

## The Right Side of Hurricane Irma was the Wrong Side



The higher winds on the right side of Hurricane Irma brought significant damage to Central Florida, including the Bear Lake community. The high winds brought down trees and power lines, and the heavy rains caused historical flooding. Most residents in our area were without power and water for a week or more.

Tropical storms and hurricanes can cause flooding, not just along a coastline but far inland. Seminole County is on a peninsula between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, and because of low lying areas, there is always a threat of flooding. Wide spread flooding is caused by slow moving tropical storms or multiple storm systems over a relatively short while. Some of the largest bodies of water that contribute to flooding in Seminole County include Bear Lake, and others, flowing to the Wekiwa River, and St. Johns River. The greatest threat is with an unusually wet rainy season causing high water tables, saturated soils, and then a tropical system.

The St. Johns River is 310 miles long and widest point is nearly 3 miles across. The river borders twelve counties, including Seminole County. It is described as a "lazy" North flowing river with a 0.3 mph flow rate. The drainage basin of the St. Johns River is 8,840 square miles, which includes major wetlands. It is separated into three major basins and two associated watersheds. The St. Johns River water levels are slow to recede in the river's basin, causing flooding in roads and structures along the river and its tributaries.

When heavy rains come, the water must go somewhere. If any means of drainage are blocked, it will contribute greatly to flooding. If your property is adjacent to a drainage ditch, please aid the Bear Lake Community and Seminole County by keeping the banks clear of brush and debris. Seminole County has a program which can help to remove major blockages such as downed trees. Dumping in ditches is prohibited as stated in the County's Storm Water Management Ordinance. We should all do our part to help keep our flood plain and flood plain waters free of contaminants such as oil, paint anti-freeze and pesticides. These chemicals pollute the wetland, flood plain, and aquifer waters, decreasing the water quality that local wildlife depends upon for their habitat.

To report someone dumping trash in the canals, storm drainage system or drainage ditch, or to request needed maintenance of drainage facilities, please contact the Department of Public Works/ Roads and



Storm water Division 407-665-ROAD (7623). You can review flood zone map information at <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/gm/building/flood/hazardareas.aspx> calling the Seminole County Flood information line at 407-665-7335 or by visiting the Seminole County Building & Zoning Division at the County Services Building.

## Temporary Barrier Fence Around Bear Lake Drain



On October 4, 2017, a temporary barrier fence was installed around Bear Lake drain by Seminole County to block the eelgrass from clogging the drain/pipe. The barrier fence also worked well to lower the lake level prior to Hurricane Matthew. It allows the water to smoothly flow out and relieve the interruption and surging of water movement to the other lakes. Prior to its installation, BLPA retained the services of Zana with Scenic Aquascaping to remove and haul 5 truckloads of thick matted eelgrass. Just before the storm, the fencing was removed by the County to avoid collapse from pressure of winds, wake, and high waters. This did not happen with Irma. This happened with Matthew. With Irma, the County waited to install the temporary fence after Irma when BLPA called and requested the draw-down assistance. Seminole County continues to monitor the Bear Lake drain and the flow out to the Little Wekiwa River.

Eradicating loads of eelgrass off of Bear Lake drain and onto the shoreline is a never-ending task. BLPA would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted in monitoring and manual labor of removing piles of eelgrass that floated into the drain area prior to and after Hurricane Irma.

# ALERT! BLPA Continues to Recommend to Its Residents No Wake on All the Bear Lakes!



It didn't take long for the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) residents to realize the dangers or remnants of Hurricane

Irma that still may lurk underneath the lake's surface. Tim Clifford took the picture shown here of a large cut tree floating near his property. Other residents have reported pieces of wood from windblown docks floating in the water. Some of this debris might still be impossible to spot by recreational boaters. BLPA asks residents to refrain from operating any water vessel that causes a wake because:

1. Recreational boating is unsafe until resident's can clear floating debris from trees, docks and items blown into the lakes.
2. Docks were pushed up off their structures during Hurricane Irma and some have only recently lifted from its structures.
3. Septic tanks/drain fields are challenged from the saturated grounds water left over from Hurricane Irma,

and the wet summer months. Any wake washing onto the shorelines or over seawalls will easily erode the soil into the lake.

4. The Bear Lakes are in "Tributary D," and are a significant tributary to the St. Johns River. The St. John's River is still rising and under a mandatory NO WAKE Order. Normal flow out to these waters will be slow until the river returns to normal levels.
5. Seminole County temporarily removed the carp barrier at Bear Lake's drain, and replaced it with temporary fencing so the water will drain to Cub Lake without interruption from clogging eelgrass. The temporary fencing is not designed to withstand heavy wakes.

