

History and Chronology of Lake Draining Episodes Leon and Jefferson Counties, Florida

Compiled from Historical Records and Aerial Photos
by Jonathan Lammers

Updated June 2021



Thousands of fresh water fish representing almost every known variety were left floundering in the mud when the waters of Lake Iamonia, near Tallahassee, ran out through a subterranean crevice. Discarding hooks and lines for garden rakes and the like, men waded into the mud and scooped up the helpless fish by the ton, as this picture shows. (Associated Press photo.)

Tampa Tribune, Nov. 14, 1934.

Introduction

The four major lakes of Leon and Jefferson counties—Jackson, Iamonia, Lafayette, and Miccosukee, are famed as “disappearing” lakes which periodically drain through sinkholes. In truth, the period when the water is visibly draining into the sinkholes represents the final act of a longer process of drawing down. Overall, the sinkholes actually account for only a fraction of the loss of lake volume. The rest of the water had already been lost over the preceding months (or years) due to evaporation and lack of rainfall. These dry stages are critical to the overall health of the lake, as they allow the muck to dry out and become sandy, which provides habitat for fish to construct their spawning beds. When the lakes refill, fish then invade the newly flooded areas to feast on insects.

Because of their fascinating history, these lakes have been the subject of numerous geological publications, as well as ongoing research geared to understanding their relationships to the sinks and springs further south. Perhaps the earliest and best known work on the subject was Elias Howard Sellards’ “Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins,” published in the Florida State Geological Survey’s *Third Annual Report, 1909-1910*. Sellards was the original organizer of the Geological Survey in 1907, and served as its head until 1918. His timing was excellent. Between 1907 and 1909, all four of the major lakes drained, and he was able to provide descriptions and measurements for the principal sinks through which the lakes drained. He also pieced together the key role the sinks played in the evolution of the lake basins. Writing of Lake Iamonia he stated:

The enlargement of the valley to its present size has proceeded through the formation and partial filling of successive sinks. As each sink forms, it carries down to or below the lake level, a certain small area of land. Moreover the water passing through the bottom of the sink carries with it more or less detrital material so that the surrounding area is somewhat lowered by wash through the sinks. In the course of time other sinks form, while the older sinks become clogged and usually partly fill up. The direction of active enlargement of each lake can be determined from the location of the recent sinks.¹

Unfortunately, Sellards’ work does not include any descriptions of earlier draining episodes. Likewise, it does not appear that any systematic attempt has previously been made to determine how often the lakes drained prior to Sellards’ publication. Thus, out of personal curiosity, I began to conduct research in historic newspapers stretching back to the territorial days of Florida. This proved to be a thoroughly interesting venture, as the novelty of a disappearing lake drew coverage from papers across the country.

Far and away, Lake Jackson received the bulk of coverage during the 19th century. This was likely due to its proximity to Tallahassee, as well as the fact that Lake Jackson historically had more open water than the other lakes, and thus any draining episode was more visually

dramatic. Indeed, Upper Lake Lafayette was likely periodically dry far more often than is noted in the chronology below. Even more than a century ago, Sellards noted that the area around the sink was usually a prairie during the dry season. For these reasons, it's important to note that the following chronology should not be considered comprehensive. These lakes are very dynamic, and the water level is always fluctuating. There were certainly numerous periods when the lakes were low, but not visibly draining into a sinkhole.



Sinkhole in Lake Jackson, July 20, 1932. (Florida Memory Image GE1369B)

This study also attempts to correlate early 20th century lake draining episodes with annual rainfall. Here, rainfall tables provided by T. S. Olds in his 1961 Master's thesis: *Occasional Rapid Decline and Draining of Lake Bradford, Tallahassee, Florida*, proved especially useful. Covering the years 1905 through 1960, the rainfall tables are quite revealing when compared to newspaper coverage of lake drainage activity. They leave little doubt that sinkhole activity in the lakes is inexorably tied to the amount of rainfall, and that any year where rainfall falls below 45 inches is more likely than not to correlate with a sinkhole opening in one of the lakes. This was especially true during two periods of extended drought in the region: 1907-1909, and 1930-1938. In 1954, when rainfall was barely above 30 inches, three of the four lakes drained.

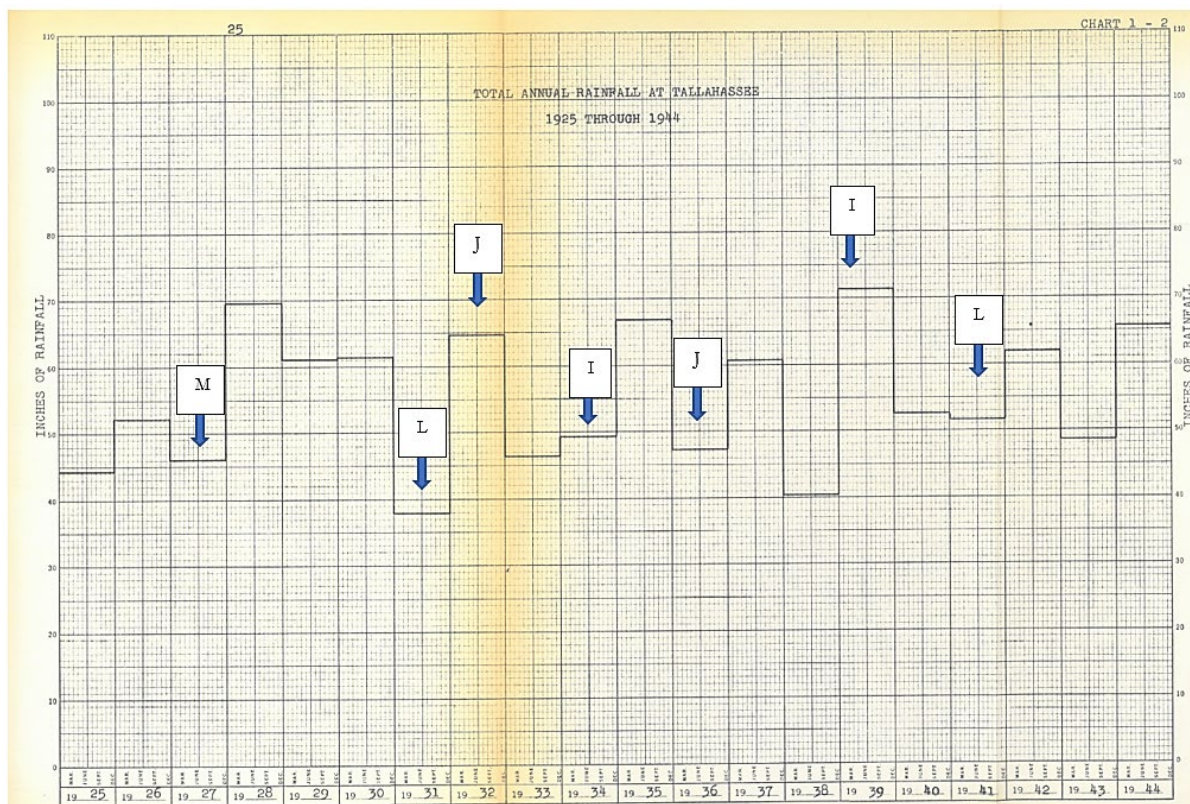
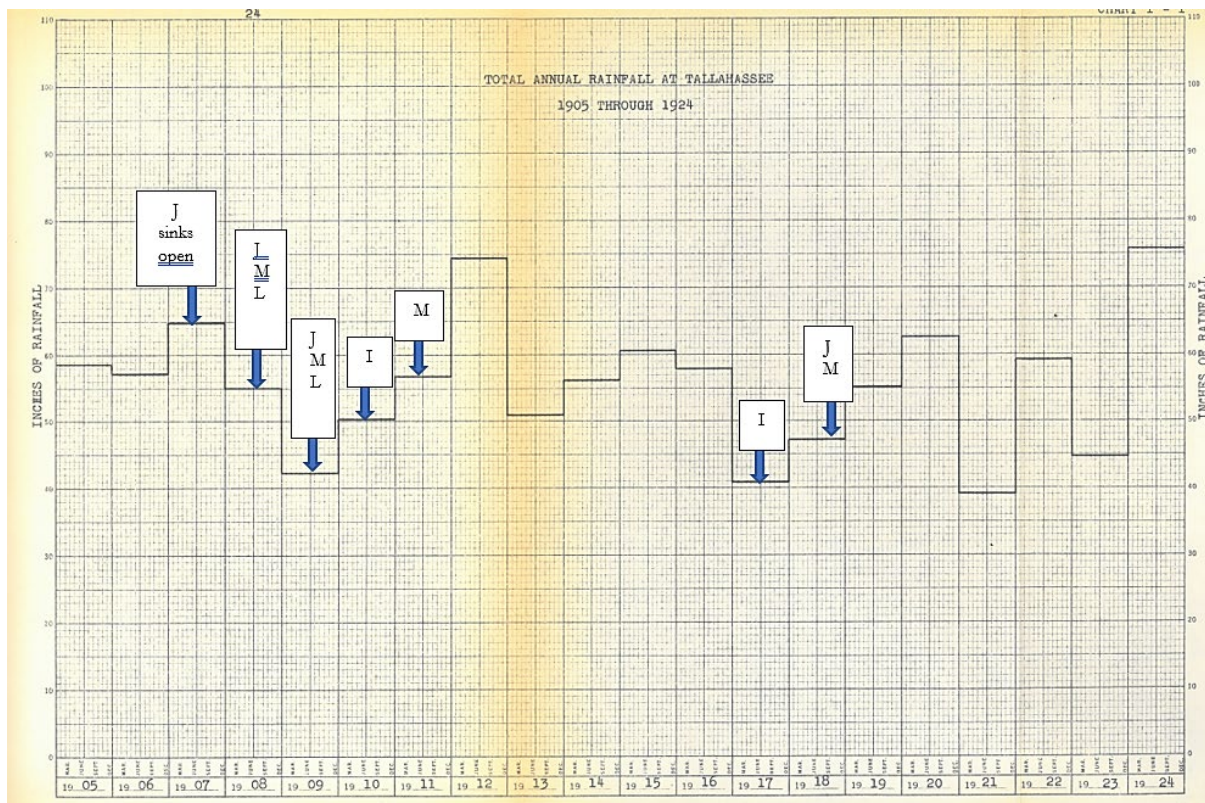
Overall, there does not appear to be any clear pattern as to the relationships between the lakes themselves. In other words, just because Lake Jackson drains, it does not mean that any of the other lakes will do likewise. However, drainage episodes appear more likely to occur individually or in pairs, versus the majority of the lakes draining at once because of low rainfall. For example, Lake Jackson and Lake Iamonia drained within a year of each other during 1829-1830, and 1861-1862. Likewise, Lake Iamonia and Lake Miccosukee drained within a year of each other (or the same year) in 1891, and 1949-1950.

