Lake Berryessa News
November 2012 e-Newsletter

Greetings from a very cold Lake Berryessa,

The lead story, sadly, again concerns the lack of leadership within the Bureau of Reclamation, although they seem to behaving a good time shuffling their leadership. Other stories and photos have been published at: www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

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Bureau of Reclamation Produces "Omnishambles"

Thanks to Cheryl Bean for a link to a new word, “Omnishambles”, which can be applied to the Bureau of Reclamation’s management style.

“Omnishambles” has been chosen as Word of the Year by the Oxford English Dictionary after it was coined by a BBC TV's satirical political series to describe a badly mismanaged situation and gaffes.

“Omnishambles” is defined as "a situation that has been comprehensively mismanaged, characterized by a string of blunders and miscalculations".

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Floundering About at Lake Berryessa (This is not a fishing story.)

By Peter Kilkus

Definition: “flounder about”

1. To make clumsy attempts to move or regain one's balance.
2. To move or act clumsily and in confusion.

Every now and then the perfect real-life example of an odd word or phrase pops up. In this case it’s the ongoing actions of the Bureau of Reclamation at Lake Berryessa. During the last few months, after years of inept management of the Lake Berryessa resort redevelopment process, Reclamation attempted to shift responsibility for the chaos to Pensus. But the facts, both the public record and confidential documents, do not support their contention.

The Lake Berryessa News has regularly documented Reclamation’s inexplicable, bordering on the bizarre, requirements placed on Pensus as they tried to restore the resorts to operation. Although Pensus may have been unrealistic in their redevelopment schedule and some of their actual plans, no reasonable person expected the BOR to act as they did. Their incompetent management finally even prodded Congressman Mike Thomspson to request their removal as the Lake Berryessa managing agency to be replaced by the Bureau of Land Management.

Now after months of legal tussles and a failed mediation process, all still remains unclear. The main perpetrator of the chaos, Area Manager Mike Finnegan, has retired. Coincidentally, within two weeks of his rather conciliatory presentation to the Lake Berryessa local community on October 25, Don Glaser has been replaced as Regional Director of Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Region without issuing his final decision regarding the Pensus contract termination.

His staff (basically retiring Mike Finnegan) recommended termination. Glaser will move to Denver where he will "work on several high priority projects for Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael L. Connor". David Murillo has been named Mid-Pacific Regional Director in Sacramento replacing Glaser.

Although Glaser is moving to a new position he is apparently still in charge of making the final Pensus contract decision, i.e.,"These Reclamation leaders will assume the duties of their new positions by January."

Despite Glaser's assurance to the public at the October 25th community meeting that his decision regarding the Pensus contract would be forthcoming within a week (by October 31), that decision has not yet been announced. His office claimed there might have been a misunderstanding and that the decision will not be announced until the end of November. Reclamation also confirmed that, as of November 8, Pensus has not yet been informed of any decision regarding its contract.

Can any public agency exemplify "flounder about" any better? In an almost satirical take on biology versus bureaucracy, the life cycle of a flounder may have met its human equivalent. "In its life cycle, an adult flounder has two eyes situated on one side of its head, while at hatching one eye is located on each side of its brain. One eye migrates to the other side of the body as a process of metamorphosis as it grows from larval to juvenile stage. As an adult, a flounder changes its habits and camouflages itself by lying on the bottom of the ocean floor as protection against predators."

Predator or Prey? Pensus Responds

The Lake Berryessa News spoke with a Pensus representative regarding the present Pensus position. Because of confidentiality requirements no details of ongoing negotiations could be disclosed. Pensus intends to continue its efforts to remain at Lake Berryessa and stands behind its October 15 public statement which is reprinted here. Pensus believes it has the legal high ground and pointed out that even if the Reclamation decision is to terminate the contract, there is a formal appeal process which could be followed by further legal options.

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"Dear Berryessa Stake Holders,

Pensus was unable to reach settlement of its dispute with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation through an Alternative Dispute Resolution process. However, no final decision has yet been made by Reclamation with respect to Pensus's contract. In the interim, the contract remains in force and Pensus will continue to offer visitor services at Lake Berryessa.

Although Pensus unfortunately could not reach an agreement with the Area Manager and his team, Pensus is committed to working with Reclamation's Regional Office in Sacramento and the agency's Headquarters in Washington, DC to reach a mutually-acceptable resolution to this dispute.

Pensus continues to firmly believe that termination of its contract is in no one's interest - not Pensus', not Reclamation's, and certainly not the public's. Pensus continues to firmly believe that Pensus, Reclamation, and the public share a common interest in the development and operation of robust public recreational opportunities at Lake Berryessa.

