

The Top Five Projects Planned by Seminole County Will Significantly Improve Quality of the Bear Lakes

The following are Seminole County's top five storm water improvement projects for the Bear Lakes. Conceptual improvement plans were completed in November 2012, as the result of the Bear Lakes' Watershed Hydrologic/Nutrient Budgets and Management Plans' scientific study. The improvement plans listed below were presented to its members at the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) General Meetings. The top five improvements will be funded by the recent increase in sales tax which was approved by the voters of Seminole County earlier this year. BLPA is pleased the county will be pursuing these projects, which will significantly reduce the nutrients currently being washed into the Bear Lakes by stormwater runoff from the watershed surrounding all of the lakes.

1. Alton Drive Stormwater Pond Modification (Lake Asher): This project will redirect the stormwater runoff from the drainage channel into the existing treatment pond. The stormwater will

filter in the treatment pond before entering Lake Asher which will provide a substantial reduction in nutrient loading runoff generated into the lake. Thus, the overflow from Lake Asher into Bear Lake will be cleaner.

2. Cecelia Drive Nutrient Separating Baffle Boxes (Bear Lake): Install underground baffle boxes from the sub-basin located near the intersection of Frances and Cecilia Drive. This area contains the highest mean concentrations of total nitrogen and phosphorus of any sub-basin area monitored. In fact, it was two times greater than the next highest total phosphorus concentration measured. This will treat and filter the inflow from stormwater runoff into Bear Lake. Thus, significantly reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the lake.

3. Bear Lake Road Stormwater Pond (Cub Lake): Construct stormwater ponds and divert outfall systems from Bear and Little Bear Lakes, to filter the stormwater runoff and outfalls prior to entering Cub Lake. Thus, creating cleaner water en-

tering the lake which flows out to the Wekiwa River.

4. Playa Way Underground Retention System (Bear Lake): Construct an underground stormwater diversion structure/retention system along Power Line easement, preventing direct stormwater runoff from Playa Way into Bear Lake. Thus, filtering the water prior to it entering the lake.

5. Hibiscus Lane Stormwater Pump Station (Bear Lake): Construct Pumping Station to pump untreated runoff back to existing pond at Balmy Beach and Holiday, for further treatment and filtering prior to overflowing to Bear Lake. Thus, creating a cleaner overflow of water into the lake.

Dr. Harvey Harper, will be speaking on the above-recommended projects at the next BLPA General Meeting being held on **Thursday, August 28, 2014, at 7:30 pm**. Don't miss this important topic!

BLPA Lakewatch Honored with State and National Award!



On behalf of the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA), we congratulate our very own LAKEWATCH volunteers Nancy Dunn (Big Bear - 23 years), Jan Brown (Little Bear - more than 15 years), and Michael and Margaret Bundy (Cub - 10 years). They, together with other LAKEWATCH volunteers across the State of Florida, have been honored with two awards on a state and national level. Both awards were accepted on behalf of the LAKEWATCH volunteers by LAKEWATCH director Mark Hoyer earlier this

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BLPA Lakewatch Honored with State and National Award!

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year. The awards were presented to the BLPA LAKEWATCH volunteers on Thursday, July 10, 2014, at the annual LAKEWATCH volunteer appreciation BBQ dinner held in Seminole County.

The first award was given by the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). The **Distinguished Service Award** is given to those who provide services to the School and State of Florida that work to protect and manage Florida's precious natural resources.

The second award was given by the National Water Quality Council. The **Vision Award** is given in recognition of extraordinary vision, collaboration, and leadership in water quality monitoring and environmental protection.

Since Florida LAKEWATCH's inception, thousands of volunteers across the State of Florida have collected water quality data on more than 1,100 lakes, 175 coastal sites, 120 rivers, and 5 springs in 57 Florida counties. For long-term trend analyses, LAKEWATCH provides at least 20 years of monthly data on 27 lakes and 15 years of monthly data on 195 lakes. All the data collected by LAKEWATCH (currently about 45,000 samples per year) are publicly available in EPA's STORET as well as on the Florida LAKEWATCH website (<http://LAKEWATCH.ifas.ufl.edu/LWCIRC.HTML>), along with publications and other information generated by the program to promote the science based management of Florida's aquatic resources.