The final portion of this report includes aerial photos of the lakes as available. Most came from the online offerings available through Leon County's "Then and Now" GIS website, while aerial photos of Lake Miccosukee came from the collections of the Florida Department of Transportation.

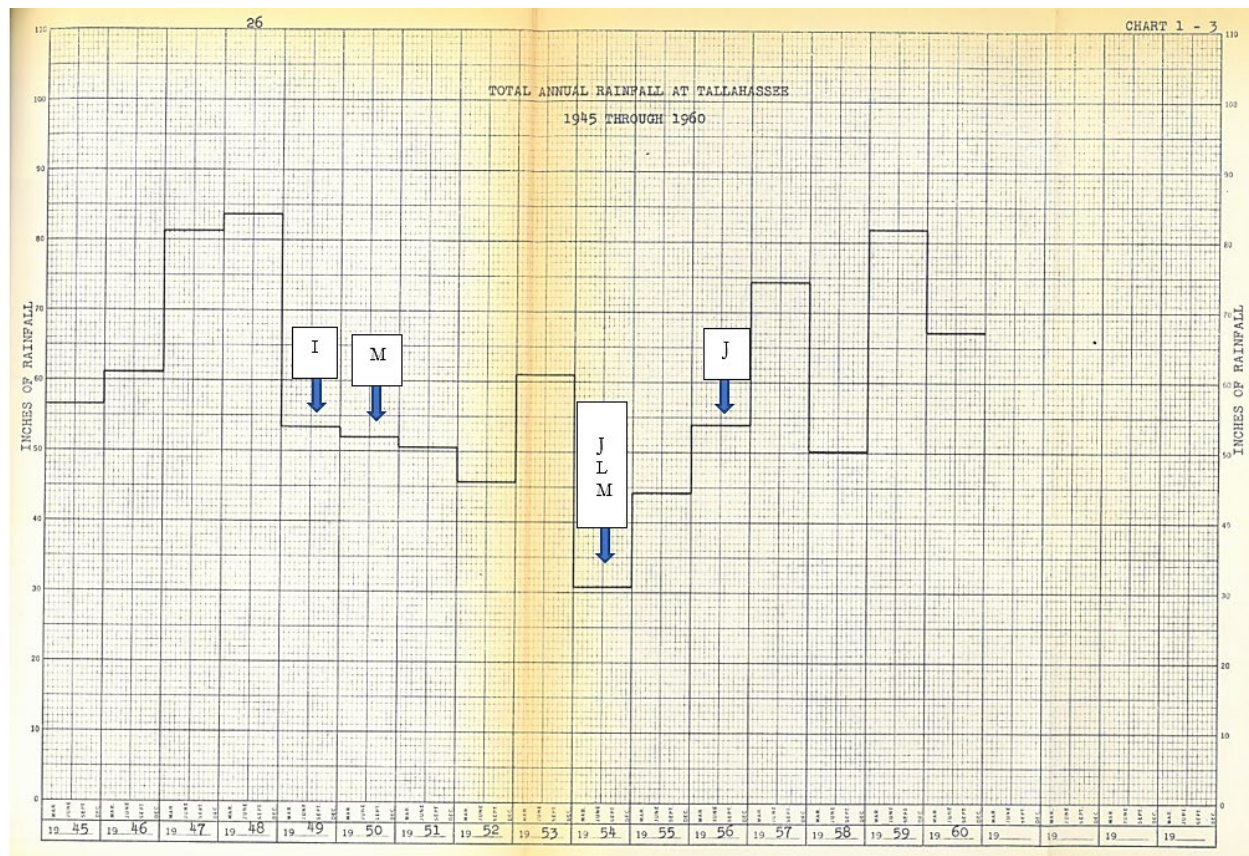
This report was originally written in April 2021, but was updated in June due to Lake Jackson draining into Porter Hole Sink.

Known Lake Draining Episodes

1829	Jackson	1936	Jackson
1830	Iamonia	1939	Iamonia
1840	Jackson	1941	Lafayette
1854	Iamonia	1947	Iamonia
1861	Iamonia	1949	Iamonia
1862	Jackson	1950	Miccosukee
1882	Jackson	1954	Lafayette, Miccosukee, Meginnis Arm sinkhole
1891	Iamonia, Miccosukee	1956	Jackson
1904	Miccosukee	1967	Iamonia, Lafayette
1907	Jackson	1982	Jackson
1909	Jackson, Miccosukee	2000	Jackson
1910	Iamonia	2006	Jackson
1911	Miccosukee	2012	Jackson
1918	Jackson	2018	Miccosukee
1927	Miccosukee	2019	Lafayette
1931	Lafayette	2021	Jackson
1932	Jackson		
1934	Iamonia		



Rainfall and lake drainage episodes 1905-1944, based on rainfall charts by T. S. Olds
in *Occasional Rapid Decline and Draining of Lake Bradford, Tallahassee, Florida*, 1961



Rainfall and lake drainage episodes 1945-1960, based on rainfall charts by T. S. Olds
in *Occasional Rapid Decline and Draining of Lake Bradford, Tallahassee, Florida*, 1961

Newspaper Chronology

A black and white photograph of a newspaper clipping. The text is bold and reads: "The Washington Chronicle says, "We are informed, on good authority, that Lake Jackson, in Florida, about 80 miles in length, has suddenly sunk ten feet; and the Indian cabins and peach trees are plainly discoverable at the bottom. The foundation of the lake is said to be limestone and cavernous."

