

August 4 2017

Due to the agenda at our recent annual meeting I didn't have the opportunity to give you an update on what's been going on with the condition and health of the lake.

This Summer I've been working with DNR lake biologists in mapping the lake vegetation, to date we've done over 100 GPS locations and ID'd plant samples from each. Our goal is to do over 250 locations to get a more accurate reading of what the lake vegetation is like. The good news is so far we have found no Eurasian Milfoil, only the Northern Milfoil variety which is a good thing. In addition to the mapping Kurt and I are doing new water sampling on Chlorophyll, Phosphorus, and water temperatures down to the bottom. We are continuing to do the Secchi testing for water clarity. Speaking of which you may have noticed a marked difference in how clear the water looks this year, at the beginning of the season the depth of clarity was down to 28 feet and as of a few weeks ago we were down to 14 feet. At the July OCLAWA meeting many of the lakes in the county commented they are experiencing the same thing. It was explained that the decreased visibility was caused by a number of factors. The first was the very high water levels caused by this years large rain totals, the next was the wave action by boat wakes and winds caused the water to erode and undercut the shoreline which in turn adds material into the lake, a sort of cause and effect.

As for the monitoring of the boat launch for the Clean Boat Clean Waters initiative I have received 7 forms back from the 12 done and we still have open time slots. Case in point at my last shift I stopped a fellow from launching because his boat and trailer were covered with weeds and he had just left the Reservoir Pond which has known Eurasian Milfoil, this is all it takes. All the existing and new testing / monitoring being done is very important information in the development of our lake management plan which will be required by the state for all lakes in the very near future. As we discussed at our meeting this could be a very costly expense to all of us if we don't take the correct steps now.

In conclusion in 2017 we continue to have a healthy lake and both biologists and researches alike have commented how good our lake looks, but it takes all of our help to keep it this way.

Amy