

FOREIGN LOOKING SUBSTANCES IN LAKE LIMERICK

Several members have questioned what the green algae looking stuff and the orangish colored slim in our Lake is. Our Limnologists "Lake Advocates" were recently on-site and I asked for their input on this subject. Their response is summarized below;

Green Munge - I took Lake Advocates (LA) to the Way to Tipperary boat launch yesterday to look at the "Green Munge" as depicted in the photo below. This condition is apparently common around the lake. LA said this is filamentous algae, which starts as bottom growing slime in shallow areas receiving sunlight and then dislodges and floats to the surface. It is more pronounced this year because of our mild winter. It is also a reflection of a high nutrient content in our lake from multiple sources (septic's, fertilizer runoff, other). In its current state, it is not harmful or toxic. LA indicated if it changes to a darker blue/black color, it might signal it has become more toxic and we should alert the county. Planned treatments of hydrogen peroxide will treat it. Since it will be awhile before the Lake treatments begin, I asked LA to assess whether an earlier application of just Hydrogen Peroxide is possible.



Orange Gunk - A few people have commented that they see an orange colored sludge around the exit of drainage pipes near the Lake and particularly at the lower area of the Limerick dam where the emergency water release pipe exits into Cranberry Creek. Based on prior input from LA, the orange discoloration is caused by iron-oxidizing bacteria creating iron oxide (rust). These naturally occurring bacteria thrive in groundwater, converting dissolved iron into a rusty, orange gelatinous sludge with a oily looking sheen when exposed at the surface. It is common with high iron levels in groundwater and generally harmless to humans and wildlife

Dennis Muretta (LDP Committee Chairman)