

# Aquatics<sup>in</sup>Brief

SPRING 2015



Volume 9, Issue 2

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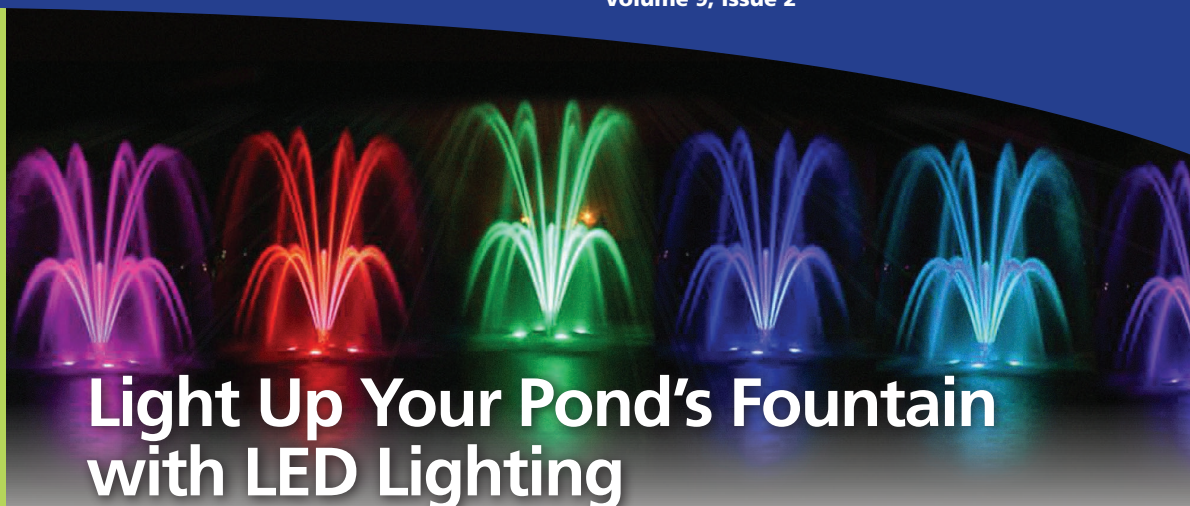
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**SOLITUDE**  
LAKE MANAGEMENT

*A Full Service  
Lake, Pond, and Fisheries  
Management Company*



## Light Up Your Pond's Fountain with LED Lighting

By **Kevin Tucker, President and Owner**

Most people by now are familiar with LED lighting, and its many advantages. What has been helping to provide value and environmental benefit on land is now starting to provide the same benefits and value under the water. More and more fountain manufacturers are adopting LED lighting as a replacement for the traditional halogen lighting that was the norm for many, many years. Early on, many manufacturers rushed out cheap LED lighting that was said to be rated for underwater use, but in reality, much of this equipment failed after a short period of time.

A select few manufacturers have taken a more methodical and cautious approach, an approach that has led to the development of high quality products that live up to the billing. Rather than just buying someone else's aftermarket product and selling it as their own, they have designed, engineered, tested and brought to market quality LED lighting that provides all of the benefits we have come to expect with LED lighting, while also providing the durability and long lasting service that is a must for these benefits to be fully achieved.

Of all of the sets we have tested and worked with so far, we are the most excited about what AquaMaster® has to offer. Not only have their fountains typically been the best on the market, we are now seeing them release LED lighting packages that are by far

**More and more fountain manufacturers are adopting LED lighting as a replacement for the traditional halogen lighting that was the norm for many, many years.**

the best. Although more expensive than the halogen light sets of old, they are much less expensive now than they were when much of the original LED lighting first hit the market.

For those fountain owners who already have a traditional halogen light set and desire to step up to these improved LED lights and take advantage of the environmental benefits, reduction in energy and maintenance costs,

*Continued on page 2*

## LED Lighting *Continued from front cover*

and increased longevity, AquaMaster now offers a retrofit kit that can be used to convert your existing light set for roughly a third of the cost of replacing it all together.

There are many advantages to LED lighting that, despite the increase in up-front cost, will more than justify their purchase. For starters, you will see a lower cost in your monthly energy bill. LED bulbs use less power and cost an average of 85% less to run (depending on usage) than their incandescent equivalents. LED bulbs are rated for 16-20 times the usage hours or "life" of the halogen bulbs they replace. This will result in a significant savings in the maintenance expense associated with replacement bulbs and the labor to replace them 2-3 times per year (approximately \$56 per bulb replacement). Under normal conditions, you should not have to replace one of these LED bulbs for 10 years.

