

Along the WaterFront

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association, Inc.

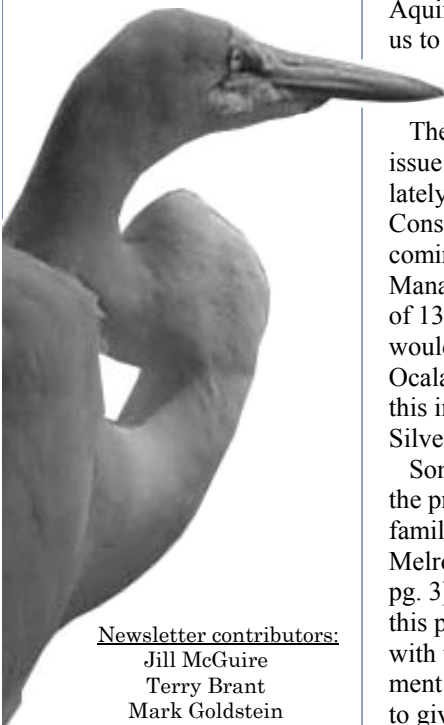
August 2012

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Lake Dwellers Meeting!

Friday, August 24th
7:00 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church,
On S.R. 26, Melrose



Newsletter contributors:

Jill McGuire
Terry Brant
Mark Goldstein
Sandy McGee
Fiona Sunquist

Letter from our President



Greetings, Lake Dwellers and Friends of the Lake,

It's time once again for the **Santa Fe Lake Dwellers' Annual Meeting** and the election of our Board of Directors. Please plan to join us on **August 24 at the Trinity Episcopal Yerkes Fellowship Hall at 7 PM** when our local community comes together to share and learn about area news and issues.

We are honored this year to have renowned Florida Springs scientist/activist **Dr. Robert Knight** as our speaker. Dr. Knight's knowledge of the complex water resources in this part of the state has led to appearances at many meetings and panels; these, along with TV spots and countless newspaper articles have helped shine a light on the damage that over-pumping and nutrient pollution is causing in our Floridan Aquifer. Please join us as Dr Knight helps us to understand this unique and endangered system that supplies us all with life's most basic need.

The Adena Springs Ranch is another issue that is in the forefront of the news lately, and the date for approval of their Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) will be coming up soon at the St Johns River Water Management District. With a proposed use of 13+ million gallons/day, this ranch would consume more water than the city of Ocala. Dr. Knight will also update us about this imminent threat to the already stressed Silver Springs watershed.

Some of you have no doubt heard about the proposal brought forward by the Painter family to expand the Rural Cluster of Melrose (see article by Mark Goldstein, pg. 3). To help us understand the basics of this process, Ben Chumley, Senior Planner with the Alachua County Growth Management Department, will also be present to give a short presentation and to answer questions. A public hearing is scheduled

for Aug 28, and we will get the details of that, as well.

Don't forget to check in often at our website, www.lakesantafe.org. Board member Jim Reid keeps us up to date with upcoming meetings, lake news and websites of interest, where you can find much more information about water protection issues.

Our primary election is almost upon us, so make sure to get out and vote on Aug 14; many of our best candidates could be eliminated before we ever get to November. We are proud to report that **SFLDA's own board member Marihelen Wheeler has stepped up to run for State House seat District 20**, which includes the eastern part of Alachua County. It is crucial to send a message that we are not willing to sacrifice our priceless springs and waterways in the name of "more jobs, less regulations". The tourist industry on which our economy depends will not flourish if our waters continue to degrade.

No matter where you live on the lake, or in the area, please come join us in Melrose as we learn about these critical issues. **This meeting is open to all, so please invite your friends and neighbors regardless of where they live.**

We urge you to support the strong protection of Lake Santa Fe, and our North Florida water supply, by supporting your association, renewing your membership and attending this interesting and informative meeting.

Well Problems?

If anyone in the Melrose/ Keystone area is having a problem with their well could they please let me know at fiona.sunquist@gmail.com

There have been several local incidences of domestic wells running dry--spitting sand--frothy water--well pipes having to be extended.

We are collecting information on where and when these problems occurred and plan to submit them to the St Johns River Water Management District as part of a request for them to consider issuing a "Water Cautionary Area".

