**Vegetation Washing Up on Shore**

**From the CLCC Water Quality Committee**

We have received questions about the vegetation that occasionally wash up along the shore. Some of them are mucky and may have an unpleasant odor.

Our Lake Association’s primary focus is on water quality. We monitor this using several measures, including phosphorus levels, Secchi disk readings (which indicate water clarity), and dissolved oxygen levels. Fortunately, all these readings show that our lake is healthy and are currently reporting better than recommended guidelines.

The Association also actively manages invasive aquatic plants like Eurasian Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed. In recent years, we have had very low levels of these invasive species—thanks to the efforts of board members, donors to the visionary fund and lake residents who have worked diligently to control them.

One challenge we have not been able to address is the zebra mussel infestation. Zebra mussels are being studied by organizations searching for solutions to control this invasive pest. Zebra mussels filter the water by feeding on plankton, which makes the water clearer. They also excrete waste, contributing to nutrient build up. Clearer water allows more sunlight to reach the lakebed, which in turn encourages the growth of native aquatic plants.

Eventually, these aquatic plants die. Some decompose and sink to the lakebed, while others float to the surface and drift ashore. This is a natural process and has become part of our lakes’ normal condition.

The CLCC board has explored vegetation harvesting as a potential solution, however, the cost and management of such a program is prohibitive. As residents of the lake, we understand and sympathize with the challenge a lake owner faces when the decaying residue decides to settle on your shoreline.

If you have further questions, Alicia O’Hare, Water Resource Specialist at Wright County Soil and Water welcomes your questions and has volunteered to come look at your shore if you wish. She can be reached at 763-614-2901 ext. 3 or email at alicia.ohare@nacdnet.net