



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

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • November 2007

Our Plans for Alum

The sediment core samples from all three Bear Lakes have been analyzed and recommendations made. It is very simple...if we put in about 4 ppm of alum this will both clear up the water and eliminate most of the phosphorous that is cycling out of the sediments. But, if we can't afford to put in that much we will do what we can.

The nice thing about alum is that there is no minimum dose as it gives you 1:1 reduction in phosphorous. Our plan is to try and get enough donations to pay for the suggested amount of alum and then apply it in small amounts just in the deep portions of the lakes. We stop when we are back to our traditional clear water standard and we add more if and when we need more...If we can afford it.

BLPA Special Alum Fund

Show your support by donating to the
BLPA Alum Fund...your lake depends on it!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____ |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Please send in this form with your check, payable to BLPA Alum Project, c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holiday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703.

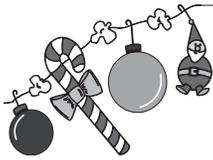
Do's and Don'ts for a Healthy Watershed

By Bob Heideman, Ecology Committee

1. Don't put anything on your yard that you wouldn't put in your fish aquarium. Everything eventually ends up in our ground water or our lakes.
2. Don't put out fertilizer unless you really really need it. Both nitrogen and phosphorous are major water pollutants so if you are not certain that you need any, always err on the low side. The recommendations on the bags are there to sell more fertilizer. Lawns in our area need zero phosphorous, that is the middle number.
3. Do keep your own rainwater on your own property. If you can achieve this by doing some slight grading you will do your part to help reduce lake pollution.
4. Do wash your car, pets or boats on your lawn. It will water and add nutrients to the lawn while keeping the nutrients out of our streets and driveways which flow to our lakes.
5. Don't put grass clippings or yard waste on the streets or in an area where they will get washed into a ditch or drain because they will end up in a lake, making a submerged compost pile. Leaf blowers should blow the clippings back onto the yard & not in the streets.
6. Do pump your septic tank a minimum of once every three years. Do not put oils, grease & excess food into a garbage disposal. This quickly fills and clogs up your septic system.

**FERTILIZER IS OUR #1 ENEMY FOR
CLEAN, SWIMMABLE 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.



Decorate Your Boat for the Holidays and Join Us at the Annual Bear Lake Boat Parade

Where: At the Ison's Dock (3010 Holliday Ave)
When: Saturday, December 8
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded to the best decorated boats and honorary mentions for the best decorated boat docks! Please join us for a social gathering at the conclusion of the boat parade at Bill and Deborah Houston's home at 6233 Linneal Beach (on the canal). Even if you don't put a boat in the parade, we'd like you to come and socialize with your neighbors!

- Light hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided
- Families welcome
- Arrive by boat or car

Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 5th, for both the Boat Parade and/or the social gathering to Holly Gosney 407-497-9556.

What is a Rain Barrel and Why Should I Use One?

By Judy Ihrig

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop runoff, for later use on your lawn or garden, or other outdoor uses.

Rainwater can be utilized to water food gardens, potted patio plants, flowerbeds, and many other areas. Plus, many gardeners find that their plants like rainwater better than tap water. A half-inch rain event can capture almost one gallon of water per one square foot of roof area. This can help decrease runoff from leaving your property and decrease storm water pollutants from roadway drainage affecting our local waterways. Pollutants such as motor oil, gasoline, soil, animal waste, trash, cigarette butts, residual pesticides and excess

fertilizers all have a negative impact on our environment.

It has been estimated that you could save almost 1,500 gallons of potable or well water a year by placing rain barrels in your yard to capture excess water that typically runs off your roof. Conserving potable water in the long run will protect our aquifer; help lessen the affects of over pumping water for irrigation, especially within designated water caution protection areas. This simple conservation measure can help protect spring levels and flows as well as surface water areas such as rivers, lakes and streams. See the rain barrel workshop registration form on page 4.

Bear Lake Road Drainage Improvements

A pre-construction meeting was held at the end of September between County's Principle Engineer, Brett Blackadar, and Prime Construction. The project is due to begin construction October 8, 2007. The county staff stressed the importance of erosion control and preservation of the Bear Lakes to the contractor. If you have any concerns during construction, please contact Nancy Dunn with the BLPA and University of Florida LAKEWATCH at 407-920-4975.



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Fertilizer Impact Concerns Only Some Areas

By State Representative Bryan Nelson, District 38 Report • Reprinted from the September 14, 2007, edition of The Apopka Chief

Last week in Sarasota, the appointed members of the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force met for the first time to organize the scope of our work and to discuss the issues causing the degradation of water quality in our state.

