EAGLE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

David Warren
9 No. Tappan Landing Rd.
Tarrytown, New York 10591

November 27, 1979

Dept. of Conservation
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Attention: Dr. R.T. Oglesby

Dear Sir:

The property owners of Eagle Lake, Ticonderoga, N.Y., are deeply concerned with maintaining our environment and keeping the ecological condition of our lake at its best.

Mr. Frank Vertucci, a friend of a member of our Association, doing his graduate thesis on lake water conditions, has identified for us a free floating blue/green algae found floating on our lake within very recent years. It is called Gleotrichia echinulata.

Mr. Vertucci informed us of your studies of this type of algae. Would you, sir, consider making a chemical study of our lake to determine what conditions have caused this algae to increase in number?

Please advise us if there are funds available through the Dept. of Conservation for this type of study. If funds are not available, Doctor, what would your fee be for conducting this study?

Sincerely yours,

DW:fb

David Warren
President

New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
a Statutory College of the State University
Cornell University

Department of Natural Resources
Fernow Hall, Ithaca, N. Y. 14853

Fishery Science
Forest Science
Wildlife Science
Natural Resources
Environmental Conservation

December 5, 1979

Mr. David Warren, President
Eagle Lake Property Owners Assoc.
9 No. Tappan Landing Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Dear Mr. Warren:

I am writing in reply to your inquiry of November 27 relative to a possible study of Eagle Lake. In general, problems associated with increased growth of algae like Gleotrichia echinulata are the result of increased phosphorus inputs to a lake. The likely sources of this fertilizing element in the case of lakes with substantial numbers of residences in their watershed are: septic tank drainage, lawn fertilizers and, in some cases, storm drainage from roadways. In particular cases, a single source, such as a concentrated animal production operation or a trailer park can be pinpointed as a major contributor to the problem.

Chemical analysis of a lake's water is usually of little help in management unless done as part of a fairly extensive study program. The first steps in developing a strategy for management are usually to survey the lake's watershed, to converse with individuals familiar with development patterns over the past decade or so and possibly to undertake some preliminary water quality sampling. At this point the experienced professional may be able to identify the most likely causes of a problem and to recommend remedial measures. If not, a more extensive program of study may be recommended.

A close analogy to the situation I have described would be a person experiencing physical discomfort who seeks advice from a physician. Most problems would be diagnosed rather easily based on fairly simple procedures and a rather straightforward treatment prescribed. Others would require an extensive (and expensive) set of diagnostic procedures and treatment might be difficult even when the problem is defined.

If you would like to contact me by telephone (607-256-2110) to provide further information and/or if you have printed material on Eagle Lake (e.g. contour maps of the watershed and the lake depths, data on number of residences

and their location, other land use activities in the watershed, etc.), I could discuss the various study possibilities more meaningfully. Unfortunately, the State of New York does not provide us with any support for this type of activity so that any substantive time involvement on the part of myself or my associate would have to be on a consulting basis.

Sincerely yours,

Ray T. Oglesby
Professor of Aquatic Science

RTO:11