Data collected by LAKEWATCH volunteers have been shown to be comparable to data collected and processed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) professionals. These comparison studies allow FDEP to use LAKEWATCH data for regulatory decisions including development of numeric nutrient criteria, assessment of impaired waters, development of Total Maximum Daily Loads, and development of Basin Manage-

ment Action Plans.

Over the last 28 years, LAKEWATCH data has been used in over 35 peer reviewed scientific publications and three books. Florida LAKEWATCH has also cooperated with scientists from around the globe by sharing data for comparative ecological studies. Over 35 graduate students, all of whom received degrees in the lake management field, were mentored through the program. Undergraduate students are also mentored and supported in hands-on lake research and management activities.

The success of LAKEWATCH could not have been accomplished without contributions from funding sources, scientists, staff, and volunteers. However, "To the Volunteer goes the glory," without your efforts there would be no LAKEWATCH!

Again, congratulations to Nancy Dunn, Jan Brown, and Michael and Margaret Bundy for the many hours spent collecting LAKEWATCH samples and data, which is used by scientists and others on a state and national level. As quoted by the University of Florida LAKEWATCH, ". . . it's a really big deal to have *any* scientist use the samples and data collected by volunteers, it just doesn't happen, it really doesn't. You have proven to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that your sampling was parallel to their sampling and therefore, you save the State of Florida a lot of time and money. You all should be very proud. We couldn't do this without our LAKEWATCH volunteers."

See article entitled *Florida LAKEWATCH Honored with State and National Award*, Volume 65, June 2014, UF/IFAS University of Florida, Florida LAKEWATCH Newsletter. The complete article, as well as other informative LAKEWATCH Newsletters, can be found at: <http://LAKEWATCH.ifas.ufl.edu/NEWSLETT.HTM>.



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Cuban Tree Frog — What Can You Do for Florida?



The Bear Lake area has seen a significant increase of Cuban Tree Frogs. Recently, the University of Florida positively identified them in our area by digital photographs. So what's the big deal? These frogs are considered an invasive exotic (non-native) species and a threat to the biodiversity of Florida's native ecosystem and wildlife. Cuban Tree Frogs are voracious eaters and eat our native frogs, toads, lizards, insects, crickets, spiders, hatching birds, and small snakes. These species will pretty much consume anything that fits well in their cheek pouch. They also portray a cannibalistic nature when they are hungry.

Distinguishing Characteristics

- Adults are 5 inches in body length (much larger than native Tree Frogs);
- Enormous toe pads (much larger than native Tree Frogs);
- Bumpy skin on back (much like a toad);
- Skin on head is fused to skull;
- Highly variable in color depending on the temperature and the environment.

The Cuban Tree Frogs prefer moist and shady areas in trees, shrubs,

around houses, near ornamental fish ponds and well-lit patios. They will lay their eggs in any body of standing water such as a small bucket, fish pond, and even chlorinated swimming pools. They will lay about 3,900 eggs which will take about 30 hours to hatch into tadpoles. The transformation from tadpoles to frogs is about 30 days and their life span is about 5-10 years.

The main predators of these species are the skunk, raccoons, and large snakes. However, the Cuban Tree Frog produces a toxic secretion in order to abstain from predation. It is also a challenge for the predators to track these species because of changing body colors.

Unfortunately, there is no frog repellent or chemical to use to keep them away from your house. They are harmful to the survival of other precious native species in Florida and should be removed whenever possible. To positively identify the Cuban Tree Frog and for more information on a humane method of euthanasia for amphibians, see "What you can do for Florida," go to: www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/frogstoads/os-teopilus_septentrionalis.php

Youth Ecology Group Update

The Youth Ecology Group of Bear Lake would like to know if you are interested in volunteering your lakefront lot to be a site for native vegetation planting. Our group is cooperating with efforts by Seminole County to help preserve the beauty of Bear Lake by replanting some native vegetation. Our youth group will do the site preparation and planting, Seminole County provides the training and the plants necessary to perform this task.