Recognizing that there remain matters to be resolved by the parties, Pensus has made a new offer directly to the Regional Director to perform the full scope of development of the six sites provided for under its contract. Pensus believes that termination is a disproportionate response to the events of the last few years, is not legally sound, and would needlessly delay the provision of recreation services at Lake Berryessa.

Pensus looks forward to the opportunity for a cooperative and constructive dialogue with Reclamation, and ultimately to continuing to serve the public at Lake Berryessa well into the future.

Unfortunately while Pensus strives to reach an agreement with Reclamation to continue to provide visitor services at Lake Berryessa our development efforts will remain on hold. Primitive tent camping, RV and launching will continue at Lupine Shores and Chaparral Cove.
Sincerely, The Persistent Pensus Team"

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The Devil is in the Details: Flounder-Style

Devilish Detail #1 – Markley Cove Resort

Pensus, per their contract, is scheduled to take over Markley Cove Resort on May 27, 2013. Although Reclamation (Finnegan) has pressured Pensus several times to allow a contract extension for the present Markley concessioner, Pensus has adamantly and publicly refused to agree. Markley's contract terms are published below:
"Interim Concession Contract" shall be effective on May 27, 2009, and shall be for the term ending May 26, 2011, with two one-year options. The term of this Interim Concession Contract may not be extended.

Pensus has stated that the private houseboats at Markley are an important part of their financial strategy, and they had hoped to complete new docks at Lupine Shores to allow the houseboats to be temporarily berthed there while they renovated the renamed Mahogany Bay. Reclamation's proposed contract termination has caused serious uncertainty among the Markley houseboat owners, although they had previously been assured full support by Pensus.

It's not clear who is playing legal hardball with the biggest bat, but Pensus still intends to take over Markley Cove on May 27, 2013.

Devilish Detail #2 – Steele Park (Lupine Shores) Launch Ramp and Roads

A postcard appeared in Berryessa Highlands mailboxes last week stating that Reclamation is considering removal of the roads and launch ramp at Steele Park (Lupine Shores). The postcard had no sender identification, but the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce confirmed they had not sent it. The concern, and a real one, is that public access at Lupine Shores might be eliminated for a long period of time if this happens. And if the Pensus contract were to be terminated, this would add another complication to the process.

The note requested that residents and supporters call and write to Don Glaser of the BOR to protest this possible action. The possibility of Reclamation demolishing the roads and launch ramp stems from a contract signed almost three years ago.

On February 5, 2010, Sean Buckley, owner of Steele Park Resort, and Michael Finnegan, Area Manager for Reclamation, signed a contract to allow Reclamation (and any new concessioner) to use the Steele Park launch ramp and roads for a period of only three years. In exchange, Reclamation agreed to pay for the remaining facilities demolition and clean-up of the resort. The concessioner had already demolished many of the facilities at his own cost. Most of the mobile home owners, such as I, had paid $3,500 to have a contractor demolish our property.

As the opening lines in the song Time Warp from the Rocky Horror Picture Show predict: "It's astounding, time is fleeting, madness takes its toll." Here we are, a progress-free, madness-packed three years later when this particular toll comes due on February 5, 2013. Closure or demolition would have a serious effect on the local Berryessa Highlands community, which depends on Steele Park for lake access.

Floundering Forward – Conclusions?

None – just a series of unkowns.

Step one is for the Bureau of Reclamation to finally make a reasonable, rational decision or two. What's your prediction?

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Don Glaser Replaced as Regional Director of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region
Impact on Lake Berryessa Pensus Contract Decision Remains Unclear

Coincidentally, after his presentation to the Lake Berryessa local community on October 25, Don Glaser has been replaced as Regional Director of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region according to a November 8 Reclamation press release.

Commissioner Announces Changes in Senior Leadership:
Glaser will move to Denver where he will "work on several high priority projects for Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael L. Connor". Several sources indicate that Glaser plans to retire in six months. The Reclamation press release states that "Don Glaser's experience in Reclamation, the federal government and nonprofits will allow him to provide sound counsel to the Commissioner on Reclamation issues".

Despite Glaser's assurance to the public at the October 25th community meeting that his decision regarding the Pensus contract would be forthcoming within a week (by October 31), that decision has not yet been announced. His office claimed there might have been a misunderstanding and that the decision will not be announced until the end of November. Reclamation also confirmed that, as of November 8, Pensus has not yet been informed of any decision regarding its contract.

David Murillo has been named Mid-Pacific Regional Director in Sacramento to replace Glaser.

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Fishing With Sid at Lake Berryessa (11/11/12)

What a difference a week makes. Weather-wise the fishing was still great. It was cold out on the water and unlike the mirror calm water of last weekend the wind made the lake full of ripples, but the trout were still in abundance if you knew where to fish.

