



**GET INVOLVED IN
YOUR LAKE—
IF YOU DON'T,
WHO WILL?!**

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • February 2005

Lawn Maintenance Companies: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

By Bob Heideman

Many of us do not have the time, training or inclination to do our own lawn and pest control so we hire a service to do it for us. Our expectation of their having done a good job is a green, lush, weed free lawn. The problem with that is that they probably used more fertilizer than they needed and the excess gets into the lakes turning them green. How can I make this assumption? Just follow the money...they are getting paid to keep it green, they will not get paid more if the lake gets clearer but they could loose the account if your lawn is not perfect. So how do you select the most lake friendly lawn service company?

Make sure they use a zero phosphorous blend of fertilizer. The middle number should be 0, like a 14-0-10. (If you do it yourself you can buy it at the various home centers.)

Get them to call before coming or schedule an appointment so you or a neighbor can be there to direct them to stay away from ditches and areas between the homes where storm water will carry the fertilizer from the dissolving granules to the lake.

Tell them that you don't care about having it perfect. Yes, I'm serious. Tell the applicator to err on the side of using too little rather than too much fertilizer. They don't have to cover everything "wall to wall."

More and more companies are switching to no phosphorous free fertilizers so it should not be too hard to find one. I know Middleton is one such company.

The lawn service company has only four tools: fertilizer, weed killer, fungicide and insecticide. None of these would you want in your aquarium, your drinking water or your swimming lake. So, we automatically have a problem. You know that the lawn company cares about your lawn because you can see it. It is visible and measurable. But how much can they care about your lake, which is invisible and immeasurable? See the problem? One person could be polluting like crazy and no one will know which resident in the watershed is doing it. We will all keep paying lake preservation dues, attending meetings, watching the clarity get worse year after year, and not be aware that it is our own lawn service company, or our neighbors, that is causing the lake to turn green.

There is no disagreement among limnologists that the biggest cause of eutrophication in our Central Florida lakes is fertilizer. Fertilizer, much more than anything else, is what turns them green.

The worst constituent of the fertilizer is phosphorous. But over fertilization will add nitrogen to our ground water which is our drinking water. I believe that a temporary green lawn is not better than a permanently green lake and un-drinkable tap water. But, I may be in the minority. There are a lot of very green lawns out there.



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How to Keep Your Lawn Healthy and Still Protect the Lakes

Our guest speakers at the February 22, 2005, BLPA general meeting will be Mike Deleshaw from Lesco, a national turf and lawn care product distributor. Mike is an expert in the lawn care industry, having both field experience as well as answering thousands of questions "behind the counter" at Lesco. He is very knowledgeable about soil and the challenges in keeping a lawn healthy. He was raised in Orlando and has seen first-hand how the quality of our lakes and fishing have deteriorated over the years.

Bear Lake Road Drainage Project

Barry Switzer, Bowyer-Singleton and Associates, will be speaking on the Bear Lake Road drainage improvement study which is a preliminary engineering design that is contracted by Seminole County. He will be on hand to answer questions concerning the BLPA. Bring your questions for our speakers.

The President's Corner

By Judy R. Ihrig, BLPA President

Happy New Year! I have learned so much about our lakes from working with everyone on the board, going to the general meetings and talking with my neighbors. My life has been greatly enriched by this opportunity. I want to take this moment to thank everyone for all of their help and support especially Nancy Dunn, Holly Gosney, Sue Parker, and Holly Long. You have made my year as President a smooth and rewarding one.

We must step up our education to prevent the Bear Lakes from becoming polluted too.

I love to take some time at the first of the year and reflect on the past year and plan for the next one. This year, while making my new goals and resolutions, I found myself looking at my priorities and how I spent my time. I would like you to do the same. I hope every one of you will set aside some time this year to learn more about your lake and how fragile and precious it is.

If we are to keep the Bear Lakes clean we are going to have to slow down the rate of fertilizer that is getting into our lakes!

