

September 2009

# The Istokpoga Newswire

Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc.



## Lake Istokpoga Historical Tidbits

By Gary Lamperelli, Director

Welcome to the first installment of "Lake Istokpoga Historical Tidbits" brought directly to each of you in living "black & white." Future writings will be dominated by more historical facts, but this "premier" article will attempt to explain the purpose, structure and expectations of this "labor of love" undertaking.

Let's start at the beginning... no, not THAT beginning, but why and how this new series is appearing in the *Istokpoga Newswire*. In a nutshell, I became a member the first month that I purchased my home on the lake (Thank you Al Schultz for recommending and accompanying me to my first meeting in 2005). The meeting was very informative and introduced me to a whole array of topics that I had not even considered prior to joining this fine community (Hydrilla...? I thought it was a Greek, snake-infested head). Anyway, the guest speakers were awesome and the members that I met were friendly and obviously engaged in the association's mission. Toss in those fine cookies and a steady supply coffee and I was sold, becoming a member that very first night. I know a bargain when I see one!

Following the meeting, I was provided the web-link and member access information to the Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc (FOI) website from

Bill Dwinell. I was gung-ho on educating myself as much as I could about lake issues and FOI, despite the fact that I'd be a part-timer for a number of years. A wealth of knowledge (and history) is available to each of us, including copies of all the previous *Istokpoga Newswires*. That's where I read the following and offered to fill what has apparently been a vacant slot first appearing in issue #11 (October 2000):

### Lake Historian Needed

We need to find a volunteer to pull together the history of Lake Istokpoga for us. To act as Friends Of Istokpoga Historian. There are many ways historical information can benefit both Lake Istokpoga or Friends Of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc. If you think you might be interested, please contact Bill Dwinell at 863-465-6913. And remember, **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.**

### "NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY"

When I read "that" I felt an adrenalin rush, thinking "this" could work. I could learn while hopefully contributing something to this wonderful group... I figured, let's give it a try! The rest is, as

they say, "history", or my approach: it's "history" and he's sticking to it!

This series will be a work-in-progress, especially since I have zero experience as a writer, historian, researcher or educator. However, for the past 36 years I have been in sales or sales management, so I do know first-hand that researching a prospect, their industry, annual reports, press releases or just talking to anyone who works there, before asking for an appointment, greatly improves chances for making some headway. My hope is that this column will add a bit of Lake Istokpoga knowledge, resurrect a few

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### Special Point of Interest:

November 12<sup>th</sup> is our next scheduled FOI meeting in Lorida. Hydrilla Update is the primary message. Be sure to join us and bring a neighbor for this important issue.

old memories or provide a few “I didn’t know that” moments in somewhat of an entertaining forum. As you can imagine, “history” can be referenced or written on a multitude of levels. Let it be clear from the start that this forum is not intended to be used as a supplement to the education system or confuse or otherwise contradict the work of the many recognized professional historians or researchers from whom I’ll be learning-as-I-go. You do have my promise to document my sources, while at the same time urging you to contact me if you believe a correction or additional perspective might be in order. Finally, I will be presenting topics that both interest me and where verifiable information can actually be had... not necessarily arranged in any specific chronological order. So with those rather loose ground rules, initial thoughts are to structure future topics that might range from Lake Istokpoga early history; FOI history (1998 to present); Wildlife facts and historical trends; Lake Istokpoga economic influences; Lake Istokpoga Trivia; Residents of Lake Istokpoga and their history, along with any details our members can provide.

Many of you represent the core of Lake Istokpoga history, at least during the last 10 to 80 years. I would like nothing more than to pick your brain over a cold lemonade, beer or lunch... my treat! My contact information can be found at the end of this article.

OK...enough “set-up” stuff... let’s present some history...

I had the pleasure of being introduced to and spending some very enjoyable, let alone educational time with one of the true pioneers of modern Lake Istokpoga (thank you Bert Galloway for introductions), someone familiar to many of you... Ms. Audrey G. Vickers. I cannot overstate how helpful she has been getting me started, recommending specific books, authors, publications, his-

torical museums, libraries, county and/or State agencies, etc.

In honor of Audrey, the first piece of history I’ll share with you comes from the pages of *Devane’s Early Florida History Vol II*, the writing entitled “The Diary of LT. Robert Buchanan During The Seminole War,” which chronologically details LT. Buchanan’s experiences beginning on Thursday, Nov. 23, 1837 through January 7, 1838 after he and his troops arrived in Tampa Bay from nine days of travel from New Orleans, apparently by boat.