I started out earlier this Saturday because of the time change. We launched just before 9 AM. My crew included Albert, Brandi and Jeremy. We started fishing as soon as we left the launch ramp because of the masses of birds in the water. We thought they might be feeding on bait fish, but that was not the case.

I headed to the west side going towards the Bureau. We hooked one trout before what used to be Spanish Flats but didn't see too much activity so we headed across the lake to the east side where we had good luck last week. It worked again! We landed eight nice size trout up to three pounds each.

I decided to try the area around Big Island and was able to see good size baitballs on my fishfinder. We fished the area going back and forth through the baitballs and hit limits for all of us.

We headed in at around 2:30 PM. It was a great day of fishing. Hints for successful trout fishing are good polarized sunglasses (I wear Hobies) the proper scents (I use Pro-Cure) and I like lures that dive between 5 and 12 feet The best colors this weekend seemed to be silver and blue.

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Capell – Berryessa Community Center Project

In October, 2010 with the closing of Capell Valley Elementary school a group of PTA members first proposed the idea of a community center to the Napa County School Board. Since that meeting a group

of concerned citizens have continued to work on the project and the final pieces are being put together now.

A preliminary agreement has been worked out with the School District allowing a 6 month to one year lease with a multi year lease to follow. In 2015 the District will be reviewing the status of the Capell property. It could be sold or held for future use. No lease at this time would extend past this date until the District determines the properties status.

The informal group has formalized a startup Board and the Center is now incorporated and a non profit in the State of California. The final piece before we can be insured is to obtain our Federal non-profit status. We can then become insured and enter into an agreement with NVUSD for use of the property.

We are applying for our Federal Non Profit status and a fee of $300 - $700 is required upon submission of paperwork. Monthly costs to run the Center appear to be in the $300 a month range for insurance and utilities at the school. A startup date is dependent upon becoming insured and a signed agreement between the NVUSD and the Capell – Berryessa Community Center.

The Capell Valley Fire Department held a fundraiser for the Capell Community Center on November 10th. More than $600 was raised and will be directed to costs for our Federal Non Profit application. The Community Center Board expresses a big thank you to the community for supporting this event and to the Capell Valley Fire Department for hosting it.

Once we obtain our Federal Non-Profit status we can become insured and finalize our agreement with NVUSD. The doors would open after the agreement with NVUSD is in place.

Thank You, Capell – Berryessa Community Center Board
Anita Odell, Beth Botts, Sandy Storck, Bob Lee

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Red Ribbon Day Excitement at Pope Valley School

To encourage students to stay away from drugs, the National Guard landed a helicopter at several Napa County schools. Pope Valley School has a large sports field which emergency helicopters already use as a landing pad. Pope Valley invited their neighbors, Howell Mountain School, to join them for the Red Ribbon Helicopter Landing Day.

Members of the National Guard talked to the students of both schools about careers that are only open to students who stay in school, complete their education and remain drug-free.

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Heavy Rain and Wind at Lake Berryessa (November 29-30, 2012)

