

LAKE FACTS AS OF AUGUST 19, 2023 by Mike Backus

Rain

As a spring fed lake, Jordan lake level is almost completely dependent on the amount of OR the lack of rain and snow. We had a little more than normal snow last winter but this Spring and Summer have been drier than last year (16.06" of rain in 2023 vs 18" in 2022). Since the April 14, 2023 first reading, the lake level is DOWN 10.5".

Water Clarity

The earliest reading of clarity I got after the ice went out was 25', which I am sure was the best in Adams Co. As the weather warmed up and Chlorophyll has increased resulting in readings in the 17-13' range, which is very normal.

Water Temps

It has been a good season for swimming with the water temps at the top 10' were in the 70 to 80 degree range. Nice!

Chemical Testing

Tests were again done in May/June and July with the final August test planned for next week. Results from the State Labs of the Chlorophyll and Phosphorus levels have not been published but seem to be very normal.

PFA'S

PFAS are a somewhat new concern for all waterways and drinking water. They are a class of over 5,000 carbon-fluorine bonded chemicals recently called "forever chemicals". These chemicals are used in stick-resistant cookware, firefighting foam, raincoat clothing, etc. PFA exposure has been linked to high cholesterol, decreased fetal and infant growth, an increased risk of kidney cancer and high blood pressure. In Oct of 2022, the DNR issued a fish consumption warning for Castle Rock and Petenwell because of PFA readings. They also found 10 PFA chemicals in Adams Well #4 water and steps are approved to correct that finding. The Adams Co Lakes Association, which I am on, has approved the funds to test 4 lakes in Adams: Big Roche A Cri, Friendship Lake, Parker Lake and Jordan. We conducted those tests on July 30th but have not received the results yet.

Boat Landing

The District Management Plan has an item that requests help from Adams Co on a few issues at the landing. The DNR owns this landing but has turned over the maintenance to Adams Co which is why launch fees go to Adams Co. So far this year the Parks Supervisor responsible for the boat landing has: repaired and installed 2 added pier sections; eliminated major pot holes in the parking area and has promised to remove a number of dead trees along the landing shoreline in the Fall. He also implemented a solution to the traffic flow problem we experience at busy times. However, many District members and visiting fishermen are far from happy with the solution which took away a number of parking spots, lacked adequate traffic flow signage and worst of all may be an issue for the Pier Companies that work on our lake. They need greater parking space and turning space for their large crane-barge boats and tailers. I have reached out to the parties and asked them to reach a compromise BEFORE it is time to remove piers and lifts.