

Seminole County's New Fertilizer Ordinance

On February 28, 2017, Seminole County Board of County Commissioners heard from many people in the community, including from the Bear Lake Preservation Association Ecology Committee (BLPA), on a proposed fertilizer ordinance. After hearing arguments on both sides, BLPA is pleased to report that the County has approved a "NEW" Fertilizer Ordinance that regulates fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous. The ordinance also provides specific management guidelines for fertilizer application to minimize negative impacts to the Bear Lakes and our natural waterbodies. **Enforcement of the Fertilizer Ordinance will begin on October 1, 2017 for unincorporated Seminole County.** The key highlights to the Fertilizer Ordinance is further explained below as provided by Seminole County:

- Fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorous cannot be applied to turf during the restricted season from June 1st – September 30th. Fertilizers containing Iron, Manganese and other "micronutrients" also called "summer blends" can be applied during the restricted season to keep lawns healthy and green (as recommended by Florida Yards Neighborhood/Florida Friendly Landscape Program).
- Fertilizer containing nitrogen used during the non-restricted season (October 1st – May 31st) must contain at least 50% or more slow release nitrogen. This slow release nitrogen content will increase to 65%, three (3) years after adoption of the Fertilizer Ordinance to allow

time for educational outreach to residents and retailers.

- Fertilizer containing phosphorus cannot be applied to turf or plants unless a state certified soil or tissue test verifies there is a phosphorus deficiency. For more information about soil & tissue testing, contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office at 407-665-5560. [Click here for more information on Soil & Tissue Testing requirements.](#)
- Use of deflector shields are required when applying fertilizer if you are using a broadcast or rotary spreader.
- No fertilizer may be applied within fifteen (15) feet of any pond, lake,

stream, canal, or other waterbody, including wetlands.

Stormwater runoff is a major source of pollution flowing into the Bear Lakes. The new ordinance is a step in the right direction in preventing unnecessary nitrogen and/or phosphorous from entering our lakes through stormwater runoff.

For more detailed information about the New Fertilizer Ordinance go to: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/public-works/watershed-management/fertilizer-ordinance/>

BLPA's UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING (Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, April 20, 2017
Saint Andrews Church Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m.

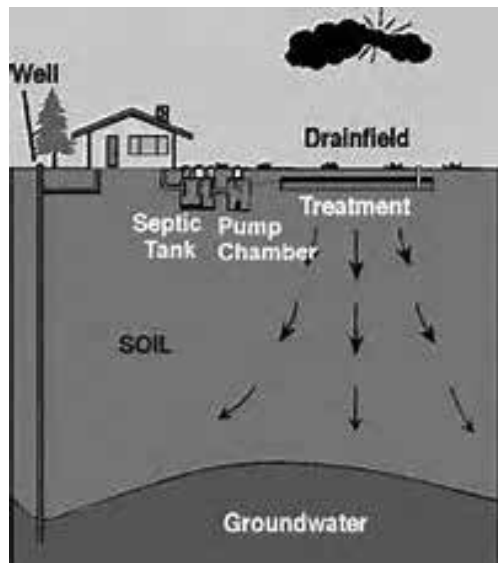
Topic:
Enforcement of the Fertilizer Ordinance
for Unincorporated Seminole County



Guest speakers:
The Following Representatives from Seminole County
Shannon Wetzel, Principal Environmental Scientist
Maria Lackey, Outreach Coordinator
Taryn Sudol, Florida Yards and Neighborhood Program Coordinator

Please join us on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at St. Andrews Church in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m., to hear about important topics that effect all the Bear Lakes!

How Septic Tank Works and How it Should be Maintained



Performing regular septic tank maintenance will help prevent the significant cost and time required to replace your septic system. The average national cost of septic tank pumping and cleaning is \$383, with most homeowners spending between \$280 and \$523.

Unlike a municipal sewer system, where waste runs into a central drainage system maintained by the municipality, your septic tank is individual to your property. Wastewater from your home that comes from your showers, toilets, sink drains, and washing machines flows to your septic tank, which is usually buried somewhere on your property.

When wastewater enters your septic tank, it is naturally divided into three parts. Solid waste sinks to the bottom of the tank, where bacteria in the tank breaks down the solid matter, turning it into sludge. The middle layer of waste is mostly water, while fats and oils float to the top of the tank, forming scum. Once solid waste is broken down into sludge, gravity moves the water through sloped pipes down into the drain field, where it is distributed into the soil.

There are several things you can do to avoid potentially expensive septic tank maintenance. A healthy septic tank has bacteria that busily work to break down solid matter constantly.

Tips to follow so you can keep your septic tank in optimal condition include:

- Avoiding parking cars or building structures over your septic tank
- Avoiding planting trees or root shrubs over your septic tank
- Avoiding putting baby wipes, paper towels, or diapers down your drains

And you can save considerable time and expense by having a clear diagram of where your septic tank is. If a contractor need not spend time locating your septic tank, labor costs will be lower when it is time to pump and clean your septic tank.