**The reason that I’m choosing this event to begin this series is that to this point in my research, this is the earliest reference that I have been able to document that specifically references Lake Istokpoga, complete with its translated name of the time.** In addition, it serves as a reminder of the significant, yet troubling history inflicted on many of Lake Istokpoga’s original settlers, the Seminoles.

The diary is a well-written summary that reflects the thoughts, emotions, concerns and hopes of a military leader. Within the 12-page journal, we are taken through what the author considered to be the highlights of each day along the 46 day assignment. He documents everything from the names and missions of his military counterparts to detailed descriptions of the terrain, lakes, rivers and marshes crossed; complete with the specific number of miles marched daily, along with interactions with the people encountered on the way. Topics include where the troops had to build passable bridges versus where they could cross by foot, along with a fascinating look into the military strategy of the day. The mission provided, planned or otherwise, path-crossings with other Battalions, as well as details leading up to a horrific, costly battle with the Indians in route on Dec. 25th, Christmas Day. Since “print real estate” is limited within our newsletter I am including only the specific passages contained in the diary about Lake Istokpoga. Spelling & punctuation duplicates the diary, so please don’t

think I forgot to use spell-check! If you would like the complete diary, in PDF format, send me an email and I’ll provide it to you.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1837:** ...Capt. Allen with Lieut. Grandin and their two mounted companies of the 4th Infy, comps D and K started on a scouting expedition... They saw numerous trails of cattle, and Indians, men, women and children... These trails appeared to lead to Fish(eating) Creek. Major McRay of the Florida Volunteers was also sent out with his battalion in the direction of Lake Istokpoga, or Dead Man’s Lake. After a march of ten miles they returned and reported that they had crossed a creek connecting two lakes south of our present position and that they met trails leading from Fish Creek to Istokpoga...

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1837:** ... Last night about nine o’clock a Spaniard and Seminole came into the camp from the Indians of Istokpoga... The Seminole whose name is Thlehajo or “Crazy Arrow” started back this morning with a small supply of provisions to meet the Indians and assure them from Col. Taylor that they should be kindly received and well tolerated in the event of their coming in. And moreover that if, after having a talk with him, they should decide on continuing the war, he would allow them to return to their friends without harm, for he was determined on his part, to keep the most perfect good faith with them in every thing which he might propose.

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1837:** ... About 11 a.m. we arrived at and forded a creek which is the outlet of Lake Istokpoga or “Dead Man’s Lake,” so called from several Indians having been drowned in attempting to cross it in their canoes. This creek empties into Lake Kissimmee...

In my ongoing research I hope to learn “pre-1837” facts because it is apparent from Lt. Buchanan’s diary that Lake Istokpoga had already acquired its name. If you can steer me

in the right direction it would be appreciated. I'll end this installment with a drum roll, please...

### **Some Lake Istokpoga trivia**

(sources include The DeVane Journals, NOAA & FWC)

- When was the first recorded hurricane that actually traveled directly over Lake Istokpoga? (Answer: 10/7/1873; A category 3, no names back then).
- In August 1881, how much did "stuff" cost? (Answer: Bacon @ 12.5 cents/lb; Coffee @ 18 cents/lb; Women's coarse leather shoes @ \$1.00/pr; 1st quality Men's Brogans/a heavy work shoe fitting high on the ankle @ \$1.50/pair; Eggs @ 15 cents/Dozen; Chickens @ \$3.00/dozen).
- Billy Bowlegs III Patriarch of the Seminoles, was born in Highlands County, on a point of timber reaching to the east bank of Arbuckle Creek, on February 17, 1862, in a site about three miles from the creek's entrance into Lake Istokpoga, now known as Florida Settlement (DeVane Early Florida History-Vol I).

Alligator Harvest Data from 2000-2008: Total harvest of 1,083 gators, with an average of 120/yr; The average length/yr has ranged from a low of 7'- 2.7" (2005) to a high of 8' - 1.8" (2006), averaging to 7'-8.4" over this time.

