

# BEAR LAKE News

## Preservation Association

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • November 2015

# Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

## Mapping of Bear Lake

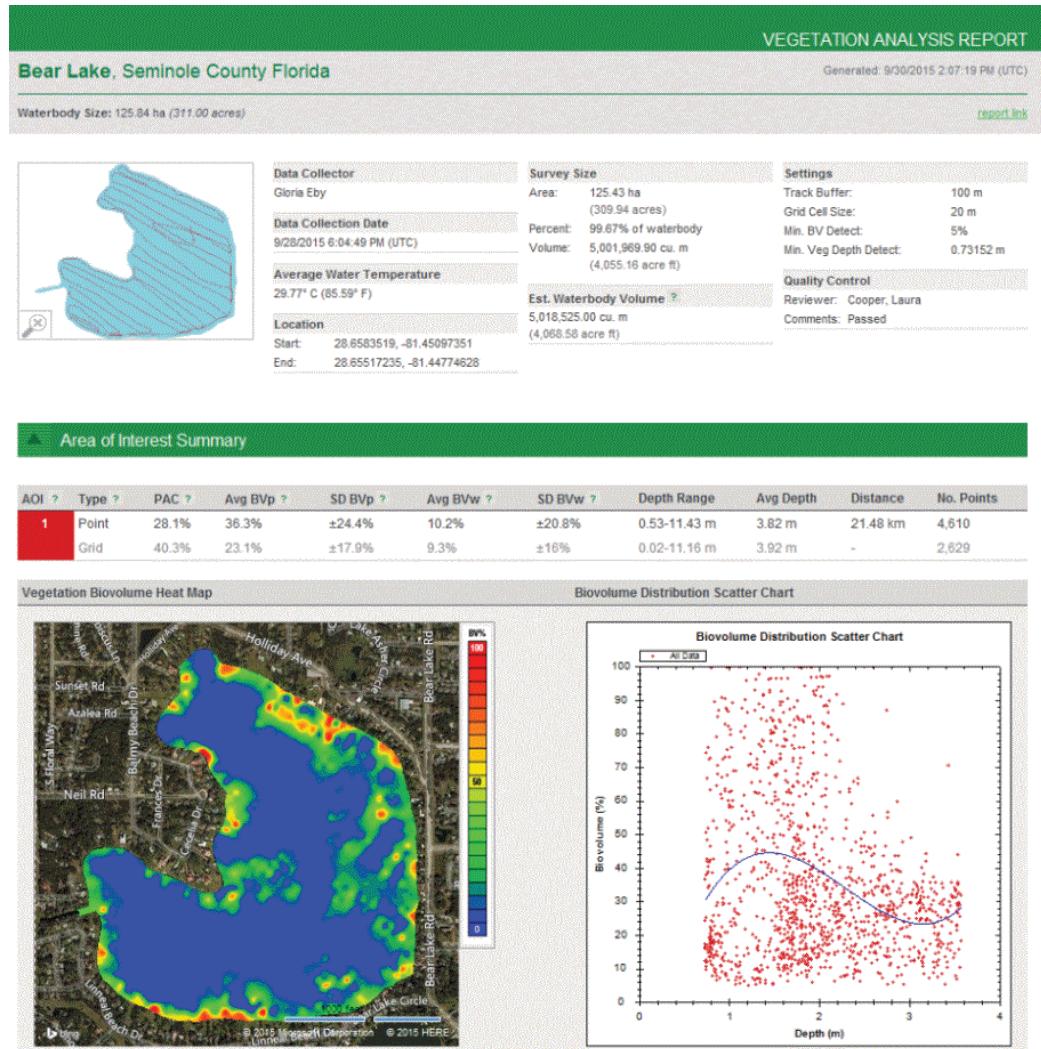
Vegetation mapping is a semi-automated acoustic based measurement system that can detect and characterize submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

On September 28, 2015, Seminole County Watershed Management Department (SCWMD) conducted mapping of the current SAV in Bear Lake using BioBase. BioBase is a cloud-based mapping that renders charts with bathymetric, aquatic vegetation, and bottom hardness data by applying acoustic algorithm. The acoustic data is acquired from the sonar log files gathered on the water using powerful Lowrance and Simrad chart plotters.