For most folks, if the costs do not make sense, then nothing else matters. The good news is with high quality LED fountain lights, the long term savings do in fact outweigh the initial costs, so it is still a win for your budget.

So is that it, do I replace my halogen fountain lights with LED lights just because it is going to save me money over the long haul? Well, some might say yes, but there is much more good to come from a decision to make the change.

Would you be surprised if I told you that these high quality LED fountain lights actually outperform their halogen predecessors? Well, they do...providing not only brighter light, but light that is more crisp and clear, a truer white, versus the halogen lights that tend to have a dimmer more off white appearance. The LED lights provide a much more dramatic visual effect, and are less likely to be drowned out by other exterior building and parking lights in the vicinity.



Finally, remembering back to the fact that these new lights use less power...that is great for your electric bill, but even better for our environment. In a world where sustainability is increasingly important, and where reducing our environmental footprint and consumption of precious resources is a must, this is the perfect solution. So often you have to give up performance or something desirable in order to achieve sustainability, but in this rare case, you can actually improve both the environment and the performance, while also saving money. A true WIN-WIN-WIN.

Just remember that not all LED fountain lights are created equal...so do not throw your money away by investing in the wrong equipment. Be careful to select a quality manufacturer that will in fact deliver on all of the benefits we have discussed above, and never hesitate to consult a true professional who understands all of the choices. ■

**Red | Green | Blue | White**

### The Full LED Experience

For those who want to take their fountain lighting to the next level, AquaMaster® recently introduced the most revolutionary fountain light set to ever hit the lake and pond management market. People are increasingly aware of the value of LED lighting in general...now we are taking LED fountain lighting to a whole new level.

The AquaMaster RGBW LED lighting sets are programmable and allow for multiple color changes as well as sequencing. There are countless options to include the lights being set to whatever color you want, colors changing between multiple choices on a preset program, and having the lights come on and off to a preset program or show. All of this is possible with the same lights; no changes or field work is required. It can all be programmed from the fountain control panel and changed any time you choose.



These lights are perfect for:

- Commercial properties, where the lights can be set to display the company colors or otherwise blend with whatever themes may be associated with the property.
- Neighborhoods and other community settings where seasonal changes would be desired without all of the time, money, and hassle of having to constantly change the light colors manually.
- Recreational and amusement sites where visual aesthetics and exceptional shows are necessary to enhance the experience.
- Public parks or municipal areas where holiday light colors or shows are desired. ■

### LED VS. HALOGEN COST %

Light Wattage	Amperage	Operating Cost per Hour	Percent
12 Watt LED	0.36	\$0.004	14%
75 Watt Halogen	2.5	\$0.030	100%
18 Watt LED	0.81	\$0.010	16%
150 Watt Halogen	5	\$0.060	100%
21 Watt LED	0.86	\$0.010	5%
250 Watt Halogen	8.5	\$0.100	50%
500 Watt Halogen	17	\$0.200	100%

Operating Cost based on \$0.10 per kW-hr.  
Percent is LED vs. Halogen cost per hour  
Information based on comparing 4 light sets



# Best Management Practices for Spring Green-Up

By **Trent Nelson, Aquatic Specialist**

**Y**ou are probably in the process of selecting and implementing fertilizer applications to improve turf health. Unfortunately, fertilizer is often applied incorrectly by both homeowners and unaware professionals. Excessive or improper fertilization, when combined with stormwater runoff, will carry these surplus nutrients away from the target area and deposit them into waterbodies leading to eutrophication. Eutrophication is the enrichment of an aquatic ecosystem through the introduction of excessive nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus.

Prior to initiating any fertilization program, several questions should be asked, and information obtained about the site's specific fertilization requirements. It is important to know the type of turf that you will be working with, warm or cool season grass? What type of fertilizer works best with that turf variety? How much fertilizer will be sufficient to meet your needs? Are there impervious areas on the site where fertilizer will concentrate and be carried away if there is a storm? Has soil testing been done to determine the exact amount of N and P required for the site?

