

February 2012 Lake Lanier Index

After our warmer than normal January our Lake temperature started rising and the average for the first weekend in February was 51 after a low of 47 in January. Our Secchi average decreased but only modestly to 5.2 feet from 5.5. The highest reading was 8.5 feet at the mouth of Mud Creek and the lowest 2.3 feet in Wahoo Creek. Our Chlorophyll a readings were low with only one reading of 3 PPB. The average dropped 0.1 to 1.5 PPB. We will leave the Lake Lanier Index at 5.5 with a slight decrease in Secchi readings and Chlorophyll a readings.

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 30 stations that volunteers test the first weekend 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, AMPRO Labs for our chlorophyll a analysis, and the support of all Lake Lanier Association members.

Smooth Sailing,

Bev Nicholls

March 2012 Lake Lanier Index

Our Lake temperature rose to an average of 55 the first weekend in March from 51 in February. We had several reports of temperatures in the mid-60s in mid-March, the Lake is warming quickly. The Secchi readings decreased for the second month to an average of 4.9 feet from 5.2 feet in February 5.5 feet in January. The best reading was near Bald Ridge Marina of 9.1 feet and the lowest at three stations north of the Rowing Venue of 3.3 feet. Section A had an average of 4.5 feet, B 4.9 feet and C 6.2 feet. We had two Chlorophyll a readings above 1 both in the upper Chattahoochee River area north of the Rowing Venue of 6 PPB and 4 PPB respectfully. We will drop the Lake Lanier Index to 5 with the decrease of Secchi readings and slight increase in the Chlorophyll a readings.

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April 2012 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake temperature rose 14 degrees to an average of 69 with several reports of 70 or more. Most stations reported significant amounts of pollen floating on the surface, not surprising with high pollen counts the first of April. Our Secchi readings increased for the first time in two months to an overall average of 5.8 feet from 4.9 feet in March. The low reading was on a dock in the Little River area of 3.2 feet. The high was near Bald Ridge Marina of 9.5 feet. Section A averaged 4.5 feet and B 8.1 feet Secchi reading. There were two chlorophyll a readings of 4 PPB in the Northern Chattahoochee area with all others at 1 PPB. We will boost our Lake Lanier Index to 5.5 with the better Secchi readings and very slight drop of the chlorophyll a valuation.

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May 2012 Lake Lanier Index

77 was the average Lake temperature an 8 degree increase from April. This is 7 degree increase from May 2011. Shallower areas have warmed into the low 80s and deeper areas were in the low 70s. Our Secchi readings increased dramatically to a 7.5 foot average from 5.8 feet last month and a foot higher than last year. The lowest reading was in the upper Chattahoochee region of 4.9 feet and the highest reading under Brown's Bridge at 11.4 feet. Section A averaged 6.2 feet, B 8.5 feet and C 7.8 feet. The chlorophyll a readings were low with a high of 3PPB at two stations and the average overall at 1.7 PPB. We will increase our Lake Lanier Index to 6.5 with the increase in the Secchi readings.

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June 2012 Lake Lanier Index

The average Lake temperature remained at 77, the same as May. This is 7 degrees cooler than June 2011. Our Secchi average decreased 0.7 feet to 6.8 feet. Section A averaged 4.9 feet with the lowest reading in the Upper reaches of the Chattahoochee of only 2 feet. Section B had the highest readings with an average of 8.8 feet and the best readings of 10 feet were in the Mud Creek and Old Federal Island areas. Section C averaged 7.8 feet with the highest reading near Bald Ridge Marina of 8.8 feet. The chlorophyll a readings were low with only one reading above 1. That was 3 PPB in the Upper area of the Chattahoochee that was shallow and a bit muddy from rain. We will leave our Index at 6.5 with a slightly better chlorophyll a average and a decrease in the Secchi average.

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September 2012 Lake Lanier Index

Our average Lake temperature fell to 82 same as 2011 and 3 degrees below August's reading. The average Secchi reading was 7.8 feet an increase of 0.4 above last month's reading. This was 1.6 feet better than last year's average. The lowest reading of 2.3 feet was in shallow water on the north Chattahoochee Branch. The best readings were under Brown's Bridge and near Bald Ridge Marina of 11.4 feet. Section A averaged 5.9 feet, B 9.8 feet, and C 8.8 feet. The chlorophyll a readings decreased very slightly to 1.5 PPB from last month's 1.6. The highest reading of 6 PPB again was off a dock in shallow water north of the rowing venue on the Chattahoochee Branch. We had a reading of 3 PPB in the same area and two readings of 2 PPB in the B or center section of the Lake. These readings were similar to last year. Our Lake Lanier Index increases to 6.5 with the slightly better Secchi readings.

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November 2012 Lake Lanier Index

Our average Lake temperature cooled to 63. This was nine degrees lower than our October reading and one degree cooler than 2011. The Secchi reading averaged 6.2, 0.6 feet less than last month and 0.7 feet higher than last year. The lowest reading was off a dock in the Little River area of 3.6 feet and the best in the confluence of Balus and Flat Creek of 9.1 feet. Our chlorophyll a readings were very low with only one reading of 2 PPB North of War Hill Park on the Chestatee branch with the remaining readings of 1 PPB. We will raise our Lake Lanier Index to 6.0 owing to a slight decrease in Secchi reading but much lower chlorophyll a readings.

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