

LAKE FACTS AS OF 8/20/2022 by Mike Backus

Rain

Since March 21, 2022, the lake area has received 18.28" of rain. This time last year it was 21.57", so be happy!

Lake Level

In case you forgot, our lake level at its worst (2018), was some 29" above normal. At the end of 2021, it was still about 19" above normal and in March of this year it had dropped to about 15" above what most of us feel was normal. At that time the fixed pipe on my shoreline used for measurements broke off from winter damage. I no longer have a year-to-year device to use for the measurement.

As of today, the lake is down 8" since May 29th. This reading is taken from a device attached to my pier. For the first time in years, part of my beach is back and the lake water is not eating away at my bank. Another drop of 9-12" would be nice!

Chemical Water Testing

Tests for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll were conducted in May/June and July with the August test scheduled for next week. Madison has not graphed the 2022 results but I expect the Phosphorus level to drop slightly as our erosion of virgin shoreline has also dropped. I expect the Chlorophyll level to be normal. Because of our testing, the DNR has records of our lake data going all the way back to 1992.

Water Temps

The warmest surface water temperature on the days I have tested was 78 degrees on Aug 10th. Last season the high temp was 79.1 on July 30th. If you are a deep swimmer or diver, the coldest reading I got this season so far was 46.2 degrees at 45' on June 6th.

Water Clarity

This season so far, I tested our lake 11 times (15 in 2021) for clarity and temps. Of those times, the DNR satellite also monitored the lake and my results 9 times. They are watching me! To date our average is about the same as last year's

average or around 13'. This is still down from before the flood in 2018 when our average was 15'.

Fish Stocking

The DNR site shows that Jordan was given Walleye large fingerlings (2,214) with an average length of 6.5" in 2021. News to me! It also shows we got about the same amount and size in 2019. In 2016 some 267 Brown Trout at a length of 9" were stocked in Jordan. We are scheduled for a fish survey in 2025 if their schedule holds.

Adams County Lake Association (ACLA)

Over 10 years ago, this association was assembled to gain greater attention of the Adams County Board for lake issues. Why should Adams County care about lakes?

With over 20 lakes and the entire western border bounded by lakes and rivers, there is a reason why Adams is 19th in the State of Wisconsin in tourism, bringing in over \$300 million a year. Of the \$2.4 Billion total county property valuation, 79% comes from residential uses. Over 40% of that residential value is from Lake District and waterfront property! Lakes offer local government revenue growth opportunities and studies show healthy lakes increase property values. Lakes and rivers are important to Adams, something the Adams Board needs to keep in mind.

To give a greater voice to the needs of lakes and rivers, this association was assembled. Individuals in the group represent their waterways. They meet monthly (via Zoom meetings as of late) and not only share their lake facts but also welcome guest speakers for common issues. Recent examples are: Anna James on private well testing programs; Deputy Caleb Harrin on boating safety and Dr Paul McGinley on ground water issues. They hope to have open meetings when it is safe to do so.

Yearly Boat Census

On August 9, 2022, I counted 253 watercraft as I took a boat tour on the Lake. That total is the highest since June of 2018 when I observed and counted 283 watercraft. The record number was 320 in 2014.

The 2022 results were: 131 Pontoons; 30 motor boats; 2 sailboats; 16 PWC; 42 Paddleboards/Canoes/Kayaks; 20 Paddleboats and 11 rowboats.