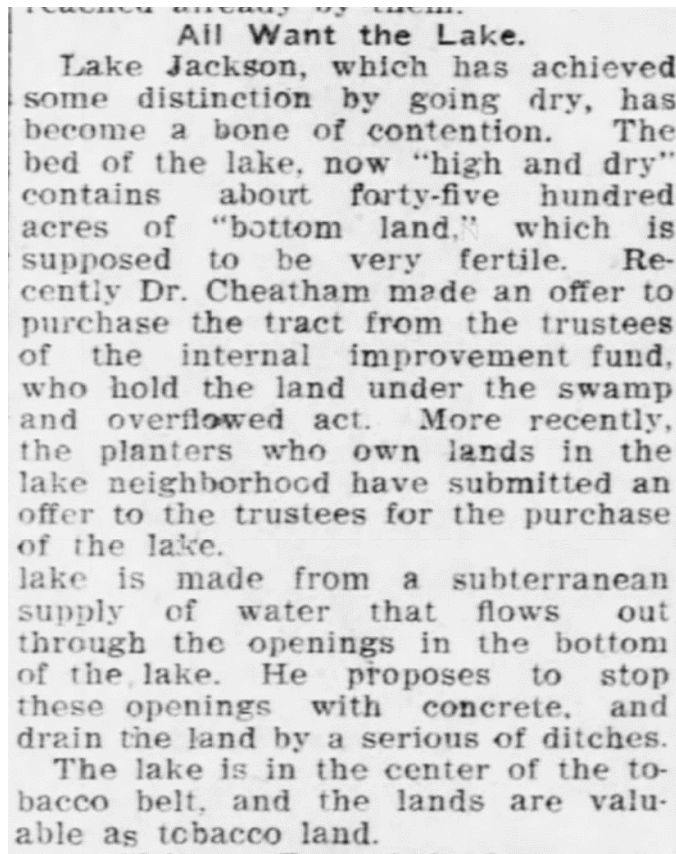
Litchfield Connecticut *Enquirer*, February 12, 1829.

1829	February	Lake Jackson sinks ten feet. ²
1830		Lake Iamonia drains. ³
1840	January	Lake Jackson goes dry. ⁴
1854		Lake Iamonia drains. ⁵
1857		Lake Jackson. The U.S. Land Office rules that persons owning previously submerged land on the shores of Lake Jackson were entitled to own the now dry lands. ⁶
1861		Lake Iamonia drains. ⁷
1862		Lake Jackson reportedly drains around this time. ⁸
1882		Lake Jackson drains. ⁹
1886	August	Lake Jackson reportedly drains following the Charleston Earthquake. ¹⁰
1890	April	Lake Miccosukee. The lake waters are reported "lower than they have been for years." ¹¹
		Total rainfall at Tallahassee for 1890 is 55.57 inches.
1891	October	Lake Iamonia is draining. ¹²
	November	Lake Iamonia is dry. ¹³
		Lake Miccosukee drains. ¹⁴ Farmers are reported hauling fish from the lake to fertilize their lands. ¹⁵
		Total rainfall at Tallahassee for 1891 is 44.85 inches.

Lake Iamonia is fast drying up. Thirty years ago the lake dried up and one could walk over any portion. Hundreds came with wagons and hauled thousands of pounds of fish away. Alligators were as plentiful as logs. No cause for the strange disappearance of the water can be assigned. Dozens of alligators are crowded together, and parties are already seining the holes for fish.—Cor. Atlanta Constitution.

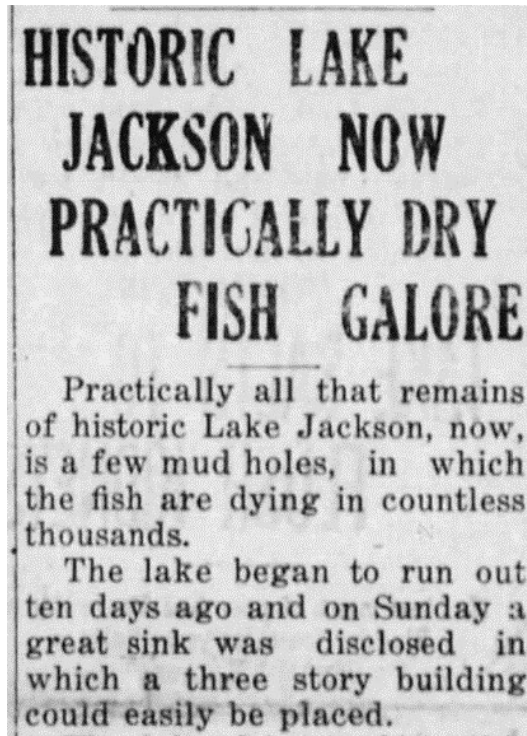
The Warrensburg, Missouri *Standard*, November 4, 1891.

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| 1892 | January | Lake Iamonia is reported filling up again. ¹⁶ |
| | June | The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund advertises for sale 5,626 acres of land formerly covered by Lake Iamonia. Adjacent landowners petition the Trustees not to sell the land. ¹⁷ |
| | August | Lake Miccosukee is full again. It overflows after two days of torrential rains on August 15 th and 16 th . ¹⁸ |
| 1904 | | Lake Miccosukee drains. ¹⁹ |
| | | Annual precipitation for 1904 at Tallahassee is 38.14 inches. |
| 1905 | | Annual precipitation for 1905 at Tallahassee is 58.54 inches. |
| 1906 | | Annual precipitation for 1906 at Tallahassee is 57.20 inches. |
| 1907 | April | Lake Jackson drains through Lime Sink. ²⁰ Rainfall at Tallahassee from November 1906 through March 1907 (5 months) had been 7.72 inches. |
| | June | Lake Jackson. A new sinkhole opens approximately one mile south of Lime Sink. ²¹ |
| | Summer | Lake Jackson. Partially refills with summer rains. ²² |
| 1908 | January | The Ochlockonee River is reported as having backed up into Lake Iamonia. ²³ This is after 12.78 inches of rain in December 1907. |



Pensacola News Journal, June 30, 1907

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| 1909 | July | Lake Jackson dries again during the summer. ²⁴ |
| | September | Lake Miccosukee is draining into sink at a rate of 2000 gallons a minute. ²⁵ Lake reported dried up. ²⁶ |
| | September | Lake Lafayette. |
| | | Annual precipitation for 1909 at Tallahassee is 42.17 inches. |
| 1910 | May | Lake Iamonia drains. Sink practically dry. ²⁷ |
| 1911 | | Lake Miccosukee drains. ²⁸ |
| 1916 | | Lake Iamonia drains. ²⁹ |
| 1917 | | Annual precipitation for 1917 at Tallahassee is 40.83 inches. |
| 1918 | November | Lake Jackson drains. ³⁰ Remains dry at least until July 1918. |
| 1918 | | Lake Miccosukee drains. ³¹ |



Tallahassee Democrat, November 20, 1918.

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| 1921 | | Annual precipitation for 1921 at Tallahassee is 39.20 inches. |
| 1926 | | Annual precipitation for 1926 at Tallahassee is 52.17 inches. |
| 1927 | | Lake Miccosukee drains. ³² |
| | | Annual precipitation for 1927 at Tallahassee is 46.11 inches. |
| 1930 | | Annual precipitation at Tallahassee is 61.03 inches. |
| 1931 | July | The “absence of rainfall for months past” leads a local game warden to predict that Lake Jackson, Lake Lafayette, and Lake Miccosukee would likely soon drain. Fish kills from low water have already occurred. ³³ |
| | September | Lake Lafayette described “as low as it ever falls in dry years.” ³⁴ |
| | November | Lake Lafayette reported as “already dry.” Lake Jackson reported “breaking up into small pools.” Lake Iamonia “threatening to go entirely dry and a large number of small lakes and ponds in Leon county disappearing.” ³⁵ Game wardens seining lakes to relocate fish to other locations. |
| | | Annual precipitation for 1931 at Tallahassee is 38.02 inches. |

Sportsmen who have up to now been depending upon the waters of Lake Jackson, Lafayette and Iamonia for their bream and bass fishing are watching the August rains with more than casual interest. Both Lakes Jackson and LaFayette have been dry so long that weeds have grown up in their beds, and Iamonia, perhaps the best of the three fishing lakes, still is running out at the rate of about four inches daily. Nimrods also are wondering about the prospects for duck shooting next winter if summer rains fail to meet the emergency.

