



# ASK JEFF

Lake Ecology

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**Treatment - The lack of rain continues (Aug 10th). All our feeder streams (4) are dry, water has not gone over the spillway in 5 weeks, and the lake is down almost a foot. These conditions allow our lake to heat up (85 degrees) with no movement. With this being said, our filamentous algae problem continues. It's an ongoing battle. The conditions in our lake are a perfect environment for filamentous to thrive. On Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, we treated 13 more acres with the chelated copper sulfate (as mentioned in last month's article). My surveys this week have shown the treatment again was very successful.**

**This has been a very strange summer with regards to our lake. We have treated 22 acres of filamentous algae. We have not treated 22 acres (in total) in the past 5 summers. We started treating it in early July (we usually start in mid Aug when the lake temperature starts to heat up). We have a D.O. (dissolved oxygen) level at 9 which is great. Anything above 8 is very good. The strange part of this is that D.O. generally goes down when the lake temperatures are high. Cold water holds more oxygen. This is great news for the fish and other organisms needing this precious oxygen. Also, when water temperatures are up, there is an abundance of diatoms (microscopic algae that gives the water that brownish color) in the water. This is a good alga because it partially blocks the photosynthesis process that helps plant flourish and grow. Our water clarity is almost 5 feet which indicates minimal diatoms in the water. Yet, we have none of our usual invasive weed problems, such as Milfoil and Starwort, which is good news.**

**So, as you can see things that should happen when a body of water heats up are NOT happening except for filamentous algae. The good news is that the lake has plenty of oxygen, weeds are non-existent, and the water is clear. We are dealing with the filamentous with a very safe and effective herbicide which is working. Lakes all around us are dealing with the same problem. We need rain desperately! Rain is Lake Shawnee's best friend. It brings cooler water in and flushes much of the filamentous algae over the spillway. Any questions on any of this, please don't hesitate to give me a call.**

**Please try to conserve water. We are in a drought, so we all need to step up and do our part.**

**Thank You.**



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