

January 2014 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake temperature was 47 one degree cooler than last year. Our testing was before the very cool weather later in the month. The Secchi readings increased across the Lake with the Lake average increasing 1.3 feet to 8.4 feet from December. Our lowest reading of 3.2 feet was off a dock in Dawson County and the best reading of 11.9 feet at Cocktail Cove. Section A averaged 6.2 feet (one foot better than 2013), B 9 feet (2.2 feet better than last year) and C 9.9 feet (1.1 feet better than 2013). Our chlorophyll a readings decreased considerably to a Lake average of 4.4 micrograms/liter from 6 in December. The lowest reading was near Buford Dam of 1.6 and the highest reading was near Nix Bridge of 7.6. We will improve our **Lake Lanier Index to 6.5** with better clarity and lower chlorophyll a readings.

Our Index has been updated using a newer method for chlorophyll a testing. The new method is more sensitive, thus higher readings. We started testing in 2000 and AMPRO labs purchased equipment for the analysis of our samples using the best method available. In fourteen years there have been improvements in chlorophyll a testing and the cost of equipment is expensive. We are very fortunate in that Gwinnett County Water Labs has offered to do our testing using the new method, the same one used by Georgia's EPD and the water lab at UGA.

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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. We are forever indebted to AMPRO Labs for testing our samples for over fourteen years and being professional and delightful to work with.

Smooth Sailing,
Bev Nicholls

February 2014 Lake Lanier Index

Our Lake temperature average was 47, 3 degrees higher than last year, the same as January 2014. The Secchi readings decreased 2.1 feet to an average of 6.3 feet. Our lowest reading was 2.9 feet in the Upper Chattahoochee and our highest reading 11.4 feet in Cinnamon Cove. The "A" section had an average of 3.6 feet a foot better than 2013 but 2.6 feet lower than last month. Section "B" averaged 6.8 feet, 1.9 feet better than last year and 2.2 feet lower than January. "C" had an average of 10.1 feet, 0.2 feet better than last month. Our chlorophyll a readings were higher than last month with a high of 17 micrograms/liter in Wahoo Creek and low 1.6 micrograms/liter in Cinnamon Cove. Section "A" averaged 7.2, "B" 5.3 and "C" 2.6. We will lower our **Lake Lanier Index to 6.0** with better Secchi readings than last year but higher chlorophyll a readings than in January.

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March 2014 Lake Lanier Index

The average Lake temperature was 47, the same as last month and also 2013. Our Secchi average was 7.7 feet, 1.4 feet better than last month and 1.6 feet better than last year. The lowest reading of 2.9 feet was in the shallow upper Chattahoochee area and the best reading was 14.9 feet near the dam. Section "A" averaged 4.6 feet, "B" was 8.5 feet, and "C" was 13 feet. Our chlorophyll a readings decreased from a lake average of 5.2 in February to 4.1 in March. Section "A" averaged 5.5 micrograms/liter, "B" 4.1 micrograms/liter, and "C" to 2.3 micrograms/liter. We will raise our **Lake Lanier Index to 6.5** with the improved Secchi readings and lower chlorophyll a readings than in February.

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April 2014 Lake Lanier Index

Lake Lanier warmed 11 degrees to 58 from 47 in March and 4 degrees warmer than 2013. The overall Secchi average was 1.1 foot higher than last month at 8.8 feet and 1.3 feet better than last year. The lowest of 2.9 feet was north of the rowing venue and the best off Garrett Road near the dam at 15.9 feet. "A" averaged 5.5 feet, "B" 9.9 feet and "C" at 11.6 feet. Again our chlorophyll a average decreased to 3.78 micrograms/liter from 4.1 in March. Section "A" averaged 5.76, "B" 3.48 and "C" 1.90. We will raise our **Lake Lanier Index to 7.0** with the slight decrease of chlorophyll a readings and higher Secchi readings.

