

One Green Ridge Road
Pittsford, New York 14534-2408
September 11, 1989

Dear Bill, *in L.E.O. nr*

I suggested to you that you send the gentleman at RPI a copy of the information in the Eagle Lake file about the blue-green algae that had been in the lake. If you are unable to make the connection with all the papers, here is what you can tell him, in a nutshell:

From about 1976 floating objects appeared in Eagle Lake which did not become objectionable until about 1978. At that time they had become so prevalent that people complained of the white parts of their bathing suits turning green, and those who used the lake water for washing their clothes had a problem. Some people complained that they got a rash when swimming in the water when they were present.

To make a long story short, we talked to many people in DEC and other places who tried to identify the object. In October 1979, it was finally identified by some people at Cornell whom I had put on the problem.

After studying the lake, they wrote, "They are colonies of free-floating algae called *Gleotrichia echinulata*. The enclosed reprint tells much of what is known about this interesting, harmless algae. Rarely do they reach the numbers demonstrated in your lake. They are too large for most herbivorous zoöplankton (plant eating floating animals), they are not digested by fish, so in short, where the environment allows their development, they can reproduce unchecked. If you wish to rid your lake of these algae, they would be inevitably be replaced by other algae forms less favorable. The forms that would take over would be smaller, much greater in number, faster growing, reduce lake clarity considerably, be prone to periodic blooms that can result in very noxious odors, fish kills, deoxygenation of the deeper portion of the lake, etc."

I am enclosing for you a copy of the article the gentleman sent me. At that time Dr. Oglesby was still at Cornell, and offered any other assistance we wanted. We did not contact them further, nor did we do anything about the problem except complain.

The thing which interests me about all this is that this year, for the first time in many years, no one that I talked to saw any sign of this algae. However, we all saw the other series of other algae blooms in June and early July which possibly could tie in with the above comment.

I feel that all of this information should be passed on to R.P.I as part of the background for their study of the quality of the lake.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Stevens