

INDIAN LAKES POA

LAKE RENOVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

These Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) can be toxic!



What are cyanobacteria?

Cyanobacteria or bluegreen algae are similar to algae in that they photosynthesize and bloom in water, but they are different to algae in that they can produce powerful toxins. They compete with algae for nutrients in the water, and once they get established, they take over! A lake with a lot of mucky sludge on the bottom is an ideal environment for cyanobacteria to dominate nutrient uptake and bloom. That is the situation at Indian Lake now!

And they can produce toxins that can kill your pet or make it impossible to purify reservoir water to make it safe to drink.

How do they take over a lake?

A lot of run-off from the watershed and dysfunctional septic systems are the main source of nutrients (think compost and fertilizer) in a lake. They nourish algae and weeds which die off and sink to the bottom and decompose to form a mucky nutrient-rich sediment. All those nutrients first cause algae blooms and excessive weed growth like we've seen on Indian Lake in recent years and then the toxic cyanobacteria show up. They outcompete the algae for nutrients and sunlight until they become the dominant form of algal presence.

What do they look like? They vary, but often they form a bright green scum that looks like a paint spill.



The photo above is a toxic cyanobacteria HAB at a dock at Indian Lake in July 2020.

Cyanobacteria can produce a variety of toxins. They may just cause skin irritations, but the neurotoxins and hepatotoxins can kill dogs in a matter of minutes if they drink the water or get the algae on their fur and then lick it off.

Once they become established in a lake, they can cause the lake to be shut down by the Health authorities for all recreational use.



We don't want that to happen here!

What are we doing about it?

The LAKE RENOVATION COMMITTEE, selected by the ILPOA Board, has spent nearly two years getting studies and analysis done and screening companies looking for a solution. Toxic cyanobacteria (bluegreen) Harmful Algae Blooms or HABs are a growing dangerous problem throughout the USA. The volunteer Committee has done extensive due diligence, consultation, reference checking and have selected a company with a scientific solution to cyanoHABs--Clean-Flo International in partnership with SIS.bio. You can learn more about the science behind their biotechnology at www.SIS.bio/videos. You can their case studies at www.SIS.bio/casestudies.

So, what is the plan?

The Lake Renovation Committee will be hosting a series of informational meetings and conducting a Capital Campaign to raise the necessary funds. We view this as a five-year project, with a minimum three-year financial commitment. To begin the project and sign a contract, **we will need to raise a minimum of \$750,000 this year**, and pledges over the next two years of another \$750,000.

We have hired a professional Water Management Firm to assist us in our goals of: decreasing harmful HAB'S; reducing the muck at the bottom of our lake; improving the water clarity; and improving the overall water health. We are all aware of **the limitations of our BUR** contract that has prohibited our Board from making necessary HOA fees. And, we are faced with the major expense of the bridge replacement. Hence the need for a volunteer capital campaign to raise the needed funds.

If we do nothing at all in the next five years, we will see many negative, harmful effects on our water sports, fishing, and general enjoyment of our lake community, and a drop in all our property values. ***If we are truly a lake community, then we need a vibrant and healthy lake!***

What can you do to help?

Attend an informational meeting—online via zoom.

Review the on-line documents that describe the problems and solutions.

Make a gift this year as soon as possible and/or pledge a gift over the following two years.

We will be holding all gifts in a separate account and these funds will ONLY be used for Lake renovation plans. Once we have at least \$750,000, we will start the first phase of equipment and lake treatments. Two signatures will be required for all payments. The Committee will make on-line monthly reports on the finances and lake renovation progress.

We need our homeowners to step up as soon as possible. A gift/pledge of \$2000 per year for three years from each home will insure funding for our short- and long- term goals. Every size gift is crucial to our success.

The sooner we hear from you, the sooner we can clean up our lake!

QUESTIONS? Contact a member of our committee!

Lake Renovation Committee: Mike Schwartz, Ed Weston, Chris Pinaire, Scott Rockafellow, Mary Beth Huffmann