

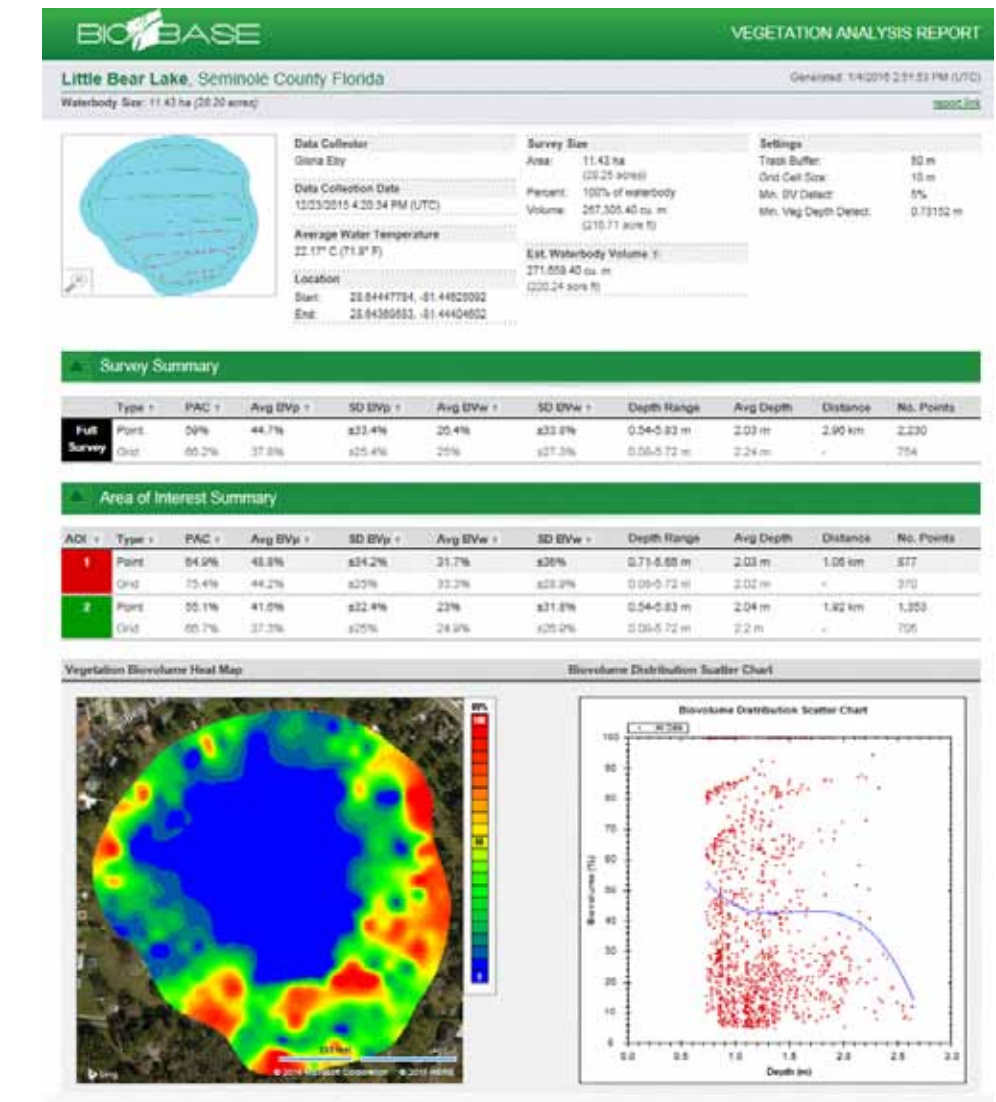
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping of Little Bear

At the request of BLPA, on December 23, 2015, Seminole County Watershed Management Department (SCWMD) conducted mapping of the current SAV in 30 acre Little Bear Lake using BioBase.

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 Little 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 Little Bear Lake.

