

Along the WaterFront

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association, Inc.

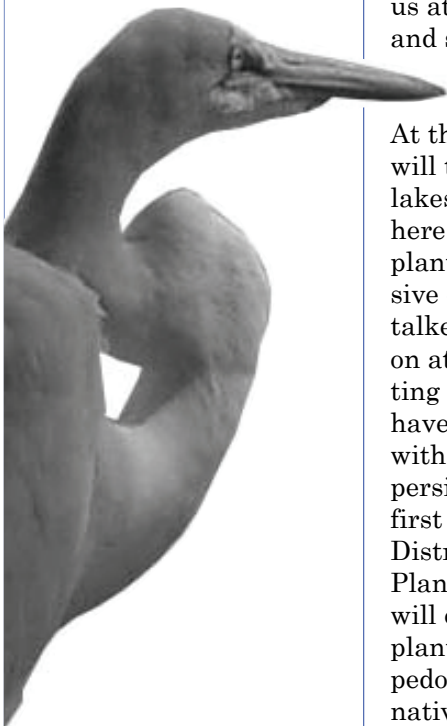
August 2011

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Lake Dwellers Meeting!

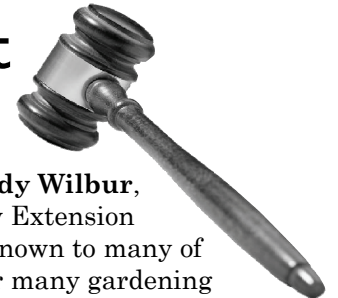
Friday, August 26th
7:00 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church,
On S.R. 26, Melrose



Newsletter contributors:

Jill McGuire
Terry Brant
Jim Reed
Wendy Wilbur

Letter from our President



Greetings Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association Members and Friends,

HOT, HOT, HOT, seems to pretty much sum up Summer 2011! But summer also brings lots of lakeside fun, as well as the **Annual Meeting of the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers**, when we convene for our yearly elections, share news of our area, and bring you informative programs which reflect current issues that have relevance to us as lake residents. Mark your calendars and plan to join us **Friday, August 26**, 7 - 9 PM at **Trinity Episcopal Parrish Hall** in Melrose. We know that most lake dwellers don't live in the immediate Melrose area, but we urge you to join us at our traditional meeting spot and support your lake organization. We need you all to be involved!

At this year's meeting our speakers will talk about the plants at our lakeside homes; the ones that arrive here on their own, and the ones we plant ourselves. The spread of invasive exotic plants is an issue we have talked about before, and concentrated on at past LakeFest events; it is getting worse every year. Many of us have noticed an escalating problem with one of the most aggressive and persistent exotics, torpedo grass. Our first speaker, **Ryan Hamm**, DEP's District Biologist in charge of Aquatic Plant Management and Permitting, will educate us about this problem plant and others, with samples of torpedo grass alongside some beneficial native grasses. Ryan will also explain about some methods to tackle this wicked grass, and let us know how to get a removal permit (it is easy and free!) through his department.

Our second speaker is **Wendy Wilbur**, Alachua County Extension Agent. She is known to many of you through her many gardening columns in the Gainesville Sun and through the Master Gardener's program which she runs for the county. Wendy has a wealth of information to share and is a great speaker. Please see a brief description of her talk elsewhere in this newsletter and come and learn from a pro!

As the last official month of summer winds down, we in Florida know that there is plenty of heat to come for us, along with the real heart of the hurricane season. Although we have had some rain to break the drought which spawned so many wildfires, with our own beleaguered Santa Fe Swamp again suffering a near total burn, we are still way below normal rainfall amounts; our lake levels are a most obvious reminder of that. But as bad as it may seem to us, our friends on many surrounding lakes are in far worse shape. At long last, the MFL Prevention/Recovery stakeholders group for some of these area lakes is finally getting underway (please see related article). SFLDA has been at the forefront in making this happen, and we will continue to take an active role in the process. The drawdowns in our aquifer and lakes are a complicated and long-term problem and there will be no simple solutions.