Tallahassee Democrat, August 7, 1932

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| 1932 | January | Lake Jackson drains. It was reported low for several years prior. ³⁶ |
| | August | Lake Jackson and Lake Lafayette are described as having been “dry so long that weeds have grown up in their beds, and Iamonia ... is still running out at the rate of about four inches daily.” ³⁷ |
| | September | Lake Iamonia is filling after very nearly going dry. ³⁸ |
| | | Annual precipitation for 1932 at Tallahassee is 64.6 inches. |
| 1933 | | Annual precipitation for 1933 at Tallahassee is 46.25 inches. |
| 1934 | February | Lake Lafayette is dry except for the sinkhole at the northern end, which is visited by scores of fishermen daily. ³⁹ |
| | October | Lake Iamonia is nearly dry. ⁴⁰ |
| | November | Lake Iamonia drains. ⁴¹ Leon County constructs a dam and gates across Iamonia Slough that allows flood waters from the Ochlockonee River to enter the lake, but prevents the flood waters from going out. ⁴² |
| 1935 | September | Newspaper reports Lake Lafayette is full; Lake Jackson rising rapidly; Lake Iamonia “almost back to normal”; Lake Bradford coming up; Lake Miccosukee “running over.” ⁴³ |

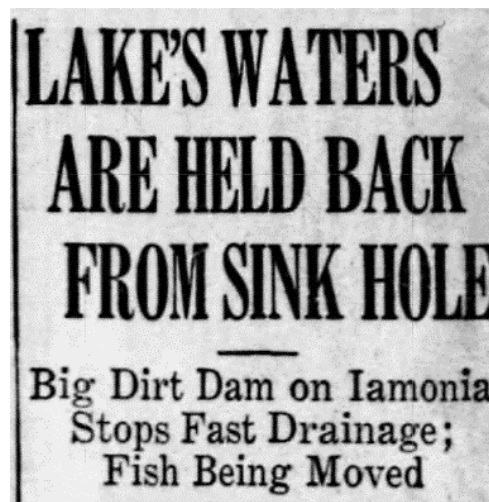


Lake Lafayette, viewed from sinkhole at low water stage, 1932. (Florida Memory Image GE1291)



The dry sinkhole basin of Lake Iamonia, November 11, 1934.
(Florida Memory Image GE1787)

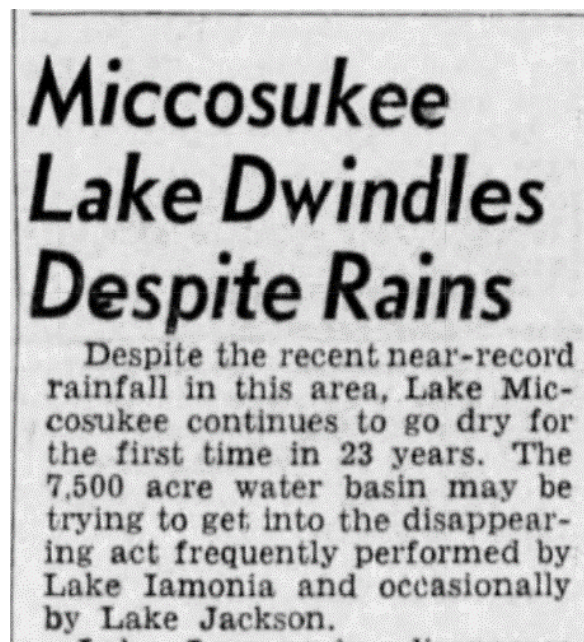
- 1936 July Little Lake Jackson is nearly dry. Main lake is low.⁴⁴
- October Lake Jackson is rapidly draining.⁴⁵
- Annual precipitation for 1936 at Tallahassee is 47.29 inches.
- 1939 January Lake Iamonia is draining. Work begins on a dam to prevent it from going dry.⁴⁶
- 1940 Lake Iamonia. Leon County, in consultation with the Game and Fish Commission, completes an earthen dam 1,150 feet long and 150 feet broad at the base.⁴⁷ The dam is designed to cordon off the sinkhole near Strickland Arm on the north shore of the lake.⁴⁸



Tallahassee Democrat, January 22, 1939

- 1941 Aerial photos indicate Lake Lafayette is dry and the level of Lake Jackson is very low.
- 1945 February Lake Lafayette. Griscom Bettel, owner of Rose Hill Plantation, recommends placing a dam around the Lake Lafayette sinkhole.
- 1946 Lake Iamonia drains.
- 1947 September The sinkhole at Lake Iamonia drains, but the dam prevents the rest of the lake from draining.⁴⁹
- 1948 January Lake Lafayette is determined to be entirely in private ownership owing to its inclusion in the Lafayette land grant.⁵⁰

1949 October Lake Iamonia drains below dam.⁵¹



Tallahassee Democrat, September 3, 1950.

1950 September Lake Miccosukee is going dry.⁵² Rainfall at Tallahassee during June to August 1950 measured 22.73 inches.

Piney Z Lake is created in the middle section of Lake Lafayette when a dam is built by Ralph "Hutch" Gibson, owner of Piney Z Farms.⁵³

1951 May Lake Lafayette reported falling.⁵⁴

1953 Annual precipitation at Tallahassee for 1953 is 60.01 inches.

1954 Rainfall at Tallahassee during January-May 1954 is 8.84 inches.

Lake Bradford nearly drains completely and the sinkhole is filled.⁵⁵ The sinkhole was reportedly 18 feet deep and 30 feet in diameter, but the lake continued to lose water.⁵⁶

May Lake Miccosukee is nearly drained.⁵⁷

August Lake Jackson. A sinkhole opens in Meginnis Arm.⁵⁸ It is plugged by a county road crew approximately two weeks later.⁵⁹

Aerial photos indicate that Upper Lake Lafayette is dry.

September Lake Miccosukee. Leon County approves construction of a dam and culvert around the sinkhole.⁶⁰

Total rainfall for 1954 at Tallahassee is 30.98 inches.⁶¹

County Votes To Plug Hole In Lake's Arm

At a special meeting this morning the Leon County Commission voted to plug the sinkhole through which the waters of Meginniss arm of Lake Jackson drained out.

Tallahassee Democrat, August 16, 1954.



Dry bed of Lake Bradford, March 24, 1955. (Florida Memory Image RCK00256)

- 1955 Lake Miccosukee drains.⁶² Lake Bradford reported nearly dry.⁶³
Total rainfall for 1955 at Tallahassee is 44.14 inches.
- 1956 March Lake Jackson. Lime Sink is reported as filling up.⁶⁴
- October Lake Jackson level is reported dropping a foot a day.⁶⁵ However, rainfall at Tallahassee for January through September 1956 measured 46.9 inches, and total for the year is 53.94 inches.
- 1957 June Lake Jackson remains dry.⁶⁶
- July Lake Bradford begins rising rapidly, from 26 feet to 30 feet. By October the lake was over the 36 foot level.⁶⁷
- December Lake Lafayette, Lake Jackson and Lake Iamonia return to normal levels after 53.64 inches of rainfall from May through October, including 20.33 inches of rain in October. Lake Bradford reaches all-time high level. Lake Miccosukee remains below normal.⁶⁸

Committee Makes First Report On Water Level In Leon Lakes

By DON MEIKLEJOHN
Democrat Staff Writer

What's the answer to the drying up of Lake Jackson and Lake Bradford?

In two words, "More rain!"

That's the preliminary observations of a three-man team making a study of water conditions in Leon County.

The committee is composed of County Commissioner Christie Hall, Fred Elliott, secretary and engineer for the Internal Improvement Board, and Dr. Herman Gunter, state geologist.

After several preliminary meetings on past findings, the committee made its first field trip yesterday to view Lake Jackson and Lake Bradford.

Commissioner Hall reported a "novel fishathon" in progress at Lake Jackson when the committee arrived. The lake, which in wet weather covers some 15,000 acres, had shrunk to several pools covering a total of about six acres.

160 FISHERMEN

Hall said about 160 fisher-

men were gathered around the small ponds and most had good strings of fish, which apparently had been cornered in the small confines of the shrunken lake.

How did it happen?

Popular theory has contended that the lake has been draining through a sink hole, but information gathered by the committee indicates the cause is principally lack of rain.

Hall said Elliott termed Lake Jackson a "wet weather lake," and the lack of water is caused by extremely dry weather.

Elliott observed that Lake Jackson's principal source of water is from the clouds, and in dry weather this source is cut off and evaporation takes its toll.

The hole in the middle of the lake apparently has a bottom, since the water maintains a level consistent with topography in the area.

This rules out two popular methods of curing the drying up.

(1) Channeling water from the Ochlockonee River.

(2) Daming off the "sink hole", from the lake.

Taking the channel proposition first, Elliott pointed out that the lake is eight to 10 feet above the level of the river, which sweeps to the west and north of the lake about two miles.

This would mean that water from the river could only be channeled into the lake when the river is extremely high. By the same token, Elliott pointed out, the lake also would be high, and not need the extra water at these times.

On the daming, which was successfully done at Lake Iamonia 15 years ago and more recently at Lake Miccosukee, the location of the hole at Lake Jackson would hinder such a plan, and Elliott does not believe it would be feasible.

At Lake Miccosukee and Lake Iamonia the sink holes were located on the outside edges, making daming off the sink holes possible. At Lake Jackson, the hole is located in the middle of the lake, and apparently is not the primary reason for the dry-

ing up.

