

Jim Collins

I was asked to share my "Lake Sawyer Residents" Facebook post with the DOE.
After making my fb post, others on the lake are sharing similar findings on their waterfront.

My observation (facebook post) is as follows:
(Please see picture in file)

Over the years I have come across a few live clams while maintaining my lakefront. However, this year, with the extreme low water level, I have found hundreds (if not thousands) of dead clams in the dried-up lakebed in front of my home.

My fear is that this low-water event has severely damaged or even decimated this important part of our lake's ecosystem.

Pictured is just a very small sampling of what I've found.

These aren't just old shells, as I can find died-up remains of the clams as well.

Lake Benefits of Freshwater Clams

Freshwater clams play a crucial role in maintaining the health and balance of aquatic ecosystems. They are natural filters that help purify the water by feeding on algae, plankton, and silts, which improves water quality.

Clams contribute to nutrient cycling and sediment dynamics, enhancing the overall ecological balance of lakes. They help reduce algae growth, creating a more balanced ecosystem, ideal for both fish and plants. Additionally, their burrowing behavior aerates the substrate and supports beneficial microorganisms, promoting biodiversity in the lake.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Jim