Contact information:  
gary.lamperelli@standardregister.com or call 1-877-314-4810

## **What's Happening On Istokpoga - Sept. 2009?**

This summer Lake Istokpoga has seen a normal amount of rain that seems to have quenched the needs of its water permit holders. South Florida Water Management

District has been holding Lake Istokpoga water level at 38.5 ft. during the summer rainy season but you will notice that during the next two months that the lake will rise to 39.5 ft which is the normal winter pool level. Following are some short updates on things that your board of directors is working on and other projects that are being preformed by some of the state and local agencies. Also we will try to give you some insight into events that have happened in the last few months. If you have any questions about or ideas for this column please email them to [friends@istokpoga.org](mailto:friends@istokpoga.org); we can use your help.

### **A: Hydrilla Spraying on Istokpoga**

The hydrilla on Lake Istokpoga has been growing at a fast rate. It has topped out at several locations in the north end of the lake and also at Windy Point, Eagles Nest, and some spots in the Mossy Cove area. This is a situation of great concern to all users of our beautiful lake. The word that FOI is getting from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Aquatic Plant Management Group and also they Highlands County Weed Control Section is that they have been monitoring the situation and are currently working on a plan for a late fall hydrilla treatment of the lake. They will have a private contractor on the lake in the early fall to map and measure the locations and extent of hydrilla growth. The guess is that the fall treatment will be in excess of 2000 acres but we won't know for sure until the mapping is done. In the interim the County spray crews will be out on the lake doing some spot treatment. If you have problems getting out of your canal because of hydrilla call Highlands County at 863-402-6813 and they should be able to help you.

### **B: Arbuckle Creek monitoring of water quality**

This is an ongoing project by South

Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to assess the water quality of the Arbuckle Creek watershed. SFWMD is trying to track down the areas in the watershed that contribute the most phosphorus loading of Arbuckle Creek and subsequently Lake Istokpoga.

### **C: Hydrilla Resistance to Herbicides.**

This is a little explanation and history about the herbicide resistant hydrilla on Lake Istokpoga. Starting back in the 1984 and up till 2004 hydrilla on the Lake was treated with a product named Sonar. Sonar worked very well on the Lake and for the most part keep the hydrilla under control. The problem that occurred over this 20 year span was Sonar became less effective and took a lot more product to have any control of the hydrilla situation. Since about 2005 because of the cost and ineffectiveness of Sonar the State DEP switched to the herbicide Aquathol K for control of hydrilla on the Lake. Aquathol K works fine on the Lake

but unlike Sonar that could do a whole lake treatment; Aquathol K can only be used in smaller areas of control because it is a contact herbicide.

This concerns everyone because if there is a large outbreak of hydrilla it will be harder to control Aquathol K than it was with Sonar. At this time the FWC aquatic plant management group is working with Dr Bill Haller's group at the University of Florida and this team is trying some new herbicides on other lake through out the State in hopes of finding a solution to this very tough problem.

### **D: Canal Maintenance & Dredging**

This project is still ongoing and you are right we all thought that it would be wrapping up about now. However it has been a slow process to satisfy all the agencies involved just to keep the project going forward with the proper permits. Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc. (FOI) is told

"The guess is that the fall [hydrilla] treatment will be in excess of 2000 acres but we won't know for sure until the mapping is done."

that there should be a contractor on site doing the dredging by early December. For more information on this project read the article in this issue of *The Istokpoga News-wire* written by the Canal Project Manager, Mr. Clell Ford, Highlands's County Lakes Manager.

#### **E: Istokpoga Canal Project US Army Corps of Engineers**

This project is in the final stages of completion. The contractor is now finishing work on the new S67 structure on Istokpoga canal, ¾ of a mile east of the bridge over CR-621. The contractor is also in the process of removing the old G-85 structure that S67 replaces. The park and boat ramp part of this project on US-98 are completed and the project is waiting for SFWMD to assume responsibility for the facility. We understand that the park should be open for public use in November.

#### **F: Spring Lake Water Control Plan**

Spring Lake is meeting with SFWMD to begin their conceptual permit process for the updated water control projects. Water Quality has taken a front seat with Spring Lake and them along with, SFWMD, Sebring Airport, DOT, Highlands County Water and Soil, and DEP are working on a joint venture partnership to tackle this problem. Spring Lakes Board has approved their 2010 budget, and about \$200,000 has been allocated to begin work on selected projects. The estimated cost for the entire project is in the \$5 million range and Spring Lake with some matching funding along with some grants from other sources will be looking to complete the entire project in a timely fashion. We at FOI applaud their effort to improve the water quality that goes into Arbuckle Creek and ultimately Lake Istokpoga. Their success is important to the long range health of beautiful Lake Istokpoga.

