

Lake Asher

At the request of Lake Asher homeowners and BLPA, Seminole County scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, to discuss improving the current and future condition of the lake. Most of the 19 homeowners on Lake Asher were present, as well as five Board Members of the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA).

In September 2000, Seminole County spent more than 106 hours cutting, pulling, scooping, piling, and hauling to remove 7,000 cubic feet of vegetation (17 dump truck loads). However, this clean-up was short lived due to the amount of direct stormwater runoff entering Lake Asher. Again, Lake Asher is overgrown with algae, weeds, and sediments. The bottom of Lake Asher is a thick muck 3 to 6 feet deep and even 10' in some areas created by all the nitrogen and phosphorous entering the lake from direct stormwater runoff over the years.

As previously reported, the Bear Lakes' Watershed Hydrologic/Nutrient Budgets and Management Plans' scientific study was completed in November 2012. Dr. Harvey Harper and Seminole County included Lake Asher in one of the top five improvements funded by Seminole County. Specifically, the Alton Drive Stormwater Pond. The current pond will be reengineered to redirect all of the stormwater runoff from the drainage channel into the existing treatment pond. The stormwater water entering the pond will filter the water before entering Lake Asher. This will provide a substantial reduction in nutrient loading runoff generated directly into the lake. Thus, the overflow from Lake Asher into Bear Lake will



Above: Current aerial view of Lake Asher.



Right: View of choking vegetation from Lake Asher's shoreline.

contain less phosphorous. The cleaner water will ultimately benefit all the Bear Lakes and water basin.

The Lake Asher homeowners requested this meeting in hopes to work with the county directly to restore Lake Asher to its original beauty. The discussion of the meeting included information about the availability of grant funding for the initial restoration of Lake Asher. This was subject to the creation of an assessment district (MSBU) for funding the required on-going maintenance services. At the conclusion of the meeting, the homeowners of Lake

Asher discussed going forward with the application process. BLPA Board of Directors voted to provide the application fee required. Grant money from the county (\$200,000) will be used for dredging and removing overgrown vegetation. This program will ultimately benefit the Lake Asher homeowners, their lakefront property, and the Bear Lakes. It is estimated the restoration will take approximately 6 to 8 months and the MSBU will pay for Lake Asher's maintenance. Stay tuned -- we will continue to keep you informed of all the progress with Lake Asher.

Little Bear Lake Gets New Stocking of Carp



On Friday, June 10, 2016, Little Bear was stocked with 42 Triploid Grass Carp (Carp). Currently, there is an abundance of various unwanted aquatic vegetation such as bladderwort, musk grass, and road grass. The lakefront residents were frustrated with increasing growth of submerged plants causing a tangled smelly mess as it washed onto the shoreline.

A group of volunteers from Little Bear distributed flyers to all the lakefront homeowners informing them about the need for Carp. Once they had the approval from the lakefront homeowners, and enough donations were collected, the group of volunteers began completing the application process with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Brown's donated their time and supplies to complete the required barrier

that was placed around the outflow to Cub Lake. This application requirement is to prevent the Carp from leaving the lake.

Regional biologist Kris Campbell, with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Invasive Plant Management Section, recommended 1.5 fish per acre for the permitting (Little Bear is 28 acres). Next, the volunteers located a fishery to deliver the Carp and coordinate a drop off location on the lake. The residents are reporting the Carp are eating and would like to thank all the volunteers and contributors who made this possible.

Current Status of Cub Lake Stormwater Ponds and Outfall Systems

As previously reported, in February 2016, the county approved and executed the work order for design, survey, and permitting of the new stormwater pond adjacent to the existing ditch/pond at Cub Lake. The existing home and structures have been removed and Seminole County is proceeding with their plans. The property will be used to divert outfall systems from Bear and Little Bear Lakes and construct stormwater filtering ponds to create cleaner water entering Cub Lake and ultimately the water basin.

Again, this project was listed as one of the five top five recommendations of Bear Lakes' Watershed Hydrologic/Nutrient Budgets and Management Plans' scientific study. The expected timeframe is February 2017. At that time, the County will schedule a meeting to review the proposed plans. 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.



(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher)
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How Does Everyday Pollution Impact the Bear Lakes? Are You a Casual Polluter?

Many of our daily activities around the house and on our property can cause pollution. The pollution that impacts our lakes can travel by many different routes into our ground and surface water.

Debris like leaves, pine needles, grass clippings, and trash during heavy rains will travel to our storm drains and eventually end up in the lake. In addition, nutrients from fertilizers, animal waste, and septic systems which have not been properly maintained also go into the lake. All of these pollutants add nitrogen and phosphorous to the lakes and will cause excessive growth of algae and aquatic weeds from stormwater runoff. Heavy metals and pesticides from our yards will travel in with storm water runoff from surrounding paved surfaces. This can kill aquatic organisms and contaminate sediments in our lakes. Sewage, garbage, debris, and sediments with soil erosion from heavy rains can reduce oxygen to levels that can kill aquatic life in our lakes.