Thank you for your help on this, Fiona Sunquist

Melrose Bay Park Restoration

by Sandy McGee

The Natural Resources Division of the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department is working on an exciting restoration project at Melrose Bay Park that will enhance wildlife habitat and water quality in Lake Santa Fe, as well as serve as a demonstration project for beach-goers and the public in general. Known as the Melrose Bay Park Buffer Restoration Project, the project involves restoring wetland buffer areas bordering the lake. When County staff advised Melrose Business and Community Association (MBCA) that mowing of the buffer had occurred rather than being left in a natural condition, staff also realized that there was great potential to improve the quality of the habitat at Melrose Bay. County staff determined that while Melrose Bay Park is privately owned by MBCA, it is a public park and therefore qualified for special funding for environmental restoration. In addition to the county's contribution, in kind services have been provided by Garron Patton, Southern Lumber, Gainesville Area Rowing, Santa Fe Audubon and artists Bob Bird and Linda Pollini. Consultation was also provided by wetlands expert Mark Clark, PhD, UF and IFAS Extension Agent.

The restoration plan includes:

- Removal of invasive exotic plants (including taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), potato vine (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

and camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*) within wetland and wetland buffer areas;

- Planting native plants in the same areas to re-establish a more natural buffer habitat;
- Terracing of the beach area in order to minimize erosion and sedimentation of beach sand and sediments into the lake;
- Installation of a wooden walkway across the sloped bank to reduce erosion of the bank; and
- Educational signage to describe location and identification of native plants in buffer areas and the value and importance of a functional buffer.

The majority of the exotics on the site have been removed during several work days involving Alachua County staff and hardworking volunteers. However, there is a lot of work yet to be done and more volunteers will be needed on August 21st to help with terracing and August 23rd for help with planting natives in the buffer area.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Alachua County Senior Environmental Specialists Sandy McGee or Betty Rosenblatt at 352-264-6800 or smcgee@alachuacounty.us and brosenblatt@alahcuacounty.us, respectively.

Check Out the SFLDA Website!

The Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association has an 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 there is a printable Membership 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.

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 meetings, and upon request via email or USPS mail. Feel free to pick up an extra copy of the booklet for friends and neighbors new to the lake.

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association website:
www.lakesantafe.org

email address:
lakesantafeorg@gmail.com

Our Future Water Resources

by Terry Brant

The future of our lakes, springs, rivers and economy depend on the availability of a sufficient quantity and quality of water, and that availability in turn depends on whether or not different regional interests, state legislators, stakeholder groups, water management districts and utilities can come together and make sound decisions.

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association is participating as a stakeholder working collaboratively with SJRWMD, Suwannee River Water Management District and other stakeholders in making these important decisions and in representing regional and member interests as we develop prevention and recovery strategies for Lake Brooklyn and Lake Geneva in Clay County and Cowpen Lake in Putnam County, where

Minimum Flow Levels are currently not being met or are projected not to be met within 20 years.

Consumptive use withdrawals are increasing as lake and aquifer levels decline and this is threatening our future water resources. The strategies developed to address these problems will also have a direct impact on Lake Santa Fe, and it is vitally important that your concerns and interests have continuing strong representation.

We encourage you to educate yourselves about our water issues and the agencies that make decisions about our water - the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Governor's office, and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Write, email, or telephone your elected

officials and those people who are running for office in your districts, tell them what you think and ask them to protect our water. Ask our elected and district officials to stop ignoring Florida's endangered waters and unsustainable pumping and demand environmental protection.

Our fellow board member and lake dweller Marihelen Wheeler is running for the Florida House of Representatives, District 20 and will appear on the ballot with other candidates in the primary election on August 14th, so please make plans to vote for the candidates of your choice.

Please support your organization's vital work by renewing your membership and making a contribution.