The map depicted here shows the results of the SAV mapping recently completed by SCWMD. According to the data collected, **Little Bear Lake has approximately 66% coverage or 18.5 acres of submersed aquatic vegetation.**

Why Map? Invasive Plant Monitoring; Eradication Measurements; Com-



munication Tool; Construction and Excavation; Aquatic Weed Control; and Grass Carp Stocking.

The SAV mapping data on Little Bear will provide 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.

The history of data collected for more than twenty years by BLPA and the data collected by SCWMD will be an invaluable tool to preserve the Bear Lakes for generations to come. To learn more, visit our website at www.blpa.net and to see the mapping of Bear Lake, please refer to the November 2015 Newsletter.

Cub Lake Stormwater Ponds and Outfall Systems



The purchase of the former "Hamilton property" by Seminole County is final. The property, adjacent to the existing ditch/pond at Cub Lake, will be used to construct stormwater ponds and divert outfall systems from Bear and Little Bear Lakes. The stormwater filtering ponds will create cleaner water entering Cub Lake. According to Robert Walter, Capital Improvements Manager and Seminole County Professional Engineer, a current work order is in place for an asbestos survey. The survey is to insure the county can proceed with their plans to remove the current house and associated structures on the property. In February 2016, the county approved and executed the work order for design, survey, and permitting of the new stormwater

pond. The expected timeframe is one year (February 2017). At that time, the County will schedule a meeting to review the proposed plans.

As previously reported by the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA), this project was listed as one of the five top five recommendations of Bear Lakes' Watershed Hydrologic/Nutrient Budgets and Management Plans' scientific study. Eventually, all of the top recommendations from the nutrient study will significantly improve the quality of all four of the Bear Lakes (Asher, Bear, Little Bear, and Cub). As always, BLPA will continue to keep you informed of any new developments of these improvements. To learn more about the County's top five projects, visit our website: www.blpa.net.

BLPA Youth Group

The BLPA Youth Group is looking for a diversity of young teenagers interested in joining their committee. If you are interested or for more information, please contact Sherri Walls, 407-928-8878.



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

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Tips to Help Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Grounds

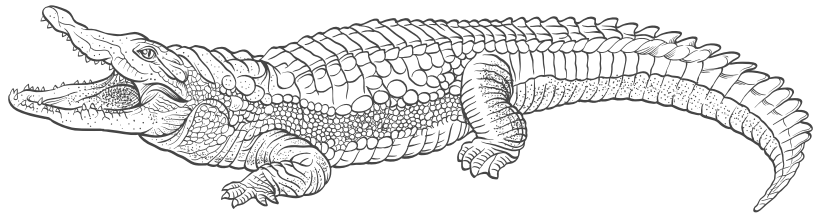
The best way to manage a Mosquito problem is to keep them from breeding. Mosquitos lay their eggs in very small areas of stagnant water. With everyone's help, we can all make a difference.

1. **Eliminating Standing Water:** Empty, drain, dispose of, or cover all things that may hold water. Check your yard and porch for standing water. Barrels and trash cans can collect rain water extremely well. Old tires, buckets, ceramic pots, and other containers can condense water vapor into tiny pools. Empty and drain all pools of water and cover them up to prevent more water from gathering.
2. **Changing Water Collection Pans for Plant Pots Weekly:** When you water your plants, excess water will run through the soil and collect in pans. Empty and clean the pans at least once a week.
3. **Clean Bird Baths Weekly:** If you have a bird bath outside your house, eliminate stagnant water by changing the water and scrubbing your bird bath down at least once a week.
4. **Repair or Prevent Outside Leaks:** Window and air conditioning often drip condensation, which can pool on the ground. Dripping outside faucets also pool water. Repair these problems to minimize water collection.
5. **Maintain Swimming Pools:** If you have a small plastic kiddie pool make sure you drain all the water out and store it in your garage or shed when it is not in use. If you have a large above-ground or in-ground pool, monitor the chlorine levels regularly and keep the pool clean. REPORT to Seminole County

Government any pool in your area that is not properly maintained because these can be large breeding grounds for Mosquitos.

