

# Don't Strangle Our Lake!



*Imagine* : A lake where fish can't survive, people can't swim, boats remain docked, and a stench hangs in the air!

## It can happen here!

We all can help ensure that our lake remains healthy by keeping sediment, trash, chemicals and non-native invasive species of plants, fish and animals from destroying its ecosystem. Pollution by any means destroys native plants, fish and animals. An unhealthy lake also is unattractive and unsafe. A lake in which we cannot swim, fish or boat will reduce quality of life and property values.



Once introduced, chemicals, invasive species and other pollutants can be difficult, expensive and often impossible to control or eradicate. An example of the difficulty and cost of controlling invasives is *Hydrilla*, a non-native plant that likely was introduced into the lake from an aquarium or as a hitchhiker on a boat. It grows rampantly and clogs waterways, making boating difficult. LMOA periodically stocks sterile carp to control the growth of *Hydrilla*, at a cost of approximately \$50,000 over the past decade.

## All of us can help protect the health of our lake:

1. Keep leaves and garden waste out of streams, ditches and the lake by disposing of them properly. Consider using leaves as mulch for shrubs and trees, or compost and add them to garden soil to nourish plantings. LMOA's leaf disposal site inside the fenced area at Tufton Lake is open for residents' use. Just empty bagged leaves where indicated, and keep the bags for reuse. *(No shrubs, other tree parts or trash at that site please.)* Not more than five bags of leaves may be discarded with trash each week.
2. Recycle Christmas trees by taking them to the designated disposal site.
3. Minimize use of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals, and dispose of them properly.
4. Clean your boat thoroughly when moving it back to the lake from another body of water. Boat hulls, propellers and trailers should be cleaned properly to keep non-native, invasive plants, fish and animals out of our lake.
5. Design water gardens and ponds so that they don't overflow into streams or our lake.

## Things to avoid:

1. Never put any fish, plants or animals in our lake unless they came from the lake.
2. Never empty the contents of aquariums or ponds into the lake.
3. Never rake or blow leaves into our lake.
4. Never throw trash, including plastic bottles and cans, into the lake.
5. Never spill gas or oil into the lake when filling your boat's tank.
6. Never release live bait into a stream or the lake. Instead, empty bait buckets into garbage containers.



## Now imagine:

A beautiful, healthy lake where we can swim, fish and boat safely, a lake that enhances our way of life and protects our property values.

We already have that, so let's protect and preserve it.

*It's up to us!*

## For More Information

1. <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

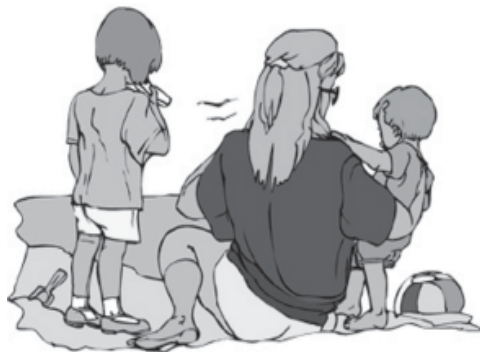
This site is part of a program sponsored by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U. S. Coast Guard and warns readers of the dangers of aquatic hitchhikers attached to your boat and how they can damage a lake like ours. Check out this site to find out how to prevent such damage.

2. <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/invlist.htm>

This site is part of the award-winning Virginia Natural Heritage Program, staffed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation. You can find a list of invasive plants in Virginia at this site, including a fact sheet on *Hydrilla*, with a picture and description of its characteristics.

3. <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/waterquality/420-013/420-013.html>

The site includes an article from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, "Pesticides and Aquatic Animals: A Guide to Reducing Impacts on Aquatic Systems," which contains the section, "How Fish are Exposed to Pesticides."



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*This is the fourth in a series of educational publications that have been developed to assist you and your neighbors in keeping our lake, the Rivanna River and the Chesapeake Bay healthy, now and in the years to come.*

*These publications are a part of the Lake Monticello Owners' Association Lake Health & Storm Water Management Program, an excellent example of your dues at work for our community.*



*For more information about this educational program and how you can help, contact the*

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Lake Health Publication #4

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Easy Ways You Can Help  
Protect Our Lake

