



ASK JEFF

Lake Ecology

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Weed Treatment - We were surveyed and treated the week before Memorial Day. Jeff Horn, our biologist, treated 9 acres for Eurasian Water Milfoil and a plant called Stalwart. All were in 3 different areas. We have not treated milfoil in over 3 years. At that time, milfoil was one of our most common invasive weeds in the lake. Three years ago, we used an herbicide called Procellacor, which was supposed to give us two years of not seeing milfoil. Well, we got three years from its residual effect. Although it was a bit more expensive than other herbicides, I think we got our money's worth. We'll see what happens the rest of the summer, but we may have to use that material again. The good news is that we used an herbicide called Diquat and Tribune to treat our lake this time that was in our contract so it did not cost the Club. I surveyed the lake myself on the 5th of June and the lake looks great.

Geese - After adding 12 eggs and another 4 eggs were left abandoned because of the swans chasing them away, I felt very happy that we had our geese control intact for the summer. Well, I celebrated too soon because we had two groups come across from the canals on the other side of Route 15 with 10 goslings. I scoured this lake for two weeks and there were no new nests. Needless to say, I am very disappointed about our new arrivals. The geese have already started to make a mess at First beach, so please be patient and thank the lifeguards for helping to keep the beach clean.

Treatment Info - I am often asked about the material we use to treat weeds. Is it safe for recreation and for wildlife, especially fish? The answer is YES. We would never put anything in this lake that would harm people or wildlife, especially fish. I swim in this lake every day from May thru October. The herbicides we use have been tested and proven not to harm humans or aquatic specimens. Lake Shawnee is one of the cleanest and healthiest lakes in the area. We are 90 acres with 4 feeder streams, which means when it rains this lake can completely turn over in 72 hours. So, when we treat 9 acres, it is being diluted within those 90 acres. Within 24 hours, the herbicide is down to 50% effectiveness. This is why we do not treat after a rain or if rain is forecast because it makes the dilution process go even quicker. They are required by State law to post when they have treated, which is mostly to protect pets who may have a reaction if they were to drink in an area that was just treated.

I have heard fishermen get upset when we treat a few days before a fishing contest because they think that the noise from the airboat and the herbicide affects fish biting. After consulting with our biologist and people in this field, nothing could be further than the truth. Fish would not be affected from the noise days before the contest and much of the herbicide would be diluted before the day of the contest. To ease the concerns of the fishermen, I will request that treatment takes place at least three days before a contest, but sometimes it is out of my control. If weeds or algae are abundant and our biologist is here, we treat. Lake Shawnee is a small, shallow lake and vegetation can take off rapidly. My job is to maintain a clean, healthy lake with minimal weed growth.

So that's it for now. If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to call or email me.

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