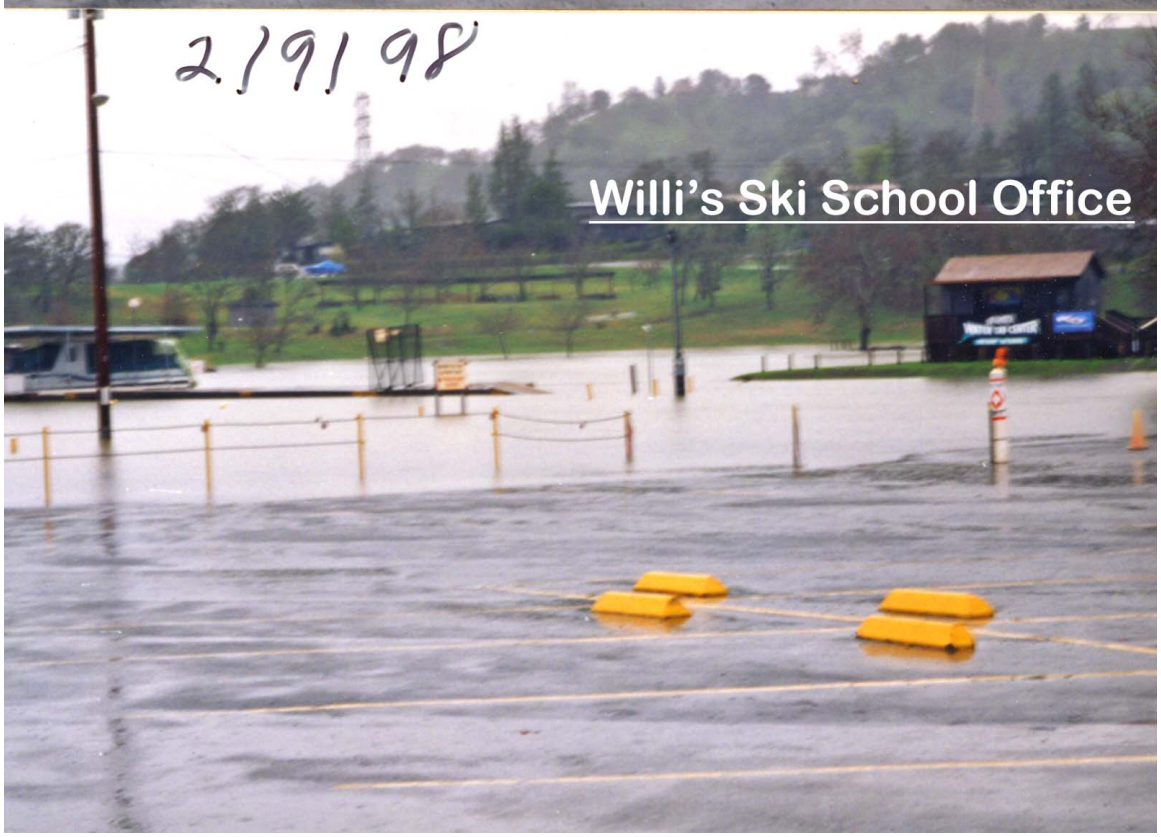
Lake Berryessa had 4.4" of rain from 6 PM Thursday, 11/29, to 1 PM Friday, 11/30. We had 3” in 5 hours during the night. There was a 2 - hour power outage in the Berryessa Highlands around midnight. Wind gusts hit 32 mph during the night. Reminds me of my first winter at Steele Park in 1998 when the water came up under my mobile home. Water rose 4.75' above Glory Hole in 4 days - a foot a day! The Steele Park ramp was gone and the Harbor Cove restaurant was in the water! Will it happen again this year?

Tim Johnson wrote in that, “Over the years at Rancho Monticello, 1970 thru 1994, I watched the lake rise at a rate of 1ft an hour on several occasions...water up and under the store deck....kinda creepy...good luck all.”

2/9/98


2/9/98: Lake level is 444.75' msl
or 4.75' above Glory Hole
Steele Park Launch Ramp

2/9/98


Willi's Ski School Office

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Berryessa Lions Club Keeps on Giving

The charitable work of the Berryessa Lions Club may be low key, but it is of great importance to local kids and their families through its free eye exams, bicycle rodeo, and other contributions. The Berryessa Lions Club has been a major community charitable organization at Lake Berryessa for decades. The only charitable organization at the lake, the Lions focus on eye health, especially that of our local children. Each year they pay for a doctor to come out and give free eye exams at the local schools.

They organize interesting fundraising events to get community members together and use the proceeds to support their charitable causes. The Lions also sponsor an annual bike rodeo at Pope Valley School where they donate brand new bicycles and helmets for the bike skill rodeo winners for each grade.

This year's Lions Club bicycle event was on October 3, 2012. The lions Club gave away nine bicycles and four helmets thanks to nine local donors. The donors were: the Gutierrez family, the Lewis family, Tonya Watson - Optometrist, Pope Valley Winery, Pridmore Construction, Berryessa Boat Storage, Jim and Linda Tschida, Chris Lacombe, and Bill Oppenneer.


BILL KAYE
BIKE RODEO

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LIONS
INTERNATIONAL
BILL KAYE
ANNUAL
BIKE RODEO

The Lions Club Bike Rodeo is named in memory of George (Pizza Bill) Kaye who died a few years ago. Long-term Berryessa residents will remember Bill form his local pizza-making days. He spent his later years working at Rancho Monticello doing anything and everything including operating their water treatment plant. As a full-time employee he was allowed to live at the resort. Unfortunately he was one of several people displaced, i.e., kicked out of, Rancho Monticello and other resorts by the Bureau of Reclamation's destructive actions at Lake Berryessa. He died soon after while trying to find a new place to live.

Bill was proud of being a Charter Member of the Berryessa Lions Club which he helped form more than 25 years ago. He was a loyal member ever since, working on the annual eye exams for local school children, the Pope Valley school bike rodeo, and the many Lions Club poker runs.

Bill epitomized the Lions Club salute given at every meeting:

"Not above you, Not below you, But with you!"

