

Report to White Lake Town Board September 2022

Diane Lauritsen, Ph.D.
LIMNOSCIENCES

1. Little Change in Lake Level for August

Summer rains in the past two months have contributed 16 inches of rain, which is the equivalent of 464 million gallons of water added to the lake, raising the lake level 4.8 inches since the end of June. The lake level at the end of August, 64.1 feet NAVD 88, is equal to the level at the start of the year, although it is 4.8 inches below the level at the end of August 2021.

Monthly Rainfall (inches) for White Lake 2012-2022

Month	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Monthly Average for Region
January	5.75	8.25	4.5	2.75	4.20	7.0	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.75	2.75	3.81
February	1.0	9.2	6.7	2.25	2.00	1.5	10.7	5.5	1.5	2.5	4.0	3.44
March	2.45	2.7	3.7	3.25	3.95	3.7	1.55	4.15	ND	1.0	7.0	3.91
April	3.75	1.75	5.1	7.25	6.75	6.75	6.75	4.55	ND	1.75	2.25	3.12
May	2.2	3.0	12.25	1.20	7.70	2.7	4.5	4.20	ND	2.25	9.25	3.67
June	6.2	7.9	7.15	5.25	10.00	4.5	3.65	8.70	3.0	17.0	2.0	4.70
July	10.5	7.5	6.85	6.00	4.75	6.75	3.75	3.0	4.65	11.25	8.6	5.75
August	5.5	6.5	7.55	5.35	6.25	5.6	4.12	9.4	9.75	8.25	9.75	5.95
September		3.2	5.95	5.00	29.45	5.2	15.0	4.7	7.0	1.0	5.0	5.29
October		0.6	3.35	3.60	2.25	2.95	14.25	9.75	1.7	1.75	2.25	3.38
November		0.4	7.5	4.90	4.25	1.0	0.50	7.25	4.15	0	2.25	3.16
December		3.4	4.25	6.00	7.5	5.45	5.1	6.5	3.7	5.75	4.25	3.14
Total		54.4	74.85	52.80	89.05	53.1	72.87	70.20		54.25	59.35	49.32
% of Lake Volume		71	97	69	116	69	95	91		70	77	64

2. Lake Conditions—Some Nearshore Areas Much Worse in August

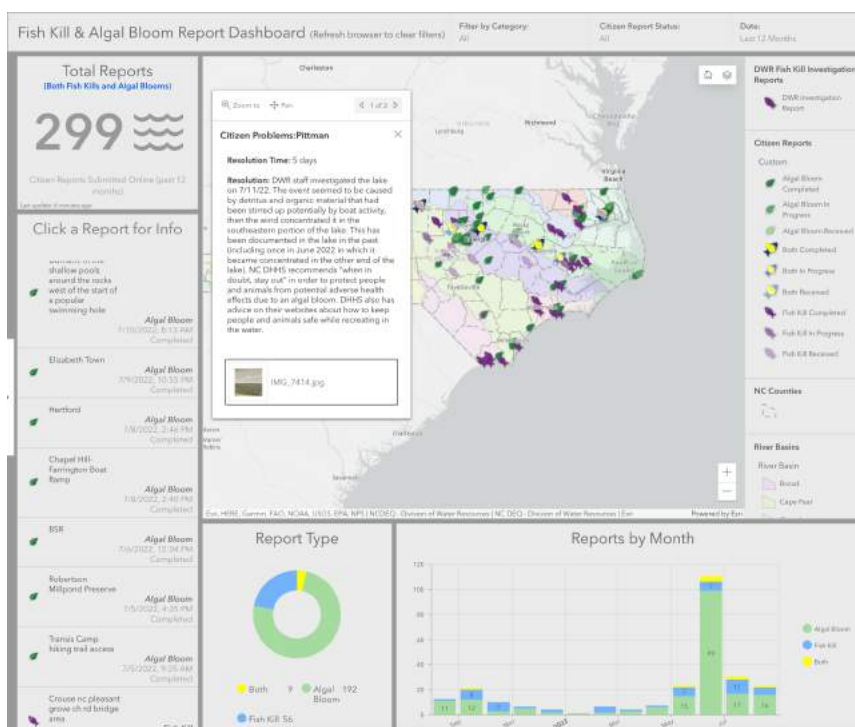
Photos taken at Lake Place/Nathan's Cove over the course of the summer show the conditions there have gotten progressively worse, with muddy sediments coating sandy lake bottom as well as the floating organic material, and a wide zone of brown covering the sand at the lake edge. Some residents have been raking up what washes ashore, but there is a great deal of material still in the water.

It bears repeating that most of the material in these recent photos is being stirred up from the lake bottom by the downward directed thrust from watercraft.



Photo on left taken August 14, and photo on right taken September 2--note the piles of material which has been raked up, and the green grass growing in the sand (which has, in essence, been fertilized by the sediment that has washed ashore).

Below is the response to Alan Pittman's photo and complaint sent to the state's algae bloom reporting app, followed by a Bladen Journal article and photo from July 2000 (*when the lake was acidic*), showing the mass of decomposing material seen along a seawall.





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BLADEN JOURNAL

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Dr. Lawson is finalist for job in Pitt County

BY DAVID BRAY
Staff Writer

Dr. Byron Lawson, superintendent of Bladen County Schools, has been selected as one of five finalists for the position of Superintendent of Pitt County Schools. The Pitt County Board of Education released the names of four of the candidates on Friday, July 14.

Contacted at his office at Bladen County Schools, Dr. Lawson said, "This is not a position that I was seeking in any way. The opportunity presented itself, and I believe the fairest thing to do, professionally and personally, is to examine all aspects of the situation."

The Pitt County school system is considerably larger than the Bladen County system. Pitt has 34 schools serving 21,000 students, compared to Bladen which has 5,800 students enrolled at 14 schools.

