

## May Lake Conway Data Analysis

### Rainfall / Lake Level

NOAA predicted above average rainfall last month and we got way less at 2.46 inches. This was only 68% of the 3.6" long term average for the month. At the end of the month the lake level was at 86.06 or a stage of 68% (an decrease of 17% from last month). The lake is now well into the "normal" range but it is still about 1.3 feet above the average for the beginning of June. It is now just 0.5 feet above last year's level. NOAA is again predicting well above average rainfall conditions for the next 3 months. June is the start of the rainy season so we should expect the lake level to increase again this month.

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/lead01/off01\\_prctp.gif](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prctp.gif)

This year's accumulated annual rainfall is 17.71 inches which is 1.24 inches less than we had at this time last year. Given the current NOAA high rainfall prediction and the rainy season ahead we should expect the lake rise to above the weir again by July.

### El Nino / Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

NOAA's June 8th ENSO: Recent Evolution reports an El Nino Advisory which is likely to continue to the end of the year. This indicates a possibility of increased rainfall which agrees with NOAA's 3 month prediction of above average rainfall.

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/lanina/enso\\_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf)

### Lake Temperature

The swimmers are out in force. Starting at 79 degrees the lake temperature took an early drop to 76 then shot up to 82 and continued to climb slowly finishing the month at 83. The average water temperature was a few degrees higher than the same time last year but is now a bit lower than last year. Let's call it normal. The Amoeba season is in full swing so caution is due. More amoeba information may be found at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chd/volusia/eh/lab/pdf/amoeba.pdf>

### Hurricanes

The June 1st report, by the University of Colorado's Philip J. Klotzbach and William M. Gray, indicates "well below-average Atlantic basin hurricane season due to the combination of a high likelihood of a strong El Niño event" and unfavorable hurricane formation conditions in the tropical Atlantic". It predicts the likelihood of hurricane events to be about 50% lower than the long term average.

<http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts/2015/june2015/jun2015.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 0.4% chance of a named storm entering Orange County this year. Please bear in mind that it takes only one event to wipe out everything so be prepared.

### Planting and Weed Control

If you are doing aquatic planting now it should be off shore in 6" of water. With the lake level at the 68% stage and not likely to rise this summer we do not want to assume this is a long term trend and plant so high as to leave the plants high and dry when the lake level drops next year. If planted too far out in the water they will not root well and could be washed out by wave action. When planting in the water 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 is 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. A sandy beach = a cloudy lake.

You might be inspired to attack some of that torpedo grass with a weed whacker. **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 whacking 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 neither 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 area. 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 (with discussion):

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/ensodisc.pdf](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](http://www.wunderground.com/swf/Rapid_Fire.swf?units=english&station=KFLORLAN51)

Thank you for your help maintaining our lakes.

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