After looking at the data from the University of Florida, we can see that the lake quality has gone down over the years. This data was collected by volunteers for a total of 148 months; thanks Nancy Dunn and Jan Brown for all the great work. The data was alarming; most of the lakes within our 47

Florida Lake Regions have become noticeably more polluted in the last few years. We must step up our education to prevent the Bear Lakes from becoming polluted too. Once a lake becomes polluted it can't be cleaned up.

Think about volunteering this year to help on the board as a chairperson or a board supporter. Please call me at 407-292-4632 if you would like to get involved in keeping your lakes clean. The board consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Committee Chairpersons and Board Supporters are as follows: Editor, Political Committee, Social Committee, Phone Bank, Membership, Ecology, Lake Watch, and Neighborhood Watch.

Elections will be held at the February 22nd General Meeting at 7:30 pm at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Bear Lake Road.

We welcome all lake area residents to come to any of our general meetings or board meetings.

Our speaker this month is Mike Deleshaw. He is a fertilizer expert from Lesco and he will be able to help us understand more about what types of fertilizer is best for our soil and our lakes.

Bring a neighbor, and bring your checkbook, since only members can vote at elections.

I have a feeling that this is going to be a great year for BLPA and I hope you are a part of it.

See you at the General meeting Feb. 22nd at the Presbyterian Church on Bear Lake Road.



2005 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Judy Ihrig
	407-292-4632
Vice President	Holly Gosney
	407-774-0859
Secretary	Sue Parker
	407-294-6026
Treasurer	Pam Ison
	407-682-5485
Correspondence Secretary	Mike Ison
	407-682-5485

Committees

Ecology	Bob Heideman
	407-865-3333
	Ned Woolfolk
	407-292-5128
Lakewatch	Nancy Dunn
	407-295-6335
	Jan Brown
	407-295-6739
Newsletter	Holly Long, Editor
	407-290-1593
	Tina Sopp, Assistant Editor
	407-342-3767
Social	Dick Dominica
	407-295-0992
Political	Ned Woolfolk
	407-292-5128
	Mike Kafer
	407-298-5865

Directors

Patsy Cumbie	407-886-5588
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Board Supporters

Volker Buchau	407-869-6931
Erma Cardilli	407-293-5227
Susan Burton	407-521-8212
Brian Allen	407-292-7245

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.

Board of Directors Election Scheduled at General Meeting on February 22, 2005

The 2005 election of the BLPA Board of Directors will take place at the General Meeting on February 22, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

You may also vote by mail. Use the ballot on this page and mail it in an envelope with your name and return address to Bear Lake Preservation Association, c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703. Ballots must be postmarked no later than February 21, 2005.

After the ballots are in, all ballots, both absentee and those cast at the meeting, will be counted by a non-board member. There is only one vote per qualifying household (husband and wife owners may only vote once on the same ballot).

The BLPA would like to have as many interested, active Board members as possible (for a maximum of 11, minimum of

7) to share the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the association.

If you know of someone who would be willing to serve, including yourself, write his or her name in one of the write-in candidate spaces on the ballot and place a check mark in front of it.

The time commitment required of Board members is not substantial. (Home-makers and retirees make excellent board members.) Any questions about what is required, please call Mike Ison at 407-682-5485.

If you are not already involved in the Bear Lake Preservation Association, and preserving the quality of our neighborhood and the Bear Lake watershed is important to you, please volunteer to help support the association. Remember that BLPA is only as strong as the support of its members.

The BLPA held its annual Boat Parade on December 12, 2004. After meeting at the Ison's dock, a parade of ten brightly lit boats slowly circled the lake under beautiful night skies and calm waters for all to enjoy. Many people decorated their docks and came out to show their support and exchange holiday greetings.

Publix gift certificates were awarded for the best decorated boats. First place, a \$25.00 gift certificate was awarded to the Parker boat. Second place, a \$15.00 gift certificate went to the Quick boat and in third place, a \$10.00 gift certificate went to the Gosney boat.

