

# SAVE OUR LAKES



*JANUARY 2025 Volume 25, Issue 1*



## UPDATE - LAKE GENEVA RESTORATION PROJECT

**(Restoration - removing the timber and biomass that has grown in Geneva's lakebed due to the 40+ years of drawdown as a result of the depleted aquifer.)**

In the fall of 2023, the Black Creek Project was well underway but a long way from completion. However, it seemed like the right time to **start talking** about the Black Creek Project's impact on Lake Geneva. Since the Project was at least a year away from completion, it wasn't time to actually start the Geneva Restoration Project. However, mother nature gave us a wet spring/summer in 2024 bringing the reality of the potential impact of the Black Creek Project on Lake Geneva into focus. Talking about restoration very quickly became a need for action and the Lake Geneva Restoration Project became the main topic/agenda of many meetings, site visits etc.

The meetings began to feel like a lot of starts/stops and more questions than answers - Who are the stakeholders? Who can do what? What permits are needed? Who has authority? Who owns what? While the state owns the "lakebed", the County has authority over the 5<sup>th</sup> street boat ramp, the City has authority over the Pavilion area, AND there are approximately 450 Lake Geneva land owners...the Lake Geneva Restoration Project became very complicated.

SOLO decided to hire a consulting firm with excellent knowledge and expertise to help us through the permitting process that will be needed for Geneva's Restoration. The **very good news** is that the City of Keystone Heights and Clay County have joined SOLO in this effort and the Water District is also working with us. Weekly meetings have begun to keep progress moving forward.

**As part of the permitting process, we will be holding a Lake Geneva landowners meeting in January to discuss the Restoration Project plan and what it will mean to each owner. We are in the process of selecting a date/location and will be sending out notices via U.S. Mail and email (where possible) to each owner. Every effort will be made to reach every Lake Geneva landowner. One way you can help in this effort – when you receive your meeting notice, check with your Geneva neighbors to make sure they are aware of this meeting. If we do not have your email address AND you are a Geneva landowner, please send that address to [save-our-lakes@comcast.net](mailto:save-our-lakes@comcast.net) and we will keep you updated.**

*Vivian*

**SAVE OUR LAKES ORGANIZATION, INC.**

**P.O. BOX 185, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656**

**EMAIL:** [save-our-lakes@comcast.net](mailto:save-our-lakes@comcast.net) - **WEBPAGE:** [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org)

**President:** Vivian James — **Vice President:** Chandler Rozear — **Secretary/Treasurer:** Susan Welsh

**Board Members:** Diane Bennett, Webb Farber, Glenda Harper, Scott Slater, Dr. Pat Welsh

## Keystone Beach Fishing Pier

Save-Our-Lakes continues our efforts to bring the Keystone Beach ADA Fishing Pier to a reality. This project is our way of giving back to the community that has supported us in our efforts to restore our lake region.

We truly appreciate the assistance from the St. John's River Water Management District staff in establishing some new expected water elevations (result of Black Creek pipeline impact) at the beach to further our final design for this project.

That final design should be ready for DEP submission by the end of January. See the sketch of the draft rendering of the current design on the right. Once DEP approval is granted for size and location, this design will go to final draft and Engineering for the stamped and sealed plan set. Once stamped and sealed plans are signed off by the City of Keystone Heights, the project moves to the construction phase.

We continue our goal in fully funding this project through previous donations, grant applications, new donations, supplier support for reduced costs on materials, and contractor support for reduced construction expenses. As we get commitment letters from these donors, grant awards, suppliers, and contractors we will provide monthly updates from now through completion.

