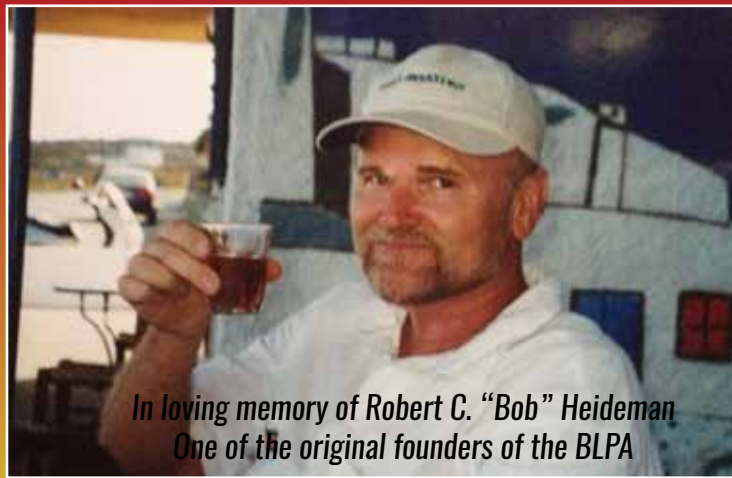




## Happy 25th Anniversary to the Bear Lake Preservation Association



In 1991, the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) a non-profit organization was founded. Prior to the first newsletter, entitled Bear Lake News published in July 1991, a series of informational letters were written by the late Robert "Bob" Heideman. The persistence of Bob and his informational letters entitled Bear Lake is Being Polluted, forewarned the lakefront homeowners of the declining condition of the Bear Lakes. Soon, a group of volunteers were walking door-to-door educating residents. BLPA was founded and the Bear Lake Preservation Association's name was registered with the State of Florida. Bylaws were written, reviewed, amended, and adopted.

The first annual general meeting was September 24, 1991 at St. Andrews on Bear Lake Road. The first Officers: Mike Ison, President; Kay Frey, Secretary; Pam Ison, Treasurer. Directors: Nancy Dunn, Giles Van Duyne, Jim Graber, Mark Leavitt, Doug Moorhead,

Diane Plate, and Ken Plate. Several of the first Committees were formed including: Bob Heideman, Ecology; Jim Graber, Membership; Gordon Finley, Publication.

Bob Heideman, Chairman of the Ecology Committee was instrumental in educating the Bear Lake Watershed. The following is an excerpt of an article from the very first newsletter, Volume 1, dated September 1991, written by Bob more than 25 years ago, most of which is still true today:

On July 16, 1991 over 115 residents living within the Bear Lake watershed braved a sweltering, rainy night to articulate their long-held opinion that we need an organization to protect our neighborhoods and its centerpiece, Bear Lake. While the existing homeowners' associations are well qualified to address concerns unique to the confines of their membership, they do not have a unified voice to speak for the entire watershed area. Furthermore,

the homeowners most impacted by the condition of Bear Lake, those living along its shores, have no consolidated voice because they are not affiliated with any existing homeowners' group. In recognition of these facts there has been a nearly unanimous call to form an umbrella organization to protect the Bear Lake watershed and its neighborhoods. This group has now been formed as a not-for-profit corporation called the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. (BLPA).

The purpose of the Bear Lake Preservation Association is obvious by its title, to preserve and improve the Bear Lake watershed and its neighborhoods. This is best specified by our State-recorded Articles of Incorporation:

Article III. Purpose - This corporation was formed exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes

*Continued on page 2*

# Happy 25th Anniversary to the Bear Lake Preservation Association

Continued from page 1

and specifically for the purpose of education concerning and fostering and encouraging the preservation of the Bear Lake, the waters thereof and environment surrounding Bear Lake; taking action as necessary for the maintenance of the ecological system affecting Bear Lake; for the purpose of establishing a forum for persons to participate in fulfilling the objectives of the corporation of existing homeowners' associations and other organizations interested in the use and preservation of Bear Lake

Our purpose is to stop the continuing disregard of the Bear Lake watershed. Such disregard can quickly impact our properties and neighborhoods. Noisy boat traffic, debris thrown or washed into the lake, foul odors and various pollutants affect both our quality of life and home resale values. An excellent example of this fact can be seen by a comparison between the Lake Butler watershed and the Lake Apopka watershed. Many factors explained the current difference between property values around the Lake Butler watershed (designated a Florida Outstanding Water) and property values around the Lake Apopka watershed (once a beautiful lake, now one of Florida's most polluted). A strong argument can be made that the lake quality is the primary, initial historical factor distinguishing the respective neighborhoods in the Lake Butler and Lake Apopka watersheds. Your membership and support is needed to help Bear Lake from becoming green, like Lake Apopka. Help our neighborhoods to be located in an outstanding watershed and on outstanding lake.