At Lake Bradford, which is drying up for the first time in the memory of Leon County old-timers, the situation seems to be a combination of lack of rain and installation of drainage systems in the area.

Elliott observed that drainage systems installed by the army at Dale Mabry field and county drainage systems in the area have channeled runoff water into Grassy Lake, just north of Bradford and into swamps.

Before the drainage systems were installed, much of this water eventually ended up in Lake Bradford. Despite this, the principal reason for the drying up is the lack of rain.

The committee will continue its studies, with the main aim at the present time deciding on whether to participate in a statewide survey of water conditions.

Hall said the committee is leaning toward such participation on the theory "We have everything to gain and nothing to lose."

- 1958 December The "Cascades back of Lake Bradford" went out and only deep holes remain which are "abounding with fish."⁶⁹
- 1966 June Lake Jackson reaches its all-time highest level of slightly more than 96 feet.⁷⁰
- November Lake Lafayette is reported "low and all the fish seem to be congregated in one big sink hole."⁷¹
- 1967 June Lake Lafayette is dry. Lake Iamonia is falling rapidly. Lake Cascade is nearly dry. Lake Jackson and Lake Miccosukee are only modestly down.⁷²

By HALLIE BOYLES
Democrat Staff Writer

Tallahassee area lakes, which historically go up and down, are falling again, some of them rapidly.

Lake Lafayette, which normally covers some 2,000 acres, stretching about 5½ miles in length and averaging a half mile to a mile in width, is dry. It lies some six miles east of Tallahassee.

Lake Iamonia, about 14 miles north of Tallahassee near the county line, is falling rapidly. When full, its basin would spread over some 6,500 acres.

Lake Cascade, a small lake which in reality is an extension of Lake Bradford to the west of Tallahassee, is almost dry.

The area's two largest lakes are down some. They are Lake Miccosukee and Lake Jackson, each now covering some 6,000 acres. Miccosukee stood at 79.1 feet at the end of May, down about one foot from the recent high in February and down about two feet from the high in March.

The western border of Lake Miccosukee forms the Leon-Jefferson County boundary line.

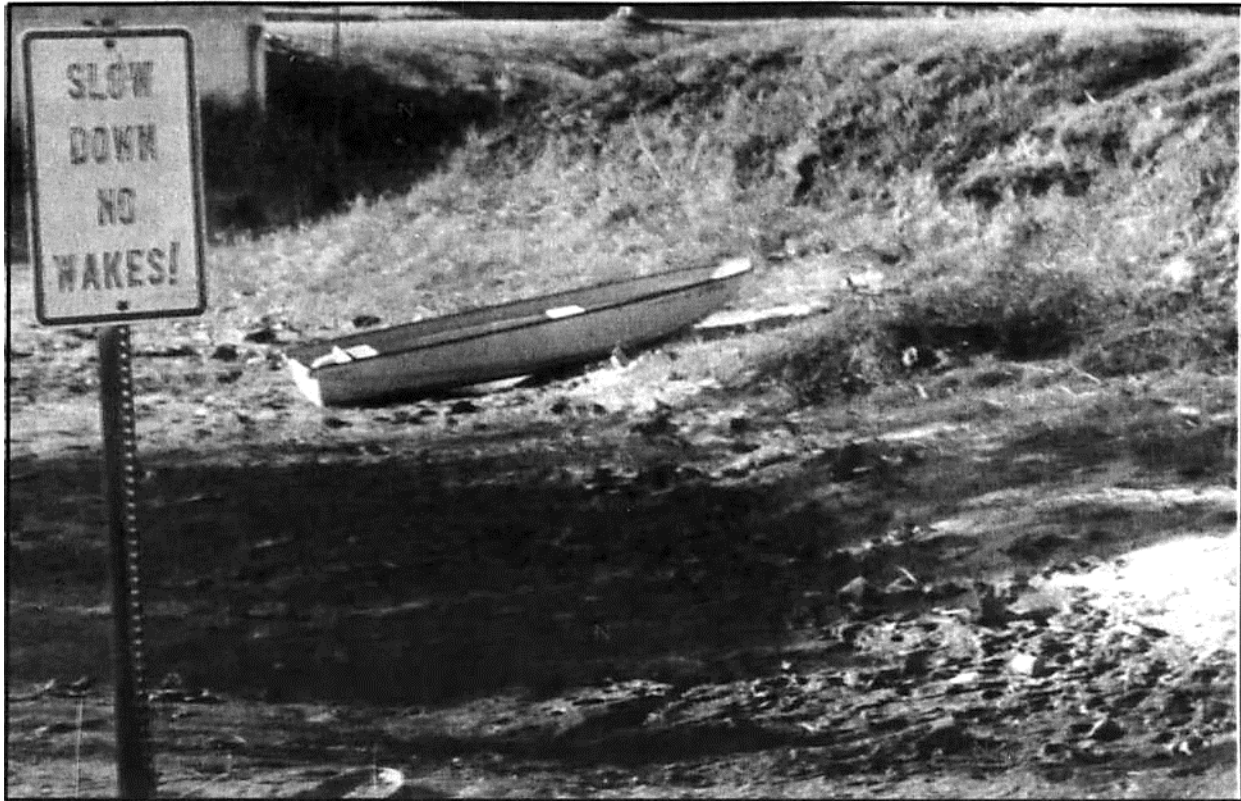
Lake Jackson at the end of May showed a level of 94.8 feet, down one foot from the high in February and 1.7 feet from the high last August. Its all time high record was slightly above 96 feet last June.

Levels of the Tallahassee area lakes, which normally cover more than 15,000 acres, are controlled both by rainfall and by development from time to time of sinkholes in the bottoms.

Tallahassee Democrat, June 13, 1967.

- 1976 September Lake Iamonia. A channel is cut around the end of the dam in order to help drain the lake.⁷³
- 1979 Lake Lafayette is mostly dry.⁷⁴
- Total rainfall for 1979 is 59.23 inches.
- 1980 Upper Lake Lafayette is reported as full "only during periods of heavy rain."⁷⁵
- 1981 November Lake Jackson is dry in some areas.⁷⁶ The water level had been slowly decreasing since the mid-1970s.⁷⁷

1982 October Lake Jackson. Residents report that Porter Hole Sink was visibly taking on water on October 24.⁷⁸ Half the remaining lake, from Brill Point to Faulk Drive, drains over just a few days.⁷⁹



High and dry
The continued bottoming out of Lake Jackson

makes for some accidental humor in this photograph. The boat and sign are located at the Leon County public boat launch, behind the Sunset Fishing Club, in the northwest section of Lake Jackson.

Democrat photo by Mark Waltheiser
The lake drains periodically, at approximate intervals of 25 years. Sinkholes, limestone deposits and lack of rainfall limestone are among the culprits theorized as to why the lake drains.

Tallahassee Democrat, November 25, 1981.