The County is monitoring the drains daily and BLPA will continue to keep its residents informed. Meanwhile, enjoy the lakes with paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, electric motoring, and using idle speeds. Damage to property can be caused by making the smallest of wakes by any sized motorized vessel. Please consider your community by following BLPA's recommendation of NO WAKE ON ALL THE BEAR LAKES.

## Drain Standing Water!

Seminole County Mosquito Control conducts routine inspections and treats areas as needed based on weekly routes. The County promotes cooperation and communication with property owners, residents, and other government agencies to help in these efforts. Look around your property:

- **DRAIN:** Garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.
- **DISCARD:** Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- **EMPTY AND CLEAN:** Birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- **PROTECT:** Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- **MAINTAIN:** The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.
- **COVER YOUR SKIN -- CLOTHING:** If you must be outside when mosquitoes are

active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

- **REPELLENT:** Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.
- **COVER DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH SCREENS:** Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios. Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home and the BLPA Neighborhood. Protect yourself and neighbors from mosquito bites and the diseases they carry: Zika, Chikungunya, West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Dengue. For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses, visit the Department of Health's Environmental Health website at Seminole.floridahealth.gov or call 407-665-3000.

For more information contact Seminole County's Mosquito Control Customer Service is 407-665-5542 or mosquito@seminolecountyfl.gov. The Bear Lake area is in Zone 7B.



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

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# Hurricane Irma's Effects on the Bear Lakes *Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher*





# Hurricane Irma's Effects on the Bear Lakes *Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Asher*



# LAKEWATCH and Rainfall Data for the Bear Lakes

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	7/17	15.75"	7'	104.29
8/17	10.78"	9'	104.05	
9/17	13"	7'	104.8	
10/17	9.75"	8'	103.9	

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	7/17	15.75"	9'	104
8/17	10.78"	9'	104.14	
9/17	13"	7.5'	104.6	
10/17	9.75"	7'	103.86	

Cub Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	7/17	15.75"	9'	101.8
8/17	10.78"	8'	100.9	
9/17	13"	8'	102.2	
10/17	9.75"	9'	100.8	

Note: \*Rain data in this chart reflects the rain amounts collected during the time period from the last month's LAKEWATCH data collection date to the next month's data collection date, and not for the month itself.



1000 Wekiva Springs Road  
Longwood, FL 32779



- ◆ Homeowners
- ◆ Auto
- ◆ Life
- ◆ Personal Umbrella
- ◆ Rental Dwelling
- ◆ Boat
- ◆ RV
- ◆ Motorcycle
- ◆ Renters
- ◆ Flood
- ◆ Business
- ◆ Health



*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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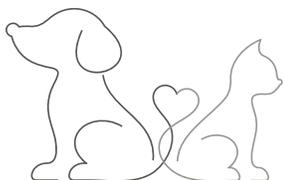
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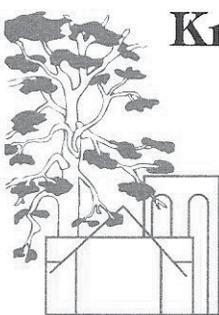

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# 600 Carp Join the Bear Lake Eelgrass Battle

by Gene Lindsey

On March 31, 2017, JM Malone & Sons of Arkansas unloaded four tanks of their best 12+ inch Triploid Grass Carp into Bear Lake to cap seven months of application filing and argumentative discussions with Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC).

After getting a carp permit and stocking Bear Lake with 3,100 Grass Carp in 2009 and 2010 to deal with the hydrilla crisis, I regularly read Seminole County lake vegetation surveys to monitor their effectiveness. As soon as the carp consumed the hydrilla, a huge field of Vallisneria Americana (eelgrass) was revealed on the lake bottom. While beneficial in small quantities, the eelgrass was a new scourge to swimmers and boaters. Fortunately, although the carp favor other types of vegetation, they also fed on the eelgrass and broke parts loose from the main plant mass. By the fall of 2015 they removed about 75 acres of eelgrass and yet 40 percent of the lake (about 124 acres) was still covered with eelgrass. But, Grass Carp have a 30 percent mortality rate and are effective up to five years. As they grew older and devoured weeds, they were eaten by predators, succumbed to diseases, got caught by fishermen and were otherwise lost from the battle.

