Sources of E. Coli in Lake Martin

Lake Martin, one of the premier recreational lakes in Alabama, has recently been reported to have high levels of pathogen bacteria near swimming beaches in the summer season. Nesting Canada Geese have been suspected sources of the high levels of bacteria, although other possible sources exist in the watershed. This study was conducted to investigate the possible sources of pathogen bacteria in Lake Martin, specifically near swimming beaches. Several hundred E.coli were collected from various locations in and around the lake and assayed for similarity using an antibiotic susceptibility assay. Results indicate that nesting Canada Geese play a minimal role in directly contributing E.coli to Lake Martin.

**Presenter and author:**
Brian Burnes  
bburnes@uwa.edu  
University of West Alabama