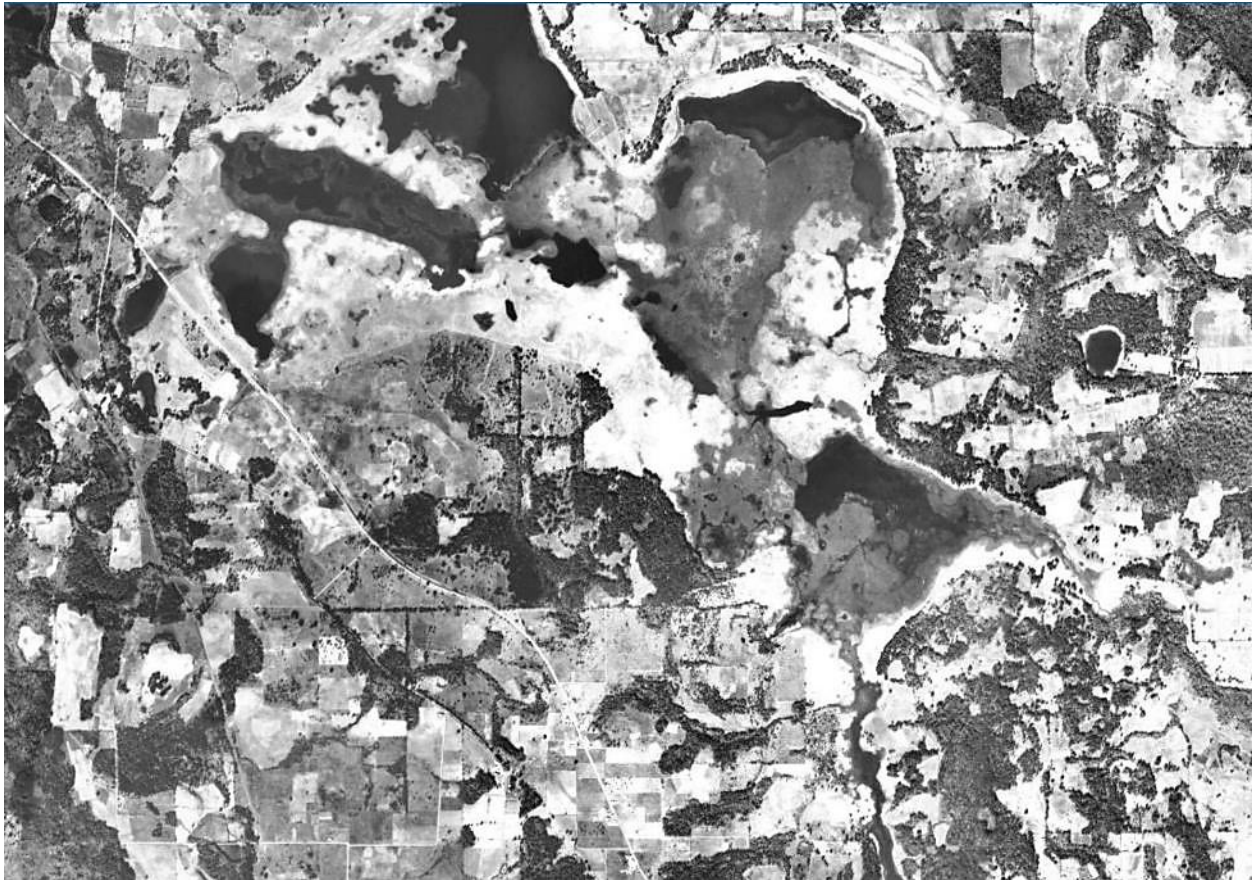
1983	March	Lake Jackson is reported refilling rapidly. ⁸⁰
	July	Lake Jackson is reported reaching 77 feet. ⁸¹
1999	August	Lake Miccosukee. A planned drawdown of the lake begins. ⁸²
	September	Lake Jackson. Porter Hole Sink opens and drains much of the northern half of the lake. ⁸³
2000	May	Lake Jackson. Lime Sink opens and drains the lake. ⁸⁴
2006	June	Lake Jackson. Porter Hole Sink drains for the fifth time since 1999. ⁸⁵
2007	October	The southern end of Lake Jackson remains dry. ⁸⁶

2009	April	Lake Jackson returns to the 83-foot level after 10 years of being low or dry. The rise followed 12 inches of rain from March 26 – April 12. ⁸⁷
2011		Total rainfall for 2011 is 34.81 inches.
2012	June	Lake Jackson. Porter Hole Sink completes draining. ⁸⁸ Lake Iamonia sinkhole basin is dry.
2017		Total rainfall for 2017 is 55.2 inches.
2018	February	Lake Miccosukee drains. ⁸⁹
2018	December	A record 15.77 inches of rainfall is recorded for the month.
2019	October	Upper Lake Lafayette drains. Total rainfall for 2019 is 39.05 inches, including no rain in September.
2020	May	Lake Jackson. After no rain in March and early May, the saddle in Meginnis Arm becomes too shallow for boat traffic from the main body of the lake. Lake Lafayette. The sinkhole in Upper Lake Lafayette begins filling again. Total rainfall for 2020 is 60.8 inches
2021	June	Lake Jackson drains into Porter Hole Sink during the weekend of June 5-6. At that point, year-to-date rainfall in Tallahassee had been 17.2 inches, or approximately 6 inches below normal.

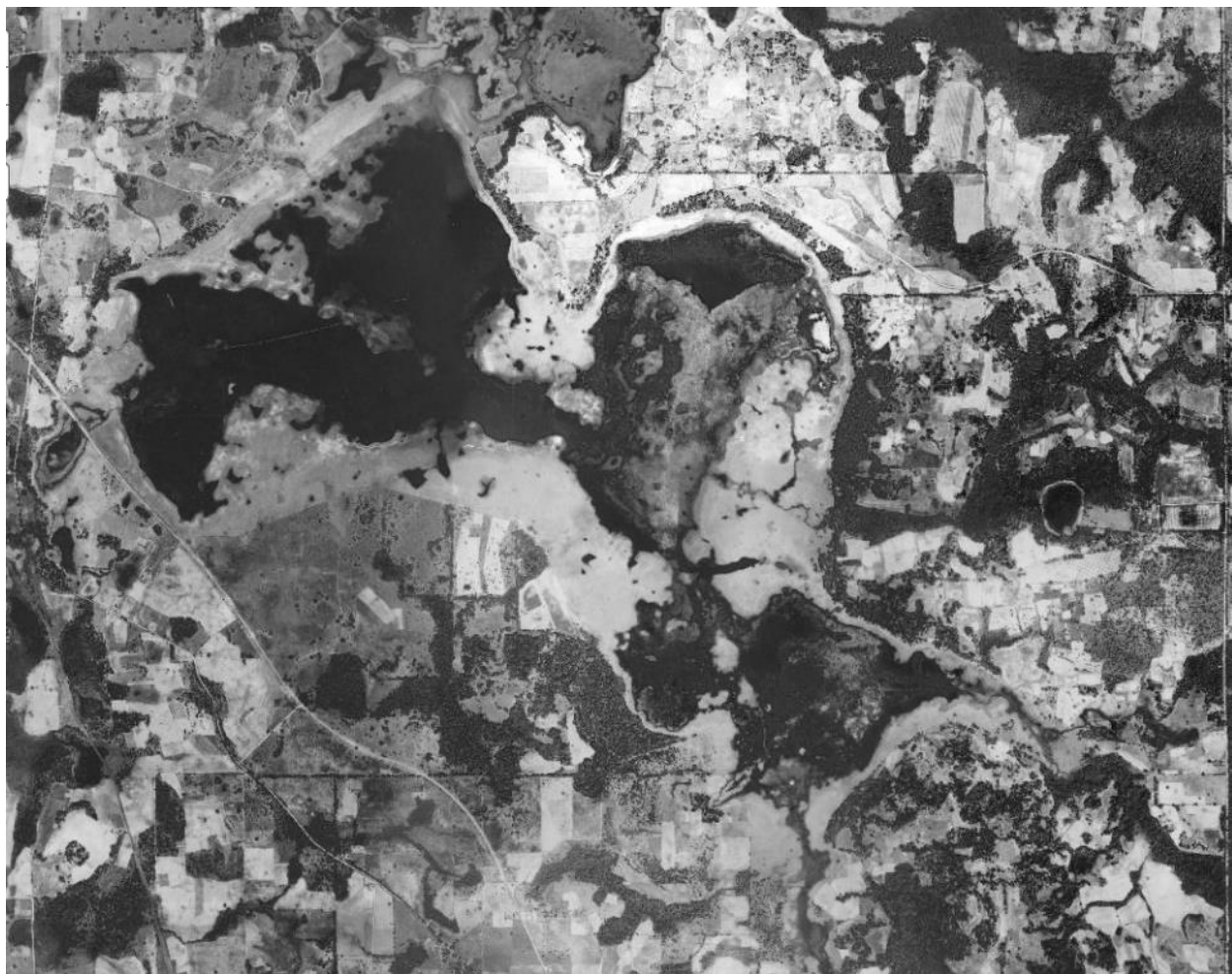


View east from the Faulk Drive Landing, June 6, 2021. The lake began draining into Porter Sink approximately two days earlier. (Jonathan Lammers)

Lake Jackson Aerial Photographs



1937 aerial photo of Lake Jackson, partially drained.



1941 aerial photo of Lake Jackson, partially drained.



1949 aerial photo of Lake Jackson.



1954 aerial photo of Lake Jackson, partially drained.



1954 aerial photo showing Meginnis Arm drained into sinkhole.



1966 aerial photo of Lake Jackson.



1970 aerial photo of Lake Jackson. Note discoloration of Meginnis Arm from clay erosion due to construction of Tallahassee Mall & I-10



1983 aerial photo of Lake Jackson showing somewhat lower lake level.



1990 aerial photo of Lake Jackson.

Lake Iamonia Aerial Photographs



1937 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1941 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1949 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1954 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.



1966 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia



1970 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia



1983 aerial photo of Lake Iamonia.

