

May 18, 1980

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Dear Mr Stevens

A few days ago I went to Roy Brook, N.Y. where I talked to Thomas S. Higgenbotham Engineering Technician for the N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Roy Brook, N.Y. (tel. 518-891-1370). Our talk concerned the rapid growth of algae in Eagle Lake over which I have been much concerned. He informed me of your concern of the same thing as written in your letter to him a full year before (1979).

Now it seems their attitude (Roy Brook) is that there is two possibilities. Either the pollution is natural or man-made. I identified as the common species G. schimulata lobular & free floating which has known to cause severe skin irritation.

Eagle Lake being (or was) one of the cleanest lakes in the Adirondacks this rapid growth of the algae appears to lake land owners a real horror.

Something must be done. The attitude of the Eagle Lake Association is benign. No letter from the Association has

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been rec'd at Roy Brook - with the exception of your
personal one. I find the association highly provincial
& have in the past been acrimoniously & vigorously attack
by it in the form of letters to the Conservation Dept. after
a Rabble rousing by their illustrious leader who comprised
form letters to be sent in a flood. The improvements to the
shore line near the Eagle Lake ^{dam} after a public hearing which
I demanded, was approved by the State of N.Y. however
nothing was ever done to exercise my permit. (Eagle Lake Assoc.
VS Harland Stubbs 1970)

I only point this out because there will no
doubt be an ^{un}derground resistance to an active investigation
to determine from whence the pollution is coming assuming
it to be man made; which I believe. Proceeding the length
of the lake from Geisel's Junk yard (a brook runs thru it
directly into the lake) all along the South Shore quite
frankly I think many are trapping almost directly into the
lake. a dye test (flushing down their ~~tablets~~) checking
not for 10 minutes but 48 hrs periodically will die over much
The State claims they do not have the manpower to do
this.

Mr. Higgenbottom suggested the alternative of forming among interested land owners a private clean-up group to approach suspected polluters for dye test & ground inspection

He gave me a practical type form used by another group confronted by an almost identical situation. They called it The Same - Our - Lakes Committee (Eagle Lake) could be used. An Individual Camp Report consisting of what they called Demographic Data composed of 10 questions (more or less could be added) I shall fax a copy of them & send them to you soon.

I would appreciate your remarks & suggestions as to this problem. I can predict a resistance to any private clean-up group especially from trouble-making outsiders (my classification I have named most of Fox Island since 1959 being a land owner for over 20 years over them has taught me one thing. Being a member of the Eagle Lake Association does in no way facilitate knowing what's going on within it. With a pellibuster of libel & scandal & insincerity in constant motion why suffer the frustration. Private phone called after any meeting perforce any effectiveness of public agreements. Note: the illustrious leader to whom I refer above is Ex-judge Sheldon Wicks. I have stated my opinions here & hope they

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For my own feelings of late. I am thinking
of selling all land I own over there & let them down
in their own pollution.

Sincerely yours

Harland Sturbing

Newcomb

N.Y. 12852