

## **END OF 2021 LAKE FACTS AS OF (10/9/21) by Mike Backus**

### **Rain**

Did you think we had a dry season this summer? Some even said we had drought conditions. Well last year from March to Oct the lake area received 28.99" of rain. This year during the same period it was 23.76"! Not a major drop but it helped.

### **Lake Water Level**

Lake water level tracking started on May 12<sup>th</sup> this year. During the season the lake level went up and down tied to the rain amounts. On October 9<sup>th</sup> the level ended the season 7" down from what it was in May. This was better than in 2020 and headed in the right direction. However, we are still 22" above the base of the measuring pipe on what use to be my beach before the lake went up.

### **Zebra Mussels**

In early spring, two DNR Zebra Mussel Samplers were installed onto piers at two different locations on the lake. This has been our practice for years. The Samplers were removed from the lake on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> without any sign of Zebra Mussels on them. Luck and our Clean Boats/Clean Water efforts play a big part of this success.

### **Water Monitoring**

Water clarity and water temperatures were monitored 20 times which was 3 times more than last year. Temps were taken an additional 6 times in order to identify the perfect conditions for the EWM treatment date.

### **Water Clarity**

Our best water clarity on Jordan this year was 20 feet on June 9<sup>th</sup> and the worst was 11 feet on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. The season average ended at a 12 foot level which is two feet worse than the 14 foot average in 2020. Continued shoreline erosion is the main cause.

### **A look Back**

If you don't think our high lake level hurt the water quality consider this: in 2017 before the high water started, our clarity average was 15'. Clarity dropped to 11'

in 2018 when the 11" rainfall caused the start of our high water and Lake Delton emptied! Just recently, clarity has started to get better but very slowly.

### **Water Temps**

Water temperatures at the surface (0' to 9') got as high as 79.1 degrees on July 30th and as low as 65.6 degrees on Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. Overall, the water was a little cooler this season.

### **Chemical Testing**

During June thru August, chemical tests for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll were taken and sent to UW-Madison for analysis. The Chlorophyll numbers are up (warmer air temps in 2021) and the Phosphorus numbers were also up. I attribute this to the continued new soil (from shoreline erosion) entering the lake water system.

### **Turtles (Educational Fact)**

Eleven species of turtles are in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's largest turtle, the snapper, can grow to weigh over 75 pounds (let's hope that one is not in Jordan)! Turtles are active primarily from April to October. Algae, fruit, stems, leaves and insects are all common food sources. Mating primarily occurs in late spring and once fertilization takes place, females will usually travel to upland nesting sites to lay their eggs. Turtles help maintain water quality by removing sources of harmful bacteria when they eat carcasses of fish and other animals that die in our lakes.

### **Boat Census**

I thought about it but never got around to conducting my lake resident census of what kind of boats are being used on Jordan. Sorry!

### **Clean Boats/Clean Water**

Thanks to Laura and Mark Shaw who for at least the 10<sup>th</sup> year, coordinated the Clean Boat/Clean Water program for us. Those two were responsible for over 30 monitoring sessions themselves! Only NINE other residents monitored another 9 sessions in 2021! Over 110 volunteer hours were directed toward monitoring contacting 233 boats and 531 boaters. The Management Plan goal of increasing our monitoring by 10% was reached mostly because of Laura and Mark. THANKS