Whether Bear Lake becomes more green or whether the lake becomes more pure, the result will have a concentric effect on our watershed neighborhoods. As the lake gets better or worse, those living on the lake are most directly affected. Similarly, through their recreational privileges and their proximity to the lake front homes, other watershed homeowners

also feel the burden or benefit of lake quality. Further, most of the non-lake residents own a piece of the lakefront through their homeowners' association. In recognition of the fact that Bear Lake Heights, Paradise Point, Highland Acres and other non-profit groups own lake front access lots, these organizations are immediately entitled to initial membership (without fee) to the Bear Lake Preservation Association. Through this membership many non-lake front owners will already have a say in BLPA; however, we still need everyone's direct participation and financial support.

•••

I suggest that we act zealously, even over-zealously, to eliminate lake pollution sources in 1992. Once that work is done, we can sit back and enjoy our lake (and rising property values).

We must keep Bear Lake clean. Not just for water ports and property values – but primarily for our soul. Living in harmony with this unique natural resource will not be any more difficult than life is for us today. Being near a clean Bear Lake will give all of us in the watershed the good feeling that one gets when visiting Lake Tahoe, Lake Geneva, Loch Lomond and other "great" lakes.

•••

For more than 25 years the Bear Lake Preservation Association has stayed true to its Mission Statement and is stronger than ever. This could not have been possible without your continued support and the many volunteers. Thanks to your efforts, the Bear Lakes are considered some of the cleanest lakes in the State of Florida. Your continued support and help will be appreciated by all for generations to come! Well done BLPA which is made up by you. Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher)  
Post Office Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

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- Tina Sopp ..... 407-342-3767

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- BLPA Email....Happy Oropeza, 407-446-5859
- Ecology ..... Nancy Dunn, 407-920-4975  
Dr. Jay Goebel, 407-295-9457  
Bill Houston, 407-721-0219  
Bob Shields, 321-354-4449
- Lakewatch..... Nancy Dunn, Big Bear  
407-920-4975  
Jan Brown, Little Bear, 407-295-6739  
Margaret Bundy, Cub Lake, 407-497-0295
- Membership..... Tina Sopp, 407-342-3767
- Newsletter ..... Margaret Bundy, Editor  
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- Social ... Catherine Heideman, 407-538-1097  
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# History of Early Forest City (South of the Intersection of SR 434 and 436)

Forest City was originally settled in 1882 by Charles and William McCoy and J.M. Hower Jr. In 1885, the population grew to about 200. Forest City included a schoolhouse, railroad depot, general store and a two-story boarding house. Lots were platted for homes and commercial development in 1883. An 1886 timetable lists Forest City as a stop on the Florida Midland Railroad (now part of the Florida trail). Orange trees were planted in the Forest City area by the Swedish colony, after they migrated here from Sanford. They also migrated in Piedmont, and between Lockhart and Apopka. One early grower, Gust Jackson, came in 1889 after digging for gold in California. After the 1894 and 1895 freezes, Frank Pounds started a saw mill producing wooden crates at the site of what would become the Hi Acres citrus concentrate plant. He lived in the converted schoolhouse.

As some of you know already, this area's name changed from Forest City to Apopka after the Forest City Post Office closed. Victor Eyal, worked hard and long with the local government to change our mailing address back to Forest City (the original name). It is now acceptable to still use Apopka, or if you prefer to use the original historical name, Forest City, as your current mailing address.

The following article, in-part, was originally published in the June 1993 Newsletter written by Brenda Vallancourt.

