

## **Camden Point Homeowners – Prevent Phosphorus Pollution and HELP your Lakes and Ponds**

Phosphorus loading into water bodies through streams, runoff from yards and parking lots, and from waterfowl is a leading cause of unsightly (and potentially toxic) algae blooms. Controlling phosphorus is a logical step in a proactive management plan and homeowners can have a huge impact on how much phosphorus goes into a lake. Lake buffers with established native shorelines and aquatic plant buffers with deep root systems that help stabilize the soils, produce oxygen, and create habitat for organisms that actually feed on algae, all help to balance phosphorus levels.

Aerators (fountains and diffusers) help mix and oxygenate lakes and ponds, which pushes the phosphorus into the sediment and makes it unavailable for algae.

Ways to reduce phosphorus in the lake or pond water include:

- discouraging geese, whose waste is very nutrient rich,
- eliminating phosphorus in lawn fertilizers (the middle number should always be '0') and minimizing fertilization to a few times a year, or making sure landscape contractors use phosphorus free fertilizer on your property,
- KEEP GRASS CLIPPINGS OUT OF THE LAKE. Grass clippings contain a significant amount of nutrients, especially when freshly cut. Phosphorus is the key nutrient leading to algae growth and having even dry grass enter the pond does not significantly reduce this concentration,
- reducing erosion in the watershed, specifically along the shoreline where nutrient rich soil accumulates in the lake and reduces water depth, leading to conditions (nutrients, sunlight, warmer water) that promote algae growth,
- removing the sediment and or aquatic growth from the water body. Shallow water promotes algae growth,
- minimizing phosphorus in the soaps and other household products that citizens buy which eventually make their way to the sewage treatment plants and finally our streams.

Even if you do not live right on the lake you can help too! The lakes at Camden Pointe receive a lot of run off from any rain storm. This rain water will travel the sewer pipes from all around the neighborhood and flow directly into your lakes. So even if you live several streets away from the lake those grass clippings that you are blowing into the street will find their way into the lake. Bag the clippings or use them in your flower beds as a natural fertilizer.

So buy PHOSPHATE FREE products, reduce the amount of yard waste entering the lake, and plant native buffers to help Camden Pointe and your entire watershed!

- Respectfully submitted, Integrated Lakes Management, R. Christensen