The annual parade provides another opportunity for all of us to share the beauty of our lake together as neighbors. Thanks to all who participated and all who waved from the shore.

BLPA Boat Parade Highlights



BLPA Ballot

Place a check mark in front of your choices. (11 maximum or 7 minimum). Only one ballot per household:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Ison | <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Dunn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Kafer | <input type="checkbox"/> Patsy Cumbie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pam Ison | <input type="checkbox"/> Janet Brown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dick Dominica | <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Ihrig |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Houston | <input type="checkbox"/> Vicki Jameson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Parker | <input type="checkbox"/> Holly Gosney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holly Long | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Heideman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Burton | <input type="checkbox"/> Ned Woolfolk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Hutson | |

Write-in Candidates:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Only one ballot is allowed per member family. Bring your ballot with you to the February 22, 2005, meeting (extra ballots will be available). If you choose to mail your ballot, it must be postmarked no later than February 21, 2005. Marked ballots which are mailed should not be signed, but should be placed in an envelope bearing your name and return address. Address your envelope to: Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc., c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703.

Any person may be elected to the Board. Candidates do not have to be BLPA members but you must be a paid member to vote. Write-ins may be yourself or any person you think would do a good job.

Your Name: _____

Lakewatch Trophic Report

The water and chlorophyll (algae) samples have been analyzed. This is an interim report of the nutrient and chlorophyll levels in Bear for the months of May - August 2004.

General Criteria for Classifying Lakes Into Trophic State Categories

Trophic State	Total P µg/L	Total N µg/L	Chl µg/L
Oligotrophic	<15	<400	<3
Mesotrophic	15 - 25	400 - 600	3 - 7
Eutrophic	25 - 100	500 - 1500	7 - 40
Hypereutrophic	100+	1500+	40+
Your lake's average from this time period	13 µg/L total phosphorous	520 µg/L total nitrogen	4 µg/L total chlorophyll

The water and chlorophyll (algae) samples have been analyzed. This is an interim report of the nutrient and chlorophyll levels in Bear for the months of January - June 2004.

General Criteria for Classifying Lakes Into Trophic State Categories

Trophic State	Total P µg/L	Total N µg/L	Chl µg/L
Oligotrophic	<15	<400	<3
Mesotrophic		400 - 600	3 - 7
Eutrophic	25 - 100		7 - 40
Hypereutrophic	100+	1500+	40+
Your lake's average from this time period	15 µg/L total phosphorous	600 µg/L total nitrogen	6 µg/L total chlorophyll

An oligotrophic lake has a low level of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous), clear water, and few aquatic plants and algae. Eutrophic and hypereutrophic lakes contain high levels of nutrients, turbid water, and lots of aquatic plants and algae. A mesotrophic lake shares characteristics of both eutrophic and oligotrophic lakes.

While knowing the trophic state of your lake is important, it is also important to monitor changes in your lake's water quality. Nutrient levels may change from season to season and from year to year.

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*"Another opinion from your neighbor
may save you money."*



Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

Rainfall Versus Water Clarity

The following Lakewatch data covers the last 10 months (collected in the third week of each month). Clarity level is the average of four locations on Big Bear Lake and Little Bear Lake. Lake levels determined by surveyed elevation markers set on the lakes by Seminole County.

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/04	1/4"	11-1/2'	104.4
	5/04	1/2"	11-1/2'	104.2
	6/04	2-1/4"	10'	104.2
	7/04	8-1/2"	9-1/2'	104.0
	8/04	12-3/4"	8-1/2'	104.8-1/2
	9/04	14-3/4"	7'	105.4
	10/04	2-3/4"	8-1/2'	105
	11/04	1"	7'	104.8
	12/04	1-1/4"	9-1/2'	104.7
	1/05	3/4"	10'	104.8

