

# RAP POND INSPECTION REPORT

APRIL 2024

I visited RAP yesterday (Thursday, April 18th) to conduct the regular monthly pond check-up. The aeration pumps were deployed. Here are the observations and actions performed:

Pond 1: The pond is approximately three inches below overflow level and the well pump is still shut off so far. The water color (greenish-blue) indicated the presence of residual dye from last month's dye application. Two self-dissolving packets of Jet Black dye were added to deepen the color and MicroLife Clear Max bacteria was added. Removed debris (again mostly sticks and branches) from the pond that had collected since last month.

Pond 2: The pond is looking good, although there was a slight amount of green algae, organic debris and trash build-up along the downwind shoreline (far end of pond). There was a lot of goldfish activity on the pond (no schools but a lot of small goldfish hitting the surface). I tried to catch some goldfish by hook-and-line but was unsuccessful - they did not take any baits offered. One dozen 8-10" long Largemouth Bass were stocked in the pond. These predator fish should provide control of the large goldfish population, which would limit the input of their waste (nutrients), which is a suspected fertilizer for planktonic algae. There was a strong overflow of about one-quarter pipe. The overflow grate was cleaned of debris and garbage was removed from the pond, no doggie bags.

Pond 3: The pond had a good flow of water through it and the entire basin was wet, including the narrow feed arm. Although I did not observe any mosquito larvae activity, I did treat with Vectobac G Bti larvicide since any standing water will warm quickly during any warm, sunny day. Pickerelweed, rushes and reeds are growing, along with a small patch of cattails. The overflow was cleaned of debris and trash was removed from the pond basin, no doggie bags.

Pond 4: Again, the pond was just at full pool with just an occasional slight trickle of overflow when the wind blew hard. The water temperature was 63 degrees and the Secchi depth was measured at 19". The pond was dyed with a 2:1 blend of black and blue dyes to shade the water and retard planktonic algae growth. A 6 lb. Muck Block and MicroLife Clear Max bacteria were added. Observed and chased-off two geese that were using the pond (no nest observed). I saw no fish activity but a lot of insect activity, including adult midges - flying insects that can be confused for mosquitoes. Although I did not see any mosquito larvae, keep an ear out for any reports of mosquito activity, which could come from the overflow stream channel downstream of the pond (in the woods) - it currently has some pockets of standing water that could provide breeding habitat.

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## Notes:

- *Pond numbers correspond to RAP Phase numbers.*
- *Mr. Osterhuber is a graduate chemist, a retiree of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and is licensed to chemically treat ponds.*
- *Coon Hollow's work with RAP began in 2018.*