

October Lake Conway Data Analysis

Rainfall / Lake Level

NOAA predicted average rainfall last month and we only got 0.5 inches. This was way below the 2.4" average for the month. At the end of the month the lake level was at 86.08 or a stage of 68% (a 17.7% decrease from last month). The lake is still above average and about one six inches above the average for the beginning of November. NOAA is, predicting below normal rainfall conditions for the next 3 months and we have left the rainy season so we can expect the lake level to continue its plummet this month. We can expect the lake to be six inches lower by Christmas.
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/0ff01_prcp.gif

The current year accumulated annual rainfall is 47.3 inches which is 7.2 inches higher than we had last year at this time and more than last year's annual rainfall. Given the current NOAA below average rainfall prediction we can expect the lake to continue dropping off this winter.

El Nino / Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

According to the November 7th ENSO report NOAA is still expecting ENSO neutral conditons through the winter. It appears this may stay this way until next summer. This indicates normal rainfall and the NOAA rainfall prediction is in reasonable agreement with this.

Lake Temperature

The lake is cooling. The water temperature has started to fall and is down to 75, a few degrees above last year at this time. It started the month at 81 and steadily dropped to a daily average of 75. The warmer temperature can be attributed to the small amount of rain last month. The water is refreshing on a sunny day. The summer swimming season is winding down. Don't miss it. The Amoeba season has passed but caution is still due. More information may be found at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chd/volusia/eh/lab/pdf/amoeba.pdf>

Hurricanes

It looks like we have dodged the bullet this year with no significant Central Florida hurricane event. The August 2nd report, by the University of Colorado's Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray, still stands and 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 centruy 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 at the shore line or in the water. With the lake level at the 68% stage and falling 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.

The falling lake level 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 kill them. 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 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 to control torpedo grass.]

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/enso_advisory/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=KFLORLAN51

Thank you for your help maintaining our lakes.

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