Warm season (C4) grasses are predominately found in coastal regions of the southeast. The most common and widely used warm season grass in these regions are Bermudagrass. Warm season grasses will break winter dormancy around late April to early May and generally do not need fertilization until they have begun actively growing. Cool season or C3 grasses are found throughout the southeast and Mid-Atlantic States but prefer to grow in cooler climates north of North Carolina. Cool season grasses remain green year round and will break winter dormancy as soon as nighttime temperatures begin to rise, typically in March and April. Knowing the difference in turf types is critical as it will determine the amount, type, and frequency of the fertilization.

A simple soil test for any turf type is the best way to quantify how much nutrients a stand of turf actually needs. A soil test will also determine which nutrients are already at sufficient levels. This will allow the applicator to select the optimal fertilizer for each application. The rate or amount to be evenly applied over the targeted area should be one of the first data points collected when making sound agronomic decisions.

Fertilizer is characterized by a set of three numbers that indicate the ratio of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. If a soil test determines that a complete analysis fertilizer be applied, then look for a type that has all three numbers equal such as a 17-17-17 fertilizer. If testing indicates the turf is not deficient in all of the three major nutrients, contact a specialized turf product supplier and ask for a fertilizer with an incomplete analysis like 24-0-18, or a similar product that will fit the needs of the turf without being excessive and adding unnecessary quantities that can lead to water quality degradation.

Most of the soils in our region already have an abundance of phosphorus and any variety of turfgrass growing on these soils typically may not require additional phosphorus at all. Phosphorus will typically bind tightly to soil particles and is not available for

uptake by the turfgrass, therefore the excessive and careless application of phosphorus can lead to excess phosphorus levels in runoff that ultimately finds its way into nearby waterbodies. Excess phosphorus is the main culprit in algae blooms occurring in our lakes and ponds that can lead to widespread fish kills.

Therefore, when applying fertilizer, you should always be aware of where the fertilizer can be transported via runoff. If impermeable surfaces like sidewalks and driveways are present, make sure all fertilizer is swept or blown back into the turf areas so that rainfall will be less likely to deposit the nutrients into stormwater drains. If a pond or stream is present on your property, be sure to leave an unfertilized buffer of approximately 10-15 feet around these waterbodies to reduce the chance of runoff carrying these excess nutrients to them, or even worse, having a direct application of fertilizer to the water.

The Agriculture Industry once recommended that residential turf be fertilized infrequently to reduce the amount of nutrients available to be transported to waterbodies. Additional research was conducted by the EPA and now they recommend that turf be fertilized more frequently with lower amounts of specific nutrients. Infrequent fertilization can create poor turf conditions, increasing the amount of possible runoff and erosion. A stand of turf that is thick and healthy with a mature root system will uptake nutrients, filter and slow sheet flow water, as well as decrease the amount of nutrients that can leach into shallow groundwater systems.

Some states and municipalities have even begun requiring training certification to better educate applicators on proper fertilization techniques, and/or how the misapplication of fertilizer adversely impacts water quality. Areas in the Jordan Lake watershed in the piedmont of North Carolina have implemented rules that require applicators to complete nutrient management training, and also require that property owners ensure that for-hire applicators have met current training requirements for nutrient management. These new rules do not require private landowners applying fertilizer to their own property to take these education courses, however it is recommended to better understand the effects of nutrients on surrounding watersheds.

Nutrient loading in waterbodies is a problem across the United States. Although fertilizer is not the sole contributor to watershed pollution, proper fertilization techniques can greatly reduce the amount of nutrients entering our waterbodies. The old adage states that 5 pounds of phosphorus can equate to 500 pounds of wet algae. This is a frightening thought and if ignored can likely lead to irreversible damage to our aquatic ecosystems. Every one of us can make a significant difference and play a necessary role in protecting our water resources. ■

## Notes from a Dog-Pusher:

# SOLitude's 2014 Volunteer of the Year

By **Shannon Junior, Aquatic Ecologist, Regional Manager**

About 15 years ago, my friend Tara described how rewarding it was to volunteer at a nursing home once a week. I told her that I would love to do something like that, but that I was too busy to volunteer. I still remember her response: "Everyone has time to volunteer — they just prefer to spend it doing other things." Tara was a new mom and was just beginning her career at an environmental consulting firm. She was a busy lady, and I couldn't understand how she found time to help out in her community.