What can I DO to Help Reduce this Everyday Pollution?

1. Service your car regularly and NEVER drain motor oil or any other motor fluids into storm drains. Motor vehicles that leak oil, gas, and other fluids pollute the lake when these materials are washed into the storm drains. Wash your boats and cars in your yard. Vehicles washed on paved surfaces runoff in storm drains and add nutrients to our lakes which aid in the growth of algae;
2. Properly maintain your septic systems by having them inspected and pumped regularly;
3. Store products safely and keep toxic products in original containers, closed properly and tightly to prevent spillage, and clearly mark the product for proper disposal;
4. Shop wisely and buy products labeled biodegradable, non-toxic, non-phosphorus, or water soluble;

5. Educate yourself and your lawn maintenance crew. NEVER have them blow yard debris in the streets. DO NOT FERTILIZE! Most people spray and fertilize their lawns more than is necessary. Look into environmentally safe and alternate/natural ways to keep your yard green such as watering lawns from the lake (as most residents used to do). Create a natural berm and swale. An inexpensive method of reducing discharges of direct stormwater runoff is incorporating a Berm and Swale in your landscape. This will reduce the amount of nutrients entering the lake. You or your landscaper can create a low maintenance berm with gradual side slopes, such as 6(H), 1(V) or flatter, and by designing the bottom of the swale portion above the seasonal high water level of the lake. NEVER fill in an existing berm and swale;
6. Be a responsible boater. Use caution when operating your boat in shallow water or near the shore because waves can erode the shoreline and add unnecessary nutrients to the lake. Properly maintain your boat regularly to avoid gas or oil leaking or spilling into the lake;
7. Use lake-friendly surface cover such as pavers, porous stone, gravel, and mulch. If you do have a paved driveway, divert the stormwater runoff into a swale that allows the water to soak into the ground rather than discharging directly into the storm drain or lake.
8. Maintain your lakefront property by planting native aquatic vegetation to prevent erosion and add additional habitat of food and shelter for fish and wildlife. You can also obtain a free permit to remove a portion of vegetation for boating and swimming.

Unlike Many Other Types of Pollution, WE cause this Pollution, and WE CAN STOP IT!

The Life Cycle of Trash!



- Glass bottle — Undetermined but estimated at 1 million years
- Monofilament fishing line — 600 years
- Plastic bottle — 450 years
- Disposable diapers — 450 years
- Aluminum can — 80 to 200 years
- Boot sole — 50 to 80 years
- Styrofoam cup — 50 years
- Tin can — 50 years
- Leather — 50 years
- Nylon fabric — 30 to 40 years
- Plastic film canister — 20 to 30 years
- Plastic bag — 10 to 20 years
- Painted wood — 13 years
- Cigarette butt — up to 12 years
- Cigarette filter (plastic) — 1 to 5 years
- Plywood — 1 to 3 years
- Waxed milk carton — 3 months
- Apple core — 2 months
- Cardboard — 2 months
- Newspaper — 6 weeks
- Orange or banana peel — 2 to 5 weeks
- Paper towel — 2 to 4 weeks

Assist to protect, preserve, and restore all the Bear Lakes for our enjoyment and for generations to come! Please pick-up any trash and help to prevent it from washing into the area storm drains so it won't end up in the Bear Lakes.

LAKEWATCH

High Waters and Boater Safety

High lake levels have submerged some docks and are over some seawalls (Bear reached 104.2 and Little Bear 104.3 in early July). The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) would like to remind residents that high water levels may hide submerged docks, tree limbs, and other debris, thereby creating dangerous swimming and boating conditions. In addition, you should always be on the lookout for any floating debris, normally found on shorelines or on docks around the Bear Lakes.

BLPA asks the residents until the lakes recede to a safe and normal level, please try and refrain from your usual recreational use creating wake. Also, please keep in mind if you must use your boat or Jet Ski, you remain at a safe distance from the shore to avoid property damage to docks, or erosion to the shorelines caused by wakes. Always be safe and courteous of others!

LAKEWATCH Volunteers Honored

LAKEWATCH Volunteers Honored with the First Annual Doctor Dan Canfield Award!

On behalf of the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA), we congratulate our very own LAKEWATCH volunteers Nancy Dunn (Big Bear - 25 years), Jan Brown (Little Bear - more than 20 years), and Michael and Margaret Bundy (Cub - more than 12 years). They, together with other LAKEWATCH volunteers across the State of Florida, were honored as being the recipients of the first annual Doctor Dan Canfield Award (founder of the LAKEWATCH program). It was recently presented to the volunteers at the annual appreciation BBQ hosted by the University of Florida on Thursday, July 14, 2016. We are so



Lakewatch Volunteers Nancy Dunn (Bear) and Jan Brown (Little Bear) receive shirts for at least 20 years of service.

proud since this award is the third presented to our LAKEWATCH volunteers since July of 2014.