Alachua County Proposes Study to expand Rural Cluster Surrounding Melrose

- one thousand percent increase in density if approved as proposed
by Mark K. Goldstein, PhD

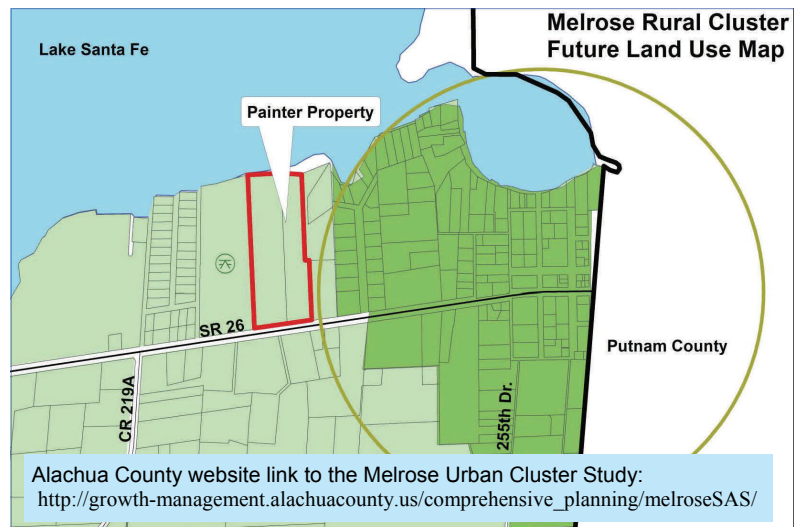
Alachua County Growth Management Department is proposing a "special area planning process" for Melrose after the Painter family initiated an application to rezone their rural Santa Fe Lake Canal acreage for more intense development. Rural areas like the Painters' that lie outside the Melrose development zone (a/k/a Melrose Rural Cluster) cannot be subdivided. Counties limit development outside urban service areas because the sharply increased costs of providing services and infrastructure to rural subdivisions and developments does not cover the costs of services demanded by the new residents. In response to the Painter request, the county "authorized a public hearing to consider a Scope of Work for a Melrose Special Area Study and Plan", which could allow small subdivisions on 640 rural acres surrounding Melrose. This large new subdivision zone would change from one dwelling unit on every 5 rural acres to ten dwelling units on every 5 rural acres.

The Alachua County Commission will hold a public meeting to hear and vote on the proposal at their meeting on Tuesday, August 28 at 5PM at the Alachua County Administration Building, Second Floor, 12 SE 1st Street, Gainesville. You may reach the Alachua County Commission by email at:

bocc@alachua.fl.us or, individual commissioners at:

byerly@alachuacounty.us
sbaird@alachuacounty.us
lpinkoson@alachuacounty.us
wbradley@alachuacounty.us
pdelaney@alachuacounty.us

The Commission telephone number is (352) 264-6900.



Alachua County website link to the Melrose Urban Cluster Study:
http://growth-management.alachuacounty.us/comprehensive_planning/melroseSAS/

On Friday, August 24th, please plan to attend the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association's Annual Meeting featuring

"A New Approach to Water Management in Northeast Florida"

presented by

Robert L. Knight, Ph.D.

More than fifty years of ineffective water management in northeast Florida has resulted in low lake and aquifer levels, reduced spring flows, increased flooding, and water shortages. A North Florida Water War is looming on the horizon with organization of FLOW - Florida Leaders Organized for Water and their interest in challenging JEA's consumptive use permit. This presentation will highlight a variety of environmental impacts that have resulted from water mismanagement and suggest a path forward to avoid the water war mine field that lies close at hand. A good first step in correcting these problems would be to construct a regional water balance to estimate how much water can be utilized by society after all environmental needs are met. This sustainable yield would result in stable lake and aquifer levels within normal climatic bounds and would insure adequate spring and river flows even during foreseeable droughts. It is likely that implementation of this new strategy would require a significant reduction and redistribution of existing consumptive use permits and the development of new

and sustainable surface water supplies.

The total amount of water that humans are currently using will need to be reduced through conservation, appropriate pricing, and shared sacrifice.

THE SANTA FE LAKE DWELLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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 Social Water Quality Board Member Newsletter Website

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Please make your tax-deductible payment payable to SFLDA, Inc., and mail to P.O. Box 1268, Melrose, FL 32666

Don't miss our annual

Lake Dwellers Meeting!

Friday, August 24th

7:00 pm

Trinity Parrish Hall

on S.R. 26, Melrose

"A New Approach to Water Management in Northeast Florida"

Guest Speaker: Bob Knight, PhD

Founder and Director,

Howard T. Odum Springs Institute

Adjunct Professor,

UF Environmental Engineering Sciences

And:

Alachua County Planning Department

update on the

Melrose Urban Cluster Proposal