According to Ginger Livingston reporting in *The Daily Reflector*, the Pitt County Board of Education will start interviewing candidates for the position on Monday, July 24.

In addition to Lawson, other candidates for the superintendent position include two educators from the Pitt County school system: Brenda K. Jones, associate superintendent for human resources, and Del Burns, a former assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

Michael Priddy, associate superintendent of auxiliary services for Guilford County Schools, and Dr. Lawson complete the list of named candidates.

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Staff photo by Jack McDuffie

It's only decaying algae

The thick and smelly black material that is collecting at a few localized spots mostly along the south side of White Lake is a naturally occurring algae that grows at the bottom of the lake and floats to the surface where it decays causing an offensive odor. In photo, town Director of Public Works Tim Frush lifts a pitchfork of the matted material from a cove along the south shore.

Construction on new high schools OK

BY MICHAEL SIMMONS
Journal Editor/GM

Construction on Bladen County's two new high schools may be running a little behind schedule, but not so far behind that there is need for concern at this point that the schools will not be ready for students on the appointed time of fall, 2001.

So said Robbie Ferris of the architect firm Shuller, Ferris, Lindstrom and Associates to the county school board Monday night.

Contractors on both the east and west sites have asked for extensions on when the projects must be complete, but both seem to be working within the windows of time they have been given, Ferris told the board. Neither extension request has yet been granted by his firm, Ferris said.

"There are ways to speed up construction work," Ferris said, and added that the contracting firm on the eastern site had been behind his planned schedule by a self-described 60 days a short time ago.

"Now," he said, "the project is behind the contractor's schedule by only 25 days."

The western site, though it looks to most observers to be well behind the eastern site, is actually ahead of its tentative schedule, Ferris said. He added, though, that Cool Brothers Company, the general contractor on the western school project, still has not provided the architect firm with its final schedule.

That they must do so within the

Lake phenomenon said to be natural

BY JACK McDUFFIE
Staff Writer

The smelly black material that has accumulated at some locations along the shore of White Lake, primarily on the south end, is nothing but decaying algae, according to Paul Rawls of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality District Office in Fayetteville.

Through the material looks and smells somewhat like sludge in some localized areas, mostly in coves, it is harmless to animal life, Rawls said.

"It's more of a nuisance than a water quality problem," Rawls pointed out. "It is a natural process that has occurred for many years. We (DWQ) have been involved in

monitoring the occurrence of the problem since the 1950's and it is a regularly occurring phenomenon."

Rawls says that his department just finished the latest tests on the lake and no indication of contamination was found in the samples taken.

"The material is the same type that has been there many times before," Rawls explained. "It is filamentous green algae of the spirogyra species that grows on the lake floor. The fact that the lake water is clear allows more light to get to the bottom of the lake which enhances the growth of the algae."

Rawls says algae, in the right proportions, is necessary and very beneficial. However, it becomes a

"Periodically we do a thorough investigation of the lake, and we've found no evidence to indicate that the situation presents a health problem."

Paul Rawls, District DWQ official

nuisance when the amount gets out of balance.

"The samples we just collected and tested confirmed that this is spirogyra," Rawls said.

"Several factors contribute to the collection of the decaying algae in certain areas," Rawls said. "The natural current and wave action of the water along with the boat traffic

on the lake probably contribute to the algae breaking loose from the bottom of the lake and floating to the top where it decays and turns black. The fact that the lake is pretty shallow probably contributes to the algae breaking loose. The decaying algae is what causes the smell that people object to.

"Based on previous studies of the

lake, there has been no degradation of water quality," Rawls added. "DWQ will continue to monitor the lake to determine if conditions change. Periodically we do a thorough investigation of the lake and we've found no evidence to indicate that the situation presents a health problem."

Rawls said his agency is going to meet with town officials at a later date to look at some alternatives to try to lessen the nuisance created by the algae accumulation.

David Coburn, park superintendent at Singletary Lake and the individual charged with monitoring three state-owned lakes in the county—White Lake, Bay Tree

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CASE FILE NUMBER:	1733700	PAGE 1
REPORT DATE:	08/02/22	
DATE SAMPLED:	07/14/22	DATE RECEIVED: 07/15/22
FINAL REPORT, LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF SELECTED PARAMETERS ON WATER		
SAMPLES FROM TOWN OF WHITE LAKE		

CASE NARRATIVE

Six water samples were received by the laboratory in good condition and analyzed according to the chain of custody. No difficulties were encountered in the preparation or analysis of these samples. Sample data follows while QA/QC data is contained on subsequent pages.

SAMPLE DATA

SAMPLE ID	TOTAL-P (mg/L)	SRP (mg/L)	N03+N02 (mg/L)	TOTAL-N (mg/L)	CHLOR_a (ug/L)	PHAEO_a (ug/L)	DOC (mg/L)
WL-C1	0.024	<0.001	0.016	0.756	5.3	2.8	9.85
WL-C2	0.025	<0.001	0.014	1.01			11.5
WL-B1	0.030	0.002	<0.010	0.773	6.2	1.9	11.1
WL-B2	0.025	<0.001	0.016	0.747			9.53
WL-A1	0.024	<0.001	0.012	0.981	8.0	1.3	10.9
WL-A2	0.025	<0.001	<0.010	0.897			10.3

SAMPLE ID	TURBIDITY (NTU)	AMMONIA (mg/L)	DISSOLVED NITROGEN (mg/L)
WL-C1	2.1	<0.010	0.692
WL-C2	2.0	<0.010	0.481
WL-B1	2.0	<0.010	0.467
WL-B2	2.3	<0.010	0.461
WL-A1	2.0	0.012	0.497
WL-A2	2.0	<0.010	0.487