

END OF 2020 LAKE FACTS 10/17/2020 by Mike Backus

Rain

Between rainfall and a high water table in the Midwest our lake has remained high. Since March 30, 2020, my monitoring shows we have received 28.99" of rain up to 10/17/2020.

Lake Water Level

Water level tracking started at a device on my pier on May 6, 2020. During the 2020 season the lake level has been up as high as +2" (on July 11th) above the starting level and as low as -5.5" (on Aug 24th) below the starting level. On 10/17/2020 the lake level was -3.5".

Water Monitoring

Clarity and lake level temps were monitored 17 times (15 in 2019). Thirteen of those times it was on days a satellite took pictures of the lake for analysis by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The readings I get are then compared to the satellite estimates for refinement of their computer programs.

Water Clarity

The best Jordan clarity was 22' on May 13th (18' on 6/17/19) and the worst was 11' on 8/5 (11' on 8/27/19). The average clarity for June-Aug was 14' in 2020 vs 15' in 2019.

Water Temps

The water temps this season were a little cooler than in 2019. Could be due to all the rain we got or maybe it just takes more warm days to warm the larger lake we now have. The coolest surface water temp was 52.5 degrees on May 13, 2020 vs 60.8 degrees on May 29, 2019. Warmest surface water temp was 81.1 degrees on July 14th this year and 81.5 degrees on July 16, 2019. If you are into deep dives the water temp is a pretty consistent 44 degrees at 70' down!

Chemical Testing

During June –August chemical tests for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll were again taken and analyzed by UW-Madison. In 2020 our average Chlorophyll level was

slightly higher than in 2019 and the Phosphorus average was the highest it has been since 2017. I believe that might be due to high lake level and significant June rain run-off into the lake from our shoreline.

Zebra Mussels

Again this year two DNR Zebra Mussel Sampler Traps were placed at two different locations on the lake. Thanks to Dave Hansen one was placed at his pier (close to the boat landing) and the other at my pier on May 7th. On Sept 18th both were removed CLEAN of Zebra Mussels!

Boat Census

On August 24, 2020 I conducted the annual boat census. Boats visible from on the water were counted and classified as to type. See results on our web site jlrpd.net.

Water Activity Highlight

Not even a close contest!!! The Waterman Water Playground was THE highlight.

You had to see it to believe it-what fun!

Adams Co Water Resource Specialist

Anna James is the new Adams County Water Resource Specialist in the Land and Water Conservation Dept. She is new to Wisconsin and our area but we look forward to working with her. Contact info: Anna.James@co.adams.wi.us 608-339-4269.

CORRECTION

This summer when we were having an algae problem on Jordan I was asked if it was the toxic Blue-Green Algae (BGA). I offered an explanation of BGA which has been identified on some Madison lakes and some even in Adams Co. I ended by saying Jordan has NEVER had BGA. That was technically incorrect! My DNR expert has informed me that many/most lakes and ponds have BGA. However, only a few have outbreaks that are a potential health hazard. Usually it is so low it is

insignificant. Why the difference and what causes it is still being studied. BGA blooms need to be thick to be a problem--like if you can't see your feet in knee deep water thick! Therefore, I should have ended my info by saying Jordan has never had a reported case of BGA that was anywhere near a health hazard.