

July Lake Conway Data Analysis

Rainfall / Lake Level

NOAA predicted slightly above average rainfall last month but we have been getting it at 9.79 inches! This was well above the 7.3" average. This put the lake well above the high predicted estimate from last month and above NOAA's average 3 month rainfall prediction. At the end of the month the lake level was at 86.28 or a stage of 77% (a 29% increase from last month). The lake is now well above average and about 14" above the average for the beginning of August. NOAA is, again, predicting slightly above normal rainfall conditions for the next 3 months and we are well into the rainy season so we can expect the lake to overtop the weir very soon. http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prcp.gif

The current year accumulated annual rainfall is 34.04 inches is 13.2 inches higher than we had last year at this time. Given the current NOAA above average rainfall prediction we can expect the lake to stay at official move high water levels the rest of the summer. As of today (8/7) the level is 86.38 which is a stage of 81.1% (80% is where high water starts.) and only 1/4" below the top of the weir. The good news is there is very little leakage at the weir. It looks like the last time they fixed it, they really did.

El Nino / Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

According to the August 8th ENSO report NOAA is still expecting ENSO neutral conditons through late fall. It appears this may move to El Nino next spring (which means more rain). This indicates above normal rainfall and the NOAA rainfall prediction agrees with this.

Lake Temperature

The hot tub is open. The water temperature has leveled off in the mid to upper 80s, about the same as it was last year at this time. It started the month at about 80 and finished the month at a daily average of 84. Get your water wings and jump in. The summer swimming season is here. It did hit 90 degrees July 30th. The Amoeba season is also here. More information may be found at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chd/volusia/eh/lab/pdf/amoeba.pdf>

Hurricanes

The August 2nd report, by the University of Colorado's Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray, indicates slight cooling of warm tropical waters has reduced the probability of hurricane landfalls this year slightly. They are still predicting a 40% chance of a Florida / US East Coast landfall. The average chance for the last century was 31%. The probability of a Cat. 3 or more is 53% compared to historically

42%. <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/2013/aug2013/aug2013.pdf>

If you would like to see an estimate of the probability of tropical storms hitting where you live check out this site. It is also produced by William Gray of the Colorado State

University. <http://landfalldisplay.geolabvirtualmaps.com/> It is showing 1.1% chance of a named storm entering Orange County this year.

Planting and Weed Control

If you are doing aquatic planting now it should be in the water. With the lake level at the 80% stage and rising we want make sure our plants will not be planted so high as to be high and dry in the spring. When planting near the shore it helps to have an offshore barrier of some sort to break up the waves to prevent them from being washed out by wave action before they root. Duck potato in less than 10" of water are easy meals for ducks. Yes, ducks do like duck potato for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

To help us all enjoy a clear lake make sure you have maximized the number of aquatic plants on your shoreline. These plants help consume nutrients which run off from your yard and they provide habitat and food for fish and fowl.

Summer weed growth might inspire you to attack some of that torpedo grass with a weed wacker. **DON'T DO IT!** That is about the worst way to control the weeds on your beach. It does not . If you are doing any lakeshore cleaning, please capture all of your cuttings. Sprigs of torpedo grass are very hardy and easily survive an excursion across the lake while growing a new set of roots. Once on the beach they immediately start to take over and choke out the beneficial plants. A single sprig will take root and in three months it will be a circle of healthy torpedo grass 10 feet in diameter. Considering it is likely over a hundred of these sprigs could easily float away from a weed wacking job, your efforts could easily seed another 1000 square feet of torpedo grass all around the lake. Respect your neighbors and capture weed bits.

[As an example on the weekend of 8/3/13 someone on the west to south west side of the middle lake wacked their torpedo grass and on 8/5 I fished out nearly a bushel of torpedo grass sprigs which had just floated in. Probably a half mile of shoreline is now planted with new torpedo grass. These get caught in our good weeds so we cannot see them then choke out the good plants in about a year. As long as people do not collect their trimmings it will be impossible.]

The best approach for controlling torpedo grass is with lake friendly herbicides. These may only be applied with the proper permit from Orange County Environmental Protection Division 407-836-1400 and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 407-858-6170. These permits are not expensive nor difficult to obtain. The County allowed weed free area on any lot is a maximum of 30' and there is no "grandfathering" of larger cleared areas. In any event make sure you collect any and all weeds you remove from your beach.

Orange County Lakeshore Vegetation Removal Permit:

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/PermitsLicenses/Permits/LakeshoreVegetationRemovalPermit.aspx>

County Lakefront Clearing Regulations

Orange County Code of Ordinances - Section 15-251 through Section 15-256

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/Portals/0/Library/Permitting-Licensing/docs/ArticleVIIILakeshoreProtectionCode.pdf>

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Permit page including links to the permit and regulations:

<http://myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants/>

NOAA current La Nina - El Nino Synopsis:

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensو_advisor/ensodisc.pdf

Orlando Weather Averages by month

<http://countrystudies.us/united-states/weather/florida/orlando.htm>

Live weather data on the north shore of the middle lake, updated by the minute, can be viewed at:

http://www.wunderground.com/swf/Rapid_Fire.swf?units=english&station=

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Thank you for your help maintaining our lakes.

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