

The Lake Report

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Lake Conroe continues slow but steady rebound in water level!

As winter weather patterns have started to set in on Southeast Texas, the San Jacinto River Authority is closely monitoring the Lake Conroe water level. Daily lake level records, maintained by the Lake Conroe Division staff, indicate that since the beginning of the new year, the lake has regained over two feet of water level. With more rain in the forecast for the middle of the week and several more systems moving through over the next 10 days, the SJRA remains optimistic that the recovery from historic low lake levels, due to the exceptional drought conditions of 2011, will continue. The combination of extremely wet soil conditions and regular precipitation occurring within Lake Conroe's relatively small, 444 square mile watershed is just what is needed for water level conditions to improve. For comparison, Lake Livingston's watershed is comprised of more than 17,000 square miles of drainages that encompass most of the Dallas/Fort Worth metro-plex and stretch all the way into the southern panhandle region. That is a lot of area in which to capture and retain runoff from storm systems that would otherwise totally miss hitting Lake Conroe's small drainage basin.

Going forward for the remainder of 2012, the Nation Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is forecasting a weakening of La Nina conditions in the equatorial Pacific sometime this spring or summer. La Nina conditions are primarily to blame for the extreme weather patterns experienced by much of the U.S. in 2011, including the historic, exceptional drought in Texas.

Lake Conroe Level is currently reporting in at 194.60 feet above "mean sea level" (msl), which is up from a low of 192.68' msl in December of last year. There are no discharges of any type being made from the dam. Water temperatures remain in the high 50's to low 60's.

For more information and current lake conditions go to www.sjra.net or like us on Facebook.