

# SAVE OUR LAKES

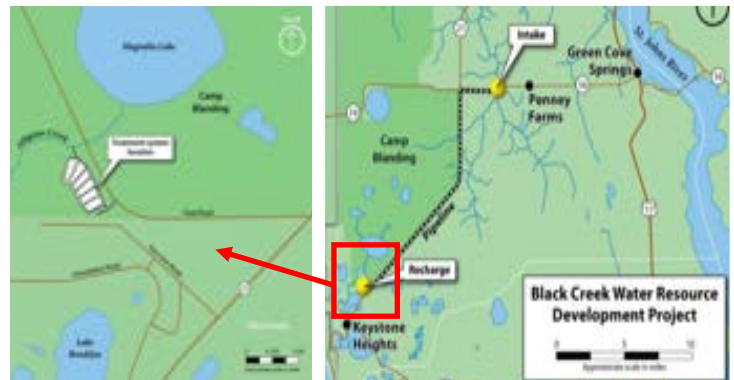


DECEMBER 2023 Volume 23, Issue 12



## BLACK CREEK PROJECT WATER TREATMENT AREA SITE CLEARING

This 11/17/23 photo shows the clearing of the site in preparation for the construction of the water Treatment Facility portion of the Black Creek Project. The site is on the Lake Brooklyn side of and adjacent to the gas line right of way. The new water flow will not be crossing the underground gas lines relieving concerns about water eroding the pipes earth cover.



## SR16 PIPE PROGRESS:

This Sunday, 11/19/23 photo shows early progress on the pipe installation on the north side of SR 16 just west of the pump station site at Black Creek's South Prong. While the excavation and installation machinery are secured off-site for the weekend, we can still see the new pipe sections ready for placement and the right of way graded over the previously installed pipe sections and ready for grass.

**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: Webb Farber, Glenda Harper, Scott Slater, Dr. Pat Welsh

## **A MESSAGE FROM SOLO PRESIDENT VIVIAN KATZ JAMES**

**2023** has been an exciting year! There was great progress on the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project. Most of you have seen the big pipes and equipment along both Hwy. 21 and 16. The pipes are going in the ground! The filtration system located inside Camp Blanding is also under construction. The SJRWMD staff say the Project is on schedule to be completed in the fall of 2024.

SOLO also has been busy getting **The Lake Geneva Restoration Project** moving forward. We are currently waiting for approval from FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection).

### **LAKE GENEVA RESTORATION PROJECT**

#### **PURPOSE – TO RESTORE LAKE GENEVA TO ITS NATURAL HISTORIC STATE**

- Lake Geneva is part of a major recharge area for the Floridan Aquifer and is part of the Etonia Chain of Lakes.
- Florida's population growth over the past several decades brought with it 50+ years of high demands for water. Those demands were met by increased pumping from the Floridan Aquifer.
- Lake Geneva began to feel the effects of the increased pumping in the late 1970s with declining levels. Those 50+ years of high demand pumping brought about ever-increasing areas of dry lakebed, separating five distinct lobes from the main body. Today, Lake Geneva has forests and woodlands where water once flowed.

#### **WHY – TO RETURN LAKE GENEVA TO ITS NATURAL PLACE IN THE ETONIA CHAIN OF LAKES**

- The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project (BCWRDP) is expected to bring 7.5 mgd of water to the Etonia Chain.
- Lake Geneva water levels will start increasing, putting much of the now forests/woodlands under water, creating both tremendous hazards to recreation as well as possible water quality issues.
- Removing the forests/woodlands that have divided Geneva's lakebed into several lobes would:
  - Bring Lake Geneva back to its more natural state and place in the Etonia Chain of Lakes.
  - Provide a safer environment for recreational use.
  - Increase eco-tourism in the area.

#### **WHEN – IMPORTANT TO BEGIN**

- The BCWRDP is expected to begin pumping 7.5 mgd in the fall of 2024.
- It's important to begin the work necessary for the Restoration of Lake Geneva **BEFORE** the Black Creek Project water starts flowing into Lake Geneva.

