

One Green Ridge Road
Pittsford, New York 14534
July 25, 1979

New York State Department for Environmental Conservation
Ray Brook, New York 12977

ATT: David B. Smith
Conservation Biologist

Dear Mr. Smith:

You may remember that last fall I wrote you about some floating objects in Eagle Lake, Essex County, New York. Your replies were dated November 2 and 13, 1978.

In your replies you suggested that the objects were "most likely members of the animal plankton community ... order Cladocera ... genus Holopedium." You stated that these were not detrimental to the environment but were actually food for the fish in the lake.

You should know that this came up at the annual meeting of the Eagle Lake Association on July 21, and I read your reply to the group.

I was embarassed to discover that, unbeknownst to me, another of the summer residents of the Lake had taken a sample of the water to his home in Connecticut. Following the reading of your letter, he read to the group this statement from Mr. Norvell of the Connecticut Agricultural Station, New Haven, Conn.:

"The specimens provided belong to the rivularia family, 'gloetrichia' species. They grow in clear, clean water. Their presence indicates a probable change in the fertility level of the lake, as their growth responds to increases in phosphorous, and a change in the type and quantity of nutrients. The species is characterized by numerous minute star-shaped hairs, clumped together."

First, therefore, he says that the objects are plant, not animal. He further says that their presence would indicate a change in the fertility level. This last would correspond with our observations that this is a relatively new phenomenon.

The Association has asked me to contact you again in order that you might re-examine the objects, as they are already starting to reappear. They are not now in the physical size or numbers as last year, but we assume that they will grow larger and multiply as this heat continues.

We also want to know about the fertility level of the Lake. For many years we have been concerned about the increasing phosphorous content, and would like to find someone who would do a dye study of the leach fields, cess pools and out houses around the lake. All of the property owners seem to be willing to let someone onto their premises to run such a study. Eagle Lake is the first of a chain, and if we can keep it clean and clear, then Paradox and Schroon will not have to be as concerned.

I would appreciate your findings and thoughts on this problem.

Very truly yours,

Robert C. Stevens, Past President,
Eagle Lake Property Owner's
Association