### Why Map?

- Invasive Plant Monitoring
- Eradication Measurements
- Communication Tool
- Construction and Excavation
- Aquatic Weed Control
- Grass Carp Stocking

This allows SCWMD and the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA)



to objectively determine how the lake changes over time.

While on the lake, the SCWMD's depth finders passively collected data and stored it to an SD card (like the digital memory cards typically used in digital cameras and other portable devices). Once all the data was collected on Bear Lake, SCWMD then uploaded the information to BioBase's computer network. The software then evaluated the data collected using custom acoustic algorithms, GIS tools,

and mathematics. The results are interactive layered maps and standardized reports of Bear Lake.

The map depicted here shows the results of the SAV mapping recently completed by SCWMD. According to the data collected, **Bear Lake has approximately 40% coverage or 124 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation.**

*Continued on page 2*

# Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping of Bear Lake

*Continued from page 1*

Since December 2009, the carp in Bear Lake have slowly removed approximately 75 acres of eelgrass, primarily in the deep areas of the lake. The SAV mapping data on Bear Lake provides a base map to observe carp progress on removing eelgrass. It will show the changes in the lakes' vegetation over time which will provide a guideline for lake management.

The BioBase study helps to establish data that will reduce costs to SCWMD

for equipment, staff, and hours normally required to produce bathymetric and vegetation maps. Per the request of the BLPA, SCWMD will also conduct SAV mapping on Little Bear Lake, the results of which will be provided in a future newsletter.

The history of data collected for more than twenty four years by BLPA and the data collected by SCWMD will be an invaluable tool to preserve the Bear Lakes for generations to come.



DID YOU KNOW nationwide, polluted runoff/storm water is considered to be the greatest threat to clean water?! Your actions can help reduce pollution entering the Bear Lakes and surrounding watershed. Be aware of how easily household chemicals and other pollutants such as herbicides and fertilizers from your lawn can be flushed into the ground eventually making its way into our lakes. Re-

## If You've Had it With Eelgrass, Quit Feeding It... Do Not Fertilize!

member, fertilizers feed and promotes growth, including aquatic vegetation! Help keep the Bear Lakes' vegetation healthy and at a minimal. If you're annoyed with the eelgrass, keep it manageable by letting the carp do their job. If you don't fertilize, you won't be feeding the eelgrass and other vegetation in the Bear Lakes promoting additional growth -- do not fertilize!

## BLPA Lake Youth Ecology Group

The Bear Lake Youth Ecology Group Receives Recognition article was featured in UF/IFAS University of Florida, Florida LAKEWATCH Newsletter, Volume 70. The LAKEWATCH Newsletter is dedicated to sharing water management information and

information about the UF/IFAS Florida LAKEWATCH program at the School of Forest Resources and Conservation.

This volume and other informative articles can be found at: <http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/NEWSLETT.HTM>.



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Bill Houston, 407-721-0219  
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# Florida Coyotes: Frequent Sightings on the Seminole Trail and Around the Bear Lakes



Coyotes have been tracked in all Florida counties throughout our state. They are in the same family as dogs, wolves, and foxes, and are approximately two feet in height. They weigh between 20 to 35 pounds, and their coat color varies from gray to rusty brown, which includes a bushy tail. The coyotes are often misidentified as a gray fox because of the striking similarity in the color pattern of their coat.

Typically, coyotes will range and hunt alone within a territory of ten square miles. There have been frequent sighting of a coyote on the trail and around the Bear Lakes during early morning hours (before light) or at dusk (early evening).

Although they have been seen throughout the day, coyotes are most active and will hunt for their food during the early dawn and dusk hours. The diverse diet of the coyote is the reason they are so adaptable, living in virtually all terrestrial and marsh habitats, as

well as thriving in urban and suburban areas.

