

August 2016 Lake Lanier Index

August is usually the warmest month for our Lake temperature and we warmed to 87 equal to 2015 and three degrees warmer than July. The Secchi reading averaged 7.5 this was 1.3 feet higher than last year and 0.6 better than July. Our "A" section averaged 5.9 feet, "B" 7.5, and "C" 9.8. Our lowest reading was at the Shallow Water Marker in the Upper Chattahoochee of 3.3 feet. The highest in Cocktail Cove and near the Dam of 11.9 feet. The chlorophyll a averaged 6.3 micrograms/liter. We had four readings above 10. Three north of the Rowing Venue and one in the Flat Creek area. "A" averaged 9.4, "B" 5.1, "C" 3.5. With better Secchi readings and higher chl a we will leave our **Lake Lanier Index at 6.0**. The Lake is over 5 feet below full pool, we need several days of sustained rain. The level on August 1st 1066.52 this year, 1068.07 in 15 and 1070.36 in 14. The 15th readings, 1066.36 in 16, 1067.43 in 15 and, 1069.96 in 14. The 30th readings 1065.93, 1067.62 in 15 and, 1068.92 in 14.

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 and Gwinnett Water Lab for our chlorophyll a analysis, along with the support of all Lake Lanier Association members.

Smooth Sailing,
Bev Nicholls