

**LAKE LEMON MONITORING PROGRAM
2010 RESULTS**



Prepared for:

Lake Lemon Conservancy District

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
METHODS	1
RESULTS	5
Water Quality	5
Comparison with Other Indiana Lakes	21
Stream Results	22
Trophic State	23
TROPHIC STATE TRENDS	25
WATER QUALITY TRENDS	27
CONCLUSIONS.....	29
REFERENCES	31

INTRODUCTION

The Lake Lemon Conservancy District (LLCD) has entered into a lease agreement with the City of Bloomington Utilities Service Board (USB) to maintain Lake Lemon in such condition necessary to protect the lake's water quality consistent with its potential use as a drinking water source. LLCD also agreed to maintain the lake in such condition to meet all state and federal requirements for recreational waters and to maintain the quality of the water in the lake at least at its present level.

The LLCD has contracted with Indiana University's School of Public & Environmental Affairs (SPEA) to evaluate the condition of Lake Lemon since 1997. This report is the result of SPEA's 2010 monitoring efforts.

METHODS

The water sampling and analytical methods used for Lake Lemon were consistent with those used in IDEM's Indiana Clean Lakes Program and IDNR's Lake and River Enhancement Program. We collected water samples for various parameters on 5/24/10, 6/10/10, and 8/11/10 from over the point of maximum depth off Cemetery Island near Riddle Point and in the channel off Reed Point in the eastern end of Lake Lemon.

We collected water samples from one meter below the surface (*epilimnion*) and from one meter above the bottom (*hypolimnion*) at each lake site, except the Chitwood site where we only sampled the epilimnion due to the very shallow channel. These samples were preserved as needed, placed in coolers and transported to our laboratory for analysis. Chlorophyll was determined only for the epilimnetic sample. Other parameters such as Secchi disk transparency, light transmission, and oxygen saturation are single measurements. In addition, dissolved oxygen and temperature were measured at one-meter intervals from the surface to the bottom. A tow to collect plankton was made from the 1% light level to the water surface.

Because Lake Lemon's condition is heavily influenced by runoff from its watershed, it was also important to monitor the main inlet to the lake - Beanblossom Creek. Therefore, we sampled Beanblossom Creek on 5/24/10 and 8/11/10, at one location at mid-depth near its discharge point to the lake.

The following parameters were measured for both the lake and stream samples:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| - pH | - soluble reactive phosphorus |
| - alkalinity | - nitrate+nitrite |
| - conductivity | - ammonia |
| - dissolved oxygen | - total organic nitrogen |
| - temperature | - total suspended solids |
| - total phosphorus | - fecal coliform bacteria |

In addition to the water sampling stations described above, we also monitored several other locations for fecal coliform bacteria. At the Chitwood Addition, we collected water samples from just inside the entrance (Chitwood #1) and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the main channel (Chitwood #2).

All sampling techniques and laboratory analytical methods were performed in accordance with procedures in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, 21th Edition (APHA, 2005). Plankton counts were made using a standard Sedgewick-Rafter counting cell. Fifteen fields per cell were counted. Plankton identifications were made according to: Wehr and Sheath (2003), Prescott (1982), Ward and Whipple (1959) and Whitford and Schumacher (1984).

The comprehensive evaluation of lakes and streams require collecting data on a number of different, and sometimes hard-to-understand, water quality parameters. Some of the more important parameters that we analyze include:

Temperature. Temperature can determine the form, solubility, and toxicity of a broad range of aqueous compounds. Likewise, life associated with the aquatic environment in any location has its species composition and activity regulated by water temperature. Since essentially all aquatic organisms are ‘cold-blooded’ the temperature of the water regulates their metabolism and ability to survive and reproduce effectively (EPA, 1976). The Indiana Administrative Code (327 IAC 2-1-6) sets maximum temperature limits to protect aquatic life for Indiana streams. For example, temperatures during the month of May should not exceed 80 °F (23.7 °C) by more than 3 °F (1.7 °C). June temperatures should not exceed 90 °F (32.2 °C).

Dissolved Oxygen (D.O). D.O. is the dissolved gaseous form of oxygen. It is essential for respiration of fish and other aquatic organisms. Fish need at least 3-5 mg/L of D.O. Cold-water fish such as trout generally require higher concentrations of D.O. than warm water fish such as bass or Bluegill. The IAC sets minimum D.O. concentrations at 6 mg/L for cold-water fish. D.O. enters water by diffusion from the atmosphere and as a byproduct of photosynthesis by algae and plants. Excessive algae growth can over-saturate (greater than 100% saturation) the water with D.O. Conversely, dissolved oxygen is consumed by respiration of aquatic organisms, such as fish, and during bacterial decomposition of plant and animal matter.

Conductivity. Conductivity is a measure of the ability of an aqueous solution to carry an electric current. This ability depends on the presence of ions: on their total concentration, mobility, and valence (APHA, 1998). During low discharge, conductivity is higher than during storm water runoff because the water moves more slowly across or through ion containing soils and substrates during base flow. Carbonates and other charged particles (ions) dissolve into the slow-moving water, thereby increasing conductivity measurements.

pH. The pH of water is a measure of the concentration of acidic ions (specifically H⁺) present in the water. The pH also determines the form, solubility, and toxicity of a wide range of other aqueous compounds. The IAC establishes a range of 6-9 pH units for the protection of aquatic life.

Alkalinity. Alkalinity is a measure of the acid-neutralizing (or buffering) capacity of water. Certain substances, if present in water, like carbonates, bicarbonates, and sulfates can cause the water to resist changes in pH. A lower alkalinity indicates a lower buffering capacity or a decreased ability to resist changes in pH. During base flow conditions, alkalinity is usually high because the water picks up carbonates from the bedrock. Alkalinity measurements are usually

lower during storm flow conditions because buffering compounds are diluted by rainwater and the runoff water moves across carbonate-containing bedrock materials so quickly that little carbonate is dissolved to add additional buffering capacity.

Turbidity. Turbidity (measured in Nephelometric Turbidity Units) is a measure of particles suspended in the water itself. It is generally related to suspended and colloidal matter such as clay, silt, finely divided organic and inorganic matter, plankton, and other microscopic organisms. According to the Hoosier Riverwatch, the average turbidity of an Indiana stream is 11 NTU with a typical range of 4.5-17.5 NTU (White, unpublished data). Turbidity measurements >20 NTU have been found to cause undesirable changes in aquatic life (Walker, 1978).

Nitrogen. Nitrogen is an essential plant nutrient found in fertilizers, human and animal wastes, yard waste, and the air. About 80% of the air we breathe is nitrogen gas. Nitrogen gas diffuses into water where it can be “fixed”, or converted, by Blue-green algae to ammonia for their use. Nitrogen can also enter lakes and streams as inorganic nitrogen and ammonia. Because of this, there is an abundant supply of available nitrogen to aquatic systems. The three common forms of nitrogen are:

Nitrate (NO_3^-) – Nitrate is an oxidized form of dissolved nitrogen that is converted to ammonia by algae. It is found in streams and runoff when dissolved oxygen is present, usually in the surface waters. Ammonia applied to farmland is rapidly oxidized or converted to nitrate and usually enters surface and groundwater as nitrate. The Ohio EPA (1999) found that the median nitrate-nitrogen concentration in wadeable streams that support modified warmwater habitat (MWH) was 1.6 mg/L. Modified warmwater habitat was defined as: aquatic life use assigned to streams that have irretrievable, extensive, man-induced modification that preclude attainment of the warmwater habitat use (WWH) designation; such streams are characterized by species that are tolerant of poor chemical quality (fluctuating dissolved oxygen) and habitat conditions (siltation, habitat amplification) that often occur in modified streams (Ohio EPA, 1999). Nitrate concentrations exceeding 10 mg/L in drinking water are considered hazardous to human health (Indiana Administrative Code IAC 2-1-6).

Ammonia (NH_4^+) – Ammonia is a form of dissolved nitrogen that is the preferred form for algae use. It is the reduced form of nitrogen and is found in water where dissolved oxygen is lacking. Important sources of ammonia include fertilizers and animal manure. In addition, bacteria produce ammonia as a by-product as they decompose dead plant and animal matter. Both temperature and pH govern the toxicity of ammonia for aquatic life.

Organic Nitrogen (Org N) – Organic nitrogen includes nitrogen found in plant and animal materials. It may be in dissolved or particulate form. In the analytical procedures, total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) was analyzed. Organic nitrogen is TKN minus ammonia.

Phosphorus. Phosphorus is an essential plant nutrient, and the one that most often controls aquatic plant (algae and macrophyte) growth in freshwater. It is found in fertilizers, human and animal wastes, and yard waste. There are few natural sources of phosphorus to streams other than what is attached to soil particles, and there is no atmospheric (vapor) form of phosphorus. For

this reason, phosphorus is often a *limiting nutrient* in aquatic systems. This means that the relative scarcity of phosphorus may limit the ultimate growth and production of algae and rooted aquatic plants. Therefore, management efforts often focus on reducing phosphorus inputs to receiving waterways because: (a) it can be managed and (b) reducing phosphorus can reduce algae production. Two common forms of phosphorus are:

Soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP) – SRP is dissolved phosphorus readily usable by algae. SRP is often found in very low concentrations in phosphorus-limited systems where the phosphorus is tied up in the algae themselves. Because phosphorus is cycled so rapidly through biota, SRP concentrations as low as 0.005 mg/L are enough to maintain eutrophic or highly productive conditions in lake systems (Correll, 1998). Sources of SRP include fertilizers, animal wastes, and septic systems.

Total phosphorus (TP) – TP includes dissolved and particulate phosphorus. TP concentrations greater than 0.03 mg/L (or 30µg/L) can cause algal blooms in lakes and reservoirs. The Ohio EPA (1999) found that the median TP in wadeable streams that support MWH for fish was 0.28 mg/L.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS). A TSS measurement quantifies all particles suspended and dissolved in stream water. Closely related to turbidity, this parameter quantifies sediment particles and other solid compounds typically found in stream water. In general, the concentration of suspended solids is greater during high flow events due to increased overland flow. The increased overland flow erodes and carries more soil and other particulates to the stream. Although the State of Indiana sets no standard for TSS, total dissolved solids should not exceed 750 mg/L. In general, TSS concentrations >80 mg/L have been found to be deleterious to aquatic life (Waters, 1995).

Fecal Coliform Bacteria - is used as an indicator organism to identify the potential for the presence of pathogenic organisms in a water sample. Pathogenic organisms can present a threat to human health by causing a variety of serious diseases, including infectious hepatitis, typhoid, gastroenteritis, and other gastrointestinal illnesses. *Fecal coliforms* can come from the feces of any warm-blooded animal. Wildlife, livestock, and/or domestic animal defecation, manure fertilizers, previously contaminated sediments, and failing or improperly sited septic systems are common sources of the bacteria. The IAC sets the maximum standard at 235 colonies/100 ml in any one sample within a 30-day period or a geometric mean of 125 colonies per 100 ml for five samples collected in any 30-day period. In general, fecal coliform bacteria have a life expectancy of less than 24 hours.

Secchi Disk Transparency. This refers to the depth to which the black & white Secchi disk can be seen in the lake water. Water clarity, as determined by a Secchi disk, is affected by two primary factors: algae and suspended particulate matter. Particulates (for example, soil or dead leaves) may be introduced into the water by either runoff from the land or from sediments already on the bottom of the lake. Many processes may introduce sediments from runoff; examples include erosion from construction sites, agricultural lands, and riverbanks. Bottom sediments may be resuspended by bottom feeding fish such as carp, or in shallow lakes, by motorboats or strong winds.

Light Transmission. Similar to the Secchi disk transparency, this measurement uses a light meter (photocell) to determine the rate at which light transmission is diminished in the upper portion of the lake's water column. Another important light transmission measurement is determination of the 1% light level. The 1% light level is the water depth to which one percent of the surface light penetrates. This is considered the lower limit of algal growth in lakes and is referred to as the *photic zone*.

