

Respondent:

Robert M. Hiskey, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Biological Sciences
246 Dwyer Hall
Celina, Ohio 45822

robert.hiskey@wright.edu
(419) 586-0311

Question From Summit Or From Audience Cards	Response
How many acres of wetland would be required to 'treat' the lake?	It varies but most suggest that the size be 0.01 of the watershed.
Would water quality benefit from producers staying away from road berms and side ditches?	Anything that adds a "buffer" helps
What is the breakdown and what percentage of the watershed is agricultural land, cities, woods, etc.?	You need to address this to the soil conservation people I don't have the figures.
Is there science behind 'normal pool', or is it just for boaters and fishermen?	If by science you mean water quality I'd have to say the more the better, but this normal I suspect is based on compromises for all purposes.
What will happen to water quality if the lake level is dropped artificially?	Quality could decline. The lake is already shallow any decrease in volume/depth will make things worse.
How many acres of wetlands have been displaced over the past 50 years on the south side of the lake?	Again you need to ask others this. I don't have any figures.
Start us out with a brief history of the lake – and executive summary - what was here before. And are there any similar lakes close by or in the mid west?	
Give us some contrast between Grand Lake and Indian Lake. What's different?	I haven't done much on Indian lake but what I have seen is that their diversity of algae is better than ours, and not dominated by a single species of cyanobacteria. This could reflect watershed land use and/or their longer history of proactive watershed involvement.
Tell us about the core samples taken from Grand Lake and what they concluded. How about the ones from Indian Lake.	Cores show that Phosphorus will be able to move into water column and feed the algae. This means that "recovery" of the lake will be slowed even when inputs are reduced. Indian lake's samples were lower in P than GLSM
Why don't we have rooted aquatic vegetation in lake i.e. cattails, lily pads, etc.?	I wish I knew! That's another topic to follow, since the historic accounts point to extensive growths around the lake.

<p>Won't lowering the lake cause more mosquitoes hence more chance of west Nile virus?</p>	<p>There's plenty of quiet backwaters that mosquitoes love now I don't think lowering will hurt and might actually help if those areas were dried. I am NOT for lowering the lake level as a mosquito control measure.</p>
<p>Rick Wilson stated that the south end of the lake is the main source of input of water in the lake. He also stated that during high run off times most of the nutrients are entering the lake by agriculture. Is it true that the wetlands on the south side of the lake that are being converted in housing development and are not filtering the lake (such as a filter strip) as it did in the past. If so, then: Question #1) How do people get to convert these wetlands into houses? Question #2) Doesn't this affect the lake because the natural filter system is not there? Question #3) How many wetland acres are gone due to housing?</p>	<p>I can only address #2 I feel that any loss of wetlands which can potentially filter inflow water of nutrient and sediment is cause for alarm.</p>
<p>Does a lower level of water have a negative impact on water quality, fishing and oxygen levels?</p>	<p>I would say yes to all these factors, although the oxygen question is more complex and is tied to productivity also. With a smaller volume oxygen tends to fluctuate.</p>
<p>What is the level of oxygen in the lake. Has there been any test for oxygen? If the lake is so degraded why do we allow swimming or other activities?</p>	<p>Levels of oxygen vary daily and seasonally. Photosynthesis can produce levels above saturation during the day. Body contact recreation is based on bacteriological concerns and not the nutrient level of the water although the two are somewhat tied.</p>
<p>The panel brings up nutrient levels in Grand Lake – due to ag runoff. Indian Lake & Loramie Lake has the same farming practices with more watershed area per water acre. Why don't their lakes have high nutrient levels? Or do they?</p>	<p>I haven't done much in either of these lakes, but from what I have done Indian seems somewhat lower in N and P. Sediments in Loramie suggest that it's on the same level that we are, but I haven't done the water there.</p>