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As Lake Berryessa Turns!
Temperature and Fishing in a Warm, Monomictic Lake

By Peter Kilkus, President
Berryessa Environmental Management Systems (www.BerryessaEnvironmental.com)

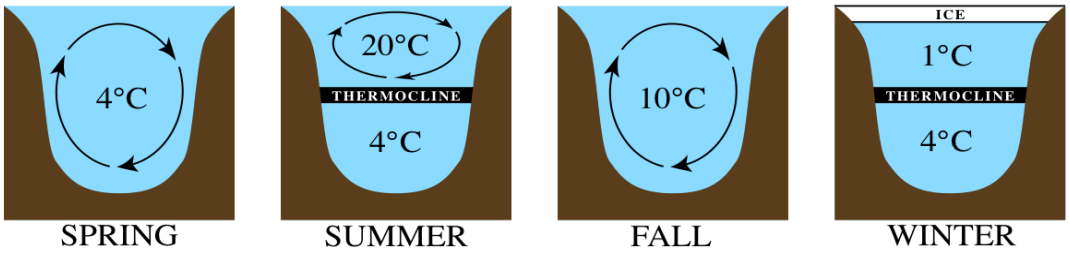
The phenomenon called “turnover” is well-known to anglers, but not so much to other lake visitors. Some people think that Lake Berryessa turns in both spring and fall. But scientific data shows that the lake only turns once per year - in the fall.

Turnover is essentially what it sounds like. The water on the bottom of the lake goes to the top, and the water on the top of the lake goes to the bottom. Although the turning of a lake is partly due to temperature and density differences in the layers, the major cause for the turnover (or mixing) is the wind. The wind causes full mixing of the lake when the temperature of the water is the same at all depths and there are no layers.

Thermal stratification of lakes is the separation of lakes into three layers caused by temperature differences among the layers:

1. Epilimnion - top of the lake.
2. Metalimnion (or Thermocline) - middle layer that may change depth throughout the day.
3. Hypolimnion - the bottom layer.

For ease of understanding, I’ll call these the top layer, middle layer, and bottom layer. When layers mix and change places, a lake is said to turn over. Lakes that turn over once a year are said to be monomictic. Lakes that turn over twice a year, once in spring and once in fall, are called dimictic. Dimictic lakes usually freeze over during the winter. The reasons for both the spring and fall turnover in lakes that freeze are easy to understand so, with the help of the diagram below, I’ll discuss them first.



In late summer lake surface waters of both monomictic and dimictic lakes have reached their annual maximum temperatures. At this time in a sufficiently deep lake, you will find a definite layering of water temperatures. Warmest, and therefore least dense, waters lie on top, and the water temperature decreases with depth, reaching its minimum temperature at the greatest lake depths. How cold the lake bottom water becomes depends on the lake depth and other characteristics, but it will never fall below 4 deg C (39 deg F) unless the lake freezes solid.

Summer breezes blowing over the lake generally keep the top layer stirred by pushing a quantity of surface water downwind. This draws a flow of deeper water upward (upwelling) along the lee shore to replace the pushed waters. But this upwelling is not coming from the deepest layer, only from the lower part of the top layer. As a result, top layer waters mix, producing generally warm temperatures and high oxygen content (important to fish and other creatures) throughout the top layer. The middle thermocline layer has minimal mixing, and what does occur is slow, thus isolating the bottom waters below it from the surface zone.

In fall, the surface water cools. Its drop in temperature eventually matches the temperature of the middle layer. When these top layer waters reach about 10 deg C (50 deg F), they sink into the middle layer waters below, erasing the temperature stratification between the top and middle layers that had built during summer.

As fall air temperatures continue to drop, this new upper layer cools to the temperature of the bottom layer. The full water mass of the lake has now reached a uniform temperature, and the surface winds mix the full water body in the "fall turnover". The water temperatures then continue to decrease into the winter months.

For lakes that fall below 39 degrees and finally freeze, the surface becomes colder than the bottom, but this cold water now "floats" on top of the "warmer" water. (See above diagram) The colder surface water is now actually lighter than the warmer water and floats on it until it actually turns to floating ice. The key to this unusual process is how water density varies with water temperature.

Water is most dense (heaviest) at 39º F (4º C) and as temperature increases or decreases from 39º F, it becomes increasingly less dense (lighter). Thus, at 39 degrees and below, less dense but colder water is now at the surface and more dense but warmer water is now near the bottom.