Plankton. Plankton are important members of the aquatic food web. The plankton include the algae (microscopic plants) and the zooplankton (tiny shrimp-like animals that eat algae). Determined by filtering water through a net having a very fine mesh (63-micron openings = 63/1000 millimeter). The plankton net is towed up through the lake's water column from the one percent light level to the surface. Algae are reported as *natural units*, which records one colonial filament of multiple cells as one natural unit and one cell of a singular alga also as one natural unit. Of the many different algal species present in the water, we are particularly interested in the Blue-green algae. Blue-green algae are those that most often form nuisance blooms and their dominance in lakes may indicate poor water conditions.

Chlorophyll *a*. The plant pigments of algae consist of the chlorophylls (green color) and carotenoids (yellow color). Chlorophyll *a* is by far the most dominant chlorophyll pigment and occurs in great abundance. Thus, chlorophyll *a* is often used as a direct estimate of algal biomass.

RESULTS

Water Quality

Temperature profiles indicated slight to strong thermal stratification at Riddle Point, while Reed Point primarily illustrates weaker to no stratification (Figures 1–6). In most Indiana lakes, thermal stratification is weakest in the spring and gets stronger as summer progresses. The May temperature at Riddle Point is stratified; however, the temperature decreases with each depth until the reaching the hypolimnion temperature of 17.5°C. By August, the Riddle Point temperature profile was stratified with the hypolimnion at approximately 21.8°C. Reed Point was slightly stratified in May but was mostly isothermal in June and August, which means that temperature is the same throughout the water column. Reed Point is shallow enough that turbulence from winds and boating activity keeps it well mixed.

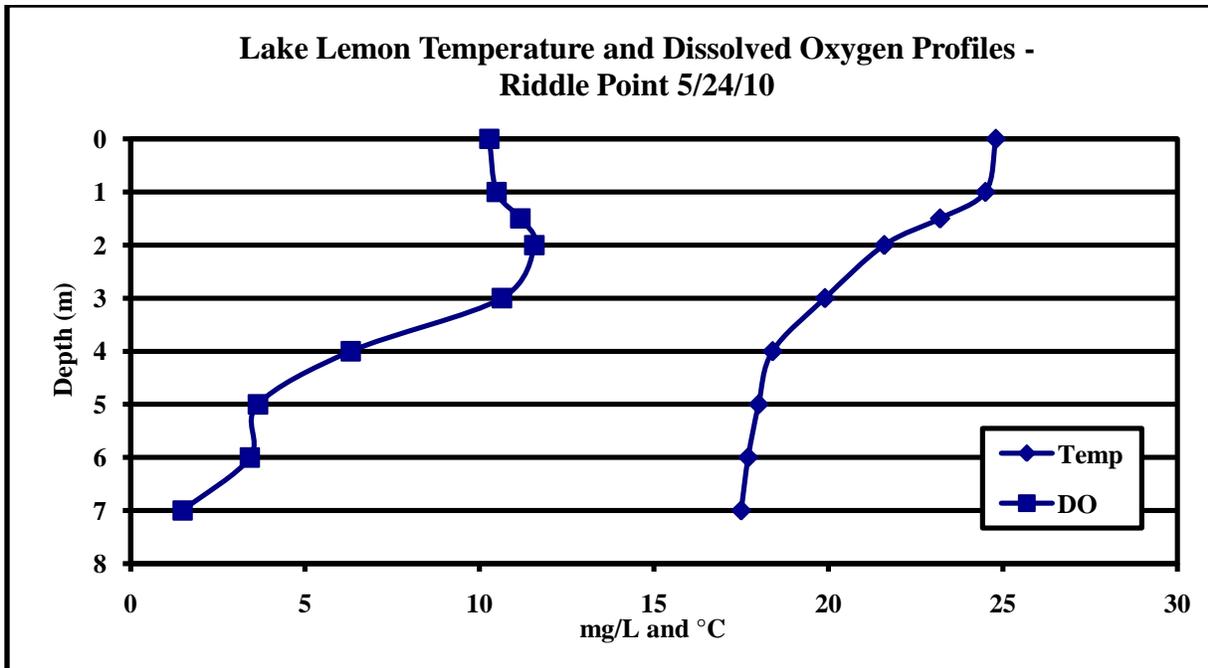


FIGURE 1. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles for Lake Lemon at Riddle Point on 5/24/10.

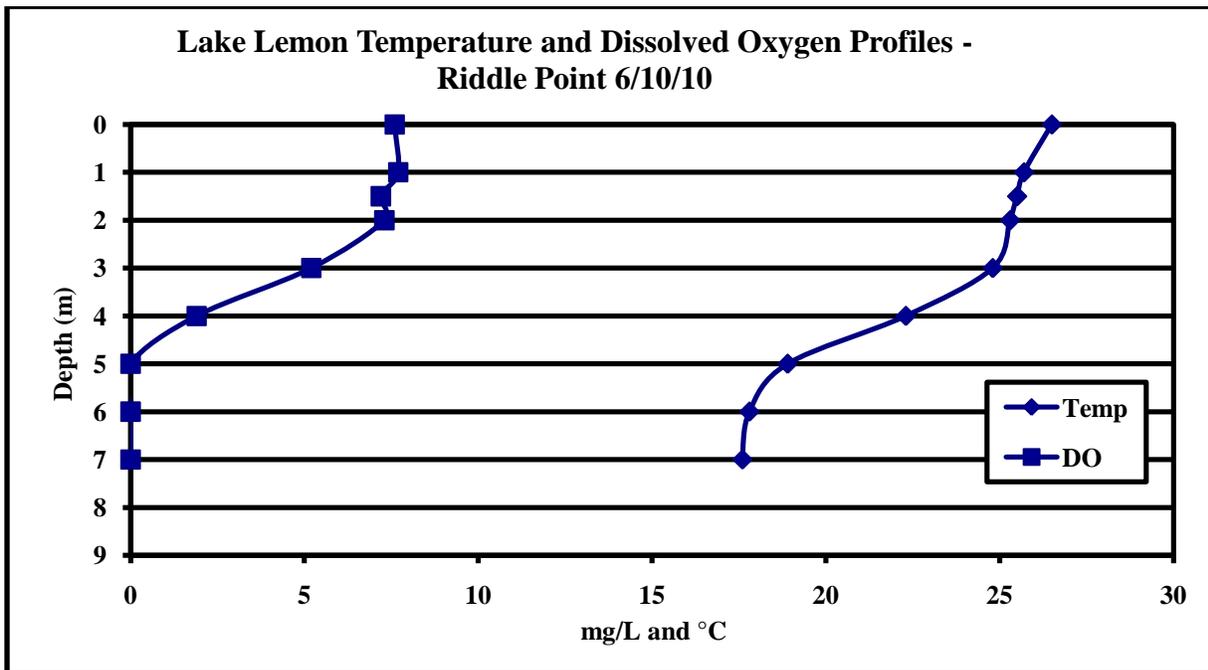


FIGURE 2. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles for Lake Lemon at Riddle Point on 6/10/10.

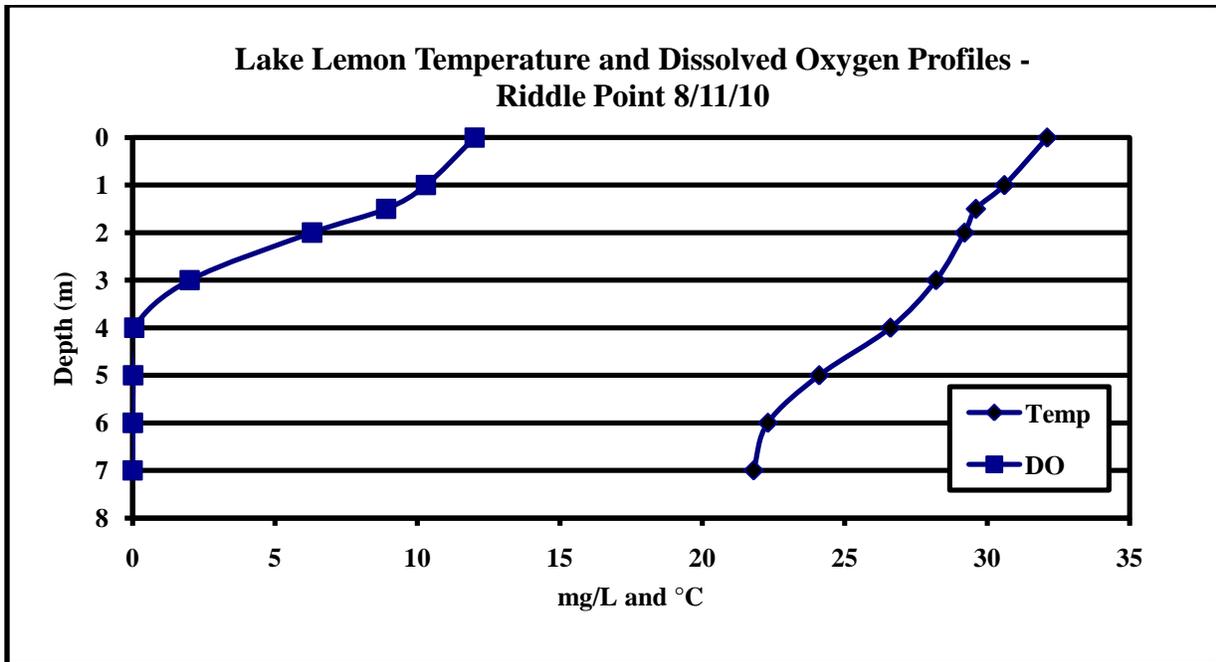


FIGURE 3. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles for Lake Lemon at Riddle Point on 8/11/10.

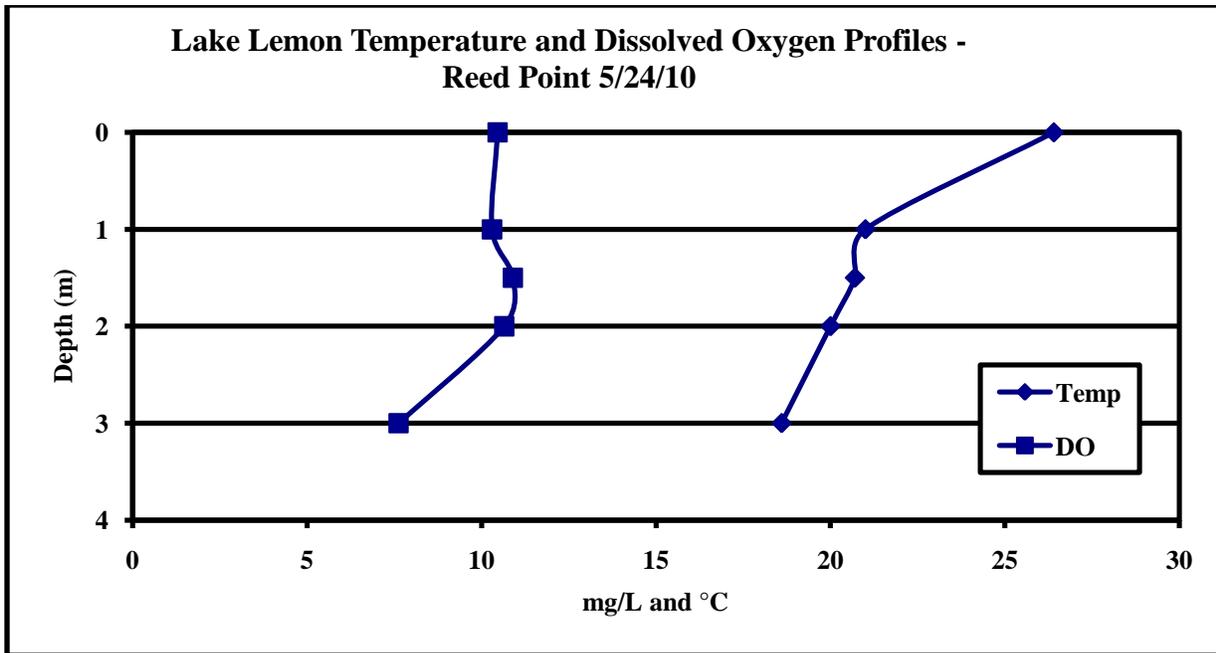


FIGURE 4. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles for Lake Lemon at Reed Point on 5/24/10.