But when I started volunteering at my local animal shelter about five years ago, I realized that it does not seem like a sacrifice to prioritize doing something I enjoy above the other things I used to do with my "spare time." I have always lived by the mantra "Work Hard/Play Hard," and my weekends were reserved for recreation, with minimal time set aside for chores. Now, I have rearranged my life to accommodate my rescue work, but I don't regret one "lost" minute.

Most of the readers of this newsletter know about the SOLution program. SOLitude Lake Management encourages all of our staff to become involved in our communities to "Create a Better World." In 2012, I was the first recipient of our Volunteer of the Year Award, and I wrote an article similar to this one, describing my efforts to transform my local animal shelter into a No-Kill facility (formally defined as a 90% live release rate). I am still trying; I take photos of the homeless and surrendered pets and post them on the Madison County Animal Shelter's Facebook Page (PLEASE "Like" us!). I bring shelter dogs to PetSmart on Saturdays for adoption events, and I organize several fundraising events each year. I have recovered from my shyness about asking for help and donations; people are always eager to pitch in, and it has been humbling to see the selflessness and generosity of my community.

But because we have not yet achieved No-Kill status, I am still searching for new strategies. A couple of years ago, I thought it would be fun to make tie-dyed t-shirts for all of the volunteers to wear at a fundraising event to help us stand out. The shirts were well received by the volunteers and the attendees, and several people asked if they were available for purchase. I decided to make a few shirts and doggie bandanas to sell at the next event, and Dog Dayz Dyes was born. I was able to donate \$150 to the shelter in addition to the other money that we raised at the event. I now have a page on Etsy where I sell tie-dyed t-shirts, bandanas, and onesies, and I donate 100% of the proceeds to the shelter ([www.etsy.com/shop/DogDayzDyes](http://www.etsy.com/shop/DogDayzDyes) — Shameless plug, but it's for a good cause!).

I also recently submitted a proposal to the County Board of Supervisors that would allow the shelter to use fundraising money to establish a low-cost spay and neuter program. After showing



Shannon Junior, SOLitude's 2014 Volunteer of the Year, directed a donation of \$2,600, on behalf of SOLitude Lake Management and The SOLution, to the Madison County Animal Shelter.



proof of rabies vaccination and County tags, pet owners could purchase a surgical voucher from the shelter for \$25 that could be redeemed at the local Humane Society. Most of the stray and owner-surrendered pets that come through the shelter have not been altered and many are pregnant, so this program would help to solve the problem of unwanted pets in our community. Cross your fingers that it's approved!

I am so thankful to SOLitude for the continued support of my volunteer efforts. Many of my coworkers have participated with me at fundraisers and adoption events. Employees, vendors, and clients have adopted pets from my shelter and have helped me network to find homes for needy animals. I received the Volunteer of the Year Award for the third time in 2014, and through SOLitude, made a donation of \$2,600 to the shelter. Some of my coworkers joined me and donated their own SOLution volunteer rewards to the Madison County Animal Shelter, too. I am fortunate to work with such a generous group of people, and I can't wait to see who is inspired to take the award in 2015!

Volunteering is hard work, and it does require sacrifices of our personal time. My husband often joins me at PetSmart so we can spend more time together. Sunday Fun-Day used to mean hiking, brunch and wineries. Now, it means laundry, cleaning and errands. Or sometimes I just let life happen and leave the dirty clothes and dog hair until later. Please don't judge me for the mounds of t-shirts and bandanas in various stages of processing covering every surface in my home. And that's not dirt under my fingernails, it's dye. Things at the shelter are still not exactly how I want them to be, but they are getting better every year. In 2014, I helped find families for about 90 homeless pets. For me, that's 89 more reasons than I need to keep doing what I'm doing. Find your reason! ■

The **SOLution**  
creating a better world



# New SOL

In each issue, staff members from SOLitude are highlighted. It is our pleasure to introduce the incredibly talented members of our team and give you insight into the vast array of knowledge and experience they offer.