The working group on fertilizer stems from a bill I passed in the 2007 legislative session and will conclude with another bill in the 2008 session that will enact the task force's recommendations on consumer fertilizer usage and education.

As I mentioned in last week's column, only a small handful of counties and municipalities have enacted any sort of regulation of consumer fertilizer, despite the fact that golf courses and professional applicators already follow stringent best management practices.

Moreover, the lack of action by local governments on this issue is inconsistent with a recent Department of Health study that indicates the minimal impact of septic tanks and the large contribution (43 percent) of residential fertilizer to the nitrate-loading issues in the Wekiva Basin.

Our current situation, in which some areas of the state seem to be concerned and some others are not, presents challenges not only in improving water quality, but in the ability of homeown-

ers to purchase fertilizer that can sustain healthy turf without environmental impacts.

Local choice remains an important component in the work of the Consumer Fertilizer Task Force, but our group must adopt a statewide approach in regulating these issues, as the fertilizer industry could not produce and market fertilizers to comply with ordinances as varied as Florida's 412 municipalities.

Conflicts such as this one characterize what will be the working group's biggest challenge in formulating a model ordinance for fertilizer usage and developing a proper education plan to support it – finding consensus among such a wide range of interests and stakeholders.

The Consumer Fertilizer Task Force features representatives from the environmental community, members of local and state government, water and soil scientists as well as the fertilizer industry.

The meeting last week featured a great deal of productive conversations among the stakeholders, and despite their varied interests, their suggestions all seemed to focus on the same theme: improving the quality of our water by reducing the impacts of residential fertilizer usage.

Over the course of three or four more meetings, the working group will address consumer fertilizer use and application techniques as a function of water quality.

As rules regarding home use are difficult to enforce, much of the emphasis will be placed on educating consumers on proper application rates, sufficient barriers from runoff into water bodies and other methods to reduce impact, such as cleaning up fertilized grass clippings before they are able to wash into storm drains.

Additionally, this issue is especially important to address quickly locally, as recent studies have pointed to this as the single largest contributor to nutrient loading in the Wekiva Basin.

It is important that we address this issue before homeowners are potentially forced to purchase costly onsite wastewater systems to achieve the same goal of improving and maintaining our quality of water.

If you have questions or comments on the Consumer Fertilizer Task Force or on other ways we can improve the health of our water bodies, please contact my district office at 407-880-4414.

Let Your Voice Be Heard — Be Part of the Solution!

Attend the December 17, 2007, Public Workshop for the CONSUMER FERTILIZER TASK FORCE. (To be held in Apopka – as the final meeting with public comments before final recommendations are adopted and scheduled to be presented to the Florida Legislature on January 15, 2008.)

For more information, contact Florida State Representative Bryan Nelson, District 38, Apopka at 407.880.4414

Or access details of the Florida Legislature's efforts to reduce the negative impact of fertilizer throughout Florida at <http://consensus/fsu/edu/fertilizer-task-force/schedule.html>.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Thursday
November 15, 2007
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Regular cost \$125
BLPA Special
\$75.00 for One Barrel and Supplies



Come out and create your very own Rain Barrel

Rain Barrels are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff and conserve water! During the workshop we will give tips for installation, maintenance and construct your rain barrel. Additional workshop for decoration will be available.

Pre-Registration required, Limit 15 people

Contact: Judy Ihrig, 407-292-4632 or email atvc@bellsouth.net

“Why take from the lake what you can get from the sky?”

Rain Barrel Work Shop November 15th

Customer Information (Please Print)

Name: _____

Street: _____

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Payment:

Check enclosed (made payable to ATVC Marketing)

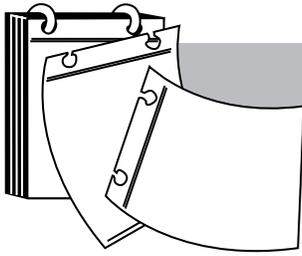
Credit Card (fill in information below) No debit card please

Credit card: (circle one) Discover, Visa or Mastercard

Credit number _____ Expiration: _____

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BLPA March General Meeting

*November 13, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church*

*Door prize drawing for paid members:
gift certificate to Positano's*

*Guest Speakers:
Bear Lake resident since 1960 and
Organic Gardening enthusiast Bernie Moro*

Tim Egan, Lake Manager for City of Winter Park

Bear Lake Preservation Association Honored by University of Florida

In recognition of the financial support to the University of Florida during the past fiscal year (ending June 30, 2007), we are proud to list your name in our annual Honor Roll of Donors. This year's honor roll will appear on the UF Foundation's website at www.uff.ufl.edu/HonorRoll on September 28, 2007.