During September 2016, while read-

ing the County's lake vegetation reports about the rates of eelgrass removal and calculating carp mortality rates, it became apparent that the carp would not last long enough to clean the lake to the degree desired. After meeting with Jay Goebel, Bill Houston and Nancy Dunn, it was agreed that Bear Lake needed at least 600 more carp to finish the eelgrass elimination and another 400 to be held in reserve stocked in two separate batches as needed. However, we were unaware FWC had severely restricted issuance of carp permits because of major harmful incidents of unsterilized carp escaping captivity.

The application to amend the carp permit submitted in October 2016 was rejected as it lacked many pages of data already available at FWC. After resubmitting it with much more data, I was told in December by the FWC regional biologist she would allow no more carp into Bear Lake. However, we did not take no for an answer. Thankfully, we got what we had asked for and the active new carp are eating eelgrass.



(Bear, Little Bear, Cub, and Lake Asher)

## BLPA 2018 DONATION FORM/ CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

Please make your check payable to "BLPA":

\$85.00.....Requested Donation-BLPA Contributor

\$50.00.....Requested Donation - BLPA Senior (62+)

Please mail this form and your payment to BLPA, PO Box 162605, Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-2605

You can easily contribute or make donations online by using a credit card, your checking account, or PayPal, just go to [www.blpa.net](http://www.blpa.net) and click DONATE!

PLEASE CHECK:  New Contributor(s)  Current Contributor(s)  Change of Contributor(s) Contact Information

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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.

# Real Estate Watch

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



All prayers and good wishes to all those who experienced damage during the intense hurricane we had.

### Active Listings

3010 Holliday Ave.....\$725,000

### Pending Sales

9502 Bear Lake Rd.....\$440,000

3101 Cecelia Dr.....\$2,499,000

### Sold Listings

1322 Palm Dr.....\$849,000

6143 Linneal Beach Dr.....\$980,000

6091 Linneal Beach Dr.....\$1,590,000



PO Box 162605  
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## BLPA UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE-THE-DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

You are Cordially Invited to Join the  
**BEAR LAKE  
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION  
Pot Luck Dinner**

Thursday, November 16, 2017 • 6:00 pm  
Enter to win in the "Best Dessert Contest"

We have invited:

Sergeant Chris Stronko  
and

Lieutenant Pete Kelting  
Seminole County Sheriff's

Range and Water Contacts for the Bear Lakes

### Annual Holiday Boat Parade

Saturday, December 9, 2017  
AT DUSK

Boats will move clockwise around Bear Lake  
\$50 PRIZE TO THE BEST DECORATED BOAT  
\$25 RUNNER UP BOAT  
\$50 Prize TO THE BEST BACKYARD/DOCK

## Pot Luck Appreciation Dinner

The Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) would like to thank you for your donations and volunteer hours to the Bear Lake Community. YOU became a part of a movement to help preserve our beautiful Bear Lakes, and we are honored you are a part of this great non-profit organization.

Please join the Bear Lake Preservation Association (BLPA) on Thursday, November 16, 2017, at 6:00 pm, for a Pot Luck Dinner! The Pot Luck will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Saint Andrews Church, 9913 Bear Lake Road, Apopka, Florida 32703. Plan to bring your entire family and enjoy great food. We encourage you to also invite a neighbor and meet others in the Bear Lake Community.

BLPA will be providing all the Bar-B-Q chicken, beef, and pulled pork. BLPA will also provide beverages. If you can plan to bring a side dish or dessert for the Pot Luck dinner, it would be greatly appreciated. Don't forget those serving spoons with your dish!

"Best Dessert Contest" for all you bakers — bring your family's favorite dessert

to be judged and a win a prize for the best dessert!

RSVP by Thursday, November 9th! To RSVP, please send your text message to Catherine Heideman at 407-538-1097 or email: [cwjclafin@hotmail.com](mailto:cwjclafin@hotmail.com). Please let Catherine know what you are bringing and how many in your party will be attending.

BLPA has invited Range and Water Contacts Sergeant Chris Stronko and Lieutenant Pete Kelting from Seminole County Sheriff's Department to join us for this event.

The Fellowship Hall at Saint Andrews Church is where we have most of the BLPA General Meetings. Because of you, we have always been able to fulfill our mission in protecting all the Bear Lakes (Asher, Bear, Little Bear, and Cub). We are looking forward to many more years of support and hope to see you at the Pot Luck Celebration on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm for great conversation, food, and fun!!