

Memo from Alan Mizrahi, Chair of the Trace Lake and Dam Committee (TLDC)

Re: Chara Algae/Musk Grass Growth in Lake Trace

July 3, 2026

First, I want to thank everyone for reaching out to the TLDC - having residents assist the committee in being the “eyes & ears” for the community to ensure the safety and health of Lake Trace is greatly appreciated. As discussed in my previous email to everyone (email attached) and the follow-up email to those who reported later sightings - we have identified the growth along the shoreline in various areas of the lake is an outbreak of a macro algae known as Chara Algae (or musk grass). If you are able to rake a sample out of the lake you will notice it has a strong, funky smell - similar to garlic. This algae is considered to be helpful to ponds or lakes as it acts like a filter to clean the water and clarifying it. It also absorbs many nutrients in the water that can contribute to more harmful algae blooms.

However, it can also be a nuisance around docks and shorelines, and, if left untreated can eventually form dense mats and overwhelm the lake’s natural vegetation and multiply excessively.

I asked Triangle Pond Management to submit a proposal to professionally treat the Chara Algae with Algaecide on a bulk price basis. Their proposal (see below) calls for two treatments (approx. 2 weeks apart) and they would charge \$500.00 total per homeowner - they do need a minimum of five owners to sign up.

I have also researched the best methods for eradicating the Algae for individuals - According to Gemini, the best method is to use a granular formulation of a copper chelated algaecide (such as Cutrine Plus) and to use a hand spreader from the shoreline or a small boat to evenly disperse the algaecide over the growing algae - this method allows the granules to sink to the bottom of the shallow lakebed before releasing the chemicals into the water column...while you can use a liquid version of the same product - if the algae is already topping the surface of the water - the chemical may only burn off the tops of the algae leaving the bottom part of the algae with its filaments anchored into the sediment to regrow. It was also suggested that you can apply both liquid and granular algaecide together which will produce the strongest effect - as you are “sandwiching” the tops (liquid) and the bottom (granular).

For those of you who are interested in having Triangle Pond Management treat your shoreline - please reply back to me at <mailto:tldcchair@gmail.com>

For those who are planning to do it themselves- it would be very helpful if you could report back to this group on what results you achieved...

Thanks again for your patience.

Best Regards

Alan