

END OF 2022 LAKE FACTS (10/8/22) BY MIKE BACKUS

Rain

Since March 21st, my measurement device shows that the lake area has received 25.12" of rain. That compares to 23.76" in 2021 and 28.99" in 2020.

Lake Water level

Lake water level tracking started on May 29th this year. As expected, the lake level has gone up and down from the starting level based on evaporation and rain. As of 10/8, it is DOWN 8.5" from the starting level. We all can see the lake is slowly returning to what we consider the normal level.

Zebra Mussels

Jordan Lake continues to be blessed with the absence of the dreaded Zebra Mussels. Once again, two DNR Zebra Mussel Samplers were placed at two different pier locations on the lake on May 29th. Both were removed on Sept 24th. Neither had any Mussels on them!!

Water Monitoring

Water clarity and temperatures were monitored 17 times this season. Twelve of those times were on days the DNR satellite flew over our lake and did its clarity monitoring. Often during my monitoring on the lake, I was watched by one (and often two) Bald Eagles perched on the dead tree on the Point on the North shore. It is one thing being monitored by a satellite but the addition of Eagles is a bonus.

Chemical Testing

On a single day in May, June, July and August, a water sample was obtained and sent to UW-Madison for analysis of Phosphorus and Chlorophyll. Our lake Chlorophyll was just slightly above that of 2021 but the Phosphorus average was lower than last year. A good thing!

Water Clarity

The season average for water clarity ended at 13' which is one foot better than the 12' average in 2021. The best clarity reading this year was 15' in early July.

Water Temps

The highest surface (0' to 9') water temp this year was 77.7 degrees on July 18th. The weather was hotter in 2021 resulting in a higher surface temp of 79.1 degrees on 7/30/21. I did share all the 2021 and 2022 readings with Brad Boettcher who is preparing a proposal for a solution for managing our lake level. Water temps might be a critical factor in gaining approval for managing the lake level.

Clean Boats/Clean Water

We surpassed last years hours for monitoring the boat landing only because of the hours put in by Mark and Laura Shaw. They, themselves, monitored close to 95% of the hours logged this year! If, in fact this lake is a better lake, it is because of them and a very few others who helped!

Boat Census

Visit our web site (jlrpd.net) to see what kind and number of water craft call our lake home.

County Referendum

If you vote in Adams County expect to see a Clean Water referendum question on the November ballot. Adams is following many other counties in the State with an advisory question regarding the importance of Clean Water to you. No specifics involved at this time-a Yes vote tells the County representatives that you want them to protect all aspects of Clean Water in their decisions.