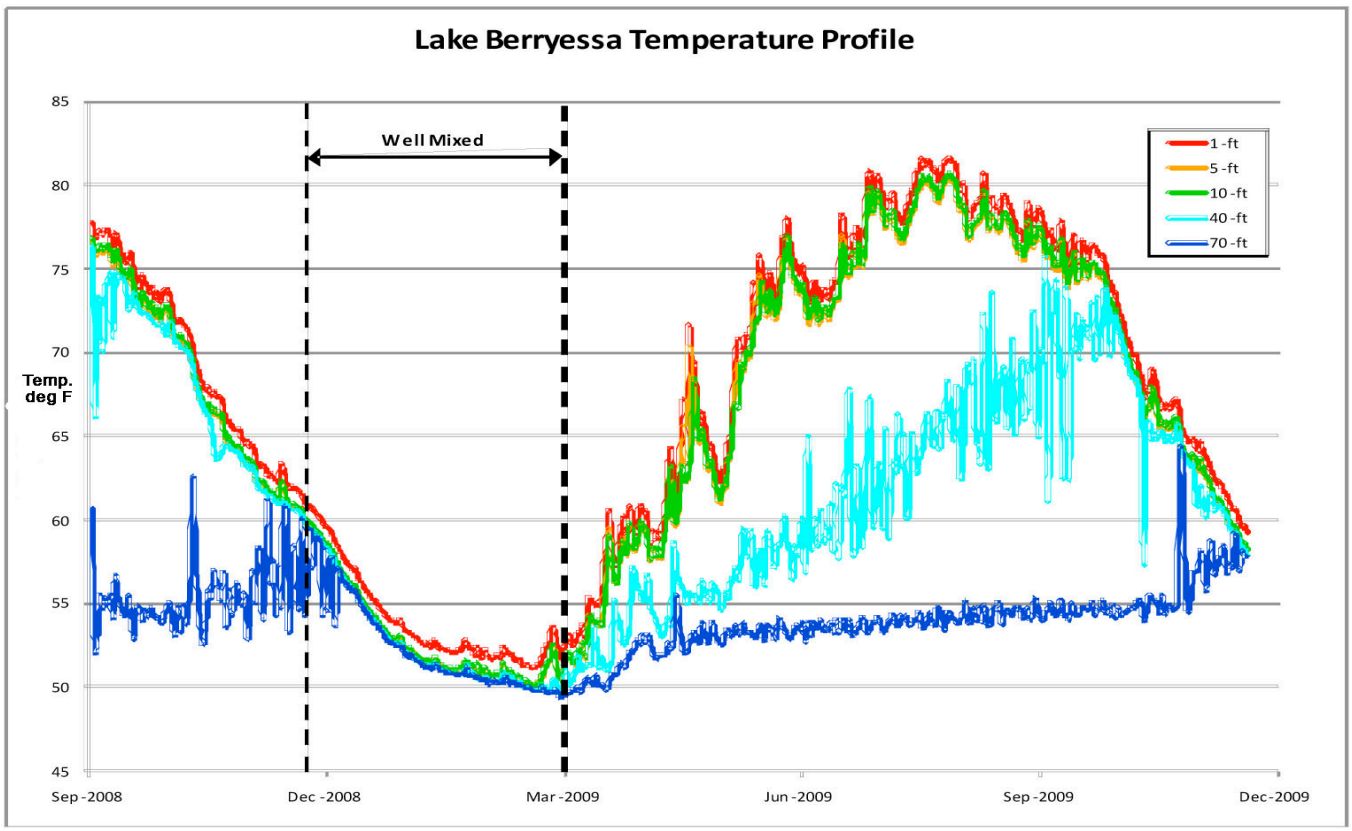
During spring, the process reverses itself. The ice melts and surface waters warm and sink until the water temperature at all depths reaches approximately 39º F. When this occurs, winds blowing over the lake again set up a full circulation system, this mixing known as "spring turnover". As the warming continues into the summer, the top water layer becomes much warmer and less dense. The warm surface layer now "floats" on the cooler lower layers. Over time into the summer the three water layers again become established, and our cycle has been completed.

