Turf Talk: Lakes / Fish

Does the SLHOA2 stock their lakes with fish?

Every year, the HOA coordinates fish stocking throughout the property. It is an important part of the aquatic ecosystem of the Community. In 2021, 20,050 fish were added to the Community lakes at SLHOA2. In 2022, 35,390 fish were put into the lakes and in 2023, 21,535 fish were placed into the lakes.

What type of fish are put into the lakes?

Several different types of fish are placed in the lakes. This is done for diversity within the ecosystem. Each fish type has a specific purpose for controlling the aquatic system. Typical fish residents will see in the lakes at SLHOA2 are…

1. Goldfish carp – eating algae, small invertebrates, larvae, and fish eggs
2. Flathead minnows – feed on algae, organic sediment, duck-goose waste, mosquito larvae
3. Bluegill – consume aquatic vegetation, insect larvae, insects
4. White amurs – control aquatic plant growth
5. Channel catfish – bottom feeding scavengers
6. Bass – predatory fish, not stocked on annual basis, very few in lake system

How do you determine what lakes to stock with fish?

The lakes selected for fish stocking each year is based on the challenges the lakes experienced during the previous year. If a lake has a large amount of aquatic weeds or large amounts of unwanted larvae, these lakes take priority over lakes where the aquatic life is more balanced.

Why can't I see the bottom of the lakes, the lakes are black?

Understand, the dark lake color that is seen by the residents is intentional. The lakes are treated with lake dye (blue or black) to help block sunlight from reaching the aquatic weeds and algae in the lake. Reducing sunlight exposure, reduces the amount of sunlight energy available to the plants and algae. This slows down the process of photosynthesis and helps control unwanted plant, algae growth.

What is SLHOA2 doing in Unit 20 to control Midge Flies?

The team has gotten approvals, secured funding, from the SLHOA2 Board to treat the lakes at Unit 20 for midge flies. Over the next 12 months, the goal is to reduce the amount of midges in that area through a multiple layered approach.

1. Monthly applications of Muck Biotics – this is a probiotic tablet used specifically for restoration and maintenance of the lakes. The probiotic tablets accelerate the breakdown of organic sludge at the bottom of the lake where the midge larvae are inhabiting
2. Weekly application of LarvaZyme- this is a naturally occurring enzyme that aids in the cocoon degradation of the developing midge fly larvae. This breakdown is necessary for other products to work effectively on the larvae itself.
3. Weekly applications of AquaBac – this is a liquid biological larvicide used for controlling midge larvae, mosquito larvae and black fly larvae in aquatic habitats. It is a naturally occurring soil bacteria.
4. Installation of spawning beds – the team is adding river rock to the lakes along the shoreline to provide safe spaces for fish spawning. These create 'hiding' spaces for the new hatchlings without concern of being eaten by predatory fish.
5. Fish stocking – the largest amounts of annual fish stocking was dedicated to Unit 20.
    a. White amurs – 250, 10"
    b. Bluegill – 1500, 2-3"
    c. Goldfish – 3500, 2-3"
    d. Minnows – 4500, small
    e. Channel catfish – 325, 6-8"