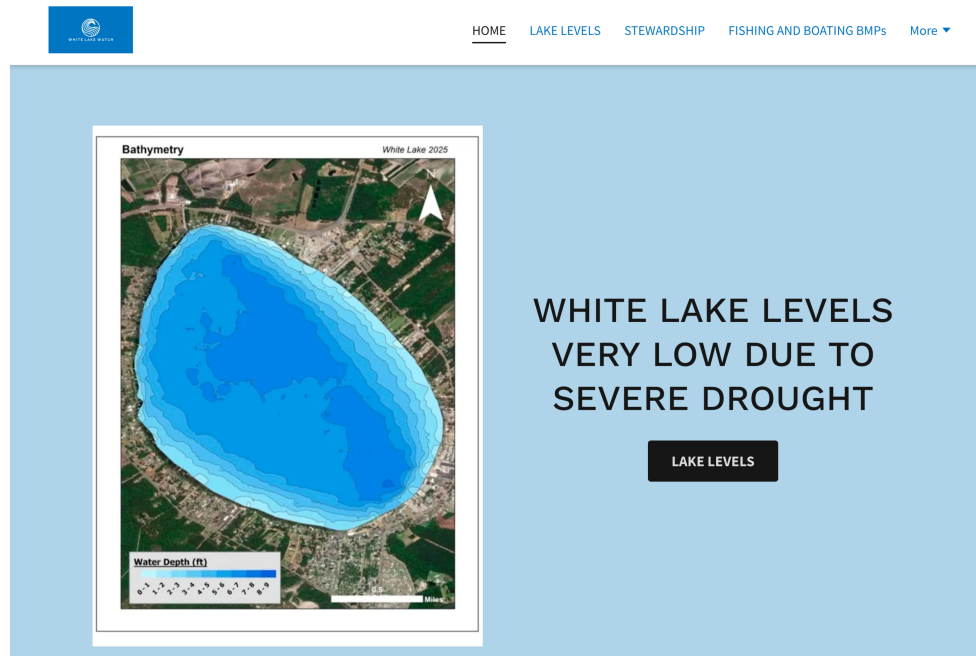


Report to White Lake Town Board
July 2026
Diane Lauritsen, Ph.D. LIMNOSCIENCES

The White Lake Watch web site is an up-to-date resource for those with questions about the lake, and I trust that board members are finding it useful and referring to it regularly. Of particular interest to many visitors and residents are the changes in lake level, which are a consequence of a lack of rainfall, and these items are reported in a straightforward way on the web site:

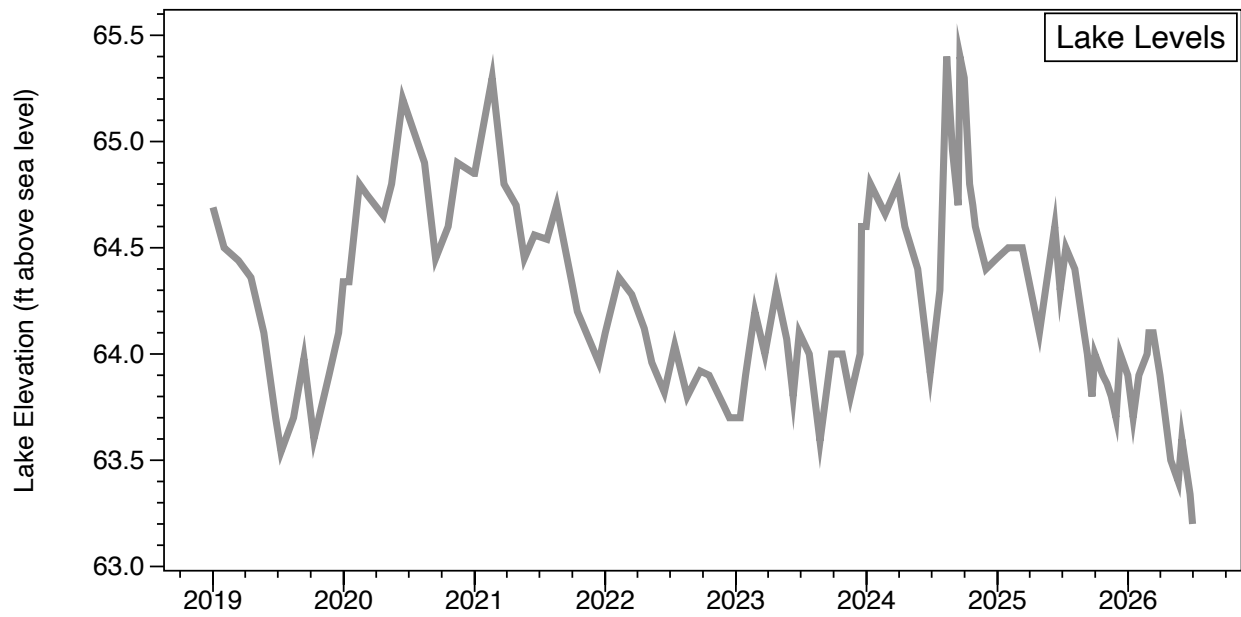


The lake level dropped 4.8 inches in June, resulting in the lowest level seen since sustained monitoring started in 2019, at 63.2 feet NAVD 88. Total rainfall for the month was 2.2 inches, and total rainfall for the first half of 2026 was 15.5" (which includes 0.5" to account for the snowfall in late January), which is 32% below normal, on top of a below normal 2025.

