached the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) to see if there was anything they could do to help in its mission statement. These teens had recently moved to Bear Lake. One of the teens, Daniel Walls, initiated the effort to organize the involvement of the willing teens. Daniel, along with four other teens are learning about lake ecology and how they can supplement ongoing efforts of the BLPA.

On March 15, 2014, Nancy Dunn hosted the interested teens and their parents for a special Lakewatch on Bear Lake. The teens also earned community services hours by helping the Bear Lake cause.

The youth and parents escorted Nancy on her boat to take water samples, check water clarity, and identify the storm drains. Because of their hands-on participation, their names were included on the Lakewatch data collection sheet, which is provided to the University of Florida Lakewatch Laboratory together with the samples taken.

Nancy discussed the lake history and the current condition of the Bear Lakes. She provided the teens and their parents with the recommendations of how people on the lake and in the watershed can keep the Bear Lakes clean.

The teens wish to start a new committee, The BLPA Youth/Ecology Group. The teens' vision is to develop an appreciation and awareness for what it takes to keep the lake clean and to become active participants in preserving it. They plan to help

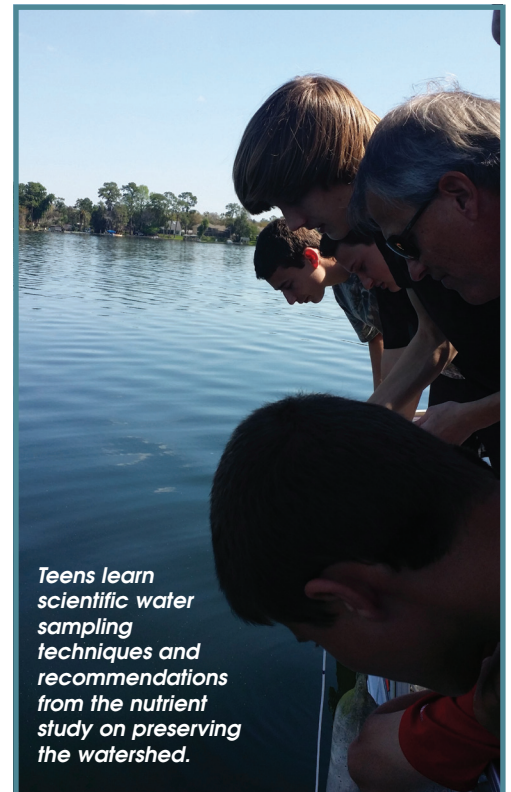


L to R: Daniel, Jesse, Nathan, Chase, and Scott

Nancy with her ongoing responsibilities with Lakewatch/Ecology. They will also work with BLPA on the top recommendations made by the nutrient study performed a few years ago. In addition, they hope to help with public education, awareness programs, sampling, drain maintenance, and website enhancements. "Mrs. Dunn has taken the time twice in the past month to show me the details of what is required to report water quality and clarity to the University of Florida Lakewatch. I understand that if we follow through with our measurements, etc., work will begin soon on some of the other more involved lake preservation actions such as storm water treatment systems. She gave us homework too," said Daniel.

The teens were asked to do their

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Teens learn scientific water sampling techniques and recommendations from the nutrient study on preserving the watershed.

Bear Lake LakeWatch - Carp Update/Eelgrass Report



Bear lake Carp eating edges of eelgrass 3/8/14. Sandy clear lake bottom shown at top left and eelgrass (darker area) at bottom & right.

Bear Lake Carp hunting for favorites, searching for tender eelgrass sprouts in shallow waters.



In early March, if you lost anything overboard in Bear Lake 16' deep or less, you were surely able to see it on the bottom. The lake's clarity was 16', with a water temperature of 68 degrees, and elevation of 103.78. At this elevation, the lake overflows out to Cub Lake and eventually to the Wekiwa River.

Although the areas of eelgrass in Bear Lake have been greatly reduced, it is still thick along the shorelines of the deep sides of the lake. In these areas, which are the north and west side of the lake, residents are not seeing any results of carp removing eelgrass around their docks and shorelines. However, very few patches of eelgrass are growing deeper than 10' in the lake. In contrast, in 2009 the eelgrass was growing out to 16'

deep, feeding on the nutrients from fertilizers washing in the lake, and nutrients which gather and recycle in the deep areas of the lake.

The eelgrass at the storm drain inlets is coated with algae. The plants are being fed nutrients from the fertilizers flushing in with the rains. It is important to immediately rake out the floating eel grass from our shorelines because it releases phosphorous and nitrogen into the lake while decaying.

The carp have removed all other 6 types of submerged vegetation found in 2009, including hydrilla, along with emergent vegetation such as torpedo grass. Seminole County conducts routine vegetation surveys on the lakes in our watershed. The next assessment by the county will be conducted in April.



