

March 2016 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake Lanier temperature averaged 52 this was 7 degrees warmer than last year and 1.4 degrees warmer than February. The Secchi readings dropped 0.6 from 2015. "A" averaged 3.2 feet, "B" 6.6 feet, and "C" 11.9 feet. Our chlorophyll a average jumped to 7.3 micrograms/liter 1.5 higher than 2015. We had four readings above 10. These were Wahoo Creek, Off Watuga Dr., North of River Forks Park, and Brown's Bridge. We will drop our **Lake Lanier Index to 5.5** with lower Secchi and higher chlorophyll a averages. The Lake levels were 1071.02 on the 1st, 1070.21 on the 15th, 1070.06 on the 30th. All of these readings differed less than a foot from the March lake levels in 2015 and 2014.

Adopt-A-Lake divides Lake Lanier into three sections "A" north of Brown's Bridge, "B" the center region south of the Bridge to a line from Six Mile Creek east to Aqualand Marina, and "C" south of this line to Buford Dam. We have 25 stations that volunteers test the first week every month. Secchi readings are taken by lowering a weighted disk into the water and measuring the distance it can be seen thus giving a gauge of clarity. Chlorophyll a is used to determine nutrients in the Lake. The Lake Lanier Index is only a measure of nutrients and clarity and not of water safety.

Thanks to our wonderful Adopt-A-Lake volunteers, Gwinnett Water Lab for our chlorophyll a analysis, and the support of all Lake Lanier Association members.

Smooth Sailing,
Bev Nicholls