

# BANTAM LAKE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE UNDER ATTACK

Posted by John McKenna | May 3, 2024 | News



*Workers from Solitude Lake Management load bags of sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate onto their boat at the Morris town boat launch on Thursday. John McKenna photos*

By John McKenna: BZ editor and publisher

Blue-green algae, the nuisance and sometimes toxic microorganism lurking in the muddy sediment of Bantam Lake since the fall, is meeting its match this week and if all goes well won't be a problem when the summer swimming and boating seasons begin.

The Bantam Lake Protective Association hired its consulting firm, Solitude Lake Management of Shrewsbury, Mass., to apply a broad spectrum algaecide, fungicide and bactericide on 330 acres of the lake. The work took place Wednesday and Thursday and was carried out successfully, according to Solitude Lake Management representative Dominic Meringolo.

The \$150,000 job involved spreading granular sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate across the surface of the designated acreage. The material turns into hydrogen peroxide as it settles to the bottom of the lake and attacks the dormant blue-green algae, killing it before it can reproduce. As the lake temperature rises with the onset of summer, algae floats to the surface and spreads, fouling the water.

Meringolo said he's hopeful that treatment will result in good water quality through summer and into fall.

BLPA President Connie Trolle, who watched Meringolo and his crew stage the operation from the Morris town boat launch on Wednesday, said the organization decided to try the treatment after the use of copper sulfate two years ago didn't do much to improve water quality.

Samples of the lake's water are tested every two weeks, Trolle said, so the BLPA will have a good idea on how this week's treatment is working.

*A crew from Solitude Lake Management departs the boat launch with a new load of sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate.*