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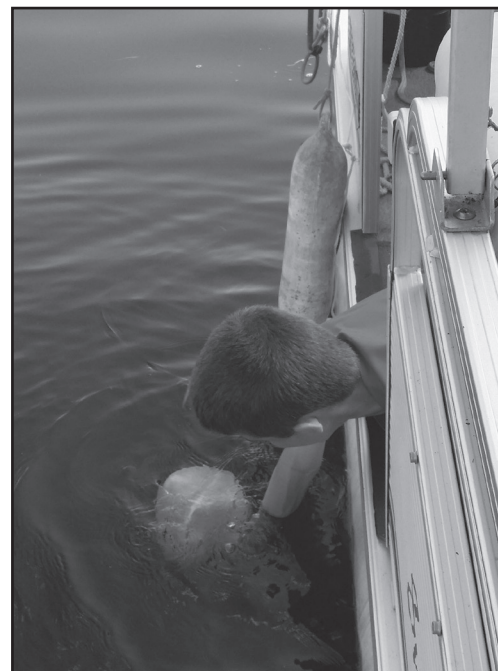
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Parents and teens observe water sampling.



Teen participating in water sampling.

own research. Nancy provided them with graphs, web sites, communications, and presentations.

Participants of The BLPA Youth/Ecology Group on March 15, 2014, were Daniel Walls, Jesse Albert, Nathan Eyal, Chase Morell, and Scott Morell, together with parents, Sherri Walls, Cathy Morell, and David Morell. Nancy said it was a wonderful experience working with the teens. We received a nice note from the Walls family.

The Officers and Board of Directors are encouraged the teens are taking such an active interest in BLPA. We all hope the teens will attend future meetings, continue to learn about aquatic plants (native and invasive), carp behavior, boating safety, and the watershed.

The Walls are hoping more teens will join The BLPA Youth/Ecology Group and take an active part in this effort as our future generation. The following is a flyer the Walls recently sent out to the Bear Lake residents:

WE are forming a small group of volunteer teens to help support the continuing efforts of the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA).

Here are just a few of the potential Benefits to you:

- * Service hours for high school credit.
- * Be a part of maintaining the quality of your lake.
- * Preserve the value of your (possible) inheritance!
- * Be actively concerned about your environment.
- * Win local/national recognition for your efforts.

The students will get service hours for high school credit and we hope to eventually link this team to strive for the Presidents Environmental Youth Award (PEYA).

Contact Daniel Walls or Sherri Walls at 407-928-8877 or shmwalls@aol.com for more information about participating in this new group!



Teen participating in depth/visibility reading.

Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

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

Are the residents in the Bear Lakes' watershed impacting the water quality? Of course we are! Heavy rains from May through September 2013, totaling almost 50 inches, flushed in damaging nutrients (Phosphorous and Nitrogen) from fertilizers, which

in turn will feed the algae and plants in the lakes. Historically, the summer rains and warmer temperatures turn the lakes greener in the fall months. In the Winter and Spring months, the cooler water temperatures will slow the growth of algae and the lakes will usually have better water clarity.

Flushing also occurs as the lakes flow through Cub Lake to the Little Wekiwa River. Overflow elevations for

the Bear lakes (feet above sea level): 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 Volunteer: Bear Lake and Lake Asher, Nancy Dunn 407-920-4975; Little Bear, Janet Brown 407-295-6739, and Cub Lake, Margaret Bundy 407- 497-0295.

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	8/13	5.75"	10'	103.9
	9/13	7.4"	12'	103.85
	10/13	3.2"	11'	103.8
	11/13	1.9"	12'	103.62
	12/13	2.8"	11'	103.48
	1/14	0.9"	13'	103.49
	2/14	5.6"	14'	103.77
	3/14	0.9"	16'	103.74

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	8/13	5.75"	5-1/2'	103.73
	9/13	7.4"	5-1/2'	103.9
	10/13	3.2"	5'	103.9
	11/13	1.9"	3'	103.64
	12/13	2.8"	9'	103.6
	1/14	0.9"	7'	103.73
	2/14	5.6"	7'	103.81
	3/14	0.9"	5'	103.93

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	8/13	5.75"	6'	100
	9/13	7.4"	7'	100.2
	10/13	3.2"	9'	100
	11/13	1.9"	9'	100
	12/13	2.8"	11'	99.9
	1/14	0.9"	10'	100
	2/14	5.6"	10'	100
	3/14	0.9"	8'	100.2



In Memory of Erma Cardilli

A well known resident on Holliday Avenue. Her family lived on Bear Lake since 1950. Erma was a dedicated BLPA Board Supporter since 1991. She volunteered numerous hours on our "calling bank," reminding us of the meeting dates, while attending every meeting when possible. We will truly miss her grace and kindness and helping out whenever asked.

A Little History of Bear Lake with the Oropeza Family

By Frank & Anne Oropeza



Frank and Anne Oropeza in their Urban Garden on Bear Lake.