**Q Where did you grow up and how did you get to where you are today?**

**A** I grew up in High Point, North Carolina, where I still live today, and have always had a passion for the outdoors. This love prompted me to pursue a career in professional Turf management. I began working on golf courses when I was 16 and received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Turfgrass Science from North Carolina State University in 2009. A few years later, I became interested in stormwater maintenance and lake management and obtained certification as a stormwater inspector in North Carolina. In October 2014, I joined the SOLitude team as an Aquatic Specialist to conduct field work for an extensive client base.



**Trent Nelson**  
*Aquatic Specialist*

**Q What were you the most proud of throughout your schooling and career?**

**A** I have always been interested in giving my time to help others and impact the greater good. In college, I was the Vice President of our Turf Club and I was the Chairman of the NC State University Ducks Unlimited Chapter. As an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, I was able to help start and serve on the inaugural committee for the Assistant's Committee of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association. These opportunities allowed me to make personal contributions and help other causes through fundraising and habitat conservation.

**Q What most excites you most about your work and what is your biggest challenge?**

**A** Properly managing water resources before they discharge into rivers and streams that lead into our drinking water reservoirs is extremely important and I take a tremendous amount of pride in my daily efforts to help improve the environment. Currently, my biggest challenge is being able to communicate the impact of the work that SOLitude does to a larger audience. While our existing client base certainly grasps the value of our work, not everyone understands how our services truly impact the world.

**Q Where can we find you when you're not working?**

**A** I spend most of my leisure time traveling the state of North Carolina, hunting, fishing, and visiting friends with my wife, Meredith.

## Win a FREE Lake Makeover!

Are you aware of a non-profit's lake or pond that is unhealthy and in dire need of ecological restoration? Are recreational activities limited due to nuisance algae and aquatic weeds?



Submit your photos and story to [info@solitudelake.com](mailto:info@solitudelake.com) for the chance to win a FREE Lake or Pond Makeover! Join us in being part of The SOLution.



## SOLitude Lake Management Named to Best Places to Work in Virginia List

**F**or the second consecutive year, SOLitude Lake Management was named on the Best Places to Work list. We serve our valued clients throughout the eastern United States, but are thrilled with this district honor in the state of Virginia. "While as a company we focus on environmental sustainability, we have been able to achieve a sense of workplace sustainability as well," said Kevin Tucker, President and Owner. "Our entire team is dedicated to our mission of 'creating a better world,' and I believe it contributes to how much we all enjoy our work, our clients and our vendor partnerships."

The 2015 Best Places to Work in Virginia list is made up of 100 companies and was created by Virginia Business and Best Companies Group. For more information on the Best Places to Work in Virginia program, visit [www.BestPlacesToWorkVA.com](http://www.BestPlacesToWorkVA.com). ■



Kevin Tucker (center, back) and the SOLitude Lake Management team celebrated being named a 2015 "Best Places to Work" in Virginia in the Small Employer category with Peter Burke, President, Best Places Companies (far left), John F. Kates, President of Virginia SHRM (third from left) and Bernie Niemeier, President & Publisher of Virginia Business (far right) at the awards ceremony in Williamsburg, VA.

# Combat Algae Naturally and Effectively with A SonicSolutions Device

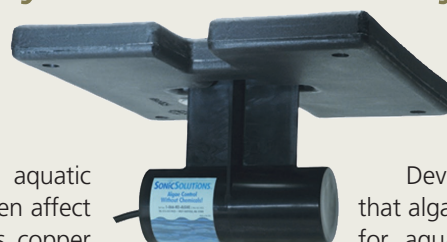
By **Marcus Harris, Fisheries Biologist**

**A**lgae are an omnipresent organism in any aquatic environment. They can be unsightly and can even affect the taste and odor of drinking water. For decades, copper based algaecides have been used to treat algae in ponds. While this approach works in some instances, there are many other strategies that are more cost effective and environmentally conscious. One of those strategies is to target specific algal species vulnerable to ultrasonic waves.

SonicSolutions is a proven technology used to combat algae without the use of chemicals. Using ultrasonic sound waves, the device pops gas bubbles in algae cells and breaks bonds along the cell walls. It does this by honing in on the resonance frequency of algae cells, effectively vibrating the cell to the extreme. To kill and control diatoms, think of taking a raw egg and shaking it vigorously for a few minutes. When you crack the egg open, there is no longer a separate yolk and white. SonicSolutions "scrambles" the insides of healthy diatoms.