Please show your support for YOUR lake association by attending our Annual Meeting. **Your attendance** and renewed membership are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jill McGuire

Check Out the SFLDA Website

The Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association has its own informative website at www.lakesantafe.org. Please surf up the site for the latest news and events. Included are pages on Lake Santa Fe facts, Eco-tips for lake residents, and a list of commonly encountered flora and fauna. Also you can find contacts for permit applications and links to relevant agencies and organizations. Most importantly is a printable form for you to join or renew membership in SFLDA. Thank you for your contribution! Our website is being sponsored by Acuity Marketing Communications, Inc. who will also be upgrading our site for free. Among the new features will be a photo gallery for scenic lake images and SFLD events. More on this soon!

SFLDA sponsored publication of an informative booklet titled "Here Today, Here Tomorrow; the Lake Lovers Guide to the Santa Fe Lakes." Inside are details on the lake waters, wildlife, and natural and invasive vegetation, along with tips for living responsibly on these natural waters. The booklet will be available at our annual meeting on 26 August. Feel free to pick up an extra copy of the booklet for friends and neighbors new to the lake.

Recovery & MFL Meeting

Terry Brant

The Clay-Putnam **minimum flows and levels** prevention/recovery strategy development stakeholder group met at the St John's Water Management District headquarters in Palatka on Aug 11. The meeting focused on lakes Geneva, Brooklyn, Cowpen and Grandin.

Brooklyn, Cowpen, Geneva, and Grandin are not projected to meet their MFLs under 2030 water projections. Brooklyn, Cowpen, and Geneva, specifically, are not meeting their MFL under current water use demands, thus triggering "recovery". Grandin is projected to cross the "trigger" threshold in the future and so will be in "prevention" mode. These four lakes are part of the Prevention and Recovery strategy.

This ongoing series of meetings is designed to address the MFL's and the structure and function of the various stakeholder groups who will be participating in the determination of strategies designed to implement recovery of area lakes.

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association will have a technical committee seat along with other stakeholders such as agriculture, water utilities (JEA/GRU), recreation, environmental groups, homeowner associations and the City of Keystone Heights, among others. It is very important for your association to have representation because Suwannee River Water Management District, Lake Santa Fe, and our area are all directly affected by the decisions that are made by this group and both water management districts.

The dates and times of the future MFL strategy meetings will be posted on our website, www.lakesantafe.org. Public access is required for these meetings, so don't hesitate to attend if you are able.

Just a few of SFLDA Successes:

Led the fight to prevent Georgia Pacific from draining and mining the Santa Fe Swamp for its peat.

Halted plans for construction of a huge commercial development with high-rise boat storage, 100 overnight rental units, and a sewage treatment station.

Effected the removal of tons of illegal fill and the restoration of many acres of damaged wetlands in Santa Fe Pass and Gator Cove.

Worked with Melrose Bay Property Owners Assoc. and People for Alternatives to Landfills to prevent the construction of a landfill near Orange Heights.

Obtained a Florida Forever grant for the purchase of nearly 11 thousand acres of wetlands and uplands to protect the water and health of the entire Santa Fe Lake and watershed.

Educational outreach – published and disseminated the booklet, Here Today, Here Tomorrow, The Lake Lovers Guide to the Santa Fe Lakes.

Landscaping in "Real Florida"

Wendy Wilbur

Your landscaping choices impact the amazing lake that you live on. Let's keep the real feel of Florida by selecting the right plant for the right place, controlling exotic plants, and by choosing a low maintenance landscape that gives you more time and is healthier for the environment. Come to the Annual Meeting and learn about Florida Friendly landscaping and how it can keep your lake place more like the Real Florida.

LAKE DWELLERS MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Please check:

Membership renewal New Member

Membership category:

\$25 annual dues Additional contribution What I can contribute

My / Our Interests:

I would like to be actively involved Clean-Up Political Action
 Social Water Quality Board Member Newsletter Website

Please Print:

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ 2nd Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Lake Dwellers Annual Meeting!

Friday, August 26th
7:00 pm

Trinity Episcopal Church,
On S.R. 26, Melrose

Guest Speakers:

Ryan Hamm,
DEP District Biologist in charge of
Aquatic Plant Management

Wendy Wilbur,
Alachua County Extension Agent



**THE SANTA FE LAKE DWELLERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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