



Cornell University

Ithaca, New York 14853

FRANK A. VERTUCCI
Dic. Field Hall -- Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14850

Oct. 8, 1979

To: R.C. Stevens

Re: Eagle Lake and the "thing"

From: Frank Vertucci

Dear Bob,

I have been able to, with out any doubt, identify the material in question. They are colonies of a free floating blue-green 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 zooplankton, ^(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 replaced by other algae many orders of magnitude less favorable. The forms that would take over would be smaller, much greater in number, faster growing, reduce lake clarity considerable, be prone to periodic blooms that can result in, very noxtious odors, fish kills, a deoxygenation of the deeper portion of tbe lake, etc..

If you would like the problem studied in more detail your lake association could support such research. In this regard you might want to contact Dr. R.T. Oglesby.

I hope this can be of some help to you.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Vertucci

enc.