

## May 2016 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake warmed over 14 degrees to an average of 71.5 from April and 3.5 degrees from last year. The Secch average was 7.6 feet 6 inches less than last month as well as 2015. Section "A" averaged 5.5 feet with a low of 3.6 feet in Wahoo Creek. "B" averaged 8.5 feet and "C" 9.8 feet with a high of 13 feet near Bald Ridge Marina. The average chlorophyll a reading was 6.64 micrograms/liter. We had three readings above 10 in off Watuga Dr., near River Forks Park, and Wilkes Bridge. With the rise in chlorophyll and lower Secchi readings we will lower our **Lake Lanier Index to 6.5**. The Lake levels were 1070.72 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1070.18 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and 1069.2 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. These were all lower than in 2014 and 2015 with our less than normal rainfall.

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