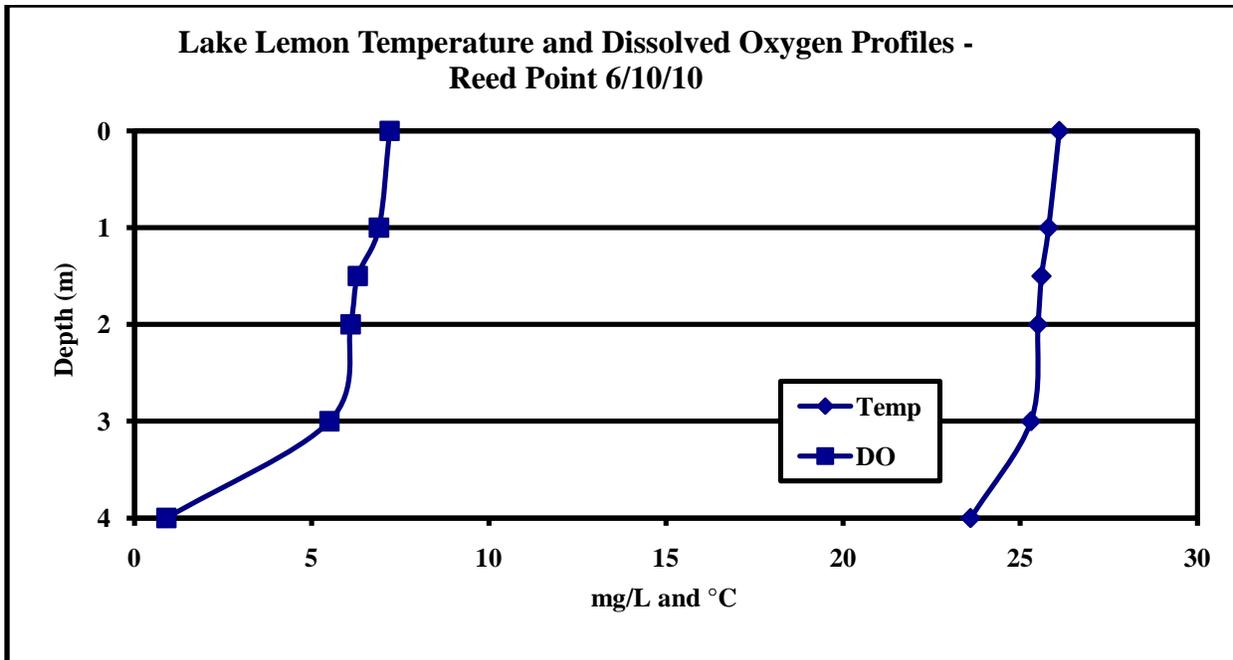


FIGURE 5. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles for Lake Lemon at Reed Point on 6/10/10.

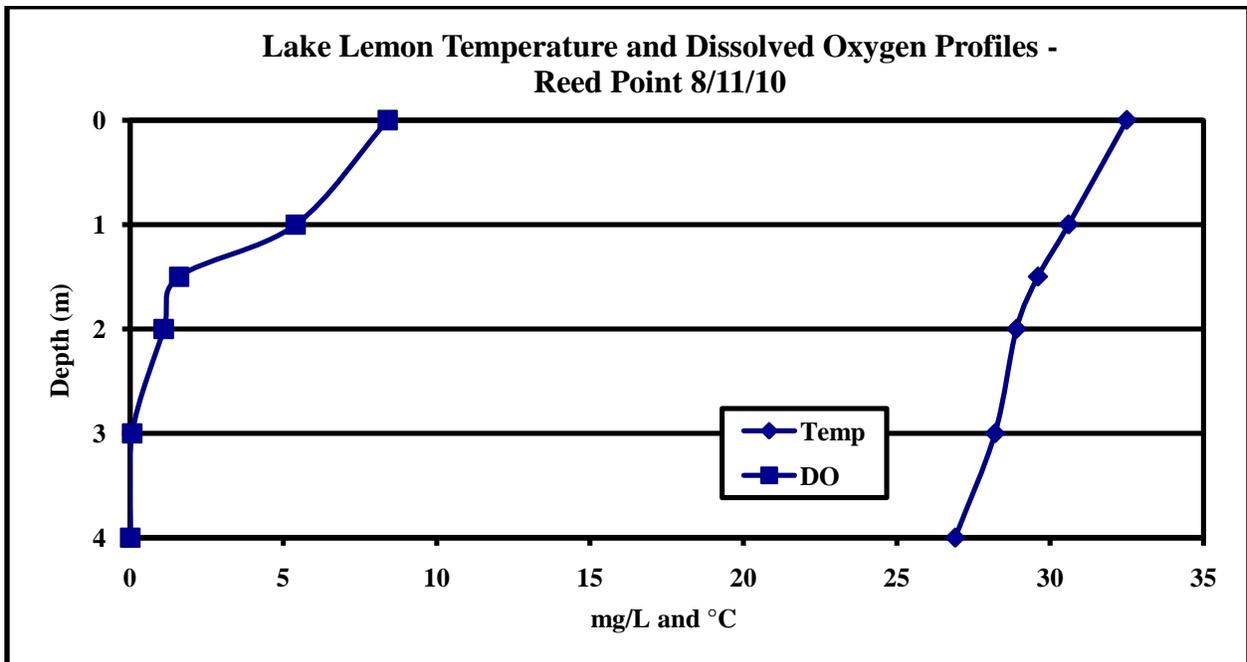


FIGURE 6. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles for Lake Lemon at Reed Point on 8/11/10.

Dissolved oxygen (D.O.) profiles generally follow the temperature profiles. Typically, early spring samples are characterized by an orthograde oxygen profile, where the oxygen concentrations remain uniform throughout the water column because of recent spring turnover. However, Lake Lemon is characterized by a clinograde oxygen profile even in May, where oxygen levels decrease below the thermocline and continue to decrease rapidly in August. The upper 4 meters of water remained oxygenated during both June and August samples at Riddle Point (Figures 2 and 3). The August dissolved oxygen averaged 9.25 mg/L in the epilimnion, which is near saturation at 126.7% D.O. Anoxic conditions develop below 5 meters depth, which are likely due to significant organic matter on the lake bottom, creating a biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) that results in decomposition processes consuming all the available oxygen. Because stratification does not allow surface water to mix into this deeper water, oxygen is not replenished. The shallow depth of Reed Point and lake turbulence keep this portion of the lake well-mixed and oxygenated; however, the August profile was anoxic in the bottom 2 meters.

Water quality data for Lake Lemon are presented in Tables 1- 6. Phosphorus and nitrogen are the primary plant nutrients in lakes. Typically, mean total phosphorus (TP) concentrations increase throughout the summer within Lake Lemon due to watershed inputs. Soluble phosphorus (SRP) concentrations are lower than total phosphorus because algae rapidly take up and use soluble phosphorus. SRP concentrations were below or near the method detection limit in all samples. All TP concentrations remained at or above the level indicative of eutrophication (0.030 mg/L).

TABLE 1. Water Quality Characteristics of Lake Lemon – Riddle Point, 5/24/10.

Parameter	Epilimnetic Sample	Hypolimnetic Sample	Indiana TSI Points (based on mean values)
pH	8.25	7.3	-
Alkalinity	63 mg/L	62 mg/L	-
Conductivity	170.2 µmhos	150.8 µmhos	-
Secchi Disk Transp.	1.6 m	-	0
Light Transmission @ 3 ft	23 %	-	4
1% Light Level	14 ft	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	4.86 mg/L	5.5 mg/L	-
Total Phosphorus	0.026 mg/L	0.031 mg/L	1
Soluble Reactive Phos.	0.010 mg/L	0.010 mg/L	0
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.038 mg/L	0.096 mg/L	0
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.081 mg/L	0.063 mg/L	0
Organic Nitrogen	0.294 mg/L	0.326 mg/L	0
Oxygen Saturation @ 5 ft.	123.7%	-	2
% Water Column Oxic	82%	-	0
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	50 per 100ml	-	-
Plankton	10,994 N.U./L	-	2
% Blue-green algae	30.7%	-	0
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	2.83 µg/L	-	-

* Method Detection Limit

TSI

9

Typically we only detect low concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen throughout the sampling season. Nitrate concentrations decreased throughout the sampling season for both Riddle and Reed Points (Figure 7). Nitrate, an oxidized form of inorganic nitrogen, is highly soluble in water and is carried into the lake from fertilized agricultural fields, livestock, and other sources by watershed runoff. Ammonia, a reduced form of inorganic nitrogen, is the primary by-product of bacterial decomposition of organic matter and is also found in animal wastes. Ammonia increased throughout the summer in the both Riddle and Reed Point hypolimnion. Riddle Point increased from 0.063 mg/L to 0.719 mg/L at Riddle and 0.050 mg/L to 0.230 mg/L at Reed (Figure 8). The increased ammonia concentrations are due to thermal stratification and anoxic conditions within the hypolimnion coupled with significant decomposition of organic matter, which generates ammonia as a by-product. The Reed Point ammonia concentrations remain lower throughout the summer. Sufficient mixing within the shallower waters of Reed Point kept the water column oxygenated preventing the concentration of the chemically-reduced ammonia.

TABLE 2. Water Quality Characteristics of Lake Lemon – Reed Point, 5/24/10.

Parameter	Epilimnetic Sample	Hypolimnetic Sample	Indiana TSI Points (based on mean values)
pH	8	7.5	-
Alkalinity	65 mg/L	66 mg/L	-
Conductivity	185.7 µmhos	157.3 µmhos	-
Secchi Disk Transp.	1.05 m	-	6
Light Transmission @ 3 ft	22%	-	4
1% Light Level	11.5 ft	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	6.33 mg/L	7.6 mg/L	-
Total Phosphorus	0.026 mg/L	0.031 mg/L	1
Soluble Reactive Phos.	0.010 mg/L	0.010 mg/L	0
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.015 mg/L	0.101 mg/L	0
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.044 mg/L	0.050 mg/L	0
Organic Nitrogen	0.449 mg/L	0.382 mg/L	0
Oxygen Saturation @ 5 ft.	125.2%	-	2
% Water Column Oxic	100%	-	0
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	0 per 100mls	-	-
Plankton	8,980 N.U./L	-	2
% Blue-green algae	15.6%	-	0
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	2.05 µg/L	-	-

* Method Detection Limit

TSI

15

TABLE 3. Water Quality Characteristics of Lake Lemon – Riddle Point, 6/10/10.

Parameter	Epilimnetic Sample	Hypolimnetic Sample	Indiana TSI Points (based on mean values)
pH	8.1	7.3	-
Alkalinity	67 mg/L	79 mg/L	-
Conductivity	182.2 µmhos	169.1 µmhos	-
Secchi Disk Transp.	1.2 m	-	6
Light Transmission @ 3 ft	24%	-	4
1% Light Level	4.5 ft	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	3.7 mg/L	7.6 mg/L	-
Total Phosphorus	0.023 mg/L	0.033 mg/L	1
Soluble Reactive Phos.	0.010 mg/L	0.010 mg/L	0
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.013 mg/L	0.013 mg/L	0
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.028 mg/L	0.165 mg/L	0
Organic Nitrogen	0.623 mg/L	0.411 mg/L	1
Oxygen Saturation @ 5 ft.	92%	-	0
% Water Column Oxic	39%	-	0
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	2 per 100 mls		-
Plankton	1,442 N.U./L	-	0
% Blue-green algae	18.9%	-	0
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	2.83 µg/L	-	-

* Method Detection Limit

TSI

12

TABLE 4. Water Quality Characteristics of Lake Lemon – Reed Point, 6/10/10.