The coyote will eat just about anything they can fit in their mouth, including plants and small animals. They are very skilled hunters and will kill small animals because it is a food source. The coyote will attack fleeing animals from the rear, biting their legs or tail to slow them down. They most often kill by biting the throat of the small animal, causing death by suffocation. A coyote will usually take their prey to a safe place, as far as a mile away to eat, and will not leave much waste behind.

Although coyotes are generally shy and elusive, feeding them will result in eliminating their natural fear of humans. To deter inadvertently feeding any wildlife, BLPA would like to remind its members to always feed your pets indoors. If you must feed your pet outside, do so during the day, and never leave pet food out at night. You should also make sure all trash is in a secure container at all times. In addition, when walking your pet(s) during the early dawn or dusk, you should keep them on a leash. Unfortunately, coyotes have been known to attack small domestic pets (especially cats). Therefore, it is recommended that small pets be kept indoors. A fence may help deter coyotes, but it is not foolproof. Around your home, it is recommended you in-

stall motion sensitive lights. You should also clear any unnecessary brush and vegetation to remove habitat for small animals (rodents) that may attract coyotes. This will also remove areas that coyotes can hide while stalking their prey.

With the recent developments of the Enclave at Bear Lake and the Seminole-Wekiwa Trail, coyote sightings have been more frequent in our area during early morning walks. They have kept a safe distance and will usually stop to check you out, but then will move on quickly. If you happen to see a coyote, you want to make sure the coyote knows that they are not welcome. You can do this by making a loud noise, or by throwing a small rock in their direction. You should never approach or attempt to approach any wild animal. As with all wildlife, it is very important that coyotes retain their natural wariness of humans. Although rare, coyotes have been known to attack humans. Most attacks resulted in minor bites and scratches to adults while attempting to intervene in an attack upon a small domestic pet.

For more information about the coyotes, visit: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Wildlife Alert hotline (toll-free): 888-404-FWCC (888-404-3922), <http://myfwc.com/critters/coyote.htm>; UF website: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_coyotes](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_coyotes)

## Bear Lake Preservation Association - Big Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher 'The Bear Lakes'

The mission of the Bear Lake Preservation Association is to provide environmental and civic stewardship for the Bear Lakes' watershed. This is achieved through water quality monitoring, scientific understanding, public education, governmental intervention, and watershed improvements for the enhancement and preservation of the water quality and biological integrity of clean lakes.

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 you that we can rise to meet the challenge of our mission statement.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or becoming a Board Supporter, please contact a current Board of Director today.

**We thank all the BLPA Members, Supporters, and Volunteers who make this mission possible!**

# Anti-Wake Law

In 1998, the Seminole County Board of Commissioners approved a law that prohibits wakes within 50 yards of the shoreline. A wake is defined as moving waves — a track or path that a boat leaves behind it when moving across the water. The ordinance reads as follows:

"It is unlawful to navigate or operate on any waters of Seminole County, any vessel, aquaplane, or similar device in any bathing, swimming or launching area at a speed creating a wake.

"The term bathing, swimming or launching area shall include any area within (50) yards of the shoreline, docks, piers, bridges or boathouses, or any other object arising from the water (excluding ski jumps or slalom courses) except when picking up or dropping off a water-skier in a manner otherwise consistent with this Code and State law.

"The fifty yard distance shall be measured from the vessel, aquaplane or similar device or from any extension thereto including, but not limited to:

a skier, or other device being towed."

Violators are subject to fines of up to \$500 and/or 60 days in jail. Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger and his staff and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ([www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)) will vigorously enforce this law and other existing boating laws.

The Anti-Wake Law is designed for safety and water quality for swimming conditions.

