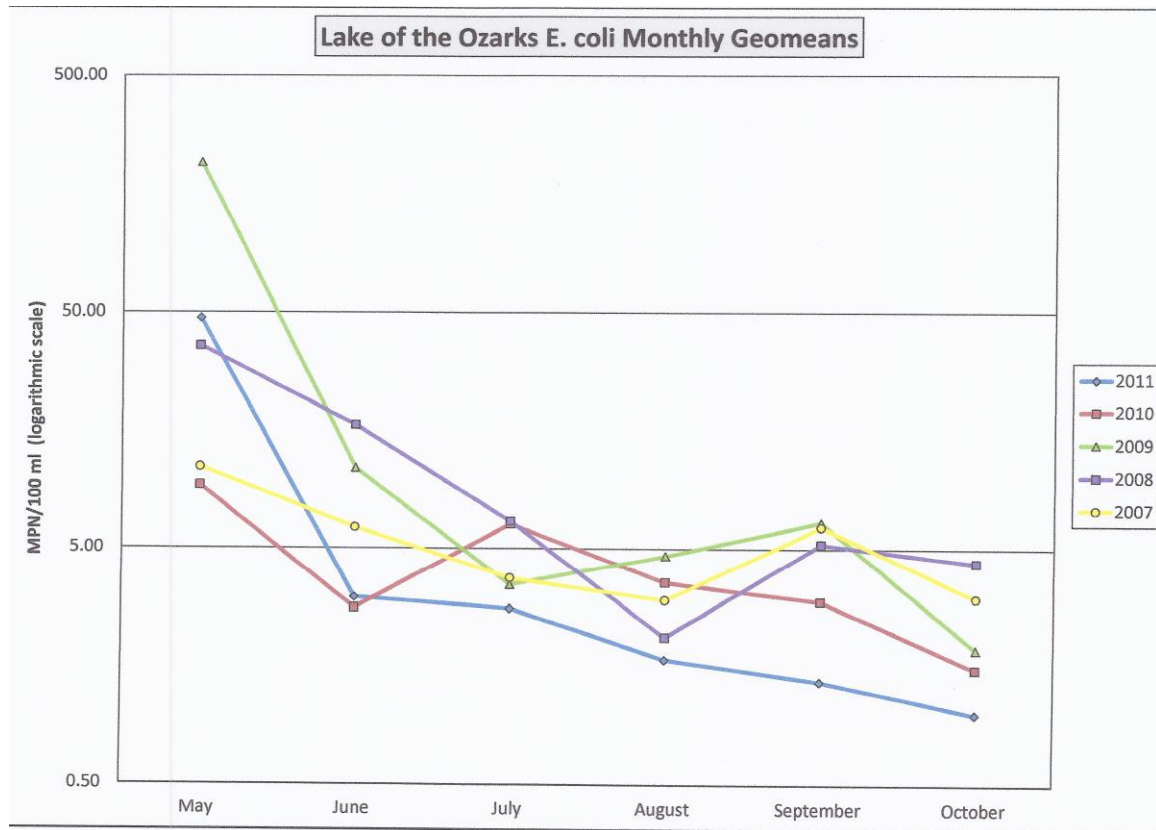


During the past five years the Lake of the Ozarks has been the most tested body of water in the state of Missouri. The multiple testing regimes have clearly demonstrated that the water quality at the Lake of the Ozarks is very good and safely within the EPA guideline of 126 MPN/100ml as the geometric mean of water samples. The chart below taken from a Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) report on a five-year testing program demonstrates how well the water quality of the Lake of the Ozarks compares against the EPA's guideline of 126.



And yet, the Lake of the Ozarks continues to suffer the public relations nightmare of state park beach closings whenever the DNR closes a state park beach for a high bacteria count from an unknown source obtained from an imprecise testing regime.

State Representative Rocky Miller has introduced House Bill 51 that would have the effect of requiring a more appropriate public communication protocol of elevated bacteria counts obtained during the weekly DNR water test sampling of state park beaches.

The Lake Area Chamber is supporting Representative Miller's HB51 and during February Joe Roeger, the Chamber's legislative chairman, provided testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee and the House Tourism Committee in support of HB51 and its Senate companion bill, SB140, sponsored by Senator Dan Brown.

The Lake Area Chamber is taking an active role in support of this legislation and we will keep you informed of its progress through the legislative process.