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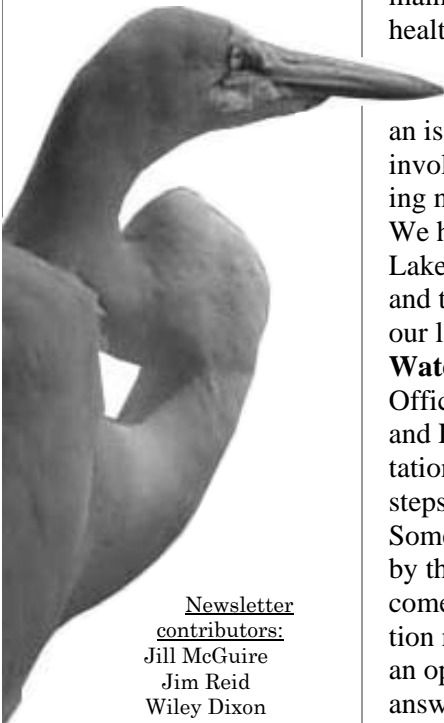
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Lake Dwellers Meeting!

Friday, August 22nd
7:00 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church



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Mark Goldstein
Alison Blakeslee

Letter from our President



Greetings to all you Lake lovers!

Hope you all are having a fine summer, enjoying the plentiful rainfall and the resulting high water levels. We invite you to take time out for another summer event, the **Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Annual Meeting**, when we elect our Board of Directors and catch up on local news. Please mark your calendars for **Friday August 22 from 7 to 9 PM, Trinity Episcopal Yerkes Parish Hall on State Road 26, Melrose!**

As always, our program this year will be an informative one. You may remember past newsletter articles explaining the Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) system designed to maintain, and when needed, restore healthy surface water bodies in Florida.

The attempt to resolve the violated MFLs in Lake Geneva is an issue your board has been actively involved in, and we continue monitoring numerous MFL issues in Florida. We have recently been informed that Lake Santa Fe's number has come up, and that an MFL is being developed for our lake by the **Suwannee River Water Management District**.

Officials from the District, John Good and Louis Mantini, will give a presentation designed to inform us about the steps required to establish an MFL. Some of you may have been contacted by the District asking permission to come on your property for data collection needed in this effort. This will be an opportunity for all of us to get answers about the process of establishing an MFL and what it will mean for

us and our lake. Please read the article on page 3 for more details about the program, and plan to come with your questions.

In other news, two local lake residents recently contacted us about changes they had observed that concerned them. Fritzi Olsen from Little Santa Fe noticed an algae bloom in the Martin's Island area, took samples and had them tested for toxicity. Luckily, it was a non-toxic variety, and cleared up pretty quickly. Fritzi is a water advocate with much knowledge (remember her as our Lake clean-up originator and coordinator?), so she knew how to get answers. When Tom Mullis found hundreds of dead clams on his shoreline in the big lake, he called us to report it. That turned out to be a naturally occurring die off, like the fish kill a few years ago, but we were very glad to be notified of these incidents, and we thank Fritzi and Tom for their stewardship of our lake! Tom and Peggy Prevost continue to monitor the health of our lake through monthly LakeWatch testing, but we all must be vigilant for unhealthy changes in our lake, and be willing to take action. You can reach us by email at lakesantafeorg@gmail.com

There are many changes taking place in our part of the state, and many more that are proposed or being conceived: Plum Creek is proposing a massive development a few miles away (see article page 3); Adena Farms (now Sleepy Creek) continues to jockey for as much water as possible by shuffling permits among their many properties, even as work continues to establish an MFL for Silver Springs. No longer the largest 1st magnitude spring in Florida, Silver Springs' reduced flows and impaired water quality ⇔

Letter from our President

continued...

are indicators of the troubles in the Floridan Aquifer that supplies us all. Your Association continues to attend numerous meetings, write letters and to stay engaged in the issues which could negatively impact our lake, its communities and the surrounding area. Please see our website www.lakesantafe.org for links to more info about the political races and issues we mention in this newsletter.

Although there won't be time for them to speak, we will invite all candidates to attend our Annual Meeting on Aug 22, and campaign literature will be available to help our members determine who to

support. Please plan to vote in the Primary Election on Aug 26, and the General Election on Nov 4!

Although we cannot endorse candidates, we are proud to announce that Board Member Marihelen Wheeler is running for the US Congress in District 3.

Doors will be open by 6 PM, so come early to discuss further some of the issues addressed in this newsletter. Please come, and bring your friends and neighbors, for fellowship and light refreshments. And remember to renew your membership support at this time....WE NEED YOU!

- Jill McGuire,
President

JOIN US !!!

In the late 1970's a serious threat was posed to Lake Santa Fe and the Santa Fe River when The Georgia Pacific Company applied for a permit to mine peat from the Santa Fe Swamp. A group of concerned citizens who lived on or near Lake Santa Fe organized to oppose the mining permit. Led by our first president, Harold Hill, these few citizens were able to alert people throughout the area to the threat to our lake. The Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association was born and successfully fought to stop the peat mining. The Georgia Pacific Company donated the swamp-land to The State of Florida and it remains a pristine wetlands area today.

Since those early years The Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association (SFLDA) has been a consistent and successful advocate for Lake Santa Fe. Our organization has successfully fought to stop and reverse illegal fill activities in the flood plain and overly dense land use plans that would have adversely affected the lake. In the 1990's, the SFLDA led a successful effort to convince Alachua County to abandon plans to place a landfill operation dangerously close to Lake Santa Fe.