Monthly Rainfall (inches) for White Lake 2012-2026

Month	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2013	2012	Monthly Average for Region
January	2.4	2.5	2.75	4.3	5.75	8.25	4.5	2.75	4.20	7.0	3.0	2.5	1.75	2.75	3.81
February	2.8*	2.6	2.5	3.6	1.0	9.2	6.7	2.25	2.00	1.5	10.7	5.5	2.5	4.0	3.44
March	1.4	2.6	5.0	2.5	2.45	2.7	3.7	3.25	3.95	3.7	1.55	4.15	1.0	7.0	3.91
April	1.1	1.4	1.75	8.5	3.75	1.75	5.1	7.25	6.75	6.75	6.75	4.55	1.75	2.25	3.12
May	5.1	7.5	2.3	1.5	2.2	3.0	12.25	1.20	7.70	2.7	4.5	4.20	2.25	9.25	3.67
June	2.2	6.15	1.5	6.3	6.2	7.9	7.15	5.25	10.00	4.5	3.65	8.70	17.0	2.0	4.70
July		7.15	9.5	3.8	10.5	7.5	6.85	6.00	4.75	6.75	3.75	3.0	11.25	8.6	5.75
August		3.8	21.6	7.5	5.5	6.5	7.55	5.35	6.25	5.6	4.12	9.4	8.25	9.75	5.95
September		2.7	15.4	3.05	6.5	3.2	5.95	5.00	29.45	5.2	15.0	4.7	1.0	5.0	5.29
October		1.9	0.0	1.75	0.6	0.6	3.35	3.60	2.25	2.95	14.25	9.75	1.75	2.25	3.38
November		0.7	1.0	3.25	1.55	0.4	7.5	4.90	4.25	1.0	0.50	7.25	0	2.25	3.16
December		3.8	2.3	8.5	1.2	3.4	4.25	6.00	7.5	5.45	5.1	6.5	5.75	4.25	3.14
Total		42.8	65.6	54.55	47.2	54.4	74.85	52.80	89.05	53.1	72.87	70.20	54.25	59.35	49.32
% of Lake Volume		56	85.9	71.4	61.8	71	97	69	116	69	95	91	70	77	64

*6-8" Snow on
1/31-2/1, equivalent
to about 0.5" rain



Lake Level Measurements, January 2019-June 2026

White Lake Annual Lake Elevations, High and Low

2019 High (January 25): 64.6 Ft NAVD 88
2020 High (June 16): 65.2 Ft NAVD 88
2021 High (February 19): 65.3 Ft NAVD 88
2022 High (January 17): 64.3 Ft NAVD 88
2023 High (December 18): 64.6 Ft NAVD 88
2024 High (Aug. 12, Sept. 18): 65.4 Ft NAVD 88
2025 High (June 10): 64.6 Ft NAVD 88

2019 Low (July 9): 63.5 Ft NAVD 88
2020 Low (January 1): 64.3 Ft NAVD 88
2021 Low (November 29): 63.9 Ft NAVD 88
2022 Low (May, Oct-Dec.): 63.7 Ft NAVD 88
2023 Low (August 28): 63.6 Ft NAVD 88
2024 Low (July 5): 63.7 Ft NAVD 88
2025 Low (November 3): 63.7 Ft NAVD 88

First Half of 2026:

2026 High (Feb-Mar): 64.1 Ft NAVD

2026 Low (June 30): 63.2 Ft. NAVD 88

2019 Lake Level Variation (High to Low): 12.7 Inches

2020 Lake Level Variation (High to Low): 10.3 Inches

2021 Lake Level Variation (High to Low): 16.8 Inches

2022 Lake Level Variation (High to Low): 7.2 Inches

2023 Lake Level Variation (High to Low): 12.0 Inches

2024 Lake Level Variation Between Jul 5 and Aug 12: 20.4 inches

2025 Lake Level Variation (High to Low): 10.8 Inches

Variation (Highest-Lowest) Over the Seven-Year Period 2019-2025: 22.8 Inches

Seven-Year Mean High Water Level: 64.86 Feet NAVD 88

The variation in lake levels so far this year (10.8 inches) is in line with what has been seen in the past. Of note is the substantial increase in lake level seen over a period of < 6 weeks in 2024, because of a series of big rains. *Lake levels will increase when there is enough rain to overcome loss from evaporation (which is relatively high in the summer months) and loss to the surficial aquifer.*

Another resource available on the WLW web site describes the relationship between lake levels and water table levels <https://whitelakewatch.com/white-lake-groundwater>

We are in a situation now where the lake is discharging water into the surficial aquifer, because the water table is lower than the lake surface level (B). Attempting to pump water into the lake to raise the lake level would cause more water to flow into the aquifer, defeating the objective.