**DO NOT STIR UP THE LAKE BOTTOM  
OR ERODE THE SHORELINE.**

## Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

### Bear Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
5/15	.35"	12'	103.22
6/15	6.33"	9.5'	103.22
7/15	6.1"	10'	103.45
8/15	13.9"	10.5'	104.18
9/15	10.22"	10.5'	104
10/15	4.42"	11'	103.74

### Little Bear Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
5/15	.35"	7'	103.14
6/15	6.33"	7'	103.41
7/15	6.1"	n/a	n/a
8/15	13.9"	7'	103.9
9/15	10.22"	6.5'	103.9
10/15	4.42"	6.5'	103.81

### Cub Lake

Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
5/15	.35"	7'	99.6
6/15	6.33"	7'	100
7/15	6.1"	6'	100.5
8/15	13.9"	9'	102.4
9/15	10.22"	10'	101.1
10/15	4.42"	8'	100.5

# BLPA Needs Your Continued Support for 2016!

BLPA backers have enabled us to accomplish so much this year. We could not have done it without you. BLPA would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of its donors and volunteers for all your continued support!

BLPA will be available to accept your 2016 donation from its contributors during the Pot Luck Dinner on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

Alternatively, you can complete the BLPA 2016 Donation Form located inside this newsletter and mail it with your check today.

Or, you can pay online! To easily contribute or make donations online by using a credit card, your checking account, or PayPal, Just go to: [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net) and click DONATE!

THE BEAR LAKE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (BLPA) IS A TAX-EXEMPT, NON-PROFIT 501(3)(C) ORGANIZATION. BLPA would like to remind you that all contributions or donations are tax deductible. Receipts are provided upon request. Your tax deductible contributions or donations can be made to any of the following categories: General Operating, Dues, CARP, and ALUM.

## ADVERTISE HERE!

Do you have a business?  
Would you like to advertise in our next BLPA Newsletter?

Full-Page Ad \$100

Half-Page Ad \$50

Business Card Ad \$30

If so, please contact Judy Ihrig for details at 407-292-4632.

## CLASSIFIED

Do you have a *lake related* item "for sale?" If so, consider advertising in our next Newsletter.  
Half Business Card Size is \$15  
Judy Ihrig for details at 407-292-4632.

## Educate Yourselves and Your Lawn Maintenance Crew!



When Mowing and Edging Your Property: Do not blow grass clippings, leaves, or other yard debris into streets, ditches or storm drains! When mowing near the water's edge, use a grass catcher. Do not blow grass clippings into the lake from your mower, weedwackers, or edgers!

Stop this harm to the Bear Lakes now and help keep the Bear Lakes clean!

## Permit for Freshwater Aquatic Plant Removal

Who Ya Gonna Call?  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission assisting Seminole County residents with permitting is:

Kristine Campbell  
[Kristine.campbell@myfwc.com](mailto:Kristine.campbell@myfwc.com)  
(321) 246-0682

You can clear 50' or 50%  
For 150' of lakefront  
50' can be cleared

For 40' of lakefront  
20' can be cleared

For your free application for clearing an access corridor:  
Go to the website  
[www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)  
Licenses and Permits  
Aquatic Plants  
Online Aquatic Plant Removal Permit Application

<http://myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants>

## Seminole County Sheriff's Department Contact for the Bear Lakes



For suspected criminal activity on any of the Bear Lakes or dangerous behavior/activities on the lake, please contact Deputy Robert "Bobby" McKay at 407 474-5045. For emergencies, ALWAYS call 9-1-1

## SPRING RUN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

JAY GOEBEL, DVM

(407) 862-7579 • Fax: (407) 862-7016

833 State Road 434  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

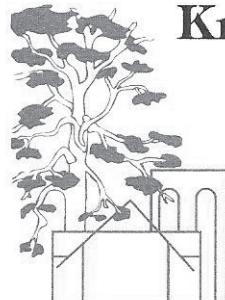


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int/ext painting, pressure washing,  
drywall repair, tile, texture

Robert (Bob) Shields  
Owner



321-354-4449  
[robshields@aol.com](mailto: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

## OSETRA, INC

Environmental Services and Permitting

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Aquatic Plant Installs

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**407-286-8713**

David Cole

E-mail [davdcole@aol.com](mailto:davdcole@aol.com)

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Fax Orders: 407-786-0936

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Mon - Thurs 11 am - 9 pm  
Fri - Sat 11 am - 10 pm  
Sun 11:30 am - 9 pm





# 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). It is the perfect time to sell or buy because of interest rates remaining so desirable.