#### **G: S-68 Modification Project US Army Corps of Engineers.**

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) are finalizing this project as we go to print. If you go by S-68 on County road 621 you will see the new gate and diversion canal.

#### **H: Lygodium Treatment on Big Island**

There was a 100 to 200 acre patch of Lygodium on west side of Big Island that FWC and SFWMD sprayed in the spring of this year. Let's hope that this is the end of the Lygodium on and about Lake Istokpoga because if you read the following explanation about Lygodium you will understand our concerns. Lygodium also known as old world climbing fern or Japanese climbing vine is a very invasive vine in Florida. It is native to Asia and Australia but as usual it does very well in Florida. It climbs into trees and over other native vegetation shading them out and eventually killing them. FWC hopes to eradicate this exotic before it gets to strong of a foothold.

#### **I: FWC. Weed Control**

FWC will have a contractor out on the Lake Istokpoga doing about 1000 acres of weed control in different areas of the lake. They will be working on the western shoreline, on some of the wildlife islands, on the north side in the area of no name creek, by Mallard Mobile Home Park and also on Big Island and Bumble Bee Island. They will be opening up areas for better water flow and doing some spraying of cattails and other plants that are growing too aggressively. They will also have the harvester back on Big Island doing some removal of vegetation for better water flow. Later in the fall the FWC will also have contractors back out to work on the every expanding tussock on the east side of the Lake at Istokpoga Shores.

#### **FOI Fall Meeting**

The Friends of Istokpoga will hold a fall general membership meeting at the Lorida Community Center in Lorida, Florida, on Thursday, No-

ember 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. It is the start of a new season on Lake Istokpoga. We would like to see you and all your neighbors and friends at this kick off meeting for the 2009-2010 season.

The speakers for the evening will be Erica VanHorn from FWC Aquatic Plant Management Group and also Carl Smith from Highlands County Weed Control Section. They will give us an update on the hydrilla treatment that should be happening at the end of November or early December. They will also give you an update on other vegetation that they plan to treat.

This will be a very informative meeting. So please attend the meeting and support the Friends of Istokpoga Lakes Association. Bring your friends and neighbors and anyone you know who are interested in keeping Lake Istokpoga pristine for now and generations to come.

There will be refreshments served beginning at 6:45. There will also be a membership table where you can pay your 2010 dues. So come out and meet with your board of directors, neighbors and others for the good of our Lake Istokpoga.

#### **Alligator Hunting**

Alligator hunting season began August 15, 2009, and will run thru November 1. Approximately 6000 alligator harvest permits have been made available. Each permit entitles the hunter two alligators. The cost for an alligator trapping license and harvest tags are \$271.50 for Florida residents, nonresidents pay \$1,021.50.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) allows an annual alligator harvest to achieve population management objectives. This promotes commercial and recreational hunting opportunities.

However, with the global recession there has been a decline for products made from gator skin. Froehlich Gator Farm in Christmas

and Lee Lightsey, Outwest Farms in Okeechobee both state there is no market for hides. Allan Register, owner of Gatorama, in Palmdale, has not harvested any animals for awhile, due to lack of demand. Register, chairman of the Florida Alligator Marketing and Education Committee traveled recently to Russia looking for new outlets for alligator products. A future trip to China is planned. Register stated to the Tampa Tribune that a few years ago hides went for \$55 to \$65 a foot. This year, a hunter may only get \$10 a foot for a perfect hide. Gator meat is costing as low as \$6.50 a pound.

FWC reported a final total of 6,376 alligators in the statewide harvested in 2008. Of those taken, 841 were female, 3,284 were males and 2251 were undetermined. Total meat yield was 135,299 pounds. Average size was 8.4 feet. Private lands harvest was 6338 alligators. Males made up the largest group at 3701, females 1,849, and 788 undetermined. Total meat yield was 91,297 pounds. Average size was 7.6 feet. Nuisance alligators made up the greatest numbers harvested. A total of 9,733 were reported captured. Total meat yield was 125,638 pounds. Average length was 6.9 feet. The sex distribution was females 1,539, males 3256, and undetermined 4938.

