Citizen Lake Monitoring

Silver Lake, Waukesha County
Silver Lake, Waukesha County

- 222 Acre Seepage Lake
- Max Depth of 42 Feet
- Home to Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike
- Hard Water Lake (180 mg/l)
- Natural “Kettle” Wetlands Area
- DNR Boat Landing
- Three Harbors Council, Boy Scouts of America Camp
- 2 Restaurants

Photo Credit: J. Rice
Invasive Species Include:

- Banded Mystery Snail
- Eurasian Water-milfoil
- Hybrid Eurasian Water-milfoil
- Purple Loosestrife
- Zebra Mussels
Motivation:

* To Learn More About the Amazing Resource at Our Doorstep

Getting Started:

* Contacted Our Local WDNR Lakes Biologist, Heidi Bunk
* 2005 Began Secchi Disk Monitoring
* 2006 Added Chemistry Monitoring
* 2007 Received a WDNR Grant to Purchase a HACH Meter for Collecting Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Data
* Silver Lake’s CLMN Program is Managed by:
  
  The Silver Lake Management District
  Invasive Species Committee

Historical Data:
How Data is Used

Baseline Data for:

* Studies & Reports such as:
  * 2015 Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) Staff Memorandum – Water Quality Evaluation
  * Data Update Report Shared At Silver Lake Management District’s Annual Meeting
* Aquatic Invasive Species Planning
* Aquatic Plant Monitoring
* Specific Trend Data such as Temperature Variations Throughout the Open Water Season
* Fun Lake Facts to Know To Impress Your Friends and Family
Trends

Source: WDNR
Lake Narrative Reports

Chlorophyll Data 2005 - 2015
Comparisons

Source: WDNR Lake Narrative Reports

* Comparison of Silver Lake’s Average Secchi Disk Readings to SouthEast Georegion Average

* Year 1 = 2005
* Year 11 = 2015
A Great Way to Enjoy the Dog Days of Summer

* Rocce, Our Canine Lake Monitoring Assistant