Your name in the honor roll speaks highly of your commitment to the University of Florida and your bond with The Gator Nation. You can take great pride in being among the community of Gator alumni, parents and friends who

contributed so generously. The leadership and support expressed in your giving allow this University to prosper as a world-class teaching and research institution, transforming the great ideas of today into the realities of tomorrow.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Florida, it is a pleasure to say "thank you" for your support! We deeply appreciate your investment in UF and the *Florida Tomorrow* capital campaign.

Thank you BLPA for your contribution to the new LAKEWATCH building.



Bob Parigian

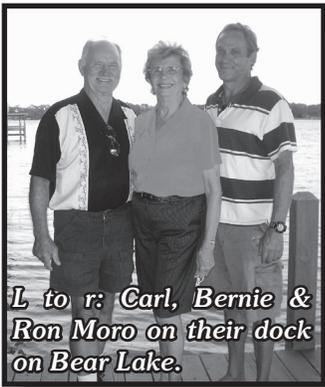
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**Check out www.blpa.net for the latest updates
on the Bear Lake Preservation Association!**

Couple Turns Organic to Save the Environment



L to r: Carl, Bernie & Ron Moro on their dock on Bear Lake.

Our history and special interest of the Bear Lake Area began in September 1960—47 years ago. Carl and I bought the display home in the Asher subdivision on the corner of Craig Drive and Bear Lake Road. First introduction to Big Bear Lake was working with the residents of the Asher subdivision — cleaning up our lake access area which was next to Florida Power Club House. February 1961, we purchased our lakefront property at 3169 Cecelia Dr., from Nicholas Pucci. At that time,

he also advised us that the lot to our right would always remain vacant as an access to the lake for Paradise Point residents.

From 1961 to 1966, we spent our weekends playing on the lake, clearing the lot and dreaming about our future home overlooking this awesome view. In that time, the property to our left became available. It was a duplex owned by the Jackman's. Telling our neighbors on Craig Drive, the Herrington Family, about its availability, they bought it and remodeled it to be their home. What a compliment it was to us Moro's, that this family still wanted to be next door to our family with nine children.

Living on the lake was "exciting times" for our family. It was a gathering place for our children and their friends. The lake was always so clean. We never worried about our children getting sick from our lake waters. In fact, each year water samples were taken to Sanford to be analyzed. We would always celebrate the results "99 and 99/100%

pure." We always said that our lake water was good enough to drink — and our children along with their friends gulped plenty of it. It was the clearest and cleanest lake in Seminole County. Another reason that this was so celebrated was that the summer cottages and vacation homes, used only the lake water for all their purposes, including drinking water. When we purchased our property in 1961, there were many of these homes scattered around the shores of Big Bear Lake. What memories this lake holds for so many. This was the summer get-a-way for many residents in the Orlando Area. Beggs Store was the neighborhood grocery store. You could get to it by land, Bear Lake Road, or by water as it was on the lakefront.

One of the reasons Big Bear was so clear and clean is that it is a springfed lake that flows into Little Bear Lake, that flows into Cub Lake, that flows into the Wekiva Water District, that flows into the St. John's River and ultimately into the ocean. We certainly had no stagnant water. Our lake was very much a healthy living body of water.

In asking our children, "What do you really treasure as lake memories?" Ron said, "taking the inner tube out to the middle of the lake and looking down and seeing objects 20 feet below or even at the bottom and diving to retrieve them." Now he says that sadly, the visibility is only 7 feet due to the pollutants. We are told that this is from the chemical fertilizers used on the watershed area and other manmade problems.

Some of our other children have fond memories of all the sailing experiences and the canoeing lessons that Carl gave to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The floating dock was always a favorite where they challenged each other as "king of the mountain." Fishing from the dock and feeding the fish were also high on their memory list and, of course, learning to water ski

Continued on page 9



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 Little and Big Bear lakes:

Active Listings

9730 Bear Lake Road.....	\$2,486,000
6103 Linneal Beach Drive	\$2,295,000
6259 Linneal Beach Drive	\$1,500,000
6165 Linneal Beach Drive	\$1,392,000
3121 Cecelia Drive	\$1,300,000
6007 Linneal Beach Drive	\$899,900
6500 Bear Lake Circle	\$850,000
9410 Bear Lake Road.....	\$998,900
5802 Bear Lake Circle	\$695,000
9910 Bear Lake Road.....	\$600,000
9916 Bear Lake Road.....	\$600,000
9914 Bear Lake Road.....	\$600,000

Interest rates are down...what a great opportunity to own Bear Lake property.



Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

Rainfall Versus Water Clarity

The following Lakewatch data covers the last 10 months. Clarity level is the average of four locations on Big Bear Lake and three locations on Little Bear Lake and Cub Lake. Lake levels determined by surveyed elevation markers set on the lakes by Seminole County.

Conversion from the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) was completed in Seminole county February 19, 2007.

The conversion factor is —1.031. The Bear Lakes' gauges were re-surveyed by the County in February 2007.

Bear Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	12/06	4"	8'	103.7-1/2
	1/07	4-1/2"	10-1/2'	103.8
	2/07	4-3/4"	12-1/2'	102.8
	3/07	7/8"	9'	102.5-1/2
	4/07	1-1/8"	8'	102.4
	5/07	3-1/8"	7'	101.9-1/2
	6/07	5-7/8"	8'	102
	7/07	9-3/8"	7-1/2'	102.5
	8/07	4-3/4"	8'	102.5
9/07	11-9/8"	8'	103-1/2	

Little Bear Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	12/06	4"	8'	103.8
	1/07	4-1/2"	—	—
	2/07	4-3/4"	8-1/2'	103.7
	3/07	7/8"	6'	103.3
	4/07	1-1/8"	7'	103
	5/07	3-1/8"	6-1/2'	102.7
	6/07	5-7/8"	8'	102.74
	7/07	9-3/8"	5'	103.43
	8/07	4-3/4"	5'	103.24
9/07	11-9/8"	5'	103.8	

Cub Lake	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Clarity Level</u>	<u>Water Level (Above Sea Level)</u>
	12/06	4"	11'	101.1
	1/07	4-1/2"	12'	101.1
	2/07	4-3/4"	10'	101
	3/07	7/8"	10'	100
	4/07	1-1/8"	9'	100
	5/07	3-1/8"	10'	99.5
	6/07	5-7/8"	10'	99.6
	7/07	9-3/8"	11'	100.1
	8/07	4-3/4"	10'	100.1
9/07	11-9/8"	9'	101.8	

Is This Your First Newsletter? GIS Technology Used to Update BLPA Mailing List



The watershed and lakefront mailing lists were updated and reviewed with our current member listing by Nancy Dunn, Pam Ison and Holly Gosney.

Thanks to the assistance of the Seminole County Geographic Information System (GIS) staff, the BLPA has an

updated newsletter mailing list. GIS is a computerized mapping system, which maintains several categories of information based on areas, properties, or "places on the earth." It is data shared worldwide from planning agencies, utilities, census, to property appraisal information.

The Bear Lakes Watershed areas, based on our hydraulic engineering study, outlined the area of residents who will receive newsletters. Lakefront residents and BLPA members receive four newsletters per year, while the watershed residents, that is all properties which, after a rainfall, flush fertilizers, oils, and pollutants into the Bear Lakes, receive one newsletter per year. If you received this newsletter, you are a vital part of what happens to the lake water quality of your area lakes, which directly affects your property values.

"KEEP IT CLEAN OR YOUR LAKES WILL TURN GREEN!"

If you have a question or changes to the mailing list, please contact www.blpa.net.

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Tues. - Saturday

Couple Turns Organic to Save the Environment

Continued from page 6

and perfecting those skills.

Ron, along with three of his classmates, when he was a Junior at Lyman High School, did a book report on "Mutiny on the Bounty." Scenery and props were, of course, the lake, the Big Day Sail Boat, a dinghy, and the neighborhood kids as the cast. No videos as yet, so it was filmed by 8mm camera and then script was recorded separately. It was a hit at Lyman. They were asked to show it at every class.

In 1983, Carl and I moved to our farm on Plymouth Sorrento Road and Ron became the owner of our home-stand. The family still gathers there to play, fellowship and share memories. Our grandchildren love the lake as did their parents. But the lake is not as clear as it used to be and that saddens us. The lake was so beautiful with all of its natural surroundings — so clear, so clean, and so safe.

