

NOTES FROM POND COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 1ST

- **FEED BACK FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES WHO USED ALUM:**

- Doug Cassman has sent inquiries to several communities that have used Alum as recommended by Solitude.
- Thus far the feedback is not overwhelming that Alum application was the “cure all” to algae problems.
- It is apparent that the Property Managers in other communities are far less proactive and involved in the algae issue as in our Community. Most just do what Solitude recommends and if that includes Alum, they do it.
- David has responsibility to contact AJ Stewart to get phone contact with AJ’s son in Lakewood Ranch so Doug Cassman can contact the various Property Managers there to see if Alum is being used in Lakewood Ranch.

- **SOLITUDES PHOSPHOROUS TEST RESULTS AND PROPOSALS:**

- Solitude found the well water going into Pond #9 has an extremely low concentration of Phosphorous. The well water is NOT a source of Phosphorous.
- Bob Grady questions why Solitude provides nitrogen results for the well water but not for the three ponds tested. David to ask Liz.
- Pond #9 in Richmond Park has phosphorous levels at 88 which is below the 100 point action level recommended by Solitude. Good news.
- Pond #35 was next with 127 ppm phosphorous, over the Solitude action level of 100.
- And Pond #43 in Ascot has the highest phosphorous reading of 435, way above the action level.
- Solitude’s proposed Alum treatments are confusing and will need clarification:
 - In Pond #9 with a tested 88 ppm concentration, they recommend Alum dose costing \$21,277 to bring the level down to 9 ppm.
 - In Pond #35 that had a tested concentration of 127 ppm, they recommend an Alum treatment costing \$4,577 bring it down to 9 ppm.
 - But finally in Pond #43 in Ascot, which tested at the highest phosphorous concentration of 435 ppm they recommend a \$9,716 treatment to bring the level down to only 6 ppm.
- David has responsibility to question Solitude on these inconsistencies.
- At this point the Committee is not ready to recommend to the UPCA Board that we contract for Alum application in any of the three “problem ponds”.

- **DISCUSSION OF BUFFER ZONES**

- An informative discussion of buffer zones around the ponds resulted in the decision to table this issue for some time in the future. It likely will be very controversial for many residents who look out their lanais at sod to the pond.

- **CONTRACTS FOR VENDORS WHO PROVIDE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE IN CONTRACTED NEIGHBORHOODS**

- Brian Niehaus will develop an addendum to lawn maintenance contracts covering proper fertilization procedures within 6 feet of ponds and the requirement to use lawn mowers that only shoot clippings toward the homes and not the ponds to reduce nutrient loading of the ponds.
- Ed Wyatt will develop a newsletter article with Peggy advising our residents who do not live in “Contractor Lawn Maintenance Neighborhoods” should provide to their independent contractors, a specification clause regarding how to limit the nutrient loading of our ponds.

- **RUMOR THAT SOMEONE GOT SICK LAST YEAR FROM ALGAE ON POND #9**

- It was confirmed that no one got sick last year from algae on Pond #9 as previously reported.
- This helps to confirm Jan Wyatt’s health impact from algae report. Algae in reasonable amounts is NOT a serious health issue for humans.

- **USF EXTENSION SERVICE**
 - Carolou will contact USF and set up a future date on a Thursday afternoon for them to participate in a Committee meeting to explain how they can help us assure our ponds are healthy.
- **TRIAL POND INSPECTION**
 - David has responsibility to suggest some dates to do a “group test” pond inspection with interested members so members will be comfortable making inspections on their own this summer.
- **TESTING THIS SUMMER**
 - Instead of accepting Solitude’s proposal to do a complete water analysis of the three “problem ponds” costing \$2,400, Curtis will contact a testing firm to get a competitive quote.
 - Maybe after receiving those test results we can decide to recommend Alum or some other special treatment that has not been tried before to reduce unsightly algae blooms this summer.
- **NEXT MEETING**
 - At our next meeting, date to be announced, we will get “educated” about:
 - Deciding on Alum application recommendation to the Finance Committee,
 - Summer testing of ponds by a non-Solitude contractor,
 - Carp Program by Rich Timme,
 - Bulkheads by Steve Hungness,