

LILLY LAKE NEWS

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Wisconsin lakes with the best water clarity

- **Black Oak Lake in Vilas County (36 feet)**
- **Stormy Lake in Vilas County (27 feet)**
- **Maiden Lake in Oconto County (25 feet) in 2011**
- **Lilly Lake in Kenosha County? See page 2**

DROUGHT IMPACTS ON LAKES

There is no doubt that this year was a tough one on lakes. The drought earlier this summer had its impacts on many lakes.

Lack of moisture caused lake levels to drop (including Lilly Lake, see below). In addition the high air temperatures resulted in high water temperatures. In some shallow lakes, water temperatures reached 90 degrees! This makes for a very stressful situation for many fish. Northern pike, in particular, are intolerant of high water temperatures. As a result, summer fish kills were common throughout the Midwest this year.

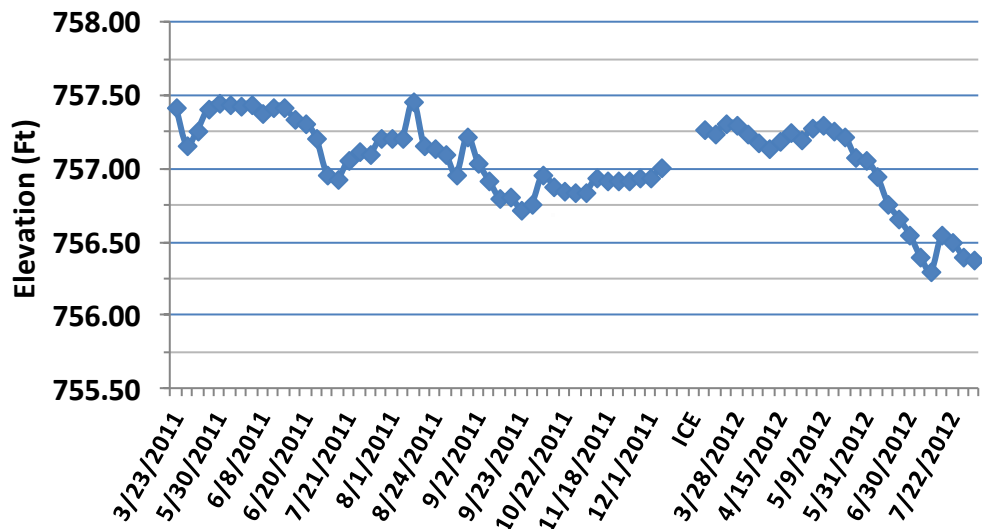
The other consequence of high water temperatures is that warmer water holds less oxygen than cooler water. Obviously fish need oxygen and some species are sensitive to low oxygen conditions.

The good news is that most of the fish make it through just fine. They are used to the extremes of living in an aquatic world. However, multiple years of similar stresses will take their toll.

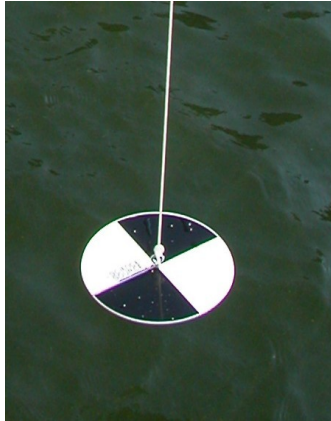
The other good thing is that fewer nutrients and pollutants have been washed into the lake.

A mild winter, a warm spring, and a hot summer...let's hope for a return to "normal".

Lilly Lake Water Level - 2011-12



WATER CLARITY—"HOW'S THE WATER?"



Water clarity is measured with a Secchi disk.

An important step toward monitoring the quality of Lilly Lake was initiated this spring. Our lake joined the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN).

Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes contribute significantly to the economy of individual communities and the state. In addition, these lakes offer diverse recreational opportunities and provide important habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife. The volunteer monitoring network provides an opportunity for citizens to take an active role in monitoring and helping to maintain water quality.

Mike Adam volunteered to be the regular monitor. He was given a Secchi disk to record the water clarity.

The method is very simple: anchor a boat at the deepest part of the lake and lower the disk into the water on the shaded side of the boat. The clarity measurement is the depth at which the disk disappears from view.

Volunteers are asked to take readings at least twice per month. The data is then entered into a WI DNR website. The data will be used for trend analysis by the DNR, but it will also be very valuable for local management decisions.

In addition to the clarity readings, lake water level is also being recorded at a gauge near the boat launch.

The DNR is also utilizing some "out of this world" technology to help. Satellite images are used to predict

water clarity in lakes across the state. This effort began in 1999 when the University of Wisconsin- Madison Remote Sensing Center developed a model, using on-the-ground volunteer Secchi data to calibrate the model for each satellite image. For more information on this check out this website:

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/8185>

Since the dredging in the early 1980's, water clarity has been measured a few times in Lilly Lake. Future editions of the newsletter will look at these past conditions and compare them to what we are seeing today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1

Lilly Lake Summerhaven Association meeting (10am, Town Hall)

September 2

Labor or Love music festival for suicide prevention (New Muster Park)

October 27/28th

Summerhaven Fall Decorating Contest

- Do you have a topic that you would like to see in the newsletter?

Please contact Mike Adam at: balooadam@yahoo.com.

In the next newsletter:

- Beach Test Results
- August Rehab District Meeting Summary