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May 2014 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake temperature increased to 67, 9 degrees above April's reading and 6 degrees warmer than last year. Our Secchi average decreased a foot to 7.8 feet. This is 1.6 feet better than in 2013. The lowest reading was in the upper Chattahoochee branch of 2.9 feet and the highest reading of 11.4 feet was near Old Federal Campground. "A" averaged 5.4 feet, "B" 9.9 feet and "C" 9.5 feet. The chlorophyll a averaged 4.5 micrograms/liter a small increase from April's reading. "A" averaged 5.61, "B" 4.26 and "C" 2.71. With the increase in chlorophyll a and decreased Secchi readings we will lower our Lake Lanier Index to 6.5

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June 2014 Lake Lanier Index

Our Lake temperature warmed to a pleasant 79, 12 degrees above our May reading. Last year we were at 77 degrees. The Secchi average reading increased to 8.3 feet, this was half a foot better than in May and one and a half feet above 2013. "A" averaged 5.6 feet with a low of 3.3 feet off a dock in the Upper Chattahoochee, 0.4 better than last month. Section "B" averaged 9.4 feet, 0.5 feet lower than May, this is an amazing 3.2 feet better than 2013. Our "C" averaged 10.7 feet this was 1.2 better than May and 2.3 feet greater than 2013. The highest reading of 12.9 was found off Garrett Road near the dam. The chlorophyll a average was 4.08 slightly better than our 4.5 micrograms/liter of last month. Section "A" averaged 6.7, "B" 2.67, and "C" 2.2. With June's better Secchi and chlorophyll a readings we will raise our **Lake Lanier Index to 7.**

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July 2014 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake warmed to a balmy average of 81, two degrees higher than June and two degrees above 2013. Our Secchi readings were among the best we have had. The average was 9.3 feet a foot better than last month and 3.4 feet better than last year. We had heavy rains in 2013 shortly before our July testing thus lower visibility. "A" averaged 6.8 feet with a low of 4.7 feet. "B" and "C" averaged 11 feet. The best reading of 15 feet was near Cocktail Cove. We also had a low chlorophyll a average if 3.18 micrograms/liter. "A" averaged 5.43, "B" 1.81, and "C" 1.54. We will raise our **Lake Lanier Index to 8**, this is an all-time high for our index!

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August 2014 Lake Lanier Index

The Lake cooled very slightly to 80 from 81 in July probably due to the recent rain. We were three degrees cooler than last year. The Secchi readings decreased to an average of 8.8 feet a half of a foot lower than last month but still 2 foot better than 2013. The low reading was 2.6 feet in the northern Chattahoochee area with Section "A" averaging 5.3 feet a foot and a half lower than July and 0.6 foot lower than last year. "B" averaged 10.7 feet slightly lower than the 11 feet of last month but 2.6 feet over 2013. "C" averaged 11.4 feet 0.4 better than July and 3.3 feet better than last year. Our highest reading was 14.9 feet near the dam. The chlorophyll a readings remained low with an average of 4.3 micrograms/liter. We did have two readings above 10 in shallow areas in the north of the lake. We will lower our Lake Lanier Index to 7.5 with higher chlorophyll a and somewhat lower Secchi readings.

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September 2014 Lake Lanier Index

The temperature is the same as last month at 80 degrees one degree cooler than 2013. All of the Secchi readings were lower than August and 2013. Our Secchi reading averaged 6.5 feet 0.3 feet less than last year and 2.3 feet lower than August. Our lowest reading was 3.3 feet at 3 stations in the Upper Chestatee and Chattahoochee branches. Section "A" was 4.4 feet compared to 5.3 last month and 5.5 2013, "B" 7.3 feet August 10.7 last year 8.1, "C" 8.6 feet 11.4 last month and 8.8 2013. The chlorophyll a readings increased in all areas. Two stations had chlorophyll a above 10 micrograms per liter and an average of 6 over the Lake. This is most likely due to the Lake turning (when the lake cools at the surface causing a mixture of layers). The increase of chla and lower Secchi readings will compel us to drop the **Lake Lanier Index to 6.0**

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November 2014 Lake Lanier Index

Our November temperature average of 61.3 was four degrees cooler than 2013 and 12 degrees cooler than October. The Secchi readings were very similar to last month and even to last year with the exception of higher readings near the dam. Section "A" averaged 5 feet with a low of 3.6 feet north of the rowing venue on the Chattahoochee Branch, "B" averaged 8.4 feet, "C" 10.1 average with the highest reading off Garrett Rd near the dam of 14.6 feet. Our chlorophyll a averaged 6.9 micrograms per liter over the entire lake. There were three readings over 10 in the Upper Chattahoochee Branch and two over 6 near Hide Away Bay and Bald Ridge Marina. With the increased Secchi readings in the South Lake we will raise our Lake Lanier Index to 6.

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