What Not to Put Down the Drain

Some materials that could upset the balance of healthy bacteria in your tank are:

- Chemotherapy drugs and time-release capsules and pills
- Anti-bacterial hand washing soap
- Some toilet bowl cleaners
- Bath and body oils
- Some dishwashing detergents
- Some water softeners

It is recommended that your septic tank be pumped every one to three years, depending on the size of the tank and the number of people in your home. If pumping is done promptly, you will likely save yourself the cost of repairing or septic tank. **In some areas adjacent to water bodies, improperly maintained and failing septic systems can contribute to pollution. Therefore, the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) suggests you hire a professional to pump your septic tank the recommended one to three years to keep your septic system healthy and operating at peak efficiency.**



Preservation Association

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

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Boating Safety—It's the Law and Ignorance of the Law is No Excuse!

The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) would like to remind all lakefront and lake access residents to operate their vessels safely and courteously, and abiding by all boating regulations. Unfortunately, Florida leads the country in boating accidents and deaths. Most deaths are caused by the following factors: Overloading; Excessive Speed and being under the influence (drugs/alcohol); Congested or hazardous waters; Reckless operation; Equipment failure; Operating in bad weather or high waters; Passenger and skier behavior; Operator inattention and operator inexperience. All U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Florida Marine Patrol rules and regulations apply to all Florida waterways. The Florida Boater's Guide, a handbook of boating, laws and responsibilities, can be viewed online at www.boat-ed.com/fl/handbook.

Because we are coming into the busy season of boating activity, BLPA wants to remind everyone in-part:

- **Speed and operation of any PWC should apply to lake conditions**, i.e., the number of watercraft on the lake, weather, high water, etc. (Florida Boater's Guide);
 - **There must always be at least two (2) people in or on your PWC or such watercraft must have a wide-angle rearview mirror when towing a skier, knee-boarder, etc.** (Florida Boater's Guide);
 - PWC should maintain a **safe distance** from skiers, knee-boarders, other watercraft, and shoreline/docks;
 - All skiers and PWC operators are **required by law to wear U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices** (Florida Boater's Guide for types). **All children under the age of six (6) are required, by law, to wear such a device** (Florida Boater's Guide for types);
 - Skiers, knee-boarders, etc., **must stay 150 feet from the shore or structures**;
 - As state law regulates, **waterskiing is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise** (Florida Boater's Guide);
 - **Florida has a very strict law on operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol and drugs.** The law makes it crystal clear that alcohol or drug-impaired PWC is a crime (Florida Boater's Guide);
 - **Jumping the wake of a passing boat, or riding too close to another boat, creates special risks and is prohibited.** Visibility around the boat making the wake may be blocked, both for the PWC operator and for oncoming traffic;
 - **Operate no PWC in shallow water (less than 24 inches deep).** Bottom sediments or aquatic vegetation can be sucked into the water pump and damage your PWC and the environment;
 - **Avoid creating a wake, which can erode, when operating near shore;**
- The above-summary of Florida's boating laws are found in Ch. 327 and Ch. 328, Florida Statutes and is included in all certified boating safety courses taught in Florida. The information provided is accurate and subject to change in May of each year. Please call the FWC's Boating Safety Section at 850-488-5600 for annual updates to this information or questions regarding boating safety course requirements or go to www.myfwc.com. To report any illegal boating activity on the Bear lakes, please contact the **South Region of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office at 407-665-1700**. The Bear Lake Preservation Association hopes you enjoy a safe, accident-free water craft season!

- All powered watercraft (herein after called PWC) **must travel in a counter-clockwise direction even when picking up a skier, knee boarder, etc.;**
- **All boaters in Florida born on or after January 1, 1988, must have in their possession a valid Boating Safety Education ID Card when operating any motorized vessel of 10hp or more** (See Florida Boater's Guide for more information, including any exemptions).
- All operators of a PWC **must be fourteen (14) years of age** (Florida Boater's Guide). Note: **It is unlawful for a person to knowingly allow a person under 14 to operate a PWC (a second-degree misdemeanor);**

*"Well, it is the name of the lake..."
Photo taken by Bruce Morse as they were moving into their home on Bear Lake.*



Seminole County's Current Projects for the Bear Lakes: Asher, Bear, Little Bear, and Cub

This update on Seminole County Projects was provided to the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) by the Kim Ornberg, Seminole County Watershed Management. The priority of the below listed projects are based on cost, design, and construction.