## **Active Listings**

3542 Holliday Avenue.....	\$399,500
3436 Holliday Avenue.....	\$550,000
3045 Cecelia Drive .....	\$650,000
6136 Linneal Beach .....	\$899,000
3524 Holliday Avenue.....	\$935,000
3416 Holliday Avenue.....	\$1,080,000
Holliday Avenue (vacant lot).....	\$450,000

## **Active with Contract**

6155 Linneal Beach .....	\$485,000
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<b>Pending</b>	
9527 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$335,000

## **Closed Sales**

3428 Holliday Avenue.....	\$300,000
3218 Holliday Avenue.....	\$500,000
6007 Linneal Beach .....	\$525,000
3030 Holliday Avenue.....	\$538,000



## **BLPA 2016 DONATION FORM/ CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION**

**The Bear Lakes need Contributors and Volunteers just like you!**

New Option - pay by PayPal! To sign up or renew with a 2016 donation go to [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net) and click on Join BLPA.

Please make your check payable to "BLPA":

\$85.00.....Requested Donation-BLPA Contributor      \$50.00.....Requested Donation - BLPA Senior (62+)

Mail to: BLPA, Post Office Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32716

Alternatively, PayPal to pay online [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net).

**Thank you for continuing to support to help keep our lakes clean!**

## **The Bear Lakes Need You!**

PLEASE CHECK:  New Contributor(s)  Current Contributor(s)  Change of Contributor(s) Contact Info

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Questions please call Margaret Bundy (407) 497-0295

BLPA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. All financial contributions to BLPA are tax deductible.

BLPA will provide a receipt upon request for your donation.

## Upcoming Event

### SAVE THE DATE

#### BLPA ANNUAL POT LUCK BBQ PICNIC AND APPRECIATION DINNER



Please join the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015, AT 6:00 PM**, for a Pot Luck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall at Saint Andrews Church, 9913 Bear Lake Road, Apopka, FL 32703. Plan to bring your entire family and enjoy great food. We encourage you to also invite a neighbor and meet others in the Bear Lake Community.

BLPA will be providing all the chicken, beef, and pulled pork from Keller's Real Smoked Bar-B-Q Restaurant in Altamonte Springs. BLPA will also be providing beverages. If you can plan to bring a side dish or dessert for the Pot Luck dinner, it would be greatly appreciated.

"Best Dessert Contest" for all you bakers — bring your family's favorite dessert to be judged and a chance to win a prize for the best dessert!

RSVP by Thursday, November 12th, so we can order the right amount of chicken, beef, and pulled pork. To RSVP, please contact Catherine Heideman at 407-538-1097 or by email: [cwjclafin@hotmail.com](mailto:cwjclafin@hotmail.com). Please make sure you let Catherine know what you are bringing and how many in your party will be attending. Don't forget those serving spoons with your dish!

The Pot Luck dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Saint Andrews Church where we have most of the BLPA General Meetings. We look forward to seeing everyone and meeting new neighbors on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 6:00 pm for great conversation, food, and fun!!



PO Box 162605  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

### BLPA Annual Holiday Boat Parade



The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) is hosting its Annual Holiday Boat Parade on Saturday, **December 12, 2015, at sunset**. We invite you to decorate your boat and join us in the parade around Bear Lake. Prizes will be awarded for the best decorated boat and dock! If you are not entering your boat in the parade, gather your family and friends around your

decorated docks or shore line — bring your flashlights to wave as the boat parade goes by to join in the holiday fun! Please contact Brenda Vallancourt at 407-291-6808 to register your boat in the parade, and for the sign-in meeting location and time prior to sunset (start of the parade). In case of rain or other bad weather, the "Rain Date" will be December 13th.