Parameter	Epilimnetic Sample	Hypolimnetic Sample	Indiana TSI Points (based on mean values)
pH	8.1	7.7	-
Alkalinity	71 mg/L	75 mg/L	-
Conductivity	187.1 µmhos	193.3 µmhos	-
Secchi Disk Transp.	0.8 m	-	6
Light Transmission @ 3 ft	11%	-	4
1% Light Level	7.4 ft	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	6.7 mg/L	15.7 mg/L	-
Total Phosphorus	0.035 mg/L	0.052 mg/L	2
Soluble Reactive Phos.	0.010 mg/L	0.010 mg/L	0
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.013 mg/L	0.037 mg/L	0
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.025 mg/L	0.137 mg/L	0
Organic Nitrogen	0.527 mg/L	0.381 mg/L	0
Oxygen Saturation @ 5 ft.	77%	-	0
% Water Column Oxic	75%	-	1
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	20 per 100mls		-
Plankton	4,109 N.U./L	-	1
% Blue-green algae	9.4%	-	0
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	3.81 µg/L	-	-

* Method Detection Limit

TSI

14

TABLE 5. Water Quality Characteristics of Lake Lemon – Riddle Point, 8/11/10.

Parameter	Epilimnetic Sample	Hypolimnetic Sample	Indiana TSI Points (based on mean values)
pH	9.5	7.8	-
Alkalinity	70 mg/L	105 mg/L	-
Conductivity	189.8 µmhos	201.3 µmhos	-
Secchi Disk Transp.	0.3 m	-	6
Light Transmission @ 3 ft	2.1%	-	4
1% Light Level	4 ft	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	7.6 mg/L	8.4 mg/L	-
Total Phosphorus	0.055 mg/L	0.055 mg/L	3
Soluble Reactive Phos.	0.010 mg/L	0.010 mg/L	0
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.013 mg/L	0.013 mg/L	0
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.043 mg/L	0.719 mg/L	3
Organic Nitrogen	1.31 mg/L	0.846 mg/L	3
Oxygen Saturation @ 5 ft.	126.7%	-	2
% Water Column Oxic	41%	-	3
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	20 per 100mls	-	-
Plankton	47,650 N.U./L	-	5
% Blue-green algae	98.9%	-	10
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	51.4 µg/L	-	-

* Method Detection Limit

TSI

39

TABLE 6. Water Quality Characteristics of Lake Lemon – Reed Point, 8/11/10.

Parameter	Epilimnetic Sample	Hypolimnetic Sample	Indiana TSI Points (based on mean values)
pH	9.3	7.0	-
Alkalinity	78 mg/L	83 mg/L	-
Conductivity	205.2 µmhos	209.2 µmhos	-
Secchi Disk Transp.	0.3 m	-	6
Light Transmission @ 3 ft	1.6%	-	4
1% Light Level	3.6 ft	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	11.2 mg/L	16 mg/L	-
Total Phosphorus	0.066 mg/L	0.114 mg/L	3
Soluble Reactive Phos.	0.010 mg/L	0.010 mg/L	0
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.013 mg/L	0.013 mg/L	0
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.018 mg/L	0.230 mg/L	0
Organic Nitrogen	1.239 mg/L	1.267 mg/L	3
Oxygen Saturation @ 5 ft.	28.5%	-	0
% Water Column Oxic	26%	-	4
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	25 per 100mls	-	-
Plankton	25,510 N.U./L	-	3
% Blue-green algae	98.6%	-	10
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	52.8 µg/L	-	-

* Method Detection Limit

TSI

33

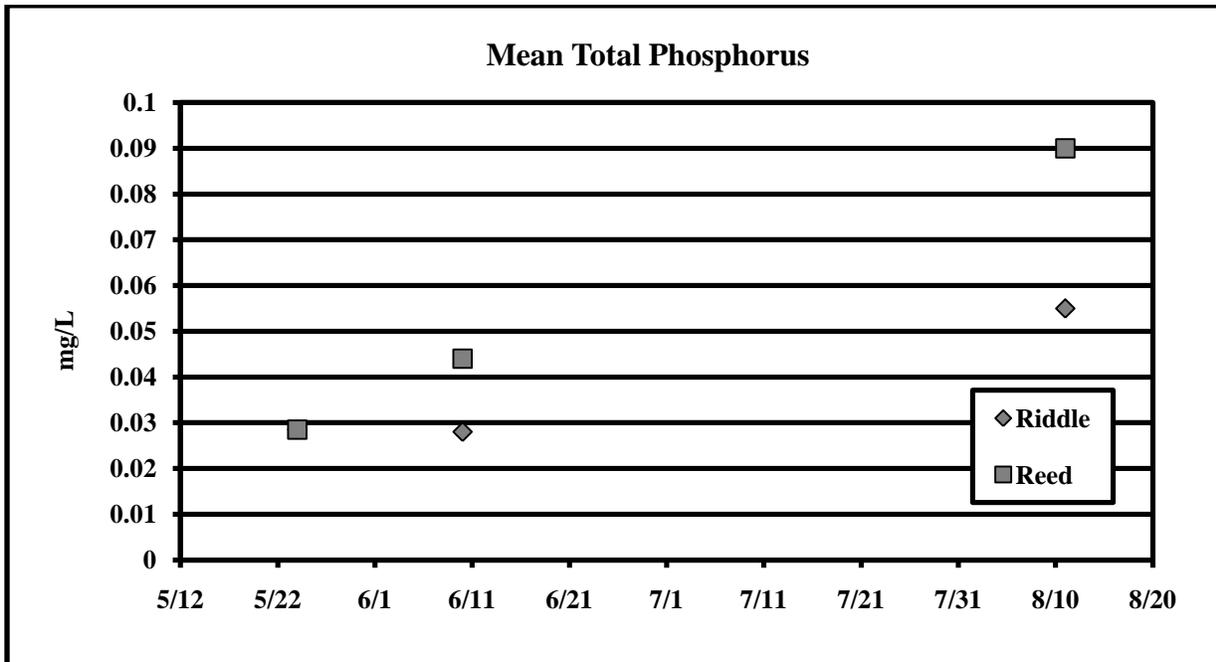


FIGURE 7. Mean total phosphorus concentrations at Riddle and Reed Point during summer 2010.

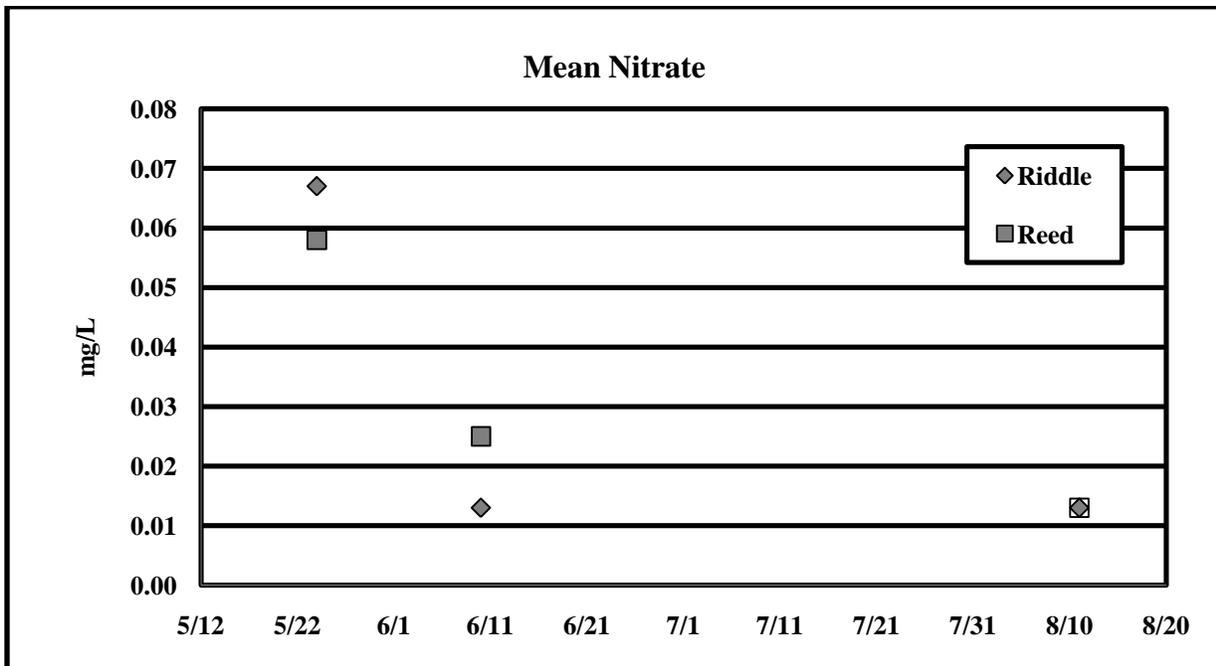


FIGURE 8. Mean nitrate concentrations at Riddle and Reed Point during summer 2010.

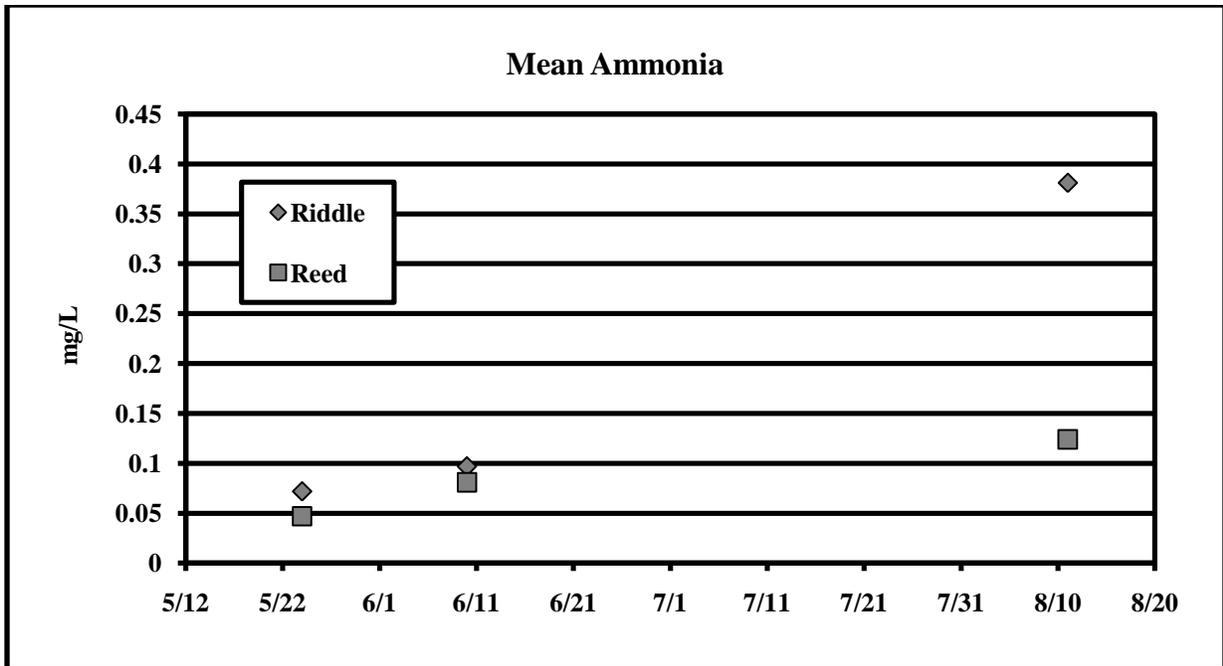


FIGURE 9. Mean ammonia concentrations at Riddle and Reed Point during summer 2010.

Lake Lemon is characterized by relatively low to average plankton densities. Usually, Lake Lemon is characterized by lower spring densities and increasing by July and August (Figure 10). In 2010, both Riddle and Reed plankton counts increase by 4-fold by mid-August (Table 7 and 8). Typically, the plankton assemblage shifted towards a strongly dominant blue-green algae proportion by August, which is definitely the case with blue-green dominating both August sample at 99%. Blue-green algae are less desirable in lakes because they: 1) may form extremely dense nuisance blooms; 2) may cause taste and odor problems; and 3) are unpalatable as food for many zooplankton grazers.