We think this project is worthwhile and a great addition to the other efforts being provided by the County such as the new work starting in January on our storm-water drainage, compliments of the new penny tax.

Please see "Volunteer Your Lakefront Property" on page 5, and let us know if you would like to be a part of creating a "vegetated shoreline" (a recommendation from the Nutrient Study).

By working together we can all be a vital part of keeping all of the Bear Lakes a desirable place to live and play!

For more information or to sign-up for the free educational session, contact Daniel or Sherri Walls at Dswalls3697@aol.com or Shmwalls@aol.com.

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. Your tax deductible contributions can be made to any of the following categories: General Operating, Dues, Carp, Alum.

PAY ON-LINE!

To easily pay your dues or make donations online by using a credit card, your checking account, or PayPal, just go to: www.blpa.net and click DONATE! Thank you for your generous support!

Note: Dues payments made after June 2014 will be applied to the following calendar year dues (2015).

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.

Water temperature and daily rainfall is also noted on the monthly data sheets for analysis of changes occurring. In the summer, warmer temperatures and afternoon rains flush in additional nutrients from fertilizers in the

watershed. This combination results in an increase of plant and algae growth. These nutrients in the lakes are feeding the algae and algae creates the muck on the bottom, covering these once beautiful sand bottom lakes. Return your once "natural" property back to just that, as it did not need fertilizing, nor do the lakes.

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)
	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
	4/14	7.05"	12'	103.79
	5/14	8.25"	13'	103.68
	6/14	10.5"	12'	103.82
	7/14	7"	11'	104.09

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	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
	4/14	7.05"	5'	103.82
	5/14	8.25"	7'	103.81
	6/14	10.5"	n/a	103.92
	7/14	7"	6.5'	103.83

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	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
	4/14	7.05"	7'	100
	5/14	8.25"	8'	100.3
	6/14	10.5"	7'	100.6
	7/14	7"	8'	100.6

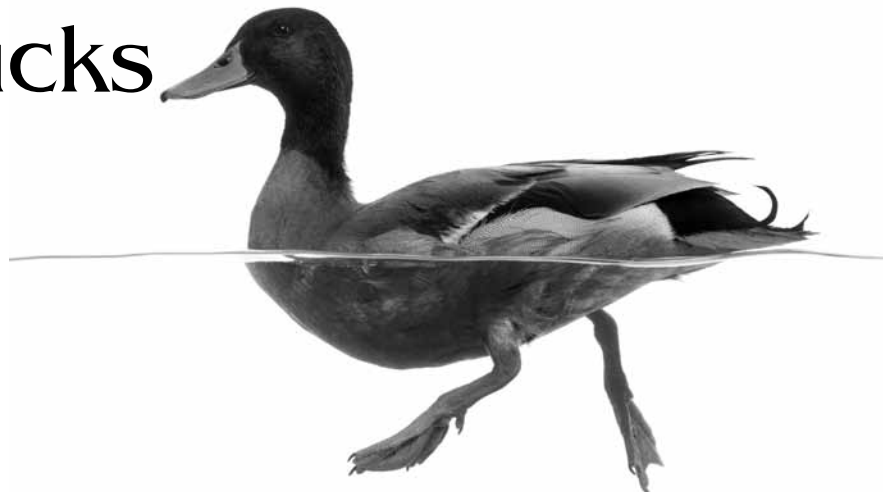
Oropeza Family History



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

As a move toward downsizing and preparing for retirement, Frank and Anne Oropeza did eventually move off the lake, but not without purchasing another lakefront property on the East side. That lot became the inspiration for their new hobby, Urban Gardening. With the cool lake breeze and the rich soil (mostly enriched by the eel grass), it is amazing what their 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. (Addition from article in BLPA April 2014 Newsletter).