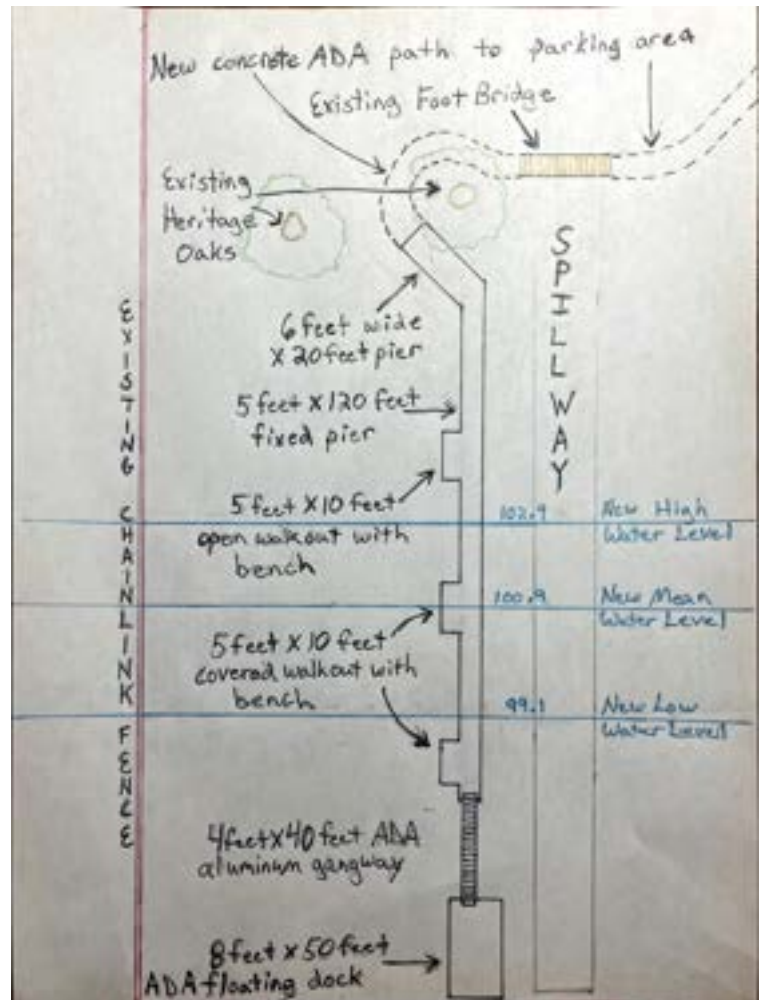
We are very hopeful in having most of the above secured by early April and have a tentative goal to have project completed in time for a July 4th ribbon cutting ceremony.

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Scott Slater

Save-Our-Lakes-Org. Board Member



SOLO WEBSITE [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org)

You can get information as well as communicate with us through our website: [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org) or our email: [save-our-lakes@comcast.net](mailto:save-our-lakes@comcast.net). Our newsletter comes out once a month by email and US Mail (usually the first week of the month).

*Please feel free to check us out!*

**SJRWMD GOVERNING BOARD Mtg. 10:00 AM TUESDAY, 01/14/2025 at the Palatka Office**  
**Verify on website: [www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/](http://www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/) (Live Streaming is available)**



**12/30/2024 DATA** (Elevations NAVD88)

Brooklyn Level: 111.8 Ft  
Alligator Creek Flow: 14.5 MGD; Level: 111.85 Ft  
Geneva Level: 94.2 Ft  
S. Fork Black Creek (SR-16): Flow: 45.2 MGD: Level: 10.2 Ft  
Monthly Rainfall: .72" (Source: SJRWMD and USGS)



SOLO Board, City and County officials were able to tour the Black Creek Water Resource Project on December 11, 2024. Above, in the Pump House. To the right, at the inlet facility on Black Creek.

**Southern Vegetation Management**  
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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM**

(Pls Check) RENEWAL  NEW MEMBER  EMAIL  USMAIL

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR ANNUAL DUES CHECK FOR **\$25.00** PAYABLE TO:

SAVE OUR LAKES ORG. P.O. BOX 185, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656



Save Our Lakes Organization, Inc.  
P.O. Box 185  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656



Logo by: Graham E. Kestner

**SOLO's next members' meeting will be at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, JAN.14th, in the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Look for our meeting signs around Keystone Heights, See you there!**

NEWSLETTER PRINTING BY FABCO-AIR. THANK YOU, FABCO-AIR!

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