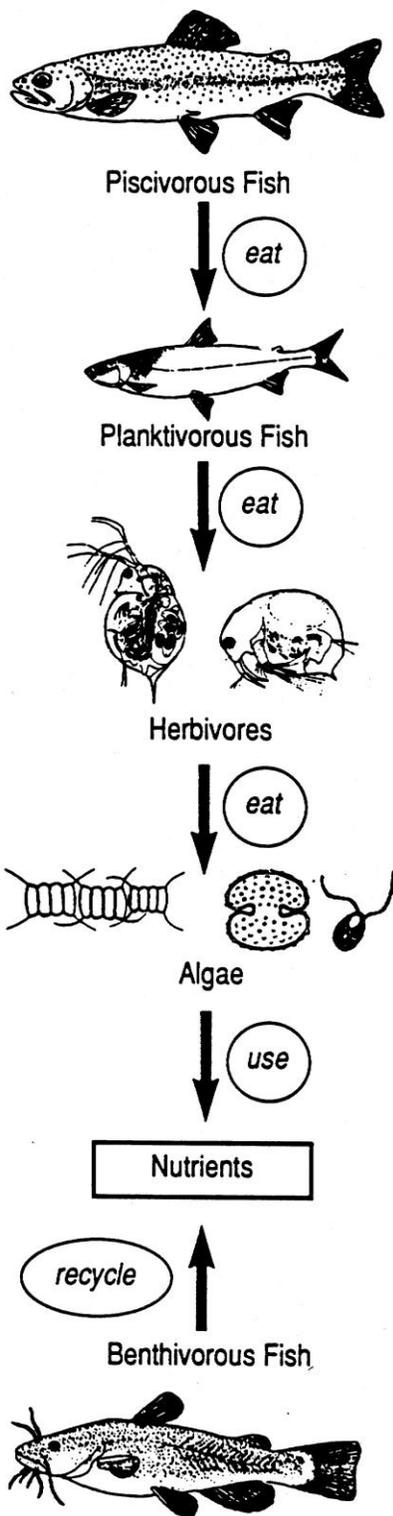


FIGURE 10. Generalized aquatic food chain. Tiny shrimp-like animals called zooplankton eat algae. Zooplankton, in turn, are eaten by small plankton-eating fish such as minnows, gizzard shad and young sunfish.

TABLE 7. Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Community for Lake Lemon at Riddle Point.

Species Classification	5/24/10		6/10/10		8/11/10	
	Total #	%	Total #	%	Total #	%
Blue-green Algae	3,379	31%	273	19%	47,105	98.9%
Green Algae	306	3%	21	1%	42	0.1%
Diatoms	5,672	52%	735	51%	125	0.3%
Other Algae	1,116	10%	273	19%	0	0.0%
Rotifers	459	4%	52	4%	292	0.6%
Zooplankton	63	1%	88	6%	86	0.2%
Total Number	10,994		1,442		47,650	

TABLE 8. Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Community for Lake Lemon at Reed Point.

Species Classification	5/24/10		6/10/10		8/11/10	
	Total #	%	Total #	%	Total #	%
Blue-green Algae	1,405	16%	386	9%	25,152	98.6%
Green Algae	628	7%	39	1%	188	0.7%
Diatoms	4,566	51%	3,205	78%	75	0.3%
Other Algae	2,144	24%	154	4%	0	0.0%
Rotifers	166	2%	193	5%	0	0.0%
Zooplankton	70	1%	132	3%	95	0.4%
Total Number	8,980		4,109		25,510	

Green algae typically decrease throughout the summer, having very low presence in the August sample. These algae, as a rule, make great food for the zooplankton, however the green algae cannot compete well with the blue-greens for resources (light, nutrients, carbon dioxide) necessary for continued growth in the summer. Green algae are usually outcompeted by blue-green algae. Blue-green algae usually have an advantage over other plankton tend to dominate reaching nuisance proportions. These competitive advantages include: 1) ability to regulate buoyancy and thus stay up in the light, 2) nitrogen fixation, and 3) more efficient use of nutrients. Dominant blue-green algae populations are typical of temperate lakes with high nutrient availability, especially from a large watershed that is predominately agriculture.

Diatoms typically have higher concentrations early in the sampling season, which falls closer to spring turnover. Diatom numbers increase with turnover because of the increased supply of available dissolved silica (Kalf and Watson, 1986). The diatom numbers generally decrease throughout the growing season, which could result from less available silica. Diatom densities typically are barely represented by the end of the growing season. Plankton diversity typically decreases in Lake Lemon in regards to plankton groups throughout the summer.

The low Secchi disk transparencies in Lake Lemon are a reflection of the relatively high amount of suspended material (sediments, algae, etc.) in the water. Transparencies closely matched the concentrations of suspended material. The transparencies decrease as the total suspended solids (TSS) and the TP concentrations increase (Figure 10 and 11). Sources of suspended sediments to Lake Lemon include soils washed in from the watershed, resuspended lake sediments, and algal cells produced within the lake. The fine clays and silts of the sediments (Zogorski et al., 1986) can be suspended in the shallow east end of the lake by wind directed along the main west-east axis of the lake. In addition, turbulence from motorboats is capable of resuspending fine clay sediments from a depth exceeding ten feet (Yousef et al., 1978). All of these actions likely contribute to the poor clarity of Lake Lemon and of shallow lakes in general.

Chlorophyll *a*, which is a measure of the primary pigment in algae, is a direct measure of algal productivity. In the integrated samples from the surface to the 2-meter depth, the chlorophyll *a* concentrations ranged from 2.05 µg/L in May increasing to 52.8 µg/L in August (Figure 10 and 11). Chlorophyll *a* concentrations >7 µg/L are indicative of eutrophic lake conditions.

Overall, we see a seasonal pattern of nutrient increase by late summer, which is characteristic of Lake Lemon. This pattern is mirrored by increases in chlorophyll *a* concentrations (Figures 10 and 11). This suggests that conditions exist for increasing growth of algae.

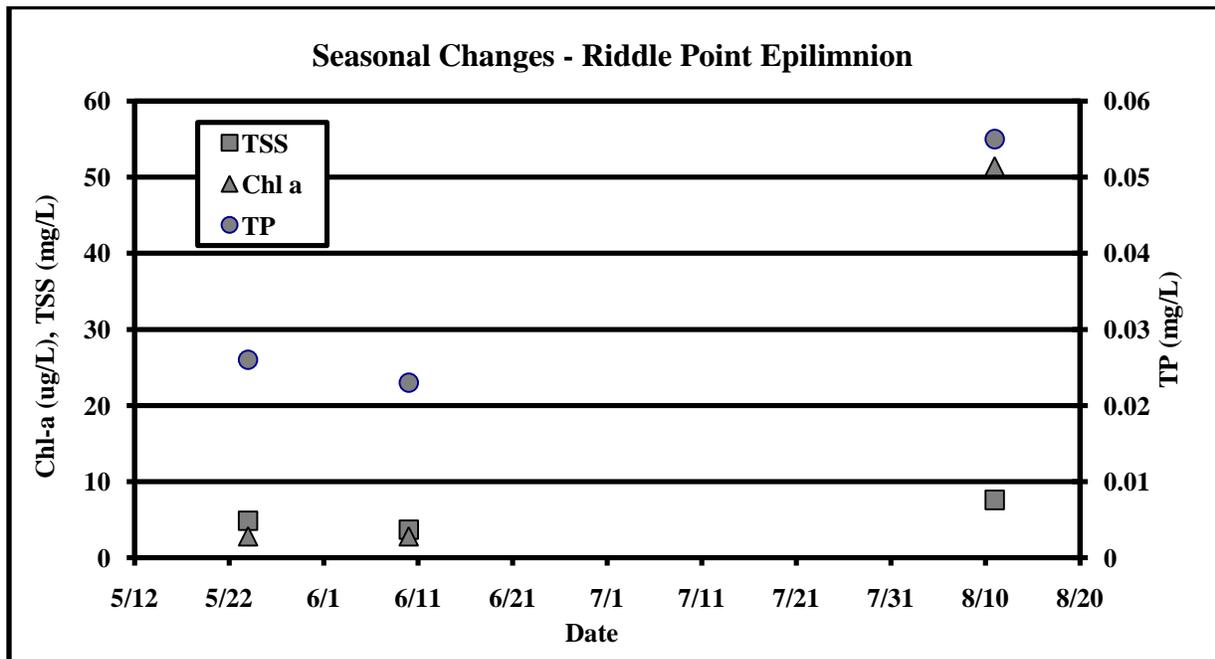


FIGURE 10. Seasonal changes in total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and chlorophyll *a* in the surface waters (epilimnion) at Riddle Point in Lake Lemon in 2010.

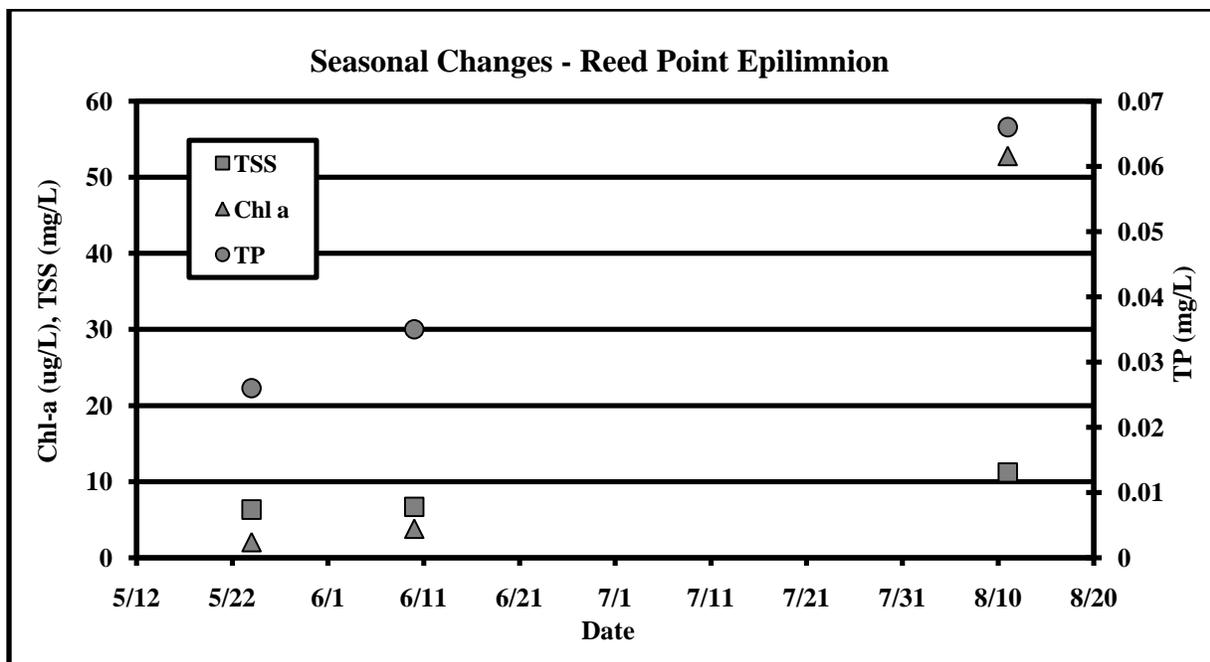


FIGURE 11. Seasonal changes in total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and chlorophyll *a* in the surface waters (epilimnion) at Reed Point in Lake Lemon in 2010.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER INDIANA LAKES

Table 9 gives values of water quality parameters determined for 355 Indiana lakes during July-August 1994-2006 by the Indiana Clean Lakes Program. This table can be used to compare values determined for Lake Lemon with other Indiana lakes. Table 9 shows that ammonia, TKN, and chlorophyll *a* exceeded the median values for these 355 lakes, but fell well below the maximum concentrations.

TABLE 9. July-August Water Quality Characteristics of 355 Indiana Lakes Sampled From 1994 thru 2006 by the Indiana Clean Lakes Program compared to Riddle Point of Lake Lemon (8/11/10). Means of epilimnion and hypolimnion samples were used for Lake Lemon.