## BEAR LAKE HISTORY

Holliday Avenue was named after property owners Leonard W. Holliday and Fannie Holliday in 1924 (for property platting purposes). They owned lots 14 through 36 (excluding 19 through 20) and lots 39 through 91 in the Holliday Bear Lake Subdivision.

Although the Holliday's owned property around Bear Lake, they resided on North Mills Avenue in Orlando.

The Holliday's purchased the Bear Lake property from Frank and Sarah

McMillan in September 1914 (no relation to Frank and Nancy McMillan on Linneal Beach).

In 1909, property owners George and Charlie Anderson operated a saw mill on the southeast shore of the lake (the approximate location of Bear Lake Circle/Linneal Beach). The saw mill seems to be the first documented commercial development on the lake.

The mill consisted of a boiler and smoke stack, steam engine, sawing carriage and rails, saws, pulleys and betting, rollers, and roller bed and carts used in conveying lumber to the yard. Boats pulled logs from other locations around the lake to be processed at this location. Before they moved the business to Bear Lake, they were located at Blue Lake.

Earlier historical documents indicate that from the mid 1890's until early 1900's, many of the lots on the northeast end of Holliday changed hands several times, due to deeded owners losing their lots for tax sales.

The very earliest available history shows that a 40 acre parcel on Holliday (between Florida Power Clubhouse and Bear Lake Road), was homesteaded by George T. Collins. In mid-1891, owner-



*Above: This is believed to be the southeast side of Bear Lake where the saw mill was relocated in July 1909. A boat is tied to the shed located at the far end of the saw mill near the water's edge. Charlie (left); George (right).*

*Below: Front: Elin Larson, Ethel and Edith Larson, Thekla Johnson. Back: John Anderson, Jr., John Jackson, and Olga Larson.*



ship was documented to him for the sum of one dollar by the United States Government and the Honorable Benjamin Harrison (23<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States).

# LAKEWATCH and Rainfall Data for the Bear Lakes

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	7/16	7.95"	11'	103.9
	8/16	6.75"	11.5'	104.1
	9/16	8.78"	9.5'	104.23
	10/16	11.35"	9'	103.78

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	7/16	7.95"	9'	104.2
	8/16	6.75"	9'	103.84
	9/16	8.78"	9'	103.83
	10/16	11.35"	7.5'	104

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	7/16	7.95"	8'	101.4
	8/16	6.75"	8'	101.4
	9/16	8.78"	8'	101.7
	10/16	11.35"	8'	100.9



## BLPA Annual Holiday Boat Parade

The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) is hosting its Annual Holiday Boat Parade on **Saturday, December 10, 2016**, 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 preregister your boat in the parade, and for the sign-in meeting location and time prior to sunset (start of the parade).** Boats will move clockwise around the shoreline. There is a \$50 prize to the best decorated boat, \$25 for the runner up, and \$50 to the best backyard/dock. In case of rain or other bad weather, the "Rain Date" will be December 11<sup>th</sup>.



## BLPA 25th Anniversary November 17th Pot Luck Appreciation Dinner

The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) would like to thank you for 25 years of donations and volunteer hours to the Bear Lake Community. YOU became a part of a movement to help preserve our beautiful Bear Lakes, and we are honored you are a part of this great non-profit organization.

Please join the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at 6:00 pm, for a Pot Luck Dinner to celebrate 25 years of BLPA! The Pot Luck will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Saint Andrews Church, 9913 Bear Lake Road, Apopka, Florida 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 Bar-B-Q chicken, beef, and pulled pork. 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. Don't forget those serving spoons with your dish!

"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 10<sup>th</sup>!**  
**To RSVP, please send your text message to Catherine Heideman at 407-538-1097 or email: cwjclafin@hotmail.com.** Please make sure you let Catherine know what you are bringing and how many in your party will be attending.

The Fellowship Hall at Saint Andrews Church is where we have most of the BLPA General Meetings. Because of you, we have always been able to fulfill our mission in protecting all the Bear Lakes (Asher, Bear, Little Bear, and Cub). We are looking forward to many more years of support and hope to see you at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pot Luck Celebration on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:00 pm for great conversation, food, and fun!!