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/04	1/4"	6-1/2'	103.5
	5/04	1/2"	8-1/2'	103.1
	6/04	2-1/4"	9'	103.3
	7/04	8-1/2"	7'	103.4
	8/04	12-3/4"	8'	104.2-1/2
	9/04	14-3/4"	8'	105.5
	10/04	2-3/4"	9-1/2"	104.1
	11/04	1"	8'	103.8
	12/04	1-1/4"	9'	103.8
	1/05	3/4"	10-1/2'	103.8



Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

Call me if you have any questions (407-682-1214). The following is the most current information regarding the activity on our lakes:

6151 Linneal Beach Dr..... \$1,799,000
 5707 Bear Lake Cr..... \$925,000
 3145 Cecelia Dr..... \$850,000

There are currently no homes for sale in the MLS. This is a recap of 2004:

Wishing you all a joyous and healthy 2005. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

Sold Listings

6023 Linneal Beach Dr..... \$499,900
 6123 Linneal Beach Dr..... \$899,000
 6103 Linneal Beach Dr..... \$900,000

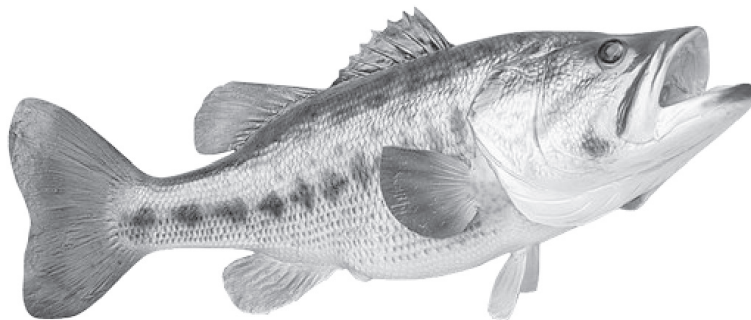
Bear Lake Winter Bass fishing Update

By Ned Woolfolk

During the winter months of December, January, and February, fishing for bass is pretty much hit or miss at best. As the water temperatures drop, the bass are seldom found feeding in the shallow water around docks. Most of the bait fish, such as bream, minnows, often referred to by locals as "big head" or "mud" minnows, abandon shallow waters. Generally, the bass stay in deep water and are more difficult to find during these months.

If you can locate bass or schools of shad on a depth finder in deep water, bass can often then be caught on artificial lures or spoons that resemble the

shad. They can also be caught on artificial worms. Either fish the artificial worms very slowly or "Carolina-rigged" where they float just above a weight bounced across



the bottom.

The best time to fish for bass during the winter months is when schools of shad can

be found near the surface, again usually in deep water areas. The bass will congregate below the schools of shad and periodically attack them on the surface in a feeding frenzy. In such instances, they can also be caught on virtually any top water bait worked through them while they are surface feeding.

If you are lucky enough to find a school of bass striking on the surface in a feeding frenzy, you can generally catch your limit. This year, while the bass have not schooled quite as well as they have done in the last couple of years, the bass are generally larger, and I have caught schooling bass up to four pounds that have been feeding on shad. Often, the best times to fish for schooling bass are during the coldest weather, at the coldest times during the day, so you should dress comfortably.

Even if the bass are not breaking water on the surface, if you can find the bait schools on your depth finder, you can often catch them with either underwater artificial baits or spoons, or by using live minnows. Nancy Dunn, a renowned Bear Lake speckled perch fisherwoman, told me she caught 16 bass drifting with live minnows during the New Year's weekend when she was fishing for speckled perch.

While the fishing is tough during the winter, some of the most exciting fishing can occur during the winter months.

How Can I Help BLPA?



BLPA needs help with Neighborhood Watch. It would be great if you could join our committee and help gather e-mail addresses from your neighbors. Then, when a problem comes up, we could do a broadcast e-mail to all our neighbors and everyone would be informed about the problem very quickly. This will take some time in the beginning but once all the e-mails are gathered it would not take much effort to keep the e-mail list current. Please call Judy at 407-292-4632 if you are interested.

