Environmental Committee Report April 2025

The board has been implementing its Lake Quality water strategy developed and presented at the 2025 Year beginning board meeting (We should have copied available). Strategies revolve around Prevention, Monitoring, and Mitigation.

- Egg Depredation permitted and announced—no reports of active nests to date.
- First bulk Septic discounted cleaning done to Bath house and several homeowner properties with Rooterman Septic at 340.00 per 1000-gallon tank. Further scheduling available, reach out to Derek Arnold if interested in scheduling
- Grants available for Septic pumping as discussed at prior meetings. Flyers with info available.
- We will continue to educate the community as part of our water quality strategy implementation. To this end, we will host a virtual webinar on May 28th at noon to cover prevention and monitoring for the 2025 swimming season.
- We conducted a full water column test on March 20th this year with SePRO Labs to determine the baseline healthfulness of our lake. Due to high levels of phosphorus, the lake is in a **eutrophic** state. A eutrophic lake has excessive nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, which support abundant aquatic plants. The water body will be dominated either by aquatic plants or algae. Eutrophic lakes have low water clarity, usually 1.5 to 6.5 feet (0.5-2 meters). They may have algal blooms problems and taste and odor issues.
- Last August, the water column testing with the same lab put our lake in a **mesotrophic** state. A mesotrophic lake is characterized by a moderate level of nutrients, which supports a balanced ecosystem with a diverse range of plant and animal life. These lakes are typically middle-aged, with greater plant production and clear water, often featuring submerged aquatic plants. Compared to oligotrophic lakes, which have low nutrient levels, and eutrophic lakes, which have excessive nutrients, mesotrophic lakes represent an intermediate state.
- We have also conducted several Algae ID tests with SePRO Lab that have identified several specific species of algae and quantified their prevalence, or amount, in the water. We will continue to conduct periodic Algae ID tests this summer in addition to the rapid tests conducted weekly by the Board.

The Board will continue to monitor E. Coli and algae on a weekly basis from May 1st to Sept 4th, and publish the results on the GAPOA website and Facebook. The Board will also conduct periodic testing with SePRO labs to measure phosphorus and algae levels. The Board considered whether treatment with a phosphorous management substance would be appropriate this season and is opting not to treat the high phosphorus condition of the lake at this time. The Board will continue to evaluate mitigation strategies based on further testing and expert input.