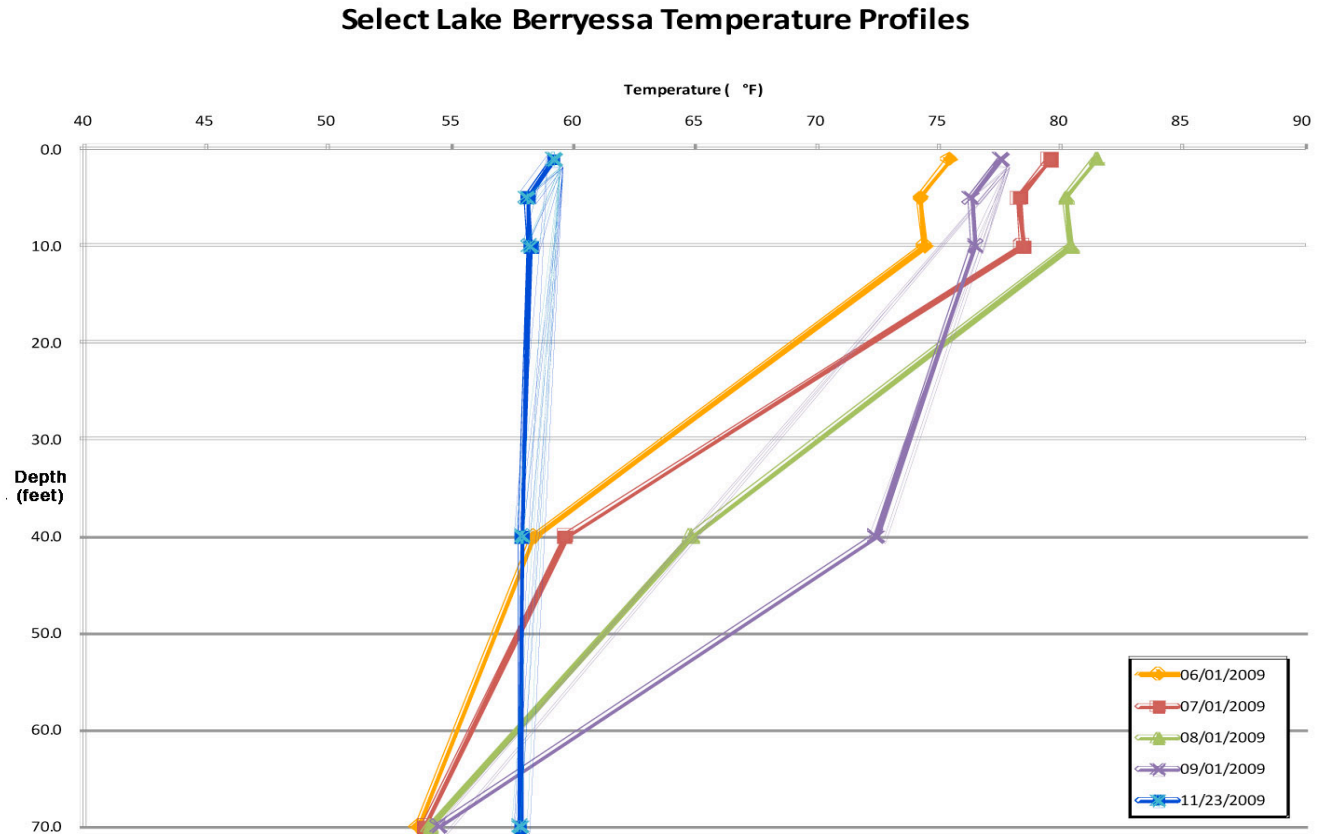
Since Lake Berryessa water temperatures never get below 39 degrees, it is classified as a warm, monomictic lake. During winter, the surface waters cool to a temperature equal to the bottom waters. But lacking significant thermal stratification, since the water never gets below 39 degrees, much less freeze, these lakes mix thoroughly each winter from top to bottom and continue to mix until spring.

This situation is graphically illustrated by the following charts from Alex Rabidoux of the Solano County Water Agency. Alex reports, "SCWA maintains a thermistor chain of sensors to a depth of 70-ft near Monticello Dam. I have attached a little over 1-year's worth of data, and you can see that Lake Berryessa experiences one mix per year.

For last year, mixing occurred in November, 2008 followed by several months where the lake was well mixed, and then stratification began again in March, 2009. For Water Year 2010, you can see a similar pattern, where Lake Berryessa became well mixed a few weeks ago, in mid November."

Alex added that the thermocline is probably somewhere near 40-ft, but there are not enough temperature sensors to say with absolute certainty without finer resolution. Anglers with good depthfinders can usually find the thermocline quite easily because algae and protoplankton will form a layer there, and the deeper, colder water is much more dense.





Frank Morris of the Solano Irrigation District reports, " The classic description of lake turnover is describing "dimictic" lakes or those having two mixes per year. Many larger lakes and reservoirs are "monomictic" - having

only one mix per year. Without ice formation and the colder, less dense water rising to the top, reservoirs such as Lake Berryessa will not experience a spring turnover.

Winds in our region also play a large role in keeping the lake well mixed or de-stratified until summer when surface water temperatures are significantly different, allowing the stratification into the epilimnion, metalimnion and hypolimnion.

The fishermen at Lake Berryessa probably have the best data regarding the lake turnovers and where the metalimnion demarcation typically is located because that is where the fish feed on the zooplankton accumulating at the density gradient. Different arms of the lake may behave differently due to the wind fetch, sun exposure and interflows from streams.

