

## Ohio EPA Once Again Testing the Waters of Inland Lakes *August 2008*

As the mid-day sun warms the air, sounds of splashing and children's laughter carry across the surface of Buckeye Lake. On the far shore, a small boy proudly shows off his first fishing success. And on a small metal boat in the middle of the lake, Ohio EPA scientists take water and sediment samples that will be used to help ensure that these activities can continue for years to come.

For the first time in more than 10 years, Ohio EPA is testing the waters of a few of Ohio's lakes in a coordinated sampling initiative. To be most efficient, Ohio EPA is coordinating water quality sampling and modeling of streams and lakes within the same watershed in the same sampling year. The surface water and drinking water divisions will work together to identify and report on impairments of the public drinking water use for those lakes with a public water supply intake.

In Ohio, there are 447 publicly owned lakes totaling nearly 119,000 acres of land area. The lakes are often used for recreation and flood control. In some cases, they even serve as the source of drinking water for nearby communities.

In many of these lakes, impacts from development and various land uses such as farming can cause algae blooms, affect fish communities and, in a worst-case scenario, jeopardize drinking water quality.



**Sediment samples are tested for nutrients, metals, ammonia, organics and toxicity.**



**Many different kinds of tools and equipment are required to gather water and sediment samples.**

Ohio EPA will monitor various aspects of lake water health and quality such as E. coli, algae, heavy metals, nutrients, temperature, conductivity and oxygen.

Lakes in poor condition will be targeted for additional study to identify specific sources of impairment and begin development of clean up and protection plans with the help of local watershed groups and communities.

During the summer of 2008, some lakes will be sampled five times with an additional five samples to be taken in 2009 and others will be sampled 10 times this year. This will complete sample collection for reporting in the Agency's 2010 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment report.

The eight lakes being sampled in 2008 are:

- **Buckeye Lake** (10 sampling events) - Located south of Interstate 70 in the Village of Buckeye Lake, Buckeye Lake is a popular destination for people who love to fish, boat, ski and sunbathe. Buckeye Lake is not used for public drinking water. The Village of Buckeye Lake is home to more than 3,000 residents.
- **Clear Fork Reservoir** (10 sampling events) - Located about seven miles southwest of Mansfield off State Route 97, the 997-acre lake holds 4.4 billion gallons of water. The City of Mansfield blends reservoir water with well water to provide drinking water for 50,000 city residents.
- **Swift Run Lake** (10 sampling events) – Located just northwest of Piqua in Miami County, this 38-acre reservoir provides a portion of the city's drinking water to nearly 21,000 residents. It is also a popular spot for fishing and recreation.
- **Vets Memorial Reservoir (Fostoria Reservoir #6)** (five sampling events) – Located off Washington TR 218 in Hancock County, the 165-acre lake along with Lake LeComte (Fostoria Reservoir #5) serves as a source of drinking water for the City of Fostoria. The lake holds 1.3 billion gallons of water at normal stage. The East Branch Portage River serves as the source water for the two lakes.
- **Frazier Quarry (Maysville Regional Water District Reservoir)** (five sampling events) – Located in Muskingum County, this 45-acre reservoir is used for recreation and provides drinking water for more than 4,000 people.

- **Dillon Lake** (10 sampling events) – Located in Muskingum County just west of Zanesville, the lake is a popular destination for those who love to fish, boat, ski and sunbathe at the beach. Dillon Lake is not used for public drinking water.
- **Cutler Lake (Blue Rock Lake)** (five sampling events) – Located in Muskingum County, this 15-acre lake has a maximum depth of about 15 feet. It is part of the Blue Rock State Park and includes a public beach. The lake is used for recreation and is a drinking water source for the state park facilities.
- **Deer Creek Lake** (10 sampling events) – Located in Lexington Township in northern Stark County. The 327-acre lake is formed by a dam on a tributary to the Mahoning River. The lake serves as the primary water supply source for the City of Alliance.

More lakes will be tested next summer and in the years to come. For more information about the Inland Lakes Program, e-mail [Linda Merchant-Masonbrink](mailto:Linda.Merchant-Masonbrink) or go to [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/inland\\_lakes/](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/inland_lakes/).