Lake Lafayette Aerial Photos



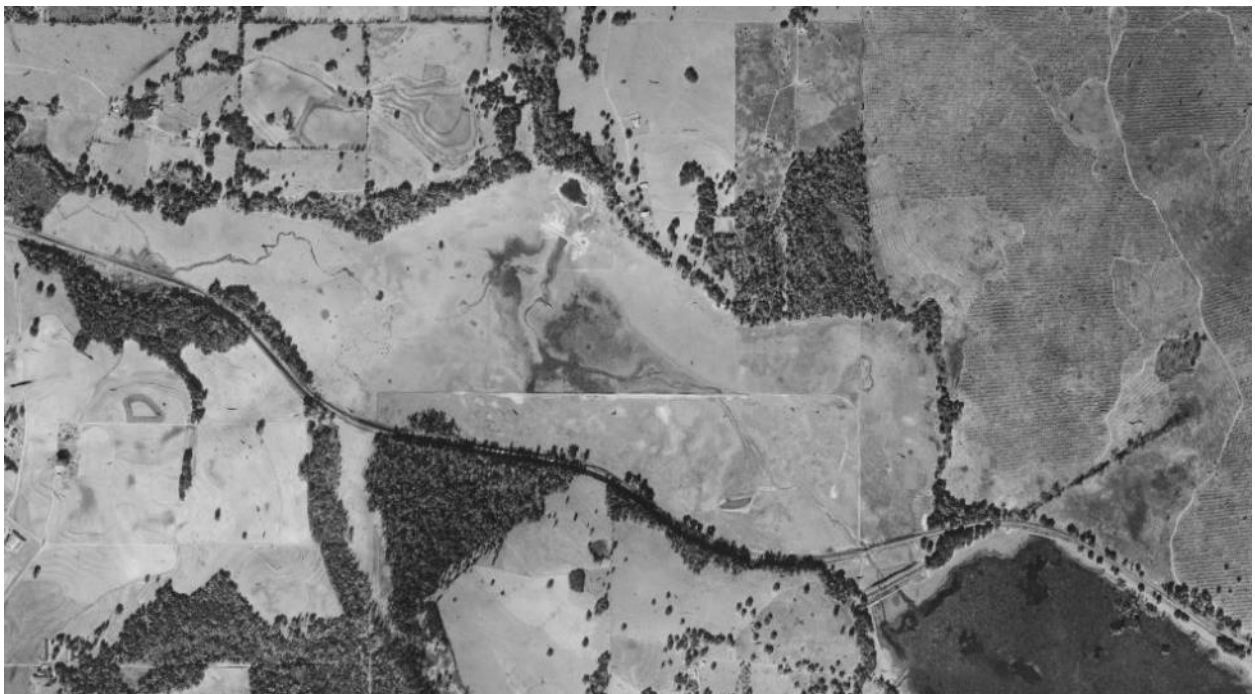
1937 aerial photo of Lake Lafayette, partially drained (portion of photo missing).



1941 aerial photo of Upper Lake Lafayette showing the sinkhole and dry lake bed.



1949 aerial photo of Lake Lafayette.



1954 aerial photo of Upper Lake Lafayette showing the sinkhole and dry lake bed.



1966 aerial of Upper Lake Lafayette



1966 aerial photo of Upper Lake Lafayette showing the sinkhole with breached dam. Note the many cars and boats of fishermen.

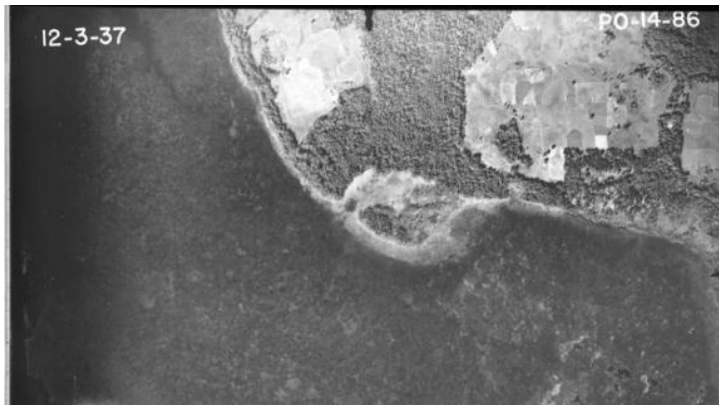


1970 aerial photo showing Upper Lake Lafayette dry.

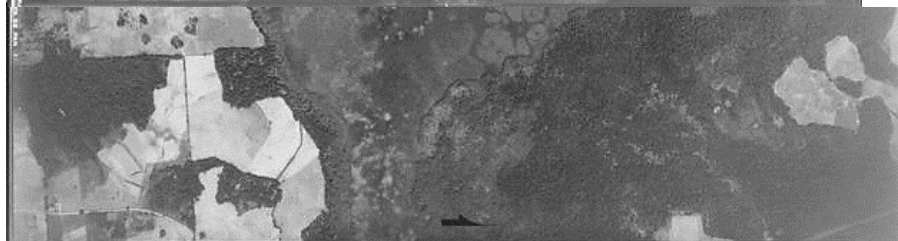
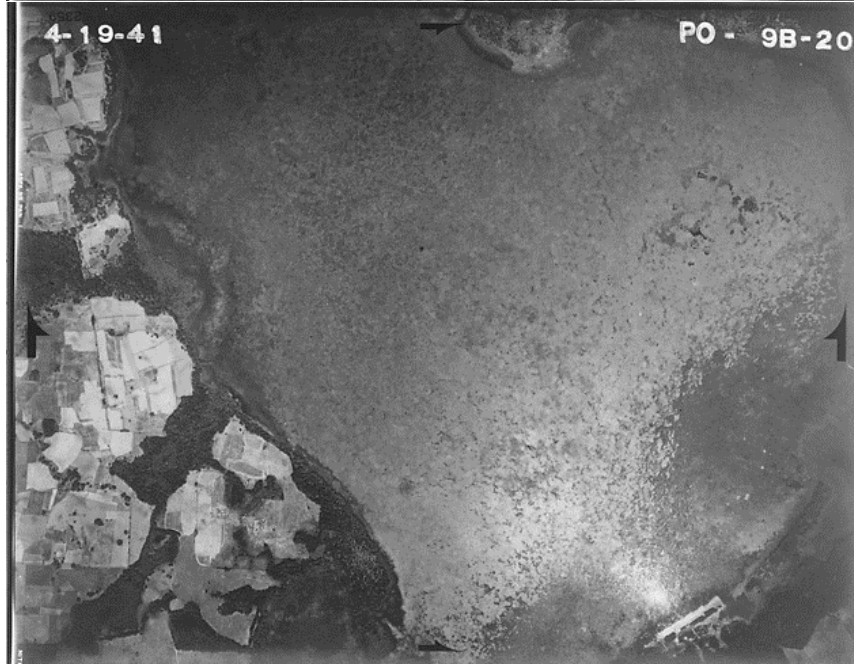


1983 aerial photo showing Upper Lake Lafayette.