96 alligators were harvested on Lake Istokpoga in 2008. They ranged in length from 12' 7" to 4' 6".

We are interested in any newsworthy alligator hunting stories (on Lake Istokpoga) you might have. We will print them in our Istokpoga Newswire if we believe they are of general interest to our membership.

## **FWC Ridge Rangers**

By James Reed, FWC Ridge Ranger Volunteer Coordinator

Many of us have moved here from someplace else, where the winters brought snow and the countryside varied with each rolling hill. But this place is different. We plant vegetables in the fall; the trees lose their leaves in the spring; and the

predominant geographic feature is the Lake Wales Ridge, a single rise that is only about 10 miles wide (but 100 miles long) and only goes up about 100-200 feet.

We are living along a string of ancient sand dunes that offer refuge to intriguing plants and animals found nowhere else on earth. The Lake Wales Ridge is a landscape sculpted by the sea and maintained by fire. Over millennia rising and receding seas have covered and ex-

***“We are living along a string of ancient sand dunes that offer refuge to intriguing plants and animals found nowhere else on earth.”***

posed much of the Florida peninsula. Following glacial stages, polar ice-caps melted, waters rose and a series of ridges stood as islands in a vast ocean covering most of Florida.

Isolated from their distant relatives, plants and animals on these ridges evolved unique characteristics to survive in this harsh environment. Some of these plants and animals require fire in order for the species to survive. Others have developed unique methods of surviving in a desert environment that paradoxically gets about 50 inches of rain a year – most of which disappears quickly into the 200 foot thick sand base.

The Florida scrub jay is the icon of the Lake Wales Ridge. It lives here and nowhere else, surviving on acorns it hides in the ground and keeping its adolescent young around for an extra year to help the jay family survive. There are other species with unique adaptations, such as the sand skink which most of us have never seen, because it spends its life burrowing under the surface of the sand, swimming in a silicon sea as it seeks out its prey. The gopher tortoise digs burrow that may be 40 feet or more in length which helps it survive in the event of fires from the frequent lightning storms. These burrows also then shelter many of the other small creatures living in

the scrub during those fires. The scrub oak grows from the acorns planted by the scrub jay, and as it grows it sends out lateral underground runners that outcrop in other areas. Eventually a single scrub oak may have sections emerging over a 10 acre area. When there's a fire, some of it may burn, but the parent plant survives – to provide more acorns for the scrub jay.

One of the enemies of the scrub oak is the sand pine. Left to itself, over years the sand pine can grow to a size which can shade out the scrub oak and take over as the dominant tree. It takes a fire, which the scrub oak can survive, to burn across the land

and get rid of the sand pines. But the sand pine also has a protective adaptation – the cones are coated with a heavy wax that in normal years prevents the cone from releasing its seed. But when there's a fire, the flames melt the wax, the seeds fall out of the cone and a new tree begins in the barren sand.

It's a tapestry, with a warp and woof unlike any other area in the world. Within its narrow boundaries are at least 24 species that are federally listed as endangered or threatened. Adding to the problem is the fact that over 85% of the unique upland habitats of the Lake Wales Ridge – a location as unique as the Galapagos – have been lost to human development.

That's where the Ridge Rangers come in. The Ridge Rangers are a group of volunteers, coordinated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) which help land managers protect and preserve these rare natural treasures. Ridge Rangers are dedicated volunteers of all ages, backgrounds and skills, working together to help wildlife managers protect habitat, manage wildlife populations, conduct important research and educate others about the rare qualities of this fragile ecosystem. With over 40 conservation sites along the Lake Wales Ridge there is always somewhere new to explore. Last year the Ridge Rangers

provided over 5,000 hours of volunteer work to this region.