Again, congratulations to Nancy Dunn, Jan Brown, and Michael and Margaret Bundy for the many hours spent collecting LAKEWATCH samples and data used by scientists and others on a state and national level.



LAKEWATCH and Rainfall Data for the Bear Lakes

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/16	1.55"	13'	103.58
	5/16	2.0"	10'	103.4
	6/16	10.95"	8.5'	103/8
	7/16	7.95"	11'	103.9

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/16	1.55"	9'	103.61
	5/16	2.0"	8'	103.4
	6/16	10.95"	8'	103.8
	7/16	7.95"	9'	103.9

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/16	1.55"	8'	100.3
	5/16	2.0"	8'	100.0
	6/16	10.95"	7'	101.0
	7/16	7.95"	8'	101.4

Swimmer's Itch — It's Back

There is one summer occurrence that folks should be aware of as it can certainly take the fun out of playing in one of the Bear Lakes. It's known as swimmer's itch (Schistosoma Cercarial Dermatitis). Swimmer's itch is the result of a parasitic flatworm that makes its presence known to lake-goers on rare occasions. It is most often experienced in the warmer summer months when greater numbers of people are out swimming in and enjoying the lake.

Initial symptoms of swimmer's itch are usually experienced soon after swimming or submersing oneself in a lake. This includes a tingling sensation soon after drying off the exposed parts of the body. Later, the development of small red spots occurs. After the tingling ceases, the red spots become itchier. The degree of discomfort varies among individuals, depending on the severity of infestation and prior exposure. The more often one is exposed to swimmer's itch, the more sensitive they

could be to future outbreaks. Similar to poison ivy, anyone who has ever had a bad outbreak usually doesn't forget it.

One way to reduce your chances of contracting swimmer's itch and still enjoy the lake is to avoid swimming for long periods in shallow water, where it is believed that cercarias are more concentrated. More importantly, to help prevent swimmer's itch in the Bear Lakes, avoid feeding aquatic birds. Drying off immediately after getting out of the lake will help, as some species of cercaria only enter the skin as the water dries on the body. If symptoms do develop, over-the-counter anti-itch medications can help, such as lotions and antihistamines. Your pharmacist can recommend something suitable for you. For more information, feel free to contact your LAKEWATCH regional coordinator at 1-800-LAKEWATCH (1-800-525-3928).

Common Metals Found in Stormwater Runoff

LEAD: leaded gasoline, tire wear, lubricating oil and grease, bearing wear

ZINC: tire wear, motor oil, grease, brake emissions, corrosion of galvanized parts

IRON: auto body rust, engine parts

COPPER: bearing wear, engine parts, brake emissions

CADMIUM: tire wear, fuel burning, batteries

CHROMIUM: air conditioning coolants, engine parts, brake emissions

NICKEL: diesel fuel and gasoline, lubricating oil, brake emissions

ALUMINUM: auto body corrosion



1000 Wekiva Springs Road
Longwood, FL 32779



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

- ◆ Homeowners
- ◆ Auto
- ◆ Life
- ◆ Personal Umbrella
- ◆ Rental Dwelling
- ◆ Boat
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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.



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

3542 Holliday Avenue.....	\$315,000
3528 Holliday Avenue.....	\$375,000
9916 Bear Lake Road.....	\$399,000
3118 Cecelia (lake access).....	\$425,000
6011 Linned Beach Drive.....	\$535,000
5717 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$3,200,000

Pending Sales

3524 Holliday Avenue.....	\$899,900
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Closed Sales

3416 Holliday Avenue.....	\$810,000
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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

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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

BLPA's UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, August 25, 2016

Saint Andrews Church
Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m.

Topic: Improvements to Lake Asher
And all the Bear Lakes!

Guest speakers: Seminole County
Lake Management

Please join us on Thursday,
August 25, 2016, at
St. Andrews Church in
the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m.,
to hear about important topics
that effect all the Bear Lakes!

SAVE THE DATES:

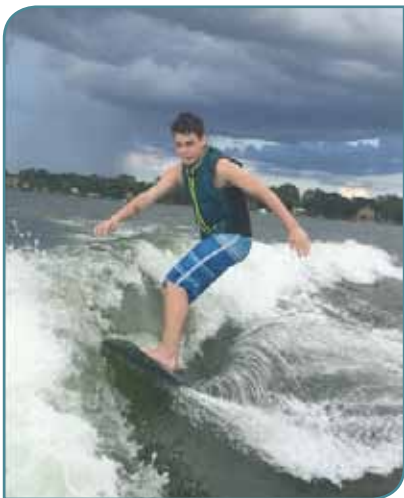
November 17, 2016 - Potluck

December 10, 2016 - Boat Parade



PO Box 162605
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

Summer Sports on Big Bear Lake



Fifteen-year-old Bear Lake resident,
Tyler Albert, says that,
"going out on the lake in the
morning makes my day."

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 Membership Director, Tina Sopp. We are currently seeking additional volunteers to serve on the Membership Committee. 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 Tina and welcome!

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

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