



Florida

LAKEWATCH

Volume III

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The following is submitted by Sam Dower, Sr. who is a LAKEWATCH sampler on the Alligator Lakes chain in Osceola County. Mr. Dower writes about the recently-formed Osceola County Lake Management Advisory Committee of which he is a founding member and Chairman.

Osceola County has 877 lakes covering 15% of its area. A number of agencies take a piecemeal approach to Lake Management, but there has been need for one voice to speak for them. In July 1991, I successfully petitioned the Osceola County Commissioners to set up a permanent lake Management Advisory Committee. We agreed on fifteen members with two year terms, and the understanding that each have a clear and proximate interest in the lakes. In addition to lakefront homeowners, members are agricultural and grove people (who are on lakes), marine equipment retailers, boating enthusiasts, fishermen and a drainage engineer. Even with the diversity of backgrounds, it has been remarkably easy to reach consensus on our objectives.

The lakes in Osceola County are largely under-used, so the current hiatus in development will give the Committee an opportunity to see what management

THANK YOU...

In 1991, the Florida legislature passed bills which resulted in the creation of the Florida LAKEWATCH Program. The Senate Bill was originated by Senator George Kirkpatrick and was also sponsored by Senator Tom Brown. The House Bill was originated by Representative Robert Sindler and co-sponsored by Representatives John Renke, Scott Clements, Bruce McEwan, Sam Mitchell, Chuck Smith, and Dan Webster. Representative Bert Harris was especially helpful in gaining passage of the LAKEWATCH Bill. The Florida LAKEWATCH Program thanks these legislators and all others for their advocacy and continued support.

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practices are necessary before the next wave of construction. After our organizational meeting, we invited representatives of every entity interested in Lake Management in Osceola County to appear with a short statement of their mission, and how they felt that we could work together. The Lake Management proposition was new to all of us, so the Committee was able to start with a blank sheet of paper. From the nucleus of our original proposal, we enlarged and refined our

agenda, priorities, and the definition of our mission. We presented this to the Commissioners at a joint meeting, and after receiving their blessing, started to more sharply define agenda items, method of approach, and assign tasks. The size of the Committee makes it possible for subcommittees to proceed simultaneously on a number of items.

Agenda items and priorities are presently as follows:

1. **INVENTORY** -- Of the 877 lakes, only 26 are named public lakes, so we will concentrate on them, deciding on the parameters of information necessary, gather, and entering it into computer records.
2. **EDUCATION** -- Our primary goal is to educate both the Committee and the public into the proper care and treatment of our lakes. As a textbook, we gave the Commissioner and members copies of EPA's "Lake and Reservoir Restoration Guidance Manual." We will use various forms of publicity, handouts, videos, etc. to raise public awareness of the value of our lakes.
3. **HOMEOWNERS' GROUPS** -- Encourage the formation of waterfront Homeowner Associations. It is easy to disseminate information to groups, and furthermore, such groups

have a great ability to be self-policing in matters of lake management.

4. **BOAT LAUNCH FACILITIES** -- Review the existing sites, and recommend additional sites for current use, and sites to be reserved from non-residential land for future use.

5. **LAKEWATCH** -- Sponsor the LAKEWATCH water sampling program for the public lakes.

6. **GRANTS** -- Investigate sources for grants, both outright and on a participation basis.

7. **WEED CONTROL** -- Identify problem lakes and finger canals. Working in co-operation with other agencies find most dollar-effective means of eradication.

8. **STORM WATER RUNOFF** -- Identify existing sources of pollution particularly from sub-division streets. Verify by water samplings the extent of pollution and recommend sites for possible retrofit. Monitor new construction to avoid this.

9. **LIBRARY AND DATA BANK** -- All data to be kept on computer. Library of Lake Management literature to be available through computer filing system. Maintain lists of free publications available to the public.

10. **PUBLICITY** -- Mount a strong campaign to raise awareness of the value to our lakes, and make Management a positive expression.