Ridge Rangers have workdays almost every Saturday in the year at a conservation area operated by FWC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Highlands and Polk counties, Florida State Parks and other conservation organizations. Among their many projects are:

- Restoring conservation lands at Flamingo Villas, Carter Creek and other locations
- Helping plant the endangered scrub lupine at Lake Blue scrub
- Taking part in Jaywatch scrub jay monitoring
- Doing basic research on wildlife corridors in central Florida for Archbold and The Nature Conservancy
- Replanting aquatic vegetation in Highland County lakes
- Helping protect and improve Highlands Hammock State Park and other parks
- Operating a native plant nursery to raise plants to be used in scrub restoration

You can see more information about Ridge Ranger projects and their future schedule at their website, [myfwc.com/GETINVOLVED/Volunteer Ridge Rangers index.htm](http://myfwc.com/GETINVOLVED/Volunteer_Ridge_Rangers_index.htm)

The Ridge Rangers have added Lake Istokpoga to their area of operations. Lake Istokpoga lies on the southeastern edge of the Ridge, and is an important part of the overall environment. Among the possible programs for Lake Istokpoga and other area lakes are:

- Habitat restoration, such as improving the spoil islands on Istokpoga
- Monofilament recycling, an effort already ongoing
- Taking basic science data at bass tournaments to provide biological data
- Working with Lakewatch to in-

corporate additional lakes into the Lakewatch program

Anyone interested in learning more about Ridge Rangers can check out the website. You can also ask for more information through an e-mail to [james.reed@myfwc.com](mailto:james.reed@myfwc.com). Once the Ridge Rangers volunteer coordinator has your application you will automatically be on the lists for the newsletter and e-mail notifications of scheduled events. It's the best kind of volunteer organization, because you get all of the benefits, including the newsletter, and you can wait until you see something that really intrigues you and sign up for the event in which you have the most interest.

Joining the Ridge Rangers can fill that vacant spot in your life, where you know you should be doing something, but aren't quite sure what. You'll meet a really interesting group of people with widely varied backgrounds, have a chance to get behind the scenes at the work-sites such as the state forests, state parks and Bok Tower, and most importantly, you can be a part of saving these endangered plants and animals from extinction.

### **Friends of Istokpoga on Facebook**

The Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc. now has its own Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, we hope you will join our Facebook Group. We have information about important meetings and events on our Facebook page. You can find us by searching Groups for "Friends of Lake Istokpoga".

And, don't forget to drop by our website [www.istokpoga.org](http://www.istokpoga.org) for up-to-date information on what is happening around the lake.

### **More Storage Sites and a Time Extension Sought for the Istokpoga Residential Canal Project – time for some specifics**

By Clell Ford, Highlands County Lakes Manager

The Natural Resource Department's Istokpoga Residential Canal Project has encountered some speed bumps on the road to performing maintenance of residential canals around Lake Istokpoga. However, the project is still moving forward and funding from the state is secure. The primary causes for delays are in finding storage sites for sediment and completing FDEP required wetland assessments. The County has asked FDEP to extend the contract for this project until next June.

Twenty-five upland landowners adjacent to the evaluated canals, representing more than 1,400 acres of land, were contacted during the initial effort to identify potential sediment storage sites. Four responses have been received, representing less than 35 acres of land. Obviously we need a lot more land to proceed with this project! These are the factors being considered for selection of storage / disposal sites: 1) Distance from the canal being dredged, 2) Size of useable land on the parcel relative to the amount of sediment to be removed, 3) Absence of regulatory problems on the parcel, 4) Distance from homes or businesses and 5) Lack of transportation barriers between the parcel and the canal being dredged. Additional contacts are being made by County staff. Please, if you are interested or know of someone interested in having their land evaluated for sediment storage, and you are near one of the canals to be dredged (see the list at the end of this article) please contact the Clell Ford at the Natural Resources Department office, (402-6545, or e-mail [cford@hcbcc.org](mailto:cford@hcbcc.org)).

So what are the next steps? After all the potential storage sites are identified ranked, FDEP is requiring that a formal wetland boundary be surveyed and a formal wetland determination be performed by the FDEP's Wetland Evaluation and Delineation Section (WEDS) staff. County staff will continue to work to identify and secure permission to perform wetland evaluations on these properties, as well as securing

the contracts for engineering oversight and professional land surveying services. Presently, due to their schedules and the small size of their staff, the WEDS will not be able to begin work before late October or November. Though the permit application process has tentatively begun, a formal permit request to FDEP cannot be submitted until the storage and disposal sites have been certified for each canal. We expect to advertise this project for bid in December, with work to begin next February.

County staff have provided FDEP with a proposed list of sediment removal technologies for the project,

Dewatering areas must be much larger than with the wet excavation method to accommodate the additional volume.

- Dewater canal by placing temporary dam across the mouth and remove excess sediment using excavator delivering material to sealed dump trucks for delivery to upland dewatering / storage site. Water volumes are lowest for this process, but it involves the most disruption of the canal.

