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One Green Ridge Road
Pittsford, New York 14534
October 19, 1979

TO: Dave Warren <-- THIS COPY FOR -->
Ann Conklin
Betty & Graham Davis
Pete Buechner

Dear Eagle Lake Property Owner's Association Executive Committee:

I am enclosing a letter received from my friend at Cornell who is doing his graduate thesis on lake water conditions. His letter, and his attachments, are generally self-explanatory.

I discussed his letter and the problem with him last week-end, have have some more information which I think you should have:

1) "Blue-green" algae are generally "good" algae. He says that this particular creature is very difficult to get rid of. It generally is an uncommon situation, and, without further study he cannot make any judgement why it would be in Eagle Lake.

2) It is very possible that it is in the lake due to a rise in the nutrient level, i.e., from phosphates used in washing machines or dishwashers, or from fertilizers used on lawns. (I assured him that the latter possibility was quite remote.)

3) When he says that trying to get rid of it would bring in less favorable algae, he is talking about chemical treatment of the lake. I asked him if he thought that a reduction in the amount of phosphates in the lake could cut back their development and he said "quite possibly".

4) Since writing his letter, he has found other articles about this algae which state that it can be toxic to the skin of some swimmers, giving them a type of "swimmer's itch". This allergy is not common, but it can occur.

An interesting side light on this critter is that it adjusts it own level in the water by the amount of nutriments it needs for life. It is hollow and retains gas in its core which makes it float. If there is too much sun, it exudes this gas and sinks, but when it needs more light, it retains the gas and rises. Therefore, after a rainstorm or in the morning, one finds many more on the surface than later in the day.

So what to do? Dr. Oglesby, who wrote the enclosed article, is at Cornell, and can be reached at the address in the article. I feel that you should contact him, referencing Frank Vertucci's study, and seeing how much he would want for a study of the chemical composition of the lake to determine whether phosphates are, in fact, the cause of them, and how best to get rid of them. If we find out that it is phosphates, we certainly would have justification, (rather than supposition), to run the dye tests.

I am going to send this article to all residents on the North side of the Lake who probably draw the water from the Lake, suggesting that they use ceramic filters to strain the intake water, as there also could be some internal toxicity. Unfortunately, I do not know the names of the people on the South side of the Lake, under the bridge, other than Ruck, but I will send him one, too.

Good luck!