- Lake Asher: Alton Drive Stormwater Pond Modification - the County has applied for grant money from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to go toward the construction. The County's half cent sales tax will pay the remaining cost. The preliminary design is completed. The consultant hired by the County is working on services for final design and permitting, and post monitoring; (Lake Asher): Restoration Project – the County is in the final steps with DEP for Legislative Appropriation for Grant money approved. This project is schedule for Summer 2017. All permitting is ready and will be funded by grant money.
- Bear Lake: Cecilia Drive FY17/18 – assessment and design of nutrient separating baffle boxes; (Bear Lake): Hibiscus stormwater pump a/k/a Balmy Beach Drain – pump to retention pond scheduled for FY18/19; (Bear Lake): Playa Way Underground Retention System and Power Easement - no Progress (BLPA must remain active in assisting in a backup project for the stormwater treatment due to Power Easement property use may not be approved);
- Little Bear Lake Carp: June 10, 2016, added 42 Triploid Grass Carp (Carp) and requested more due to non-effective and possible mortality rate due to size of carp (small). Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Invasive Plant Management Section, only permitted for an additional 15 Carp.
- Cub Lake: Ditch/pond - The County has designed and permitted this project. Funds are currently ready and project is pending ditch easement completion; (Cub Lake) County will conduct Vegetation Survey – Cub residents will address possible lake access with the County for launching boat;
- Unincorporated Seminole County, which includes the Bear Lake Watershed - Fertilizer Ordinance FY17; Street sweeping – double contract size and expand/enhance services (cost effective). Two subdivision cycles are scheduled this budget year. The first tentatively scheduled for March 14, 2016 and the second for August 22, 2016. Frequency of sweeping cycles is determined by funding annually.

BLPA will continue to keep its members informed of any new developments.

LAKEWATCH and Rainfall Data for the Bear Lakes

	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
Bear Lake	12/16	.5"	9.5'	103.31
	1/17	2.35"	10'	103.28
	2/17	1.75"	10.5'	103.2
	3/17	.15"	11'	102.95
Little Bear Lake	12/16	.5"	10'	103.7
	1/17	2.35"	N/A	N/A
	2/17	1.75"	10'	103.54
	3/17	.15"	11'	103.39
Cub Lake	12/16	.5"	11'	100
	1/17	2.35"	13'	100
	2/17	1.75"	9'	100
	3/17	.15"	10'	99.9

Important Note from BLPA for Freshwater Aquatic Plant Removal

BLPA does not recommend OR support chemical treatment for aquatic plant removal due to possible health risk. We only support manual removal or Triploid Grass Carp, both of which require a permit. See below for additional permitting information.

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 may 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



Bag It, Don't Blow It! Educate Yourself and Your Lawn Maintenance Crews

- Do not blow grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, or other yard debris into streets, ditches, or storm drains.
- Do not blow grass clippings into the lake. When mowing near the water's edge, use a grass catcher.
- Do not fertilize.

The above decreases property values! Speak up and stop the harm to the Bear Lakes! For more information go to: www.blpa.net



1000 Wekiva Springs Road
Longwood, FL 32779



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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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Full-Page Ad \$100
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If so, please contact Judy Ihrig for details
at 407-292-4632.

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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.

**SEMINOLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CONTACT FOR THE BEAR LAKES**

For suspected criminal activity on 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



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL
407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 am



Real Estate Watch

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

Happy Spring to all! Inventory on Big Bear Lake is the lowest I have seen in years so it's a great time to sell, prices are moving much higher. The following are the most current statistics regarding Bear Lake properties. Please call with questions.

Active Listings

6155 Linned Beach Dr	\$529,000
6143 Linned Beach Dr	\$995,000

Closed Sales

9400 Bear Lake Circle.....	\$443,000
3560 Holliday	\$476,000
3045 Cecelia	\$480,000
6115 Linned Beach Dr	\$780,000



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 _____

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Mailing Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell 1 _____ Cell 2 _____

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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.

Bass Caught on Bear Lake



Cole, age 11, caught a 4.5lb Bass on March 6, 2017 while fishing with his grandfather Bill Houston on Bear Lake.



PO Box 162605
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

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!

BLPA's 2016 Pot Luck and Annual Boat Parade Winners



In November 2016, we had a wonderful turnout to the annual Pot Luck dinner. There was plenty of great conversation, food, and fun. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet others in the Bear Lake Community.

In December 2016, we had ten beautifully decorated boats with festive lights and decorations at the 2016 Annual Boat Parade. It was a perfect Saturday night. At dusk, the shorelines were loaded with family, neighbors, and friends. The lake reflected all the stunningly decorated yards, docks, and boats.

Thank you all for making the special events such a great success! We look forward to continuing on with the tradition and seeing you again later this year at both events!

Congratulations to these winners of the Best Dessert Contest at the Pot Luck and the Best Decorated Boats and Dock/Yard!

**Pot Luck: Margaret Bundy -
1st Place for Best Dessert
Carol Shields -
2nd Place for Best Dessert**

**Boat Parade: Brad and Lynne Rigby -
1st place - Best Decorated Boat**

**Parker Brown - 2nd place -
Best Decorated Boat**

**Brenda and Gary Vallancourt -
1st place - Best Decorated
Dock and Yard**