In 1985 our family planned a company picnic at The Florida Power property. Along with family, friends and co-works, we spent a beautiful day on Bear Lake. That night as we thought back over the day's events, we dreamed how great it would be to live on this lake and in this community. Within a few short years our family had relocated to the South, North and West side of Bear Lake. We loved the location and the neighbors and all the recreational benefits Bear Lake had to offer.

Knowing that is where we would settle for good, our next endeavor was to build a family retreat that could accommodate and entertain our large family. We knew from experience the family that works and plays and worships together, stays together. With that in mind and with some time and good luck, we acquired over two acres of land on the West side of Bear Lake and started building our dream home. The home turned out just as planned and was stunningly beautiful and very well built. For more than twelve years we enjoyed countless days on the sandy beach and boating on the lake and just enjoying the carefree and relaxed feel of being on the lake. Each weekend our children and grandchildren would arrive by boat or jet-ski creating so many last-

ing memories. The parties and friendly neighborhood events were all such a significant part of our lives, our family was truly happy.



Oropeza's Grandchildren

lake breeze and the rich soil (mostly enriched by the eel grass), it is amazing what our garden produces, pineapples, grapes, lemons, blackberries, sweet potatoes, snow peas, tomatoes, broccoli is just the short list. As a form of therapy and as an outreach to the community, this garden has produced so much more than just the fruits and vegetables.

Bear Lake, and this community still keeps our family close together and we are so blessed for finding this area and the family time we have enjoyed here. We are also so thankful for the great work that BLPA has done protecting, maintaining and enhancing our Lake. It's like the Silver Springs of Apopka. We look forward to many more years, right here, enjoying Bear Lake, our family and friends and this wonderful community.



Frank Oropeza showing off his Fruit Tree on Bear Lake



Oropeza's Pineapple Plants



Oropeza's Grandsons Boating on Bear Lake

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).

Active Listings

9511 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$384,900
9928 Bear Lake Road.....	\$389,000
10020 Bear Lake Road.....	\$500,000
6083 Linnéal Beach Dr.....	\$749,900
3524 Holliday Avenue.....	\$993,000
6091 Linnéal Beach Dr.....	\$1,295,000

Pending Sales

3136 Holliday Avenue.....	\$745,000
9602 Bear Lake Road.....	\$300,000
10032 Bear Lake Road.....	\$385,000
3416 Holliday Avenue.....	\$549,000

Closed Sale

3137 Cecelia Dr.....	\$1,050,000
1670 Balmy Beach Dr.....	\$1,550,000



Pam Oropeza
Realtor
407-446-5861

Happy Oropeza
Realtor
407-446-5859



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



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407-446-5859
Fworopeza@bellsouth.net

Buying or Selling in or around Bear Lake or Lake Brantley area? Contact Happy or Pam Oropeza for Results you can count on! Bear Lake area resident for over 25 years



Exit Real Estate Results



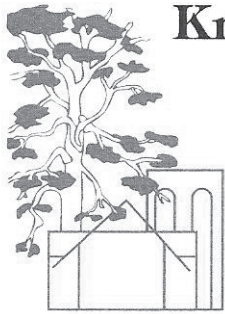
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int/ext painting, pressure washing,
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Robert (Bob) Shields
Owner



321-354-4449
robshields@aol.com

9638 Bear Lake Rd
Apopka, FL 32703

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 am

**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.



BLPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014

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: _____

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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.**

Upcoming Events

BLPA GENERAL MEETING IMPORTANT DISCUSSION

Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church –
Fellowship Hall 9913 Bear Lake Road

SEMINOLE COUNTY ONE CENT INFRASTRUCTURE TAX SPECIAL BALLOT – MAY 20, 2014

Guest Speaker: Seminole County Commissioner Lee Constantine
Commissioner Constantine will discuss how the County plans on using the tax revenue, if adopted by the Seminole County Tax Payer



What does this mean to the residents of the Bear Lakes? One of the County projects include stormwater and water quality. The money collected will help to fund the top five recommendations from the Nutrient Study for the Bear Lake Chain (Big Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher), the result of which will significantly improve the quality of all the Bear Lakes.

We look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. for this important discussion with your County Commissioner!

On May 20, 2014, a County-wide referendum special election will be conducted by the Supervisor of Elections. This special election will provide the voters of Seminole County with the opportunity to decide if the proposed one cent infrastructure tax should be approved.

If adopted, this tax will be effective for 10 years, beginning January 1, 2015. The infrastructure tax revenue will fund several Seminole County projects, municipalities, and the Seminole County School Board.

To learn more about the County's proposed One Cent Infrastructure Tax visit www.seminolecountyfl.gov/onecent.



PO Box 162605
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

Making Memories...



Good times with friends...
this is the life! Back left:
Scott (Bruce Fitzgerald's
cousin); front L to R: Bruce
Fitzgerald, Rick
Culmer and Jon Albert.

Matt Herron, Bill Houston's
nephew, recently caught
and released this 5lb
Large Mouth Bass on Bear
Lake.