

SAVE OUR LAKES



NOVEMBER 2022 Volume 22, Issue 11



We are here today because of the hard work of so many people over so many years!



District Board Chair Rob Bradley spoke, acknowledging many in the audience who played vital roles in the project.

Vivian Katz James' comments at the Black Creek Project Celebration Event:

"This has been like a four plus decades relay race! It started in the 1980's when folks like Chester Moody and Rod Bamford began to recognize our lakes were not bouncing back as they had in the past.

"In the 1990's and 2000's, the Lake Brooklyn Civic Association and LARCA (now SOLO) were formed to get the community organized to take the next steps. Folks like Phil and Judy Baumgardner, Jim Hayhurst,

Dennis Barnhardt and others continued the work to bring recovery to our lakes. A Geo-Hydrologist, Peter Schreuder, was hired to study the area and find solutions. The focus was on improving the water flowing through Alligator Creek. Several projects were completed and the flow into Lake Brooklyn improved. Still the lakes did not return to their natural levels but simply continued to decline.

2010 LBCA joined forces with SOLO to continue the push for recovery of our beautiful lakes and community!

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SAVE OUR LAKES ORGANIZATION, INC.

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

EMAIL: save-our-lakes@comcast.net - WEBPAGE: 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

Joe Califano, Jim Young, Robert Thomas and Sue Plaster along with our current SOLO Board, Chandler Rozear, Webb Farber, Dr. Pat and Susan Welsh, Scott Slater and Glenda Harper have continued the push to recovery. Our SOLO members continued to show their support...**RED SHIRT ALERTS** brought our members out in force!!!

What we **now know**... our lake community is one of two major recharge areas for the Floridan Aquifer (Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva specifically)...the other recharge area is in Valdosta, GA! And what we **now understand**...as Florida's population has increased since the 1970's, the demand for water has increased...the Floridan Aquifer could not keep up with that demand...and so our recharge lakes became unstable.

What's the solution? Dave Fisk (former Asst. Exec. at SJRWMD...now deceased) told me the answer: "Vivian, it's going to take new water." So what does that mean? It means thinking out of the box. How can we start using the water that nature gives us (rainfall) in the most efficient way possible?

OCTOBER 2016 – THE KEYSTONE HEIGHTS WATER SUMMIT – Spearheaded by K.H. Mayor Tony Brown and City Manager Scott Kornegay who literally brought everyone to the table to seek solutions! Senator Rob Bradley was at that table. SOLO provided the expertise with a presentation by Geo-Hydrologist Peter Schreuder. Discussion and ideas flowed from that summit...conservation, reclaiming water for reuse, capturing water that would otherwise go to tide, etc. etc.

2017 - Senator Rob Bradley made it his mission to work with the SJRWMD to bring recovery to the lakes and the Floridan Aquifer. He worked with the District in selecting the Black Creek Project and then went about the business of getting funding through the Legislature ultimately meeting with great success!!!

The Black Creek Project is an excellent example of thinking out of the box! The excess water (not needed for the health of Black Creek) that would otherwise go to tide, is being captured and brought back to recharge the Floridan Aquifer. Alligator Creek will receive an average of 7.5 MGD that will flow into Lake Brooklyn and eventually into

Lake Geneva and bring much needed recharge to the Floridan Aquifer!

Our lakes and community will certainly benefit as will the Floridan Aquifer and the Northeast Florida Region! Working together and thinking out of the box to find solutions has been the answer!

There are so many folks to thank! I've already mentioned a few:

At the SJRWMD:

Exec. Director - Mike Register and his staff
Exec. Director (ret) - Dr. Ann Shortelle

Current Governing Board Chair - Rob Bradley
Past Board Chairs - Gen. Douglas Burnett and John Miklos

Those on the Governing Boards, both past and present, who have been supportive of the cause of our lakes with a special mention of Board Members Doug Bournique and Maryam Ghyabi-White

SJRWMD Staff :

Assist. Exec. Dir. Mary Ellen Winkler,
Andrew Sutherland, PhD, Bob Naleway, Fatih Gordu, PE, Kraig McLane, Scott Laidlaw, PG

Elected Officials (both current and former)

State Senator - Jennifer Bradley
State Representatives - Bobby Payne, Charles Vanzant and Katherine Vanzant

Commissioners: Betsy Condon, Chereese Stewart and Gavin Rollins

Former K.H. Mayor & Current Councilman – Tony Brown

City Manager – Lynn Rutkowski

There are so many more that I could mention but I will end with this:

SENATOR BRADLEY, GENERAL BURNETT, MIKE REGISTER, OUR SOLO MEMBERS AND ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE IT YOUR MISSION TO BRING RECOVERY TO OUR LAKES...WE SAY THANK YOU!

SOLO WEBSITE www.saveourlakes.org

You can get information as well as communicate with us through our website: www.saveourlakes.org or our email: 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.,11/08/2022 at the Palatka Office
VERIFY on website: www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/ (Live Streaming is available)

It's time to turn the page because big things are happening at last! Work has begun at the Black Creek Pump Station and Water Intake site with land clearing started on 10/24/22.

It's also time to start figuring out how to prepare the lakes for their water filled futures. Ready or not, new water will be flowing in just 2 years.



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Lake Geneva
10/11/22: 92.53 FT
(Down 0.04 FT
from 9/19/22)



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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*

Next meeting: 7PM, NOV. 8th at the First Baptist Church. As it is Election Day, we'll be meeting in the Sanctuary. Look for meeting signs posted around (but not in) Keystone Heights. Get your Shots & Boosters!

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



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