The threats to Lake Santa Fe continue to come. Currently, Plum Creek, the largest private land owner in Alachua County, the state of Florida, and the U.S., is trying to have the county land use plan amended to allow massive development in a largely wetland area between Gainesville and Lake Santa Fe. Certainly, we need to closely monitor this situation to insure that unchecked development does not adversely affect our lake and our way of life.

Please consider joining or renewing your membership in Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association. Join us and help insure that our beautiful lake remains a wonderful environment for people and wildlife now and in the future.

- Wiley Dixon

MBCA Candidates Meet & Greet

The Melrose Business & Community Association invites you to meet with the current running candidates in a one on one atmosphere. Bring a friend, meet someone new, get your questions answered!

5:30 pm
Friday, August 15
Heritage Park

Rain Location: Artist's Hall
Melrose Art and Cultural Center

Check out our new website at www.lakesantafe.org 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. SFLDA sponsored publication of an informative booklet titled "*Here Today, Here Tomorrow; the Lake Lovers Guide to the Santa Fe Lakes*". 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.

Lake Santa Fe Video



Come early on the 22nd and visit with Lake Dweller Phil Robinson and view his comprehensive shoreline video of Lake Santa Fe. He will be available to talk about the video as well as his new documentary which is in pre-production. Phil welcomes all input!

Plum Creek Applies to Build City in Rural Wetland

The Plum Creek Timber Company applied to Alachua County to build a new city in a natural wetland just down the road from here. The company is promoting their controversial plan to build 10,000 homes in 60,000 acres between Windsor and Hawthorne that will house 30,000 new residents. Their plan also proposes 15 million square feet of commercial development, covering an area the size of 15 Oaks Malls. Plum Creek is asking the county to change our comprehensive plan to remove established wetland protections and allow their high-density urban development in a rural section of the county. The company asserts that they can develop the area without approvals, but the county comprehensive plan stands in the way. Because the project would have an immense impact on wetlands, roads, water, sewage, schools and requirements for many services not available in the rural area, it has generated opposition from some citizens and support from others for promised jobs. Several county commission candidates have taken a stand against changing the county comprehensive plan based on the environmental impacts, wetland protections and the costs of extending municipal services to a new town in a rural area, while other candidates have not disclosed their position. The company lobbies public officials and civic organizations to advance its interests.

It is expected that our county commission's vote on Plum Creek's application will be split and close. It is important for all residents to understand how our county commissioners will vote and how this rural region will be affected by the vote on the application.

- Mark Goldstein

SFLDA ENDORSES AMENDMENT 1

You may remember a few years ago when SFLDA was awarded a Florida Forever Grant, through which two invaluable wetland properties were placed into permanent conservation. There are a few remaining natural areas that, if preserved, could add further valuable protection to the health of our lake, but funding must be restored to Florida Forever for that to be possible.

Amendment 1, the Water and Land Conservation Amendment, gives Florida voters a direct opportunity to keep our drinking water clean, protect our rivers, lakes, and beaches, and restore natural treasures like the Everglades and our incredible springs.

Floridians understand the value of clean and abundant water for people and wildlife, and they cherish the natural areas that make Florida special. Amendment 1 would ensure that these values have a place in our state's constitution. You can learn more details at: voteyeson1fl.org/

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT FLORIDA'S AMAZING WATERS, WILDLIFE AREAS, AND BEACHES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS BY VOTING YES ON AMENDMENT 1 ON NOVEMBER 4th!

Establishing a Minimum Flow Level for Lake Santa Fe

The Suwannee River Water Management District is beginning the process of determining minimum levels for Lake Santa Fe, which includes Little Lake Santa Fe. A minimum lake level is defined in Florida statutes as the lake stage where further water withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources of the area. In determining how water resources may be negatively affected, the District considers several environmental values, also known as "Water Resource Values" (WRVs), specified by the Florida Administrative Code. These WRVs include the following:

- (a) Recreation in and on the water;
- (b) Fish and wildlife habitats and the passage of fish;
- (c) Estuarine resources;
- (d) Transfer of detrital material;
- (e) Maintenance of freshwater storage and supply;

- (f) Aesthetic and scenic attributes;
- (g) Filtration and absorption of nutrients and other pollutants;
- (h) Sediment loads;
- (i) Water quality; and
- (j) Navigation.

In May 2014, the District contracted the services of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI), to conduct a field reconnaissance to determine locations in and adjacent the lake for study in addressing the second WRV listed above. Ten locations were recommended, and six were selected, three occurring on public property and the remainder were authorized on private property. In the near future, GPI will collect detailed vegetation, soils, and elevation data from these locations, using an approach supported by methodologies employed by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). The results of this effort will help the District identify fish and wildlife habitats that may be sensitive to declines in lake stage. In addition to the previously-mentioned work, GPI's licensed surveyors will also conduct a bathymetric survey of the lake which will assist in addressing several WRVs, as well as detailed hydrologic assessments such as lake water budgets. District staff looks forward to our meeting with the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers on August 22. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Good, Professional Engineer; or Louis Mantini or Robbie McKinney, both environmental scientists. Our number is 386.362.1001, office; or Florida toll free at 800.226.1066.



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www.santafelake.org

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Membership category:

- \$25 annual dues Additional contribution What I can contribute

My / Our Interests:

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

Please Print:

Name: _____

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

e-mail: _____

*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 22nd

7:00 pm

Trinity Parrish Hall
on S.R. 26, Melrose

“Establishing a Minimum Flow Level for Lake Santa Fe”

presented by

John Good and Louis Mantini
Suwannee River Water
Management District

and

Meet the Candidates