BLPA will be starting a new program to promote phosphorus-free fertilizer. It is going to take several volunteers to get this program going. We will have a separate committee meeting which is a great way to get to know some of your neighbors and help the lake at the same time. See the calendar on page 8 for future dates.

BLPA also needs help with historical, and fun articles. If you have lived on the lake(s) for even a year then you probably know some stories that you could share with us. It could be about the animals around the lake or the seasonal changes, home improvement stories or maybe a story about one of our wonderful sunsets. It won't take you long to write and it would be a great help to us to make our newsletter well rounded. Please forward your articles to the newsletter editor (see page 2 for contact info).

BLPA has started a welcome package to give our new neighbors. Thanks to everyone who helped last year with this project. If you have some ideas on how to make the new neighbors feel like a part of our community, please call me with your ideas or join our social committee. Please call Holly Gosney at 407-774-0859

BLPA wants to promote a canoeing club. It would be fun to canoe or kayak around the lake with your neighbors and get a workout at the same time. Please call Judy at 407-292-4632 and she will get you in touch with others who want to enjoy the

lake with you.

BLPA wants you to join our Board meetings even if you are not on the board. We can always use board supporters and we are going to be meeting at one of our local restaurants almost every month. After the meeting, those who can stick around can get a chance to meet new people and discuss

**How can you get involved...
volunteer with BLPA!**

current issues. The next meeting will be at Positano's, March 15th at 6:30 pm. Call BLPA's president to RSVP.

The BLPA Wants YOU!

The BLPA is committed to preserving the lakes and community to protect our lifestyle and property values. The BLPA invites you to join our organization. Be Aware! Get Involved!

Look at the membership advantages the organization provides:

- Free BLPA license tag.
- Lake preserving activities and ideas for residents.
- "Watchdog" challenges to encroachment by developers and government.
- Neighborhood social activities (picnics, block parties, boat parade, etc.)
- Monthly Lakewatch testing and analysis.
- Expert speakers on environmental topics such as lake management and water quality.
- Coordination of Neighborhood Watch communities.
- Town Hall forums for homeowners to express pros and cons of neighborhood projects.
- Liaison with the county on issues such as traffic, lake patrols, and water run-off problems.
- Other activity suggestions welcomed by members.
- Annual community picnic.

Please add your voice and financial support by joining this community enhancement group.

**New/Renewal Member • Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc.
c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Ave, Apopka, FL 32703**

Name(s) of Home Owner(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

***Please mail this form to the above address with your check for \$50.00; senior citizens, \$25.00.
Please make your checks payable to Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc.***

GET INVOLVED AND DO YOUR PART! WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

BLPA is committed to preserving the lakes and community to protect our lifestyle and property values.

Our Organization Provides:

- Monthly Lakewatch testing and analysis
- Lake preserving activities
- "WATCHDOG" committee to monitor encroachment by developers and government.
- Social activities for the neighborhood (picnic and boat parade).
- Town Hall type forum to give home owners the opportunity to express pros and cons of neighborhood projects.
- Expert speakers on environmental topics of interest to our particular area.
- Coordination of neighborhood watch.
- Liaison with the county on issues such as road traffic, lake patrols, and water runoff problems.
- Other activities you, as a member, might suggest.

Please add your voice and financial support by joining our community enhancement association.

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**St. Andrews
Presbyterian Church**

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:30 am

BLPA License Tags & Coffee Mugs for Sale



License tags and coffee mugs will be available at the General Meeting for \$10 each. If you can't make the meeting, call Pam Ison at 407-682-5484 to place your order!

For committee meeting dates, please contact Judy Irling or one of the Board members.

February 22	General Meeting (Elections)
March 15	BLPA Board Meeting
April 19	BLPA Board Meeting
May 17	General Meeting
June	No Board Meeting
July 19	BLPA Board Meeting
August 16	BLPA Board Meeting
October 18	BLPA Board Meeting
October 22	BLPA Picnic
November 15	General Meeting
December 11	Boat Parade

Calendar of Events



c/o Pam Ison
3010 Holliday Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703