We always had appreciated that there was NO public access ramp and that our precious lake was to be for the benefit of the residents. It truly is and was a privilege to live on Big Bear Lake. As we all know, along with "privilege" comes "responsibility." Times have changed and we need to re-program our thinking. We now know that chemicals are harmful not just for humans and pets but also for our total environment. We need to be "good stewards" of our piece of creation so it can be enjoyed by future generations. We all need to get back to basics.

You all are really blessed. Living on the lake or having lake access is truly a privilege and a way of life to be treasured.

Continue building your sweet memories in the Bear Lake area and search for ways to keep all of this beauty as natural as possible so it too can be enjoyed for generations to come. Now to fast forward from the memories of the past to the realities of the present. In 2001, Carl and I, began to look into the study of vermiculture. We found that Australia was about 12 years more advanced than we are here in the United States. That country was able to reduce down the amount of organic waste going to their landfills by 65% over a four year period — from 1996 to 2000. This was accomplished by the households and businesses having worm composters.

One household with a worm composter can divert approximately 600 pounds of organic waste from going to the landfill per year. When you multiply that out by the number of households in a city or even a subdivision, that is a lot of garbage that is not contaminating our environment. The worms go to work and turn that garbage into plant food that is natural and safe. Carl and I were excited about the prospect of doing something to clean up our environment as well as addressing health issues that were direct results from the use of chemicals. We contacted a 25 year vermiculturist, who also holds international patents on commercial worm

digesters, along with his wife, who is a doctor of microbiology, and asked if they would take us under their wing and tutor us. They agreed and gave us a list of books that we needed to study before going over for our training.

In September 2002, we had completed our studies and went over to Australia for three weeks where we were given hands-on training. We traveled about 3000 miles visiting various sites furthering our learning. When we came back to the States, we were so excited, because not only did they show us the effects of simple worm composting but adding a feed supplement, 77 different trace elements and minerals were made available in the worm castings (often called "Black Gold"). We were also taught how to extract the Vermi-Liquid that could be used instead of a chemical insecticide and fungicide having live microbes. We are excited about all the natural processes because we have children and grandchildren and we do want them to have a healthy and safe environment in which to live. When we were using chemicals in the past, we did not realize the adverse effects they would have on our health and on our environment. Now that we know, we feel we need to do something to correct what we were a part of. So we have taken the steps to try to share the knowledge that we have received.

Many have told us that they wanted to do something to help the environment but really did not know where to start. "Going Green" — you read that in your newspapers and hear it on TV. It is necessary that we change our habits and think more about the future if our children and grandchildren will have quality life styles as we have been so blessed to enjoy. Maybe you really have not thought too much about it but should you have any questions, please give us a call at 407-814-9218 or come and visit us at our farm at 6919 Plymouth Sorrento Rd, Apopka.

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stewards of
our piece of
creation
so it can be
enjoyed by
future
generations.***

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What's Being Put on Your Lawn?

Watershed residents, please fill in the blanks then give this agreement to your lawncare company/gardener/landscaper/husband/wife.

When using a lawn care service, whether existing or a new company, please add the following directions to the agreement and insist on mandatory compliance from the company.

Lawn Service Contractual Agreement

You are custodian of a property within the watershed of a uniquely clean, clear, swimmable lake. Fertilizer is the number one enemy of the lakes and is causing damage. The priority must be clear, clean water rather than greener grass.

1. Fertilize minimally. Use only no phosphorous fertilizer.
2. Never apply fertilizer within 15 feet of the lake high water level. Note: This could be 30 feet or more from the lake edge during low water conditions.
3. Never fertilize in ditches, swales, between houses, on steep grades, or in areas that flow during rain events.
4. If soil test indicates a need for phosphorous then use a liquid application.
5. Insist that granular fertilizer is not permitted.

I/we agree to abide by the above requirements.

Homeowner Signature: _____ Date: _____

Lawn Care Service Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contact: Bill Houston (407-721-0219), Brian Allen (407-580-6979) or Bob Heidman (407-865-3333).

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.

NOTE: BLPA annual dues have been increased for the first time in 15 years, covering printing and postage costs.

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: _____

Email: _____

Please mail this form to the above address with your check for \$75.00; senior citizens, \$35.00. Please make your checks payable to Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc.

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



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St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:00 am

Holy Grounds Contemporary Service: 9:30 - 10:00 am

Calendar of Events

November 13... General Membership Meeting
 7:30 p.m.
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

December 8 Boat Parade & Party
 (rain date: December 9)

January 15 Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 TBA

March 18 General Meeting (Elections)
 7:30 p.m.
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

For committee meeting dates, please contact one of the Board members. The Ecology Committee meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

www.blpa.net



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