Groundwater flow interactions with White Lake are *variable*, depending on the dynamics between *lake levels* and *water table levels*.

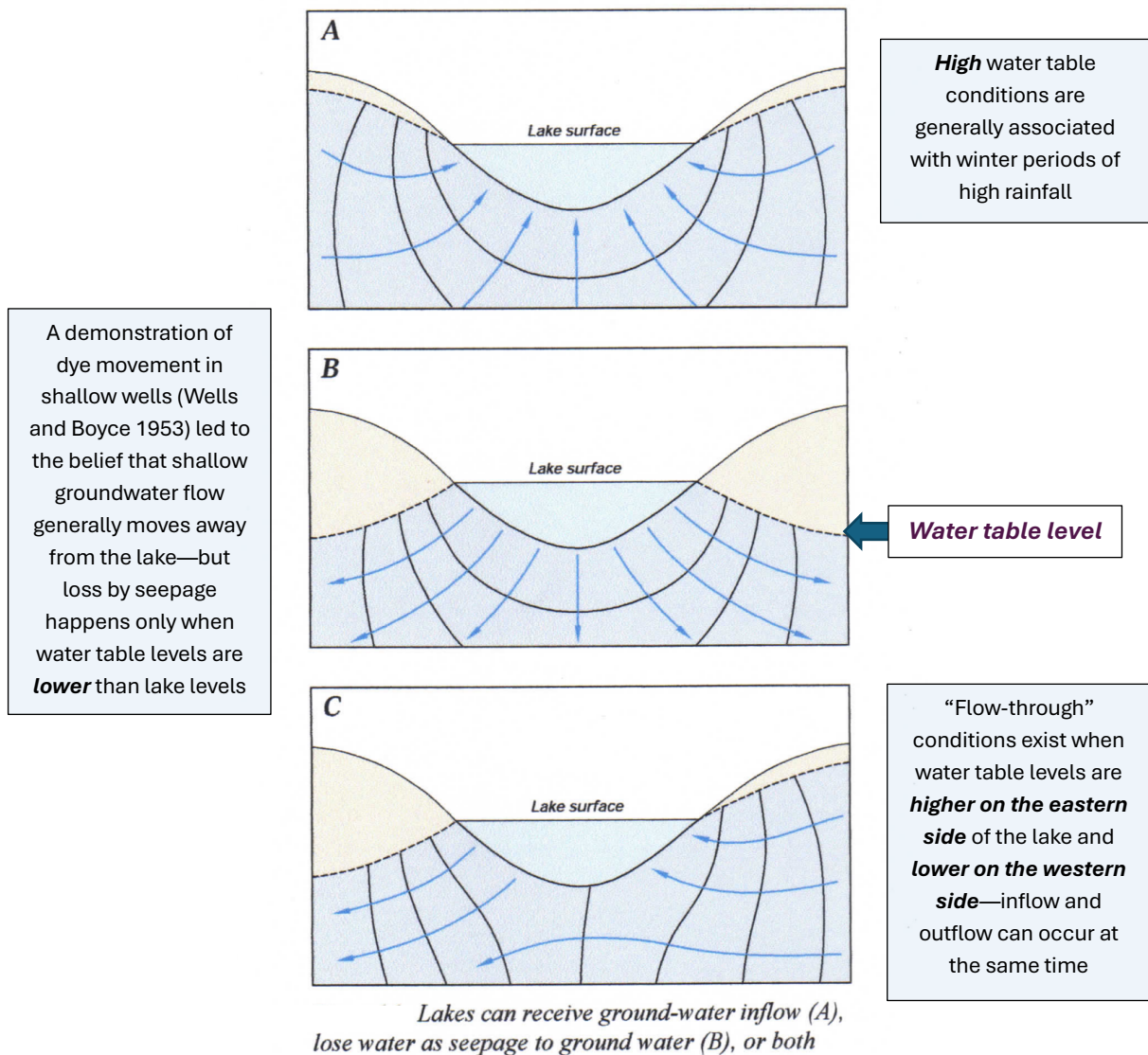


Figure reproduced from: Winter, T.C., W.H. Judson, O.L. Franke, and W.M. Alley. 1998. Ground water and surface water: a single resource. U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1139 <https://doi.org/10.3133/cir1139>

The latest satellite imagery posted on Google Maps and Google Earth was taken in April, and clearly shows the clear water conditions, making bottom features such as vegetation and boat scars visible:

