

Water Testing for Summer 2016 +2017

Water quality in Placid Lake continues to be remarkable. Of the roughly 30 samples gathered from all sectors of the lake in four collection tours (twice per season), there was only one positive test for coliform, and that one came in shallow water after a considerable amount of early season rain. Remember that the samples taken are only being screened for e coli and coliform and that the State's tolerance levels for the existence of either substance in a drinking source is zero. We surmise that many factors determine the quality of the test. For example, water level, water temperature, the presence of waterfowl near intakes at the time of collection, and perhaps effluent that may be leeching to the lake from faulty septic systems. On a couple of occasions we sampled after considerable and extended periods of rain (June), but still found clean pockets. We also surmise that the early season testing may be traditionally better as the lake has recovered over the winter and has received very little recreational pressure before the July 4 holiday. Going forward our priority continues to be in the areas of outreach education for camp owners about the need to be vigilant regarding the preservation of this unique resource. Septic system maintenance, refraining from feeding waterfowl, safe fueling practices and other common sense practices will minimize the ongoing risks of polluting the Lake. As for now we are still the very fortunate beneficiaries of this incalculably precious resource. Perhaps it is a result of some luck, but also a friendly, deep, cold and spring fed lake that is remarkably restored year after year.

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