Please Don't Feed the Ducks



Did you know you can help prevent swimmer's itch by not feeding the ducks in and around the Bear Lakes? When you feed ducks, it encourages them to defecate more in areas around the lake where people swim. Feeding ducks around the shorelines combined with snails and floating eelgrass is the perfect recipe for "swimmers itch." If we all do our part and stop feeding the ducks, the ducks will go away from our shorelines and so will the parasites. By feeding them, you also encourage them to stay, as well as defecate more. This not only adds unnecessary additional nutrients in the Bear Lakes, as with any wild animal/species, feeding ducks and other aquatic birds will make them dependent on humans for food. Let's enjoy nature the way it was meant to be. A loaf of bread here and there doesn't seem like much, especially when the baby ducklings are around, but multiply that by the number of people on our lake. Over time it can have a significant impact on nature's natural

non-polluting cycle.

Feeding water birds leads to additional behavioral problems — they lose their fear of humans and become aggressive; malnutrition from eating foods with low or no nutritional value; becoming tame, losing fear of humans; increased spread of disease; degradation of water quality (from concentrations of bird feces); parent birds who are dependent on humans for food and therefore cannot teach their own young proper foraging techniques to feed themselves. We should all understand the consequences of our actions. Feeding is bad for wildlife, and especially aquatic birds. Let's all do our part and refrain from feeding ducks, other aquatic birds, or any wild life in and around our Bear Lakes.

For more information on the symptoms and causes of Swimmer's Itch, please feel free to contact your LAKEWATCH regional coordinator at 1-800-LAKEWATCH (1-800-525-3928). Or go to: <http://www.watershed-council.org/learn/swimmers-itch/>

Volunteer Your Lakefront Property!

Project by the Bear Lake Youth Ecology Group

Seminole County Water Quality Program

Native Vegetation Planting

Contact Daniel or Sherri Walls

Dswalls3697@aol.com

Shmwalls@aol.com

Native Plants can filter and remove nutrients at the waters' edge providing a healthy ecosystem

THANK YOUR VOLUNTEERS!

The Officers and Directors of the Bear Lake Preservation Association would like to extend their appreciation to **Bill Houston** for serving as President these past few years. Although Bill will be staying on as a Board of Director, he will be stepping down as President.

Thank you to all the BLPA board supporters and volunteers!

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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).

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3542 Holliday Avenue.....	\$440,000
10020 S Bear Lake Road	\$459,900
6083 Linnal Beach Dr	\$749,900
6135 Linnal Beach Dr	\$944,000
3524 Holliday Avenue.....	\$983,900
5995 Linnal Beach Dr	\$999,000
5827 Bear Lake Rd.....	\$1,600,000
6091 Linnal Beach Dr	\$1,650,000

Sold

10032 Bear Lake Road	\$360,000
3102 Cecelia Dr	\$399,900
3136 Holliday Avenue.....	\$731,000
3137 Cecelia Dr	\$1,015,000
1670 Balmy Beach Dr	\$1,395,000



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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



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Please make your check payable to "BLPA" and mail to: Post Office Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32716. Thank you for your continuing support to help keep our lakes clean!

Note: Dues payments made after June 2014 will be applied to the following calendar year dues (2015).

Name: _____

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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

Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall • 9913 Bear Lake Road

Our Guest Speaker will be:
Dr. Harvey Harper, Ph.D., P.E.

Presentation and Q/A of the recommended projects for the Bear Lakes from the Bear Lakes' Watershed Hydrologic/Nutrient Budgets and Management Plans Study

Do not miss out on this important discussion on improvements to the watershed storm water flowing into the Bear Lakes

SAVE THE DATES

August 28, 2014 General Meeting
November 20, 2014 Pot Luck Dinner
December 13, 2014 Boat Parade



PO Box 162605
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

Youth Ecology Group Hard at Work!



Daniel Walls, Chase Morell, Scott Morell, and Parker Brown, who are all part of the BLPA Youth Group, were officially trained in July by David Watson, Regional Coordinator for the University of Florida LAKEWATCH. The BLPA Youth Group are now official LAKEWATCH volunteers for the Bear Lakes!