Remember also that the total depth in that vicinity of the dam is almost 250 feet. The lower depths are pretty consistent, VERY COLD. Another interesting fact is that the Monticello Dam is what is called a "hypolimnetic discharge", meaning that water discharged downstream is drawn off the lower portion of the water volume meaning that it is very cold and very nutrient rich. These nutrients support the large biomass of aquatic plants (and algae) in Lake Solano which is predominately Myriophyllum sp., also known as Eurasian Milfoil."

Bureau of Reclamation Ranger Mike McGraw describes some of the biological impacts of lake turnover: "I have a thermometer down at our boat dock about a 1.5 feet in the water. Yesterday (November 20, 2009) it read 60 degrees, roughly the same temperature it's been since the beginning of the month. Typically, I know the lake turns in the fall sometime in November, but I've never noticed too dramatic a drop on any given day or week for that matter. Usually by January it's around 50 degrees (the lowest I've seen it is 48 degrees a couple years ago).

The big, noticeable change in the spring relates more to direct sunlight on the lake surface, warming water temperatures, and the biological processes that "kick into gear." During this time phytoplankton/algae become more numerous, changing the water from clear to cloudy green - "The Spring Bloom". In response to the algae growth, small invertebrates (i.e. copepods, tiny shrimp-like critters, and insect larva) become abundant followed by increased feeding and reproductive activity by larger aquatic animals like fish and frogs. The fishermen respond to all this new fish activity and spawning in the early spring (which may be the source of the "spring turnover" concept among anglers at Lake Berryessa).

By late spring, nutrients typically become depleted from the lake and planktonic populations crash, causing the lake to clear a bit and fishing activity to taper-off. The summer is a period of "lake exhaustion", when food becomes scarce and only the hardiest aquatic creatures survive. All the dead organism sink to the bottom of the lake becoming food for decomposers like bacteria. The biological processes of bacteria can deplete deep water O2 supplies which make the fall turnover especially important, not only for recycling nutrients through the water column but also in restoring deep water O2 levels.

Upwelling in the fall can cause planktonic blooms, but they are usually short-lived because water temperatures are too low and the days lengths too short to sustain much photosynthetic activity. Sometimes when deepwater decomposition is anaerobic, toxic byproducts are produced (for example, hydrogen sulfide) that are brought to the lake surface. If undiluted, these byproducts along with O2-starved water from the deeper parts of the lake can become a lethal combination for fish. Since I've been at Berryessa (5 years now), I'm not aware of this happening."

Fishing and Turnover

Fish have a metabolic rate dependent on water temperature. This dependence on water temperature also affects their immune system, wound healing, and digestion. Each fish has a different range of water temperature in which it can survive. Although fish cannot always find the exact temperature they prefer, they are usually found in water close to that temperature.

Trout, for example, will actively seek 64-degrees or the closest temperature to it. Sixty-four degrees, is the optimal temperature for a trout body to function at its peak. Below 50-degrees and the trout will start to shut down. Above 70-degrees and the trout will start to shut down. So, you can safely guess that trout actively feeding and swimming around will be found where water temperatures are in the 55-65 degree range.

Species and their preferred temperatures:

Brown Trout	60-65 F
Lake Trout	48-52 F
Rainbow Trout	55-60 F
Chinook Salmon	48-55 F
Coho Salmon	48-55 F
Largemouth Bass	68-78 F
Smallmouth Bass	67-71 F
Striped Bass	60-70 F
Bluegill	75-80 F
Crappie	70-75 F

The angler should know how to locate fish by temperature. Probe a lake's depth with a thermistor on a calibrated cord. The thermistor registers instant temperatures and the cord marks the depth. There are newer models out which also register oxygen content, pH, and water clarity. Simply find the depth corresponding to the preferred temperature range of the fish species you are seeking. Then identify the ideal temperature-depth which coincides with the lake's bottom structures that produce both food and cover. This is a likely spot to find actively foraging fish. Other factors such as light intensity, water clarity, pH, and oxygen content influence the fish by forcing them to migrate where these factors are favorable.

During summer, the surface of a lake the water will be very warm and stays warm down to a certain level. As the Lake Berryessa chart above shows, the surface might be at its maximum of 82 degrees in August, while 40 feet deep it is 70 degrees. At 70 feet the water is about 55 degrees and it will stay that cool all summer. Lake Berryessa bottom water temperatures never go below about 50 degrees.

After turnover the whole lake has good oxygen content and fish can move anywhere. They are hard to pattern because they roam a lot for a few weeks before setting up on deeper winter structure.

Some professional anglers are unsure what happens to bass during the turnover, but they agree that the fish are affected, almost like a cold front situation. It disorients them a little bit and they can get somewhat "goofy" about that time. Before the turnover, fishing tends to improve with the cooling water conditions. During and after the turnover, however, fishing tapers off.
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