Finally, a list of the canals to be dredged with the originally considered storage site sizes is included [See Text Box below].

Canal number	Canal description	Estimated length (feet)	Calculated Sediment Volume (cubic yards)	Total potential upland storage (acres)	depth across site - feet
4	Mallard to lake	910	606		
5	Mallard lateral	460	417	126	0.005
6	Palms Estates	2317	4599	43	0.066
7	Sunset Shores	1150	1814		
8	Sunset shores	933	945	290	0.006
11	Istokpoga shores north	970	1652		
12	Istokpoga shores north	275	171	72	0.016
19	Istokpoga shores central	502	1036	22	0.029
28	Istokpoga shores south	531	1130		
29	Istokpoga shores south	900	1604	32	0.053
33	Trails End Fish Camp	681	1720		
34	Trails End Fish Camp lateral	400	199	128	0.009
37	Mossy Cove Fish Camp	1250	391	26	0.009
42	Istokpoga Marina	670	961	35	0.017
46	Bald Cypress	833	924	99	0.006
51	Elliot Road west	1276	684	522	0.001
58	Elliot Road east	1103	746	72	0.006

including

- Wet excavation with a track hoe or other excavator, delivering excavated material to sealed dump trucks for delivery to the upland de-watering, storage site. Water volumes are relatively low with this method.
- Wet excavation with a dredge (suction head or similar) delivering slurry of excavated material directly to upland de-watering site by pipe. Water volumes are typically quite high, 1000 gallons of water for every 7.5 gallons (1 cubic yard) of sediment removed.

There is no “magic” number for the final depth of sediment on the storage site. Previous experience with these projects has demonstrated that the dredge material makes excellent soil additives for pastures, with the organic matter being incorporated into the soil within one growing season. Not all the canals to be dredged are listed on this table – those with existing FDEP permits (and yes, they have contacted us!) will also be part of this project.

Clell Ford is the Lakes Manager for Highlands County. He can be

reached at 402-6545 or by e-mail at cford@hcbcc.org.

## Membership in Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association

Membership in the Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc. (FOI) is very important to you and to our great lake. Managing Lake Istokpoga is a very complex task, and there are many individuals and organizations that think they know what is best for our lake. Many of these are government agencies and each of them have a different perspective on just what is important from their narrow viewpoint, and

this is their job. On the other hand, this may not be the best thing for the lake when everything is considered.

FOI's only interest is Lake Istokpoga and what is good for the WHOLE lake and the people that live on it, fish it, and enjoy it. Our goal is to keep everything in balance.

When we meet with the various agencies who are all pushing their own agendas, we need the power of our membership behind us. We know that times are putting a strain on all of our wallets, so keep in mind that you can't find a better value for your money than the ability to help preserve

our great lake than the \$7.00 membership fee to be an individual member, or the \$12.00 fee for a family membership. It is time to start thinking about renewing your membership for 2010.

***Please share this newsletter with your friends or neighbors when you are done with it, and encourage them to join FOI.***

**Friends of Istokpoga Lake  
Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 205  
Lorida, Florida 33857

Pager: 863-219-0082  
Email: friends@istokpoga.org

Help us protect Lake Istokpoga

**Were on the Web —  
[www.istokpoga.org](http://www.istokpoga.org)**



**Friends of Istokpoga Associate Members**

Annie's 98, Sebring  
Audubon of Florida, Lorida  
Cypress Isles RV Park & Marina, Lake Placid  
Delta Southern Construction, Sarasota  
Glades Electric Cooperative, Moore Haven  
Henderson's Fish Camp, Lake Placid  
High Hopes Guide Service, Sebring  
J & H Supply, Lake Worth  
John and Debbie Seering, Franklin, IN  
Lake Istokpoga Marina, Lake Placid  
Lake Placid Marine Inc., Lake Placid  
Mossy Cove Fish Camp, Lorida  
Naples CAD, Naples  
Frank and Leslie Odierno, Sebring

Olin Hill & Assoc. Insurance, Cape Coral  
Outback USA, Sebring  
Perfection Home Inspection, Inc., Sebring  
Precise Installation, Lake Placid  
R.T. Bryan & Assoc., Ft. Pierce  
Spring Lake Improvement District, Sebring  
Sue Clark, Realtor, Lake Placid  
Trails End Fishing Resort, Lorida