

LAKE FACTS AS OF 4/3/2021 by Mike Backus

Lake Ice

Jordan had full ice cover on 12/29/2020 which was 17 days later than in 2019. ICE-Off for the 20-21 season was 3/24/2021 for 85 days of full ice cover. That compares to 108 days of full cover in the 19-20 season.

All of our ice data for the past years was sent to Dr Ken at the University of Rhode Island. Dr Ken got his masters at Madison and visited our lake and others in the area back some years ago. For 55 years he has studied the changes of ICE-ON and ICE-OFF on lakes in the Northern Hemisphere in regard to global warming. A number of years ago he somehow got my name and I have offered our data for his studies. His work is showing that ICE-ON is getting later in the year and ICE-OFF is earlier in the following year giving fewer full ice days.

Dead Trees on Shoreline

In fall I contacted the DNR, Adams Co and Town of Jackson looking for guidance on when we did or did not have to pull a permit to remove a dead tree on our shoreline. No simple answer was offered! My advice is to be cautious and inquire before you take action. Rules differ depending on the exact location of the tree in question.

Chemical Water Testing

Three or four times a summer I conduct a chemical test for both Phosphorus and Chlorophyll in our lake water. The samples are then sent to Madison for analysis and the results recorded in the State data base. The average Jordan results from 2020 for both chemicals increased slightly over the results from 2019. It is my feeling that the Phosphorus level increased because of the continued high water level on new shoreline and because of the rain run off into the lake last season.

Water Clarity

The average clarity of our lake water for the 8 tests used by the DNR during their testing period was slightly lower than in 2019. Again, I tie that back to the amount of rain we got and the associated run off into the lake from our yards. Nitrogen is our enemy for it promotes Chlorophyll and vegetation growth which reduces clarity.

Boat Landing

As promised Adams Co has already made some much-needed maintenance to their pier at the boat landing. Not sure if it is finished but as of this date the pier has not been placed back in the lake for the start of the season.