

LAKE MONITORING 2005

Resident volunteers have been monitoring water quality on Maud Lake since 1975 and continue this year with routine clarity testing and scheduled chemical testing. Clarity is checked throughout the summer season and reported to the Minnesota Pollution

Control Agency where the data is maintained. Chemical testing is currently done every five years with eight samples being taken over the course of the summer and analyzed for phosphorous and chlorophyll. Results of the testing are again sent to MPCA where they are maintained. Costs for the chemical testing are partly paid by the Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) of which our association is a member.

Excessive phosphorous is a primary cause of increased vegetation and algae growth in the lake. By monitoring its levels, we would hope to recognize any negative trend before it became unmanageable. Although phosphorous occurs naturally in soil, its concentrations in lakes is aggravated by both agricultural and residential runoff. Current data shows Maud to be relatively low in phosphorous content compared to other lakes in Becker County. Hopefully, this year's testing will show that we are maintaining those levels.

For lakeshore residents, the use of household products without phosphorous and the elimination of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorous are two of the most important steps to take personally to preserve water quality in the lake. In fact, it is now illegal in Minnesota to use fertilizer containing phosphorous (the middle number) on your lawn.

Anyone wanting more information or interested in participating in the testing please contact me. There are several internet sites where the detailed historical monitoring data is available.

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