# Permeable Pavers Help the Environment and the Bear Lakes

Solid paved surfaces like our driveways, patios, and walkways prevent rainwater from penetrating the earth. During heavy rains the rainwater travels off our rooftops, onto our driveways and into the streets. As the rainwater travels on these solid surfaces, it collects pollutants such as lead, zinc, iron, copper, cadmium, chromium, nickel, nitrogen (fertilizer), and aluminum. The stormwater rushing curbside along the streets and roads is also collecting grass clippings, pine needles, leaves, trash, and other debris, eventually making its way into the storm drains. Because most storm drains do not have the benefit of a storm pond to collect and filter these pollutants and nutrients, it ends up in our lakes, and other waterways. In other words, the more paved surfaces you see, the more stormwater runoff and pollutants in the environment.

Alternatively, permeable pavers allow stormwater to percolate through the paver and eventually into the earth. Paving can infiltrate as much as 70% to 80% of annual rainfall. When you replace your solid driveways, patios, and walkways with porous pavement, the pollutants that are normally introduced into stormwater runoff will be filtered naturally, provide groundwater recharge, and reduce stormwater runoff volume into the environment.

Consider installing permeable pavers. If so, make sure you request the paving company to remove the existing solid paved area. By doing so, you will help the environment and also enhance your home's curb appeal. You will be reducing the amount of stormwater runoff into the Bear Lakes!

## Freshwater Aquatic Plant Removal

Florida law (F.S. 369.20) requires all persons intending to control or remove aquatic vegetation from the waters of the state to obtain a permit from the Commission's Invasive Plant Management Section, unless an exemption for the activity has been provided in statute or rule (Chapters 68F-20).

**Where do I get an application?** For your free application for clearing an access corridor, visit the website [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com), Licenses and Permits, Aquatic Plants, Online Aquatic Plant Removal Permit Application.

**How much am I allowed to remove?** Lakefront Property Owners are allowed to clear 50' or 50% of freshwater aquatic vegetation, or for 150' of lakefront - 50' can be cleared; for 40' of lakefront - 20' can be cleared.

**Who do I call if I have questions?** 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.



1000 Wekiva Springs Road  
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*We just moved onto Bear Lake and would love to help our new neighbors with all your insurance needs!*  
- Bruce & Donna Morse

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# Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor® - 407-222-3917

The following are the most current statistics regarding Bear Lake properties. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions.

### Active Listings

3045 Cecelia Drive .....	\$499,000
9744 Cub Cove.....	\$549,000

### Closed Sales

6011 Linnal Beach Drive .....	\$520,000
3524 Holliday Avenue.....	\$815,000

The beautiful fall weather is here...we are thankful for this! Inventory of available properties is extremely low. Interest rates are still very low and it's a great time to consider selling your lakefront property.



(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher)

## BLPA 2016 DONATION FORM/ CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Please mail this form and your payment to BLPA, PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-2605  
Alternatively, you can pay on-line! 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHECK AN OPTION BELOW FOR A BOARD MEMBER TO CONTACT YOU AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLY VOLUNTEERING FOR BLPA:

Serve as a Board Member                       Serve as a Board Supporter                       Serve on a Current Committee

I prefer to be contacted by:                       Home Phone                       Cell Phone                       Email

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. Under the new Obama Administration Ruling for 501(c)(3), social security or personal information will not be provided to the IRS for any past or future contributions made to this organization.

# Upcoming Events



## SAVE-THE-DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

You are Cordially  
Invited to Join the  
BEAR LAKE  
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION  
**Pot Luck Dinner to Celebrate  
25 years of BLPA!**

Thursday, November 17, 2016  
6:00 pm

Enter to win in the  
"Best Dessert Contest"

**Annual Holiday Boat Parade**  
Saturday,  
December 10, 2016  
at Sunset

Boats will move clockwise  
around the shoreline

\$50 PRIZE TO  
THE BEST DECORATED BOAT

\$25 RUNNER UP BOAT

\$50 Prize TO THE  
BEST BACKYARD/DOCK

See further details and  
instructions inside this  
newsletter for both events!



PO Box 162605  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

## High Waters, Eel Grass, Drain to Cub Lake



*Temporary barrier placed to  
prevent eelgrass from clogging  
drain during high water.*



*Ann Clifford clearing decaying  
eelgrass lodged in water lilies  
(spatterdock) at area of entrance  
of canal in her kayak.*