Blue-green algae cells are full of gas vesicles that allow the cells to regulate buoyancy and move throughout the water column based on ideal growing conditions. The ultrasonic waves produced by SonicSolutions breaks these vesicles, causing the cells to sink to the bottom of the water column where they get no sunlight and die. In most cases this quickly clears the water column. Once the water clears, a second algae bloom usually occurs, and it can be worse than before the device was installed. This is because SonicSolutions has killed the algal bloom that was present, the result of which is that the water is now clear and allows for sunlight to reach remaining algae spores, causing a bloom. This bloom will die off and in rare cases a third bloom may occur. After these subsequent blooms, the SonicSolutions device proves very effective in controlling any future outbreaks.

Filamentous algae are also impacted by ultrasonic control. In this case the ultrasonics break the chemical bond that keeps the cytoplasm attached to the cell wall. By breaking this bond, the cells are unable to take in nutrients or excrete waste. As in the case with blue-greens and diatoms, a secondary bloom can be expected. If possible, it is recommended to rake off dead algae mats before they decay. This reduces the total nutrients in the water which is what fuels the algae growth to begin with.



**SonicSolutions<sup>LLC</sup>**  
*Algae Control Without Chemicals*

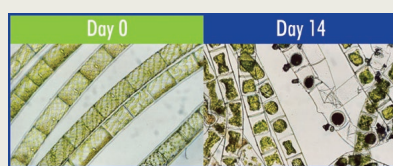
Devices can be placed just about anywhere that algae growth is an issue. They are perfect for aquaculture settings, water tanks, golf courses, retention ponds, private ponds, drinking water sources, and the list goes on. They work in a line-of-sight, similar to a flashlight beam, so multiple devices may need to be placed to eliminate "dead zones" on the back sides of islands or deep coves and points.

Several different sizes are available and more than one can be used to maintain control in large lakes. One unit can kill and control algae in up to 8 acres, depending upon conditions. They run off normal 120V power and there are even solar kits for places where running power to the pond isn't an option. Installation is simple and with a quick cleaning every month, they can provide year-round algae control.

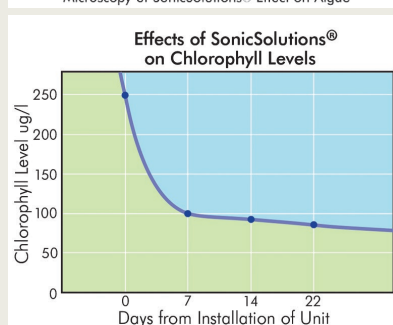
The most important thing to remember when considering installing a SonicSolutions device is that it is not a magic solution to all problems. There are a handful of algae species that are not affected by the ultrasonic waves. This is why it is crucial to have an algae ID sample taken to verify that the device will in fact work in your given situation. It is also best used in conjunction with other management strategies. Consult with your professional lake or pond manager to determine what other products to use with SonicSolutions to eliminate any algae problems. This may include the addition of beneficial bacteria, diffused aeration, and shading dyes.

If you're looking for an alternative to algaecide treatments that can target many common types of algae, SonicSolutions may be your fix. They are easy to install, easy to maintain, have low operating costs, can kill many different species of algae, don't make any noise, have no effects on fish, waterfowl, and other organisms, and can operate in virtually any aquatic situation. SOLitude has installed and used this technology on multiple sites to date and have found, in most cases, a reduction in the need for herbicides and overall maintenance costs.

Contact your professional lake and pond manager to find out if SonicSolutions is a good fit for your waterbody! ■



Microscopy of SonicSolutions® Effect on Algae



## Algae Facts

- **Different water temperatures = different algae**
  - Spring/fall (cool) = filamentous (Spirogyra, Pithophora, Lyngbya, etc.)
  - Summer (warm) = planktonic (Chlorella, Euglena, Anacystis, etc.)
- **N-P ratio can affect species present**
- **Estimated that up to 87% of the world's oxygen is produced by algae**
- **Oil produced from algae is a very viable biofuel option**
- **There are over 100,000 known algae genera**

