

Don't Strangle Our Lake!

Imagine a lake where people can't swim, fish can't survive, boats remain docked, and a stench hangs over the lake!

It can happen here.

We all play a part by keeping our lake clear of chemicals, and non-native plants, fish and animals. Pollution destroys native plants, fish and animals and can be expensive and difficult to remove. It may make the lake unsafe for swimming, boating and fishing. A lake in which we cannot swim, fish or boat will reduce property values for all residents.

All of us can do things to protect the health of our lake.

1. Bag leaves and garden waste and put them out for trash pick-up. Even better, add them to a compost pile and save money on fertilizer.
2. Take Christmas trees to the designated disposal sites, rather than dumping them in our lake.
3. Minimize use of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals, and dispose of them properly.



4. Clean your boat propeller and underneath the boat when moving it from another body of water to the lake. This will help keep non-native plants, fish and animals out of our lake. Invasive hydrilla, now in our lake, may have come in on a boat propeller.
5. Design water gardens and ponds so that they don't overflow into streams or our lake.



Things to avoid:

1. Never put any fish, plants or animals in our lake, unless they came from our lake.
2. Never empty the contents of aquariums or fish ponds into our lake.
3. Never throw trash such as plastic bottles and cans into our lake from a boat or dock.
4. Never spill gas or oil when filling your boat's tank.

5. Never release live bait into a stream or our lake. Empty bait buckets into garbage containers, never into our lake.

Invasive plants like hydrilla and animals like Asian clams are already in our lake and may be impossible to remove. LMOA buys carp every year to check the growth of hydrilla in the lake, at a cost of approximately \$50,000 over the last 10 years.

Now imagine

A healthy lake where we can swim, fish and boat safely, a lake that enhances our way of life and protects our property values.

We have that now!

Let's protect and preserve our lake.

It's up to you!



For More Information:

Websites:

1. <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

This site is part of a program sponsored by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U. S. Coast Guard and warns readers of the dangers of aquatic hitchhikers attached to your boat and how they can damage a lake like ours. Check out this site to find out how to prevent such damage.

2. <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/invlst.htm>

This site is part of the award-winning Virginia Natural Heritage Program, staffed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation. You can find a list of invasive plants in Virginia at this site, including a fact sheet for hydrilla, with a picture and description of its characteristics.

3. <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/waterquality/420-013/420-013.html>. The site includes an article from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, "Pesticides and Aquatic Animals: A Guide to Reducing Impacts on Aquatic Systems," which contains the section, "How Fish are Exposed to Pesticides."



This is the fourth in a series of publications that have been developed as a cooperative educational program to assist you and your neighbors in keeping our lake, the Rivanna River and the Chesapeake Bay healthy, now and in the years to come.

Our thanks to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their support through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program.

Thanks also to you, the members of the Lake Monticello Owners' Association. The Lake Health & Storm Water Management Program is an example of your dues at work for our community.



For more information about this educational program and how you can help, contact the

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Lake Health Publication #4

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Easy Ways You Can Help
Protect Our Lake.