6. **Keep Rain Gutters and Drains Clean:** If gutters and drains are filled with debris, they will trap water instead of letting it drain.
7. **Prevent other Sources of Standing Water:** Get rid of any unused pots or bins, or turn them upside down so they don't collect water. Keep trash cans and recycling bins covered. Drill small holes in the bottom of trash cans or recycle bins. Keep a fine mesh screen over rain barrels, water tanks, and cisterns. Take a look at your plants. Are any of them collecting water? Consider poking them with a pin hole to allow for proper drainage.

A New Resident in Cub Lake



A 4 to 5 foot alligator has taken up residents in Cub Lake and so far, has avoided any human contact. Although most Floridians understand that we have alligators living in our state, the potential for conflict exists. As with all wild creatures, a better understanding of Alligators will help ensure that the Bear Lakes' residents and alligators can continue to co-exist. The following are facts, in part, provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC):

- ☞ Leave alligators alone. State law prohibits killing, harassing or possessing alligators.
- ☞ Never feed alligators – it's dangerous and illegal. When fed, alligators can overcome their natural

wariness and learn to associate people with food. When this happens, some of these alligators have to be removed and killed.

- ☞ Never throw fish scraps or any other source of food (bread, etc.) into the water. Although you are not intentionally feeding alligators when you do this, the result can be the same.
- ☞ Observe and photograph alligators from a distance.
- ☞ Be aware of the possibility of alligators when you are in or near the water. Pay close attention to your surroundings when working or recreating near water.

☞ Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn. Therefore, avoid swimming at night.

☞ Dogs and cats are similar in size to the natural prey of alligators. Don't allow pets to swim, exercise or drink in or near the water.

If you encounter any alligator that you believe poses a threat to people, pets or property, call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWCGATOR (866-392-4286). Please be aware, nuisance alligators are killed, not relocated. **Visit MyFWC.com/Gators for more information about alligators and the latest nuisance alligator program statistics.**

A Strange Transparent Alien Jelly Blob Found in Bear Lake! Who Ya Gonna Call?



Tim Clifford brought this photograph to the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA)'s board of directors meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. No one had ever seen anything like it in a freshwater lake. Nancy Dunn went to the experts and sent the photograph to be identified by Dr. Dan Canfield and the University of Florida LAKEWATCH Division.

Tim had reported that the "jelly blob" was encasing the intake screen of his irrigation pipe in the lake. The substance is translucent and very gelatinous with small flecks of red throughout.

Dr. Canfield and Dan Willis of the LAKEWATCH Division of the University of

Florida agree. The jelly blob has been identified as a Bryozoa. Bryozoans are found worldwide in freshwater and saltwater. They are thousands of individual organisms making up the mass or colony and are usually sessile. They can be found connected to docks, logs, or wrapped around a twig. They feed on algae and detritus. Bryozoa are found in ponds or lakes less polluted with silt and organic matter. Yes, they prefer less polluted lakes!

LAKEWATCH and Rainfall Data for the Bear Lakes

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	12/15	.3"	11'	103.39
	1/16	4.65"	11.5'	103.54
	2/16	6.1"	12.5'	104
	3/16	1.3"	13'	103.8

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	12/15	.3"	7.5'	103.71
	1/16	4.65"	N/A	N/A
	2/16	6.1"	10'	103.82
	3/16	1.3"	13'	103.74

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	12/15	.3"	10.5'	99.8
	1/16	4.65"	8'	100.5
	2/16	6.1"	11'	100.3
	3/16	1.3"	10'	100.3

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.

BLPA would like to welcome our new Treasurer, Tim Clifford. 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. Thank you Tim and welcome!

BLPA is currently seeking to fill the positions of Membership. 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!

Bag It, Don't Blow It!



clear of all yard waste to prevent it from entering a curb inlet or storm drain. When you see it, speak up. It takes each and every one of us to right a wrong.

Bag it, don't blow it -- all yard debris:

- Degrades water quality
- Reduces habitat for fish and wildlife
- Decreases recreational use
- And all of the above decreases property values

If you want to go a step further, consider composting. Leaves and yard debris, along with many other items from your household, can be composted. Turn your waste into rich and useful compost. Alternatively, leaves and yard debris make excellent natural mulch because it contains high quantities of nutrients and act as a natural fertilizer. To prevent these nutrients from entering the lake, create a gradual berm and swale.

