

Talking Points for Buckeye Lake area business owners Blue-Green Algae postings 2011

State agencies have posted a yellow advisory at Buckeye Lake. This is the least serious category of four that are issued in connection with Ohio's inland lakes. A yellow advisory is issued when an algal bloom CAPABLE of producing toxin, has been identified. Swimming and wading are not recommended and water should not be swallowed. HOWEVER, all other forms of recreation at Buckeye Lake are permitted including boating, fishing, skiing and rafting.

The State of Ohio Departments of Natural Resources [ODNR], Environmental Protection [OEPA] and Health [ODH] are making every effort to assure the safety of all residents and guests recreating on Buckeye Lake.

Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow [BLT], a local volunteer citizen action group, is working in cooperation with the State of Ohio agencies. Together, they are developing water quality improvement programs to assure the long term viability and safety of the water quality in Buckeye Lake and the surrounding watershed.

No high toxin readings have developed, as a result of sightings of small amounts of algae on the water in Buckeye Lake. In fact, all Microcystin Toxin levels, as developed from State of Ohio water samples, are well within the "Safe for Recreation Use" guidelines, as established by the World Health Organization [WHO] as well as those set by ODH. Those WHO guidelines are 1 part per billion [ppb] for drinking water and 20 ppb for recreation use. ODH has established a level of 6 ppb for safe recreation use on Ohio lakes.

ODNR is sampling Buckeye Lake weekly, to determine the Microcystin Toxin levels in the lake to make certain that there are no dangerous toxin levels present. Those results are updated and posted on both the ODNR and OEPA web-sites.

As a precautionary measure signs are being placed in the beach areas by the Ohio Department of Health to alert swimmers that they should not drink the water or swim and play in any scum that may happen to be floating on the water.

Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow is sampling Buckeye Lake monthly to determine changes in the Phosphorous and Nitrogen levels. These chemicals are a pre-cursor to conditions that promote additional algae growth. Comparative water tests for Phosphorous and Nitrogen on August 3, 2010 and June 3, 2011 indicate an improved water quality this June when compared to last August.

