

LMOA Lake Preservation Committee
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E-Mail Transmission

August 25, 2011

To: Ms. Peggy Alexander, LMOA Communications Manager
Re: Algae Blooms

Dear Peggy:

In response to your telephone request today about an algae bloom in Tufton Pond, please be advised that LPC did not receive notice of a sighting over the weekend of an algae bloom in Tufton Pond. Based upon the information provided to yesterday by our LMOA Police Chief and references to the Virginian Dept. of Health (VDH) epidemiology website, that sighting does not appear to fit the characteristics deemed "Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)" by VDH.

According to VDH, "Algal blooms do occur in Virginia but blooms that are composed of harmful species of algae are reported rarely..." Further reference to the VDH website "What are Harmful Algal Blooms" indicates that the VDH focus of concern is almost entirely on saltwater blooms, not fresh water blooms. It is suggested that anyone interested in this subject may find the above VDH website of value.

Because algal blooms are natural, generally positive occurrences, are frequently short-lived, and cannot be predicted in advance, the role of LPC is limited to, after a sighting, checking for abnormal characteristics or evidence of adverse reactions in Main Lake users. Since Tufton Pond is a "No Swimming" amenity, blooms are not usually checked. If negative results from a sighting are confirmed and samples obtained, that information would be passed on for professional testing.

LPC suggests that if anyone observes an algae bloom in the Main Lake and there is a concern, they should refrain from swimming in the bloom area and then promptly report the bloom and its location to LPC or the LMOA Police Department. If you need anything further, please let us know.

Rob

Robert L. Beck, Chair LPC
Cc: LPC; LMOA GM & Police Chief.