For more information on stormwater runoff, composting, mulching, berm and swale, go to www.blpa.net or go to www.ufl.edu.

How often do you drive through the neighborhood areas and see law maintenance crews blowing lawn debris to the street? Unfortunately, especially in the warmer months, it is common sight. When leaves, grass clippings, and other debris from your yard end up in the neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and storm drains, it eventually makes its way to the Bear Lakes (Asher, Bear, Little Bear, and Cub). Did you know that yard waste POLLUTES our lakes?! The addition of these materials to the stormwater system and the Bear Lakes is detrimental to the water quality. Be a good neighbor and NEVER allow leaves and grass clippings from your yard to end up in streets, sidewalks, or storm drains. This includes educating area lawn maintenance crews that these areas must be kept

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, go to the website 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
(321) 246-0682

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

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JAY GOEBEL, DVM

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If so, consider advertising
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407-292-4632.



Real Estate Watch

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

The real estate market is strengthening as inventory in the area is lower than usual. Interest rates continue to stay low which creates a great opportunity for buyers. Happy Spring to all and relish in the fact that Bear Lakes are so beautiful.

Active Listings

3416 Holliday Avenue.....	\$849,000
3542 Holliday Avenue.....	\$399,500
3524 Holliday Avenue.....	\$899,999
3410 Holliday Avenue.....	\$1,179,000
3218 Holliday Avenue.....	\$550,000
9916 Bear Lake Road.....	\$420,000
3118 Cecelia (lake access).....	\$465,000

Sold

3404 Holliday Avenue (vacant lot).....	\$450,000
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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 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:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as a Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as a Board Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a Current Committee |
| I prefer to be contacted by: | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Event

SAVE THE DATE



PO Box 162605
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 21, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Church Fellowship Hall
9913 Bear Lake Road

CURRENT TOP FIVE PROJECTS FOR THE BEAR LAKES (BEAR, LITTLE BEAR, CUB, AND ASHER)

Guest speakers: Dr. Harvey Harper, will discuss in detail the current top five projects of Bear Lakes' Watershed Hydrologic/Nutrient Budgets and Management Plans' Scientific Study. These projects take time, money, permitting, and planning. Kim Ornberg and Thomas Calhoun from Seminole County's Watershed Management Division will discuss the status of each of these projects.

Learn how the nutrient loading stormwater runoff entering Lake Asher directly affects the Bear Lakes.

What is the current status of the top five recommendations made by this study?

How will these projects improve property values and water quality for Lake Asher and downstream?

Learn about the plans to clean up Lake Asher.

What can the residents do?

Come and ask the experts and learn more!

Please join us on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at St. Andrews Church in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m., to hear about these very important topics that effect all the Bear Lakes!

BLPA's 2015 Annual Boat Parade



Above: Gary and Brenda Vallancourt won first place for their dock/yard.

Left: John and Sue Parker won first place for their boat decorations.

BLPA was delighted to see such a great turnout for the annual boat parade on Bear Lake! We had a total of eleven beautifully decorated boats with festive lights and decorations. The nice weather during the week of the boat parade encouraged more to participate. Many BLPA neighbors were busy decorating their yards, docks, and boats. It was a beautiful Saturday night. At dusk, the shorelines were loaded with family, neighbors, and friends.

We appreciate you all being a part of those precious memories and we look forward to seeing you again later this year. Thank you for making this special event such a great success!

Congratulations to the following winners:

John and Sue Parker - 1st place boat - Ski boat with tree of lights and lots of blue lights; Gary and Brenda Vallancourt - 2nd place boat - Ski boat with multicolor icicle lights;

Gary and Brenda Vallancourt - 1st place dock and yard - Seawall and gazebo with multicolor icicle lights, tree, Santa on jetski pulling Rudolph on ski, large red and white lights lining dock.