Some of these objectives may be quickly and easily reached, while others may take years, but if the public is kept aware of each step as it occurs, the cumulative value of the program will be invaluable.

FOLLOWING TURTLES

In response to the LAKEWATCH turtle alert in which dead turtles were reported by LAKEWATCHers on nine lakes to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. Kenneth Dodd, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, reported that he personally observed turtles fatally mired in the "pudding-like" mud surrounding the perimeter of receding lakes. In fact, Dr. Dodd spent a harrowing half and hour struggling out of the mud himself in an effort to save one.

A LAKEWATCHer on Long Pond in Putnam County reported seeing a large quantity of tiny styrofoam bits in the lake at the same time he found dead turtles. Dr. Dodd said the ingestion of styrofoam could be the culprit on that particular lake, but other lakes reporting deaths had observed no styrofoam.

On Lake Chipco in Putnam County, deformed turtle skeletons were retrieved by Dodd and may furnish a clue. Dr. Elliot Jacobson, a veterinarian specializing in reptiles, examined them and reported that the calcifications were similar to formations found on turtles in Georgia which were infested with a parasite that blocked blood vessels and caused irregularities in calcium deposit rates. Unfortunately, most of the remains recovered by Dr. Dodd were merely shells and skeletons, so definitive answers to the dead turtle mystery have yet to be found. He added that if he could find a live deformed turtle, he could check it for parasites. If anyone spots a deformed turtle and can catch it easily, please put it in a bucket in the shade and call Dr. Kenneth Dodd at 904-372-2571.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Gwynne Kirkman of Avon Park who samples on Little Redwater Lake in Highlands County.

A beautiful sunny day turned into a Northerly windy witch the last time I tried to take water samples on my lake. With sample bottles and Secchi disc tucked snugly in my sample box I headed for my stations. As I cruised, the wind increased and blew the lid from the sample box. I was swinging the boat around to retrieve the lid when the motor stalled. I did not have an electric starter and before I could get the motor going again, the boat had been blown into the weeds. My prop became hopelessly entangled in vegetation so thick it was a boater's nightmare.

I tried to disengage, but I could only pull or push to about the edge of the grasses and get no further. The wind kept blowing me back into the weeds. It was like being caught in quicksand! I was marooned. The wind was blowing waves over the gunwale at times, and it was starting to rain.

After a frustrating hour and a half of fighting the wind, waves, and weeds, I decided to try to get help from other boaters on the lake. I even sat with a paddle held straight up in the air hoping the boaters would know what it means! HELP! I yelled into the wind. No heads turned. HELP!

At the top of my lungs. HELP! Against the wind, my voice wasn't strong enough.

The boats never responded to me, but after a while a man on the nearest shore was standing observing my plight. After some good questions on his part and some bad answers on my part,

Stranded, continued.

the gentleman waded into the lake. With water up to his chin, he made his way to the boat. He cleaned the weeds out of the prop and then held the boat clear of the weeds while I pull started the motor.

His plan worked beautifully. As I headed for home, I called my everlasting thanks to my rescuer. I was never so glad to see my home dock!

This letter is reprinted to emphasize that safety should always be your first consideration when you are taking LAKEWATCH samples. If weather conditions are threatening, do not venture out into your lake. Please do not take any chances.

TIDBITS

Mystery Bottles. Many months ago the LAKEWATCH laboratory in Gainesville received a bag containing two frozen sample bottles. One was labeled "parking lot," and the other was labeled "ditch." Can anyone tell us when and where these samples were taken?

Sample Chow Mein. A LAKEWATCH volunteer found he did not have bottles when he went to do his sampling, so he substituted Chinese food takeout containers. Fortune cookie say, "Sorry, no can do."

No substitute containers can be used. The sample bottles furnished are acid-washed and rinsed with de-ionized water to prevent contamination. If you run out, please either restock from a nearby Collection Center or, call LAKEWATCH at 904-392-9613 and leave a message specifying what is needed and where to send it. It is better to

delay sampling than to use improper containers. Also, do not request supplies by putting a note on a data sheet, because it may be too long before that sheet arrives in Gainesville.