#### **SOLO MEMBERS AND BOARD**

**THANK YOU SOLO MEMBERS** for continuing your support and showing up in force for **RED SHIRT ALERTS!** and to our **SOLO BOARD MEMBERS**. They each go above and beyond in their efforts to bring recovery to our lake community. Our VP(Chandler Rozear) continues to send out great monthly newsletters to keep everyone informed and deserves a special Thank You! ***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

Vivian

**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 Tues., 12/12/2023 at the Palatka Office**  
**Verify on website: [www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/](http://www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/) (Live Streaming is available)**





Alligator Creek at Immokalee Road  
3/9/2020

At the recent Board Meeting, the question was asked: How much water is flowing in Alligator Creek now? Below is a way to find that information at any time:

1. Go to SJRWMD home page
2. In the upper right search box type in: surface waterflow
3. Next page click on hydrologic conditions of the SJRWMD
4. Next page click on hydrologic data search tool
5. Next page select Clay County in top blue box
6. In the lower blue box select discharge and surface water
7. Zoom in to see and click on the yellow star above Brooklyn (Immokalee Rd)
8. Click on - view graph. Flow is indicated in cubic feet per second for 30 days (now around 16)
9. Divide by 1.55 to get MGD (now around 10.3)

Hope this is helpful.

(Interesting that Treet Road is currently less flow, only 13.5 CFS, or 8.7 MGD.)

Webb Farber

**Southern Vegetation Management**  
 P.O. Box 610 \* Keystone Heights, FL. 32656 LLC  
**Jeff Fitts**  
 Lakes \* Beaches  
 Tractor Work & Fountain Sales  
 352-235-1631  
 jefffitts@comcast.net



**SUE PLASTER**  
 REALTOR

**C.B. ISAAC**  
 REALTY  
 Office: 352-475-2199  
 Fax: 352-475-3406

2518 SR211/PO BOX 893  
 MELROSE, FL 32666  
 sueplaster77@gmail.com.com  
 cbisaacreality.com lakehomeslady.com  
 Cell: 352-538-9384



Cut, copy or send the whole page!

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM

(Please Check) **RENEWAL**  **NEW MEMBER**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**US MAIL**

**EMAIL**

**JANUARY IS RENEWAL MONTH!** 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*

**Vivian will report on all the latest SOLO news at our next meeting, 7:00 PM, Tuesday, JAN. 9th, 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!

**FABCO-AIR**  
 A member of Festo Group

Webpage Design By: *REALTY PRODUCTIONS CO.*  
 RealtyProductions.com – (904) 502-0165 - Email: [wwwweb@realtyproductions.com](mailto:wwwweb@realtyproductions.com)

**LAKE AREA  
 TITLE  
 SERVICES, INC.**  
**352-473-9009**  
 • Real Estate Closings •  
 • Notary •

**Bald Eagle**  
  
 Keystone Heights  
**Bait and Tackle**

**Helen Hersey Realty**  
*Helen A. Hersey*  
 Broker  
  
 Office: 352-473-8882  
 Cell: 352-235-1586  
 Toll Free: 1-866-649-8882  
 Web Site: [www.helenhersey.com](http://www.helenhersey.com)  
 Email: [helen@helenhersey.com](mailto:helen@helenhersey.com)  
 7396 SR-21 North • PO Box 2002  
 Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Phone: 352.473.6405  
 Cell: 904.219.1562  
 Fax: 352.473.6495

Let Us Be Your  
 Homeowner Electrician

Serving  
 The Lake Area And  
 Surrounding  
 Counties

[RegionalElectricInc.com](http://RegionalElectricInc.com)  
 Residential & Commercial  
 New Construction • Remodel • Service Calls

Daryl Wilkins

Fishing, Hunting, Boating  
 Supplies, Feed,  
 Dog Food  
 Snack Bar  
 352-473-6060  
 Keystone Heights, Fla.  
 State Road 100  
 Owners:  
 Joey & Patty Tyson  
 Hours: 5:30 AM - 6:PM  
 Open Seven Days a Week  
 "Not just a Bait Shop"

**Florida Homes**  
 Realty & Mortgage

**Todd & Debbie Beals** Realtors®  
 Todd 904.588.2083 - Debbie 316.648.0595  
[bealsteam@gmail.com](mailto:bealsteam@gmail.com)

***S.O.L.O., Inc.***