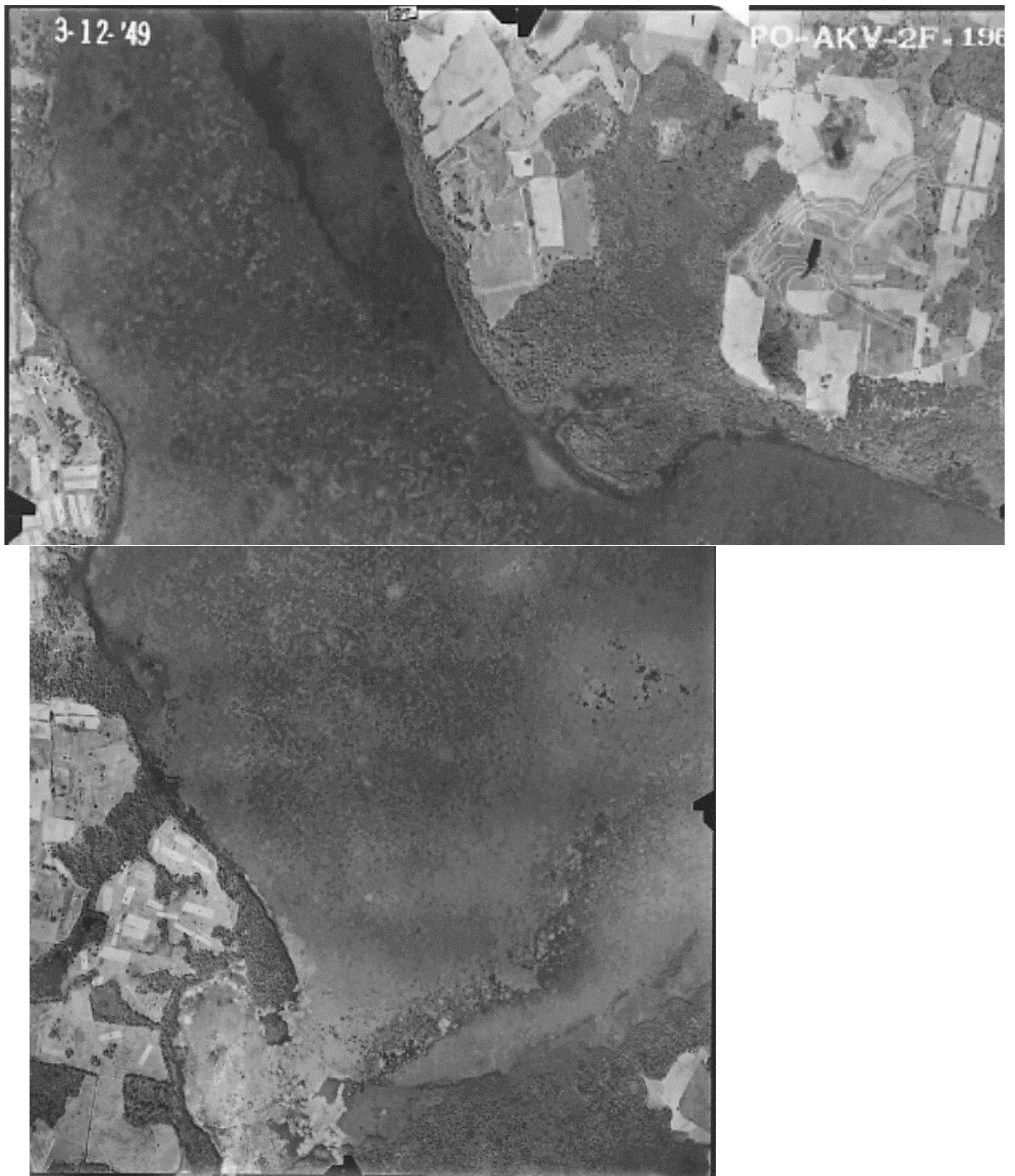
Lake Miccosukee Aerial Photos



Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1937.



Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1941.



Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1949.



Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1966.



Composite aerial photos with partial view of Lake Miccosukee in 1973.

Endnotes

¹ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 55.

² "Something Strange," *Middlebury People's Press* (Vermont), February 11, 1829.

³ "In Thomas County, Ga," *Pittsburg Dispatch*, December 3, 1891.

⁴ "A Lake Gone," *Baltimore Sun*, January 23, 1840.

⁵ "Lake Iamonia Runs Out," *Savannah Morning News*, November 24, 1891. See also: *The Weekly Floridian*, November 28, 1891.

⁶ "God-Send to Riparian Proprietors," *The Times-Picayune*, February 22, 1857.

⁷ "Hard Times for Georgia Alligators," *Mower County Transcript*, October 21, 1891.

⁸ "Unfrequented Florida," *New York Herald*, May 13, 1877.

⁹ Andy Lindstrom, "By Next Fall, Lake Jackson May be Mud," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 27, 1981.

¹⁰ *Ocala Banner*, April 1, 1921.

¹¹ The *Savannah Morning News*, April 26, 1890.

¹² "Hard Times for Georgia Alligators," *Mower County Transcript*, October 21, 1891.

¹³ "Lake Iamonia Runs Out," *The Weekly Floridian*, November 28, 1891.

¹⁴ "Drained a Lake by Boring Holes," *The Pacific Commercial Advertiser*, March 6, 1894.

¹⁵ "Georgia and Florida," *The Savannah Morning News*, November 22, 1891.

¹⁶ Hillsboro, Ohio *News-Herald*, January 14, 1892.

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¹⁸ "Heavy Rainstorms," *The Weekly Floridian*, August 20, 1892.

¹⁹ "Miccosukie Lake Threatens to Depart from Tradition and Go Dry Again This Year," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 29, 1931.

²⁰ "The Disappearing Lake," *Ocala Evening Star*, October 7, 1908. See also: E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 56.

²¹ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 56.

²² E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 57.

²³ *The Weekly True Democrat*, January 24, 1908.

²⁴ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 57.

²⁵ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 59.

²⁶ "State Nuggets," *The Miami News*, September 20, 1909.

²⁷ E. H. Sellards, Ph.D., State Geologist, "Some Florida Lakes and Lake Basins," *Florida Geological Survey Third Annual Report*, (Tallahassee: State Geological Survey, 1910), 54.

²⁸ "Miccosukie Lake Threatens to Depart from Tradition and Go Dry Again This Year," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 29, 1931.

²⁹ "Fishing Regulations Lifted as Lake Jackson Empties Its Waters Into Underground Pit," *Tallahassee Democrat*, January 7, 1932.

³⁰ "Historic Lake Jackson Now Practically Dry Fish Galore," *Tallahassee Democrat*, November 20, 1918. See also: *Ocala Evening Star*, December 3, 1918.

³¹ "Miccosukie Lake Threatens to Depart from Tradition and Go Dry Again This Year," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 29, 1931.

³² "Miccosukee Lake Dwindles Despite Rains," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 3, 1950.

³³ "Predicts Three Lakes Will Go Dry if There is Continuance of Dry Weather for Two Weeks More; Many Fish Dying," *Tallahassee Democrat*, July 1, 1931.

³⁴ Dewitt Lamb, "Gamboling About Tallahassee," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 18, 1931.

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³⁷ Beau Peep, "Inside Stuff," *Tallahassee Democrat*, August 7, 1932.

³⁸ "Lakes Jackson, LaFayette, Miccosukee, Iamonia Receiving Much Publicity as Result of Their Hide-and-Seek Antics," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 11, 1932.

³⁹ "Dry Weather Empties Two Lakes Near Here," *Tallahassee Democrat*, February 8, 1934. See also: "Lake Hides Under Ground But Fish Stay," *Tallahassee Democrat*, April 19, 1934.

⁴⁰ "Lake Iamonia is Going Dry," *Tallahassee Democrat*, October 24, 1934.

⁴¹ "Strange Phenomenon Drains Lake Near Tallahassee, Leaving Many Fish "Stranded" Along Bottom," *The Palm Beach Post*, November 9, 1934.

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⁴⁴ "Move is Made to Save Fish," *Tallahassee Democrat*, July 14, 1936.

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- ⁴⁷ "Erratic Disappearing Act of Iamonia Said Foiled," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 12, 1940.
- ⁴⁸ Brian Richardson, "Lake Iamonia draining set," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 5, 1976.
- ⁴⁹ "Lake Iamonia Basin Disappears to Renew Old Mystery," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 10, 1947.
- ⁵⁰ "Lake Lafayette Held to be Private Water," *Tallahassee Democrat*, January 13, 1948.
- ⁵¹ "Miccosukee Lake Dwindles Despite Rains," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 3, 1950.
- ⁵² "Miccosukee Lake Dwindles Despite Rains," *Tallahassee Democrat*, September 3, 1950.
- ⁵³ "Fallschase," *Tallahassee Democrat*, November 23, 1980.
- ⁵⁴ "Whoppers," *Tallahassee Democrat*, May 9, 1951.
- ⁵⁵ T. S. Olds, *Occasional Rapid Decline and Draining of Lake Bradford Tallahassee, Florida*, Masters Thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Florida State University, June 1961, 59. See also: Hallie Boyles, "Several Tallahassee Area Lakes are Falling Again," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 13, 1967.
- ⁵⁶ "Lake Bradford Canoeing Not What it Used to Be," *Tallahassee Democrat*, October 28, 1968.
- ⁵⁷ "Fish Poisoned," *Tallahassee Democrat*, May 21, 1954.
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- ⁵⁹ "Stiles Avenue Project Started," *Tallahassee Democrat*, August 25, 1954.
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- ⁶² "Lake's Water Level is Gradually Rising," *Tallahassee Democrat*, June 13, 1957.
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- ⁶⁵ *Tallahassee Democrat*, March 11, 1956.
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⁷⁴ Susan DeFord, "Developer to be allowed to fill in lake," *Tallahassee Democrat*, May 16, 1984.

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⁸⁴ "New sinkhole opens on Lake Jackson," *Tallahassee Democrat*, May 13, 2000.

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