Pooped Pumps. Occasionally, the hand vacuum pumps volunteers use to filter their water samples may break. Most Collection Centers are stocked with replacement pumps. Alternatively, a replacement can be mailed out from the Gainesville LAKEWATCH office. Please return the broken pump when samples are turned in.

Volunteers Egged On. Steve and Lorraine Klein missed collecting samples from Lake Mary/Marion in June because wrens built a nest in their sampling equipment. Eggs hatched and chicks flew off on their own in time for the July sampling.

Aero Bears. The residents of Bear Lake in Seminole County were upset by the runoff from two illegal ditches into the lake. To document their case, they flew over in an ultralight and took excellent aerial photographs of the sediment deltas forming in the lake. The photos were then used to require enforcement of proper permitting and lake protection procedures.

Bud Leads the Pack. Gerre Jaillet cleaned the cans off the bottom of Lake Ola in Orange County. He tabulated their composition and found 50% were Bud, 12% were Busch, 8% were Old Milwaukee Light, 8% were Miller Light, 7% were Old Milwaukee, and 6% were Pabst Blue Ribbon. There were also one or two cans each of various other beers, two Coke cans, and one can of sardines.

More Freezers for "Lake-Sickles." Two new LAKEWATCH Collection Centers have opened:

Orange County Cooperative Extension in Orlando
(contact Gloria Boward: 407-836-7570)

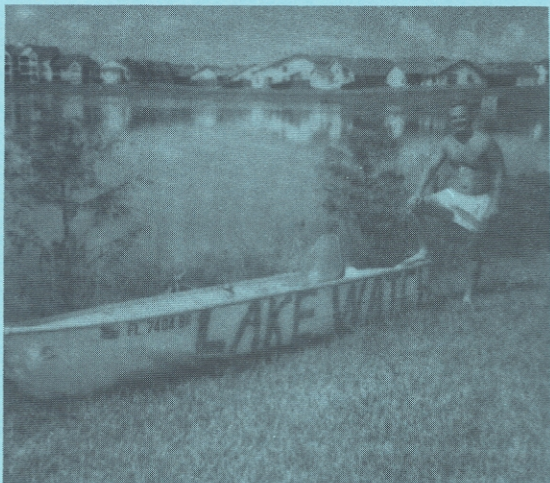
St. Johns River Water Management District Office in Palatka
(contact Rick Keller: 904-329-4500)

Both Centers are now set up to receive LAKEWATCH samples and replenish supplies. Beginning in October, all Collection Centers will have regularly scheduled days when samples will be shuttled to Gainesville; check to find out pickup dates for your Center.

Law-abiding Gators. The Alligator Lake Chain Homeowners Association, Inc. has printed a pamphlet which contains their Bylaws. It would be a useful reference for anyone interested in forming an association of their own. LAKEWATCH will send a copy on request.

Canfield Video Released In Time for Oscars. "What Makes a Quality Lake," a video by Dr. Daniel Canfield, Professor of Limnology at the University of Florida, is now available. It is an introduction to an environmental issue that concerns many Floridians -- the issue of lake eutrophication or the nutrient enrichment of lakes. The video can be borrowed free of charge or purchased by contacting the Information Office at the Center for Aquatic Plants at 904-392-1799.

KEEP THAT WATER COMING IN! BYE FOR NOW.



LAKEWATCH spirit is demonstrated by Denny Parlak on Metrowest in Orange County.



Steve Klein and the LAKEWATCH Wonder Dog Greta sample on Lake Mary in Marion County (Greta is not a certified sampler -- yet.)



On left, the first team to earn their hats as a group is from Pegram, Island, and Deerback Lakes in Marion County. Dr. Daniel Canfield, Director of Florida LAKEWATCH and Professor of Limnology at the university of Florida is shown seated second from left.



On left, Dan Willis, a LAKEWATCH biologist, samples plants.

On right, Sandy Fisher, LAKEWATCH Field Director, photographs equipment for new training booklet.