	Secchi Disk (m)	NO ₃ (mg/L)	NH ₄ (mg/L)	TKN (mg/L)	TP (mg/L)	SRP (mg/L)	Chl. <i>a</i> (µg/L)
Median	1.7	0.037	0.07	1.101	0.058	0.010	4.11
Maximum	16	21.12	27.14	27.54	3.73	2.84	380.38
Minimum	0.1	0.013*	0.018*	0.230*	0.010*	0.010*	0.01
Mean Values for Riddle Pt. (8/11/10)	0.3	0.013*	0.381	1.459	0.055	0.010*	51.4

* Method Detection Limit

STREAM RESULTS

Results from the Beanblossom Creek samples are given in Table 10. Stream values generally fell within the range of lake parameters. Two moderate flow samples were collected on 5/24/10 and 8/11/10.

Variation among the sample parameters was slight. Historically, most of the parameters increased throughout the summer. Except for organic nitrogen, nutrients remained the same or decreased (Table 10). Fecal coliform bacteria results also collected at Riddle Point and Reed Point, and two locations adjacent to the Chitwood neighborhood are listed in Table 11. Only two samples exceeded the state standard of 200 colonies per 100 mls, which were the May Chitwood #1 (318 colonies) and the August Beanblossom Creek (442). This is a significant improvement from the 2009 elevated concentrations.

TABLE 10. Water Quality Characteristics of Beanblossom Creek.

Parameter	5/24/10	8/11/10
pH	7.4	8.2
Alkalinity	75 mg/L	124 mg/L
Temperature	23.4 °C	30.7°C
Dissolved Oxygen	7.06 mg/L	7.8 mg/L
Oxygen Saturation	86.8 %	102 %
Conductivity	194.1 µmhos	300.8 µmhos
Total Suspended Solids	4.5 mg/L	8.0 mg/L
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	184 per 100 mls	442 per 100 mls
Total Phosphorus	0.029 mg/L	n/a
Soluble Reactive Phos.	0.012 mg/L	0.010 mg/L
Nitrate-Nitrogen	0.247 mg/L	0.013 mg/L
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.054 mg/L	0.019 mg/L
Organic Nitrogen	0.261 mg/L	0.458 mg/L

* Method Detection Limit

TABLE 11. Fecal coliform bacteria summary for 2010 Lake Lemon samples. The state standard for full body contact and recreation is 200 colonies per 100mls.

Site	Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100mls)		
	5/24/10	6/10/10	8/11/10
Riddle Point	50	2	20
Reed Point	0	20	25
Chitwood #1	318	-	116
Chitwood #2	50	-	88
Beanblossom Creek	184	-	442

TROPHIC STATE

Introduction

The most widely used standard for assessing the condition of a lake is by considering its *trophic state*. The trophic state of a lake refers to its overall level of nutrition or biological productivity. Trophic categories include: *oligotrophic*, *mesotrophic*, *eutrophic* and *hypereutrophic*, with productivity increasing from oligotrophic to eutrophic. Some characteristics of these trophic states are:

Oligotrophic - clear water, dissolved oxygen is present in the hypolimnion (bottom waters), can support salmonid fisheries.

Mesotrophic - water less clear, decreasing dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion, loss of salmonids.

Eutrophic - transparency less than two meters, no dissolved oxygen in hypolimnion during summer, weeds and algae abundant.

The changes in a lake from oligotrophy to a higher trophic state is called *eutrophication*. Eutrophication is defined as the excessive addition of inorganic nutrients, organic matter and silt to lakes and reservoirs at rates sufficient to increase biological production and to lead to a decrease in lake volume. By this definition, high phosphorus alone does not make a lake eutrophic. The phosphorus levels must also cause an increase or potential increase in plant production and/or sedimentation.

Trophic State Indices

The large amount of water quality data collected during lake water quality assessments can be confusing to evaluate. Because of this, Indiana and many other states use a trophic state index (TSI) to help evaluate water quality data. A TSI condenses water quality data into a single, numerical index. Different index (or eutrophy) points are assigned for various water quality concentrations. The index total, or TSI, is the sum of individual eutrophy points for a lake.

The most widely used and accepted TSI is one developed by Bob Carlson (1977) called the Carlson TSI (Figure 12). Carlson analyzed total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and Secchi disk transparency data for numerous lakes and found statistically significant relationships among the three parameters. He developed mathematical equations for these relationships and these for the basis for the Carlson TSI. Using this index, a TSI value can be generated by one of three measurements: Secchi disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* or total phosphorus. Data for one parameter can also be used to predict a value for another. The TSI values range from 0 to 100. Each major TSI division (10, 20, 30, etc.) represents a doubling in algal biomass.

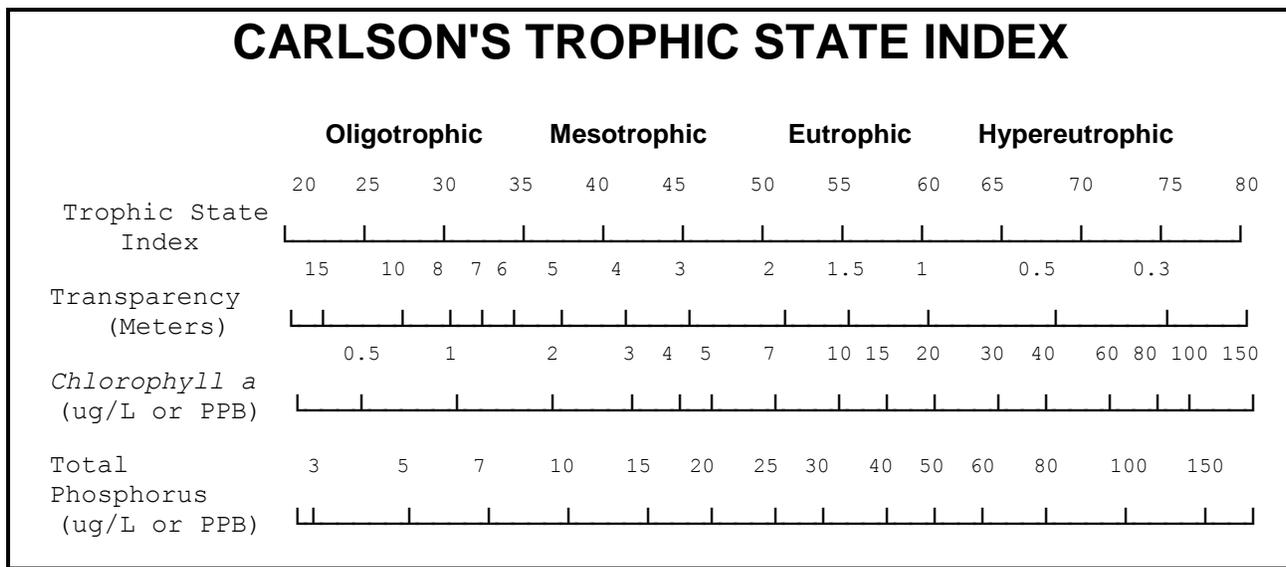


FIGURE 12. Carlson's trophic state index.

Trophic State Scores

Using Carlson's TSI for the May, June, and July data, Lake Lemon varied by parameter and month, ranging from mesotrophic to hypereutrophic (Table 12). The earlier May TSI scores start the growing season with mesotrophic and eutrophic conditions. All the TSI scores increased throughout the growing season, which is the historic trend for Lake Lemon.

TABLE 12. Summary of Trophic State Index Scores Using Mean 2010 Water Quality Data for Riddle/Reed Points.

DATE	Indiana TSI	Carlson's Secchi Disk TSI	Carlson's Total Phosphorus TSI	Carlson's Chlorophyll TSI
May	9/15 Oligotrophic	56/53 Eutrophic	54/54 Eutrophic	41/37 Mesotrophic
June	12/14 Oligotrophic	54/64 Eutrophic-hypereutrophic	54/58 Eutrophic	41/44 Mesotrophic
July	39/33 Eutrophic	75/75 Hypereutrophic	63/71 Hypereutrophic	70/71 Hypereutrophic

TROPHIC STATE TRENDS

Using Riddle Point Carlson TSI scores to look at the historic trend for Lake Lemon shows that the lake generally scores between eutrophic and hypereutrophic. Figures 13-15 illustrate the Carlson TSI historic trends for Secchi disk, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll. Overall, a pattern is seen within the seasonal variation with the late spring months scoring significantly lower (less eutrophic) while increasing during the late summer months to a hypereutrophic status. While Chlorophyll *a* samples for 2005 – 2008 (Figure 17) were generally below the 10-year mean, 2010 concentrations were very close to the 13-year mean.

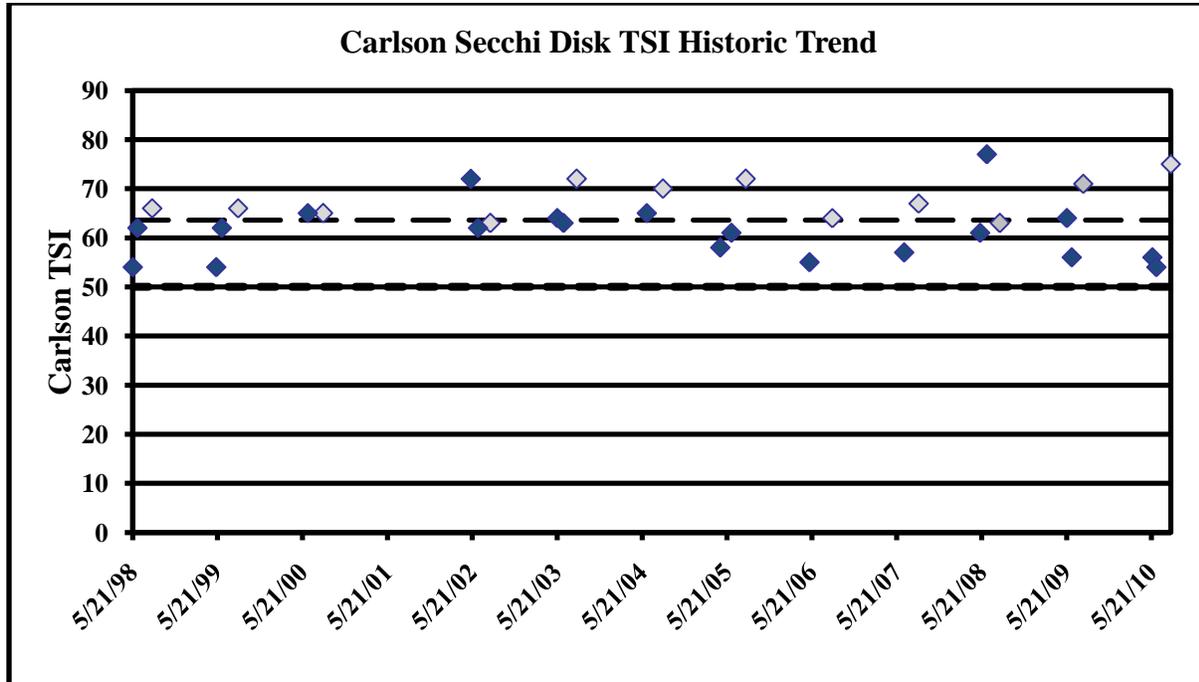


FIGURE 13. The 13-year historic trend for Carlson Secchi disk TSI scores. All but three late summer (August) samples, shown in gray, scored above the mean for eutrophic status. The large dashed line illustrates the 13-year mean. The small dashed line illustrates eutrophic status for the Carlson TSI.