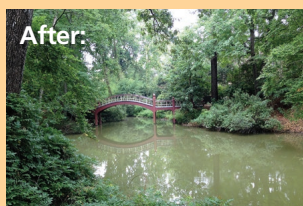


# Seeing Is Believing! Excellence in Water Quality Treatments

Our team of professionals won five "Seeing is Believing" awards from SePRO Corporation, a developer and manufacturer of high quality, environmentally responsible solutions for aquatic plant management. These awards recognize the highest standard of excellence in water quality treatment for lakes, ponds, stormwater basins or other standing waterbodies that have demonstrated the effectiveness of SePRO products in improving these aquatic ecosystems. ■



At the 2014 SePRO Preferred Applicator Seminar, Sam Barrick (left, center), Executive Director, Aquatics Business with SePRO, presented Dustin Kennedy (left), Shannon Junior (right, center) and Brent Weber (right) with "Seeing is Believing" awards for excellence in water quality treatment for lakes, ponds, and stormwater basins. (Not shown, Kyle Finerfrock)



**Location:** Williamsburg, Virginia  
**Surface Area:** 0.6 acre pond at a prestigious college  
**Primary Target:** Duckweed and watermeal  
**Submitted By:** Kyle Finerfrock, Environmental Scientist



**Location:** Gordonsville, Virginia  
**Surface Area:** 0.75 acre privately owned farm pond  
**Primary Target:** Watershield, duckweed and coontail  
**Submitted By:** Shannon Junior, Aquatic Ecologist



**Location:** Purcellville, Virginia  
**Surface Area:** 4.65 acre privately owned farm pond  
**Primary Target:** Filamentous algae (pithophora)  
**Submitted By:** Shannon Junior, Aquatic Ecologist



**Location:** Chesapeake, Virginia  
**Surface Area:** 1.0 acre condominium community's stormwater pond  
**Primary Target:** Pithophora algae  
**Submitted By:** Dustin Kennedy, Aquatic Biologist



**Location:** Glen Allen, Virginia  
**Surface Area:** 3.0 acre private country club pond  
**Primary Target:** Filamentous algae and duckweed  
**Submitted By:** Brent Weber, Environmental Scientist

## Check Us Out...

SOLitude Lake Management will be participating in the following events over the coming months. We encourage you to come see us! If you need information on attending any of these events, please call our office at 888-480-LAKE.

### April 16-17

**North Carolina Chapter of CAI Annual Conference and Expo**  
Embassy Suites Charlotte Concord  
Charlotte, NC

### April 25

**Brandywine Valley Association's Brandywine Creek Clean-up**  
Brandywine Creek  
West Chester, PA

### May 14

**Pennsylvania and Delaware Valley Chapter of CAI's Annual Conference & Expo**  
Grand Hall, Pennsylvania Convention Center  
Philadelphia, PA

### June 6

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day**  
Various Locations throughout the mid-Atlantic

### July 30-Aug 2

**Virginia Leadership Retreat, Community Associations Institute**  
The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA



## Visit SOLitude's Knowledge Bank...

And stay educated on a variety of lake, pond and fisheries related topics through our informative guides, published articles and blog.  
[www.solitudelakemanagement.com/education](http://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/education)



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- Bathymetric Studies
- Biological Augmentation
- Ultrasonic Algae Control

# AquaticsinBrief

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## Ponder These Thoughts

**S**OLitude Lake Management wants your pond to be prepared for warm weather. With this in mind, we recommend that you consider the following during the spring months:

- Have your pond's water quality professionally tested. Find out early in the season if there is a chemical imbalance or increased nutrient load in the water.
- Be patient if you notice spring algae or green water. Once your pond has established a balance, either naturally or with assistance from the SOLitude Lake Management Annual Management Program, algae will clear up.
- Ask us about stocking your pond or retention basin with minnows or bluegill to naturally and effectively control mosquito larvae.
- Examine basin inlet(s) and outlet(s) to ensure devices are obstruction free and operational.
- If your pond's vegetative buffer was not trimmed last fall, the spring is also a good time to remove dead vegetation from the buffer, setting the stage for healthy growth.
- Spring is the perfect time to enhance your pond's buffer with supplemental plantings. Beneficial flowering plants will add color and character to your property.
- Be sure your pond is stocked with easy-to-catch fish such as bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish and plan a successful summer fishing event in your community.
- Spring is an ideal time for a fisheries biologist to assess the health of your fishery, using an electrofishing boat, and provide a strategy to keep your fishery healthy.