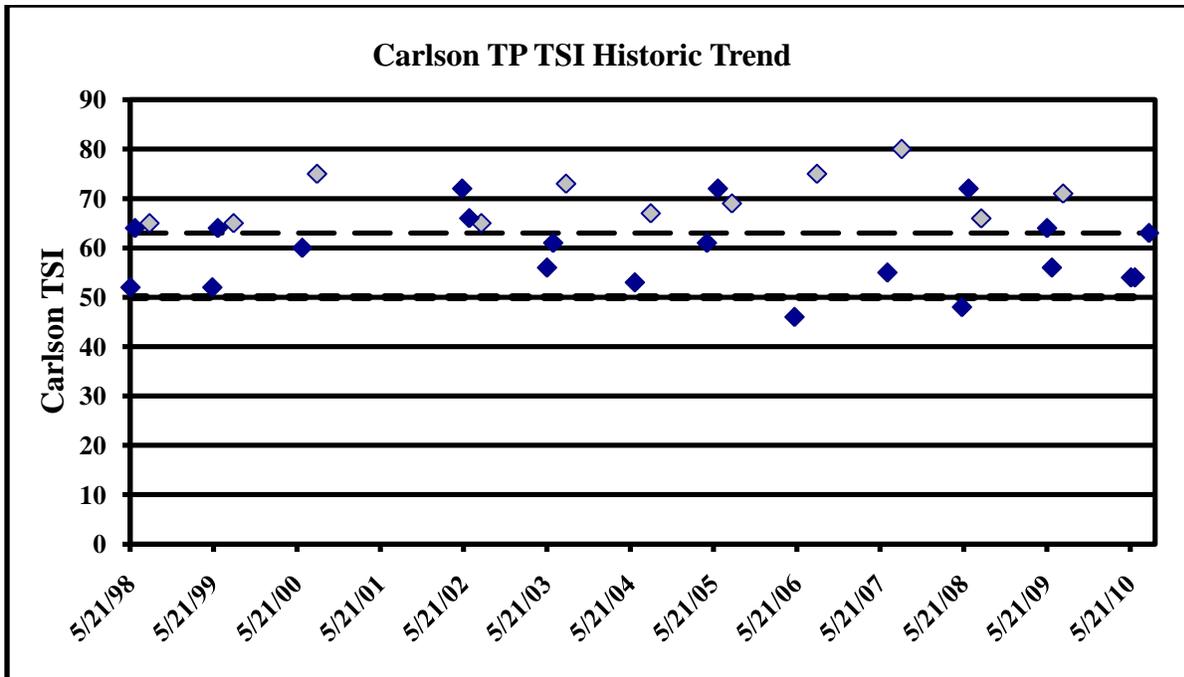


FIGURE 14. The 13-year historic trend for Carlson total phosphorus TSI scores. All August samples, shown in gray, score above the mean for eutrophic status. The dashed line illustrates the 13-year mean. The small dashed line illustrates eutrophic status for the Carlson TSI.

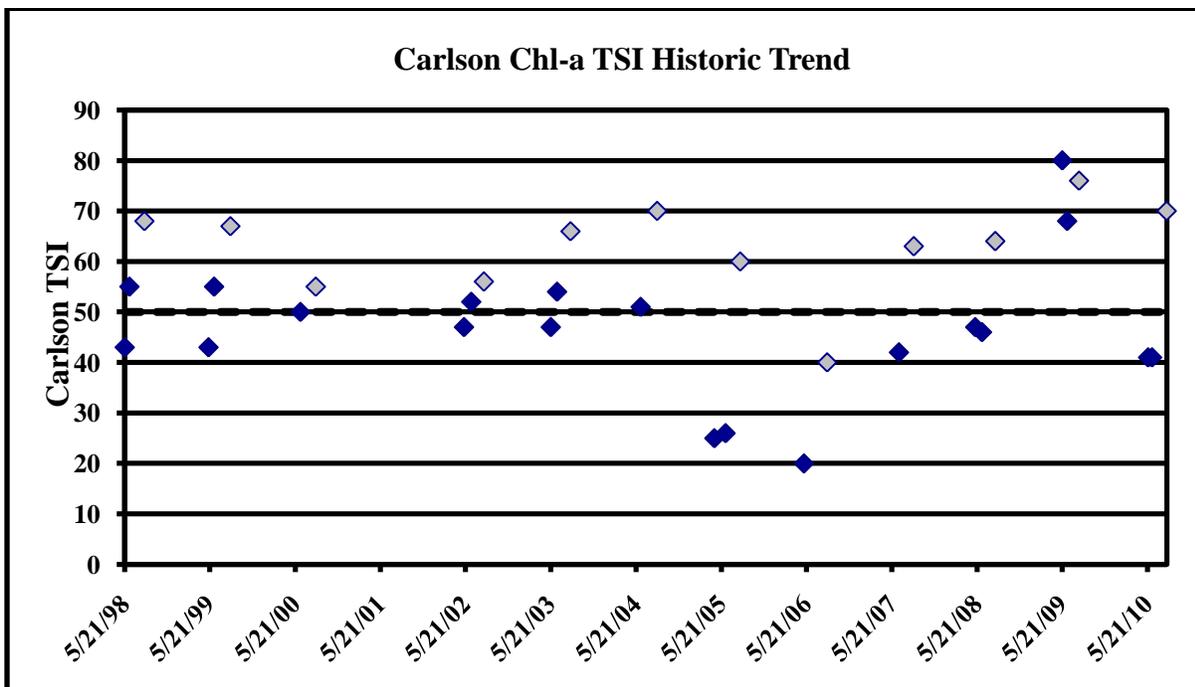


FIGURE 15. The 13-year historic trend for Carlson chlorophyll -a TSI scores. All August samples, shown in gray, score above the mean for eutrophic status. Both the 13-year mean and the Carlson TSI eutrophic status score a 50 (small dashed line).

WATER QUALITY TRENDS

Compiled Secchi disk transparency data from volunteer monitors and SPEA monitoring studies over the past 20 years are shown in Figure 16. There is no apparent long-term trend in transparency except that August samples are generally much lower in transparency. All measures of record would be considered indicative of eutrophic conditions.

Total phosphorus (TP) concentrations are quite variable over the past 20 years at Lake Lemon's Riddle Point sampling site (Figure 17). There is little visible long-term trend. Most of the values were above the eutrophic threshold of 0.030 mg/L. The earlier May and June 2010 samples were below this threshold, but exceeded the concentration by August.

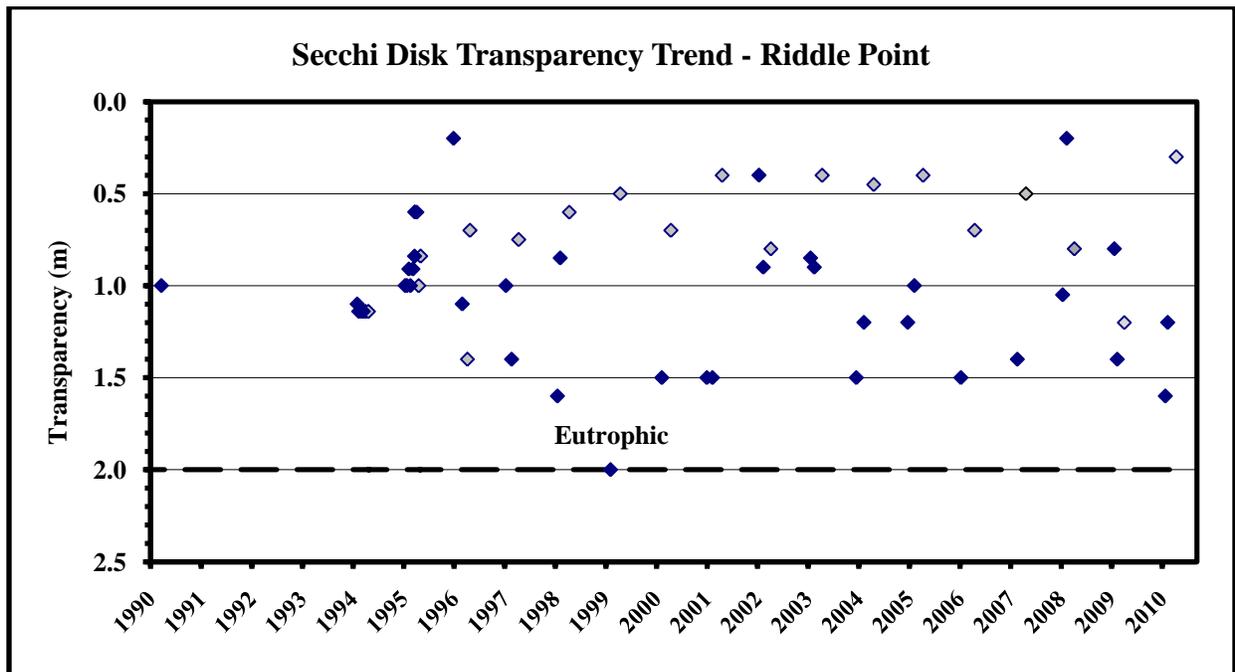


FIGURE 16. Historic Secchi disk transparency data for Lake Lemon. All data are less than the general eutrophic indicator of 2 meters. Gray markers indicate August samples.

Epilimnetic total phosphorus concentrations at Riddle Point are mostly in the eutrophic range but the resulting chlorophyll *a* concentrations (Figure 18) do not always reach the eutrophic range of greater than 7 $\mu\text{g/L}$; however, the majority of the August chlorophyll *a* samples over the sixteen years do fall above the eutrophic classification.

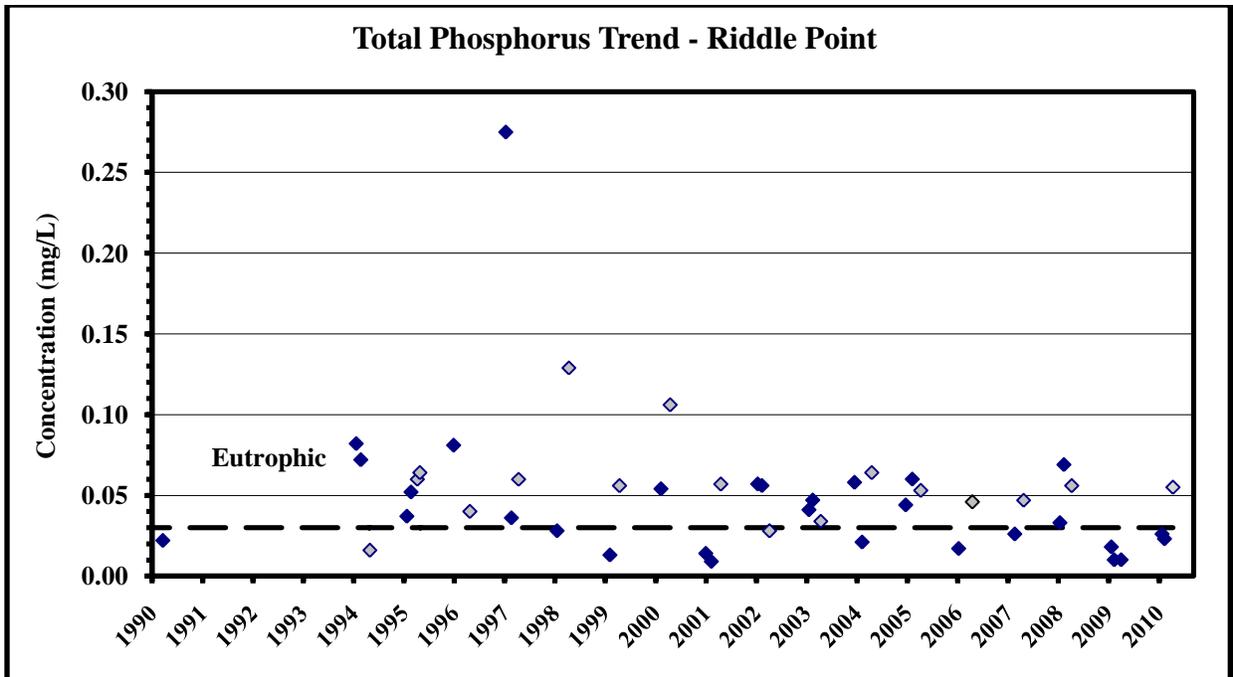


FIGURE 17. Historic epilimnetic total phosphorus trend for Lake Lemon. Most concentrations are higher than 0.030 mg/L, the level generally considered high enough to support eutrophic conditions. Gray markers indicate August samples.

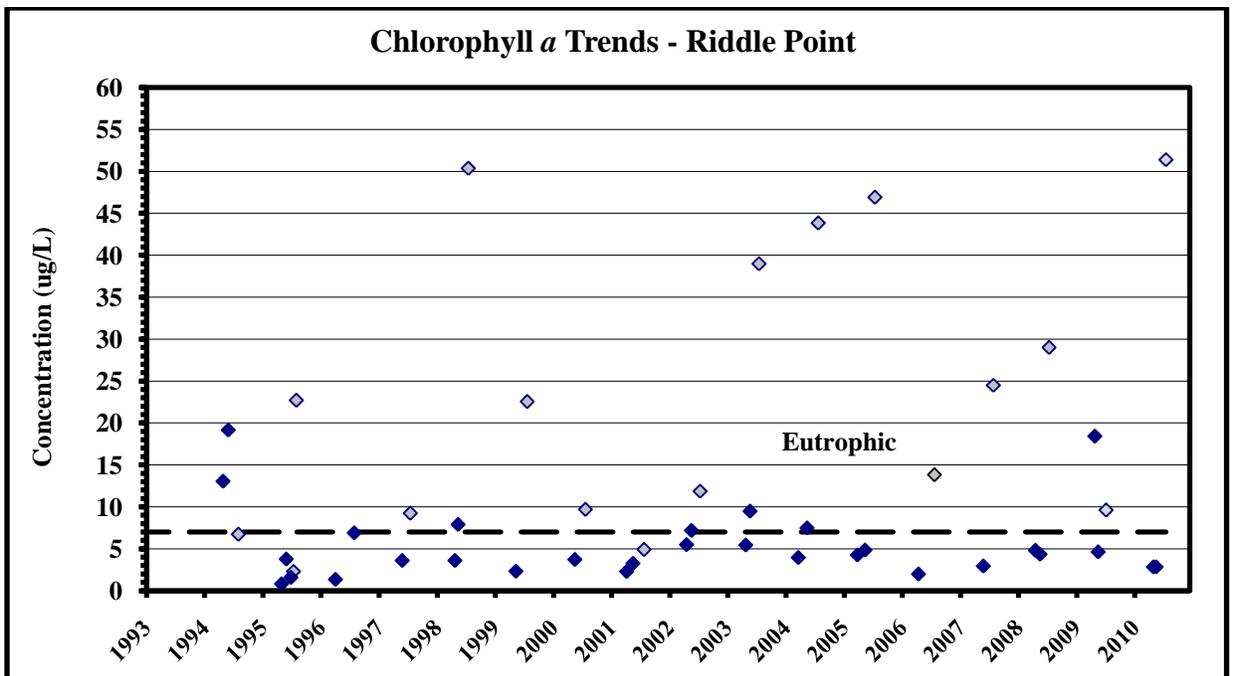


FIGURE 18. Historic chlorophyll *a* data for Lake Lemon. Gray markers indicate August.

CONCLUSIONS

The water characteristics of Lake Lemon are highly variable due, in large part, to runoff from the very large watershed that can replace the entire lake volume in a relatively short time (Figure 19). This causes difficulties in monitoring because the water conditions at any particular time depend on several immeasurable variables, including: time since the last major storm and the intensity and duration of that storm (Figure 20). The May and June sampling events fell within normal late spring rains, while the August sampling event fell within the late summer drought. While these variables affect other Indiana lakes and reservoirs, they have a much greater influence at Lake Lemon because of its very large watershed and short residence time.

Lake Lemon suffers from seasonally high levels of phosphorus, and suspended sediments and relatively low Secchi disk transparency throughout the year; however, the overall trend for Lake Lemon has not changed in the last 13 years (Figures 13-18). Current water conditions unquestionably place the lake into the 'eutrophic' or over-productive trophic category. Eutrophic lakes produce more algae and rooted plants than the bacteria and microbes can decompose annually. As a result, decaying organic matter accumulates on the sediments where it contributes to low dissolved oxygen levels and decreased lake volume.

The delivery of eroded watershed soils to the lake has created bars and shallow water depths in the eastern end of the lake. In addition to posing navigation problems, sediment accumulations provide more potential habitat for rooted aquatic plants. The abundant shallow water and freshly deposited sediments in Lake Lemon provide ideal conditions for the growth of rooted plants. As a result, there is an abundance of rooted plants in the lake. These rooted aquatic plants then provide additional hydraulic resistance encouraging sedimentation, which exacerbates the siltation in the eastern end of the lake.

Sedimentation and its consequences are likely the most pervasive problems currently facing Lake Lemon. The LLCDC has initiated a dredging program at Lake Lemon. Dredging, along with controlling the watershed sources of sediment delivery, are the most needed lake management activities currently at the lake.

During the 2009 sampling season, there was particular interest in the high levels of fecal coliform bacteria entering the lake during and following wet weather events. However, the 2010 fecal coliform bacteria samples fell within the normal range for Lake Lemon (Table 2). The state standard of 200 colonies per 100mls was slightly exceeded at Chitwood #1 and Beanblossom Creek, which historically have higher concentrations.

While Lake Lemon continues to face watershed and lake challenges ranging from eutrophic water conditions that peak towards the end of the summer season due to watershed land uses, there has been no significant change over the last 12-years. Key eutrophy parameters (total phosphorus, chl-*a*, secchi disk transparency) have produced similar yearly results. While Lake Lemon's eutrophy status has shown a slight decrease for the 2010 sampling season, it has not significantly deviated from the 13-year average.

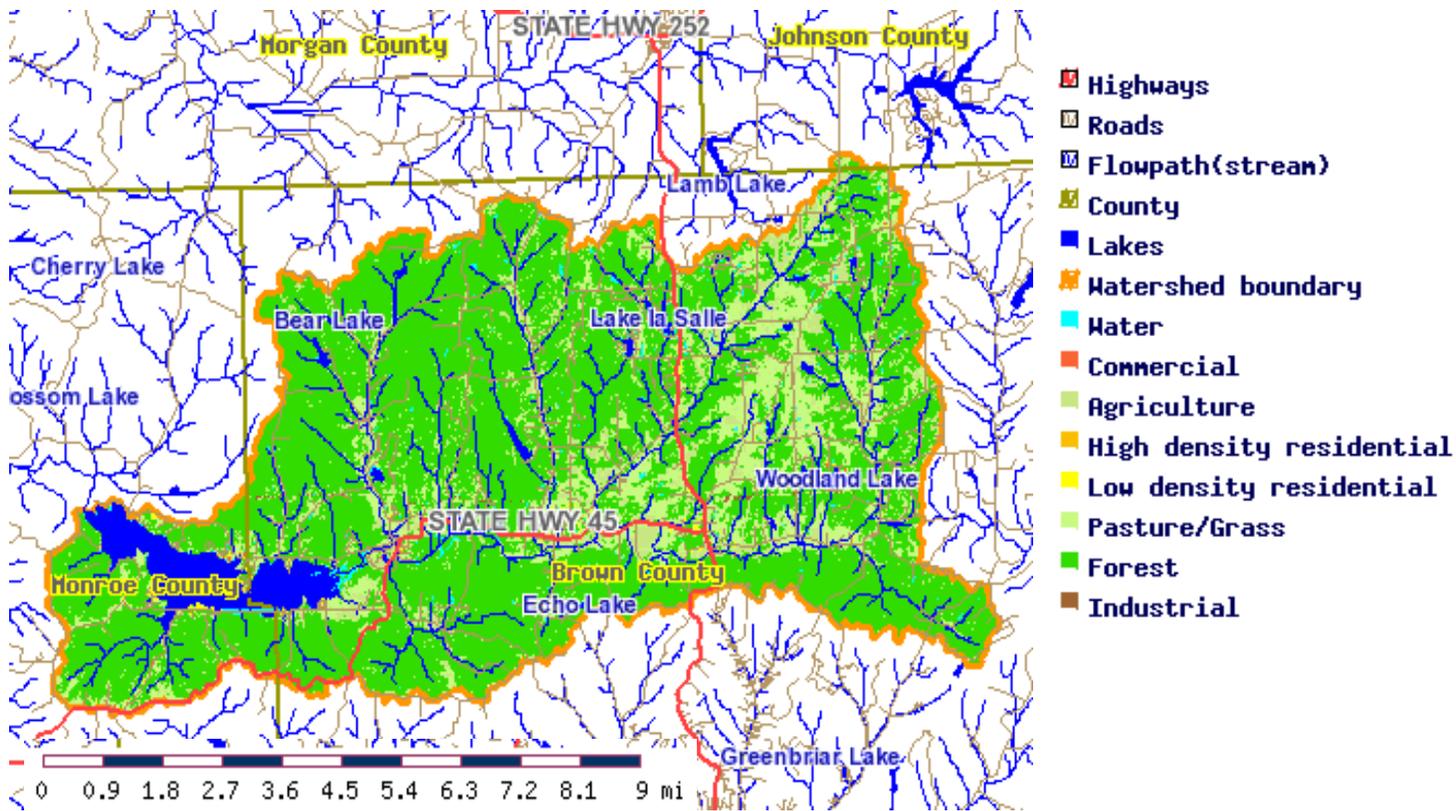


FIGURE 19. Lake Lemon watershed. Source: Choi and Engel (2005).

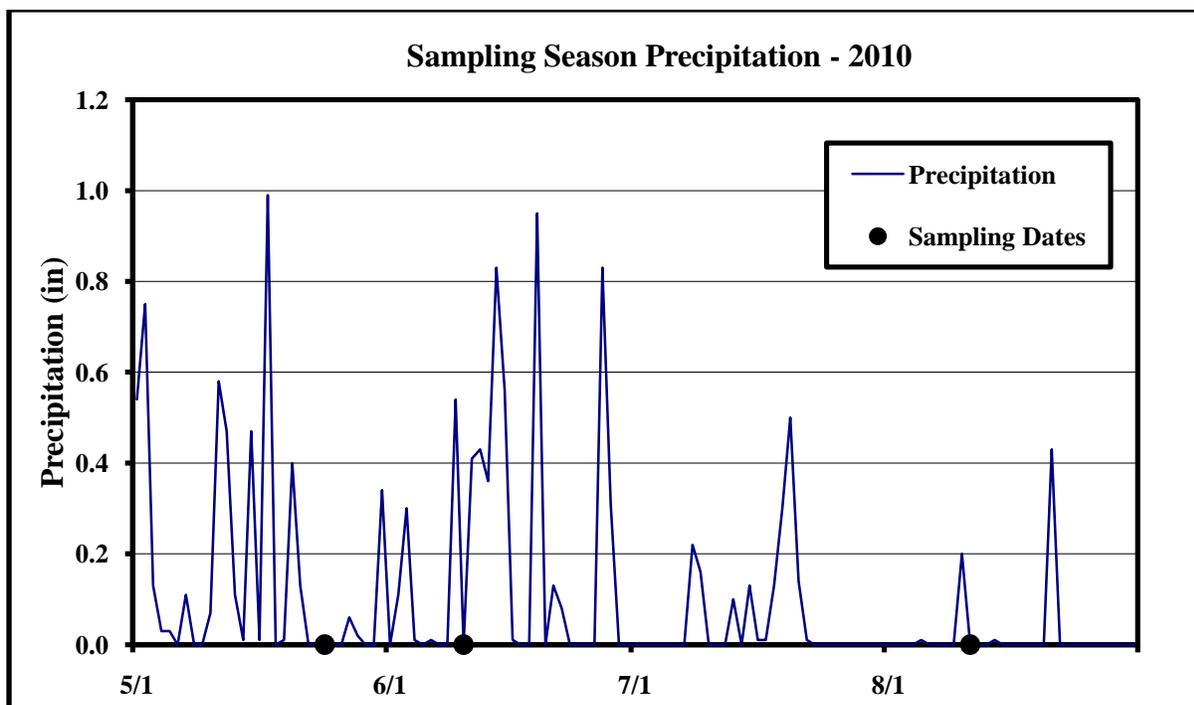


FIGURE 20. Annual precipitation during the sampling season, Bloomington, Indiana (Source: National Climatic Data Center, Indiana University, Utility Division 2011).

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