



THE FRIENDS OF AMES LAKE POSITION is that the use of a specific aquatic herbicide that meets the strict, high standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of WA for the eradication of lily pads, properly applied by a licensed professional and aquatic specialist is the most effective method and is not a health hazard to our residents, their guests, pets, fish, wildlife, or other plants. We base this on research, science, and mathematics.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. WHAT'S WRONG WITH JUST LEAVING THE LILY PADS ON THE LAKE?

Leaving the lily pads is the same as doing something harmful to the lake. Despite being pretty, they are a non-native, aggressive plant that crowds out beneficial native plants. This harms fish and aquatic animals that depend on native plants by creating excess decaying matter. This contributes to toxic conditions, depleted oxygen, and increased nitrogen which all contribute to the likelihood of toxic algae blooms. The large areas of plants cause water temperatures to rise and restrict water movement causing stagnation which leads to increased mosquitoes and more. This impacts the quality of lake swimming and recreation and impacts the home values in the entire Ames Lake Plat.

Q: HAVE METHODS OTHER THAN HERBICIDES BEEN TRIED?

Yes. Several years ago, concerned Ames Lake residents researched and discussed at length various ways of eradicating lily pads. Some methods (rotovation, bio control, etc.) would not work at Ames Lake. Manual efforts such as hand-pulling require each homeowner to be in the water repeatedly, wrestling with determined rhizomatous root systems that can be up to 6 feet deep and up to a fifteen-foot spread. This proves impractical. In 2015, the ALCC hired professional divers at considerable expense, unexpected homeowner labor, and a slimy smelly mess. It became clear the project wasn't succeeding because the lily pads are simply too well established and have multi-layered roots. Finally, and after several community presentations from professionals (including the State of WA) and after a community vote of approval, an herbicide was effectively applied over a 3-year period, up to 2018. We had success!

Q: WHAT HERBICIDE IS USED?

The herbicide brand is called Rodeo, and it is a concentrate that is diluted to 1 oz. (2 T.) per gallon of water before spraying. Glyphosate is about 1/2 of the undiluted concentrate. LESS THAN 1/2 GALLON (57.6 oz.) of glyphosate was used to treat 4 acres of lily pads on Ames Lake in 2018. Each year that we treat, less and less is needed. Consider that the amount of the glyphosate component dispersed into our approx. 469 million gallons of water in Ames Lake water during treatment is about .5 parts-per-billion, or 1400 times below the amount considered safe as drinking water (700 ppb).

Q: BUT IS IT SAFE?

Yes, just as the use of toothpaste, cough medicine, spray paint, or many products we have in our homes is safe when properly used. The **only reason** that pets and people should stay out of the lake for 24 hours after application is because activity can wash the treatment off the leaves and that is counterproductive. **The day after the treatment, the herbicide is undetectable. We know because the water was tested.**

Q. HOW IS IT APPLIED?

On a sunny day, the lily pad leaves/blooms are sprayed by licensed applicators in a boat. Plants absorb it, then die over a couple of weeks. It doesn't affect other aquatic plants nor is it a hazard for fish. The herbicide is present for only a short time, on the leaf surface. After being absorbed and taken into the roots, it binds with the soil and breaks down. Other aquatic plants do not take it up.

Q. IF IT WAS VOTED ON AND APPROVED, WHY AREN'T THE LILY PADS BEING TREATED IN 2020?

Simply because the current ALCC Board has declined to take action to maintain the health of the lake. We wish the treatment was being continued because, as a community, we had made great strides in eradication. Most owners that have lily pads opted-in and contributed the funds for treatment on their lakefront and at the community lots we all own. The wider Ames Lake community was not actively lobbied for funding. ALCC dues don't fund the project, but anyone may contribute. However, the ALCC holds the permit so the work cannot go forward without the board's cooperation in keeping the permit current. We hope the current board will recognize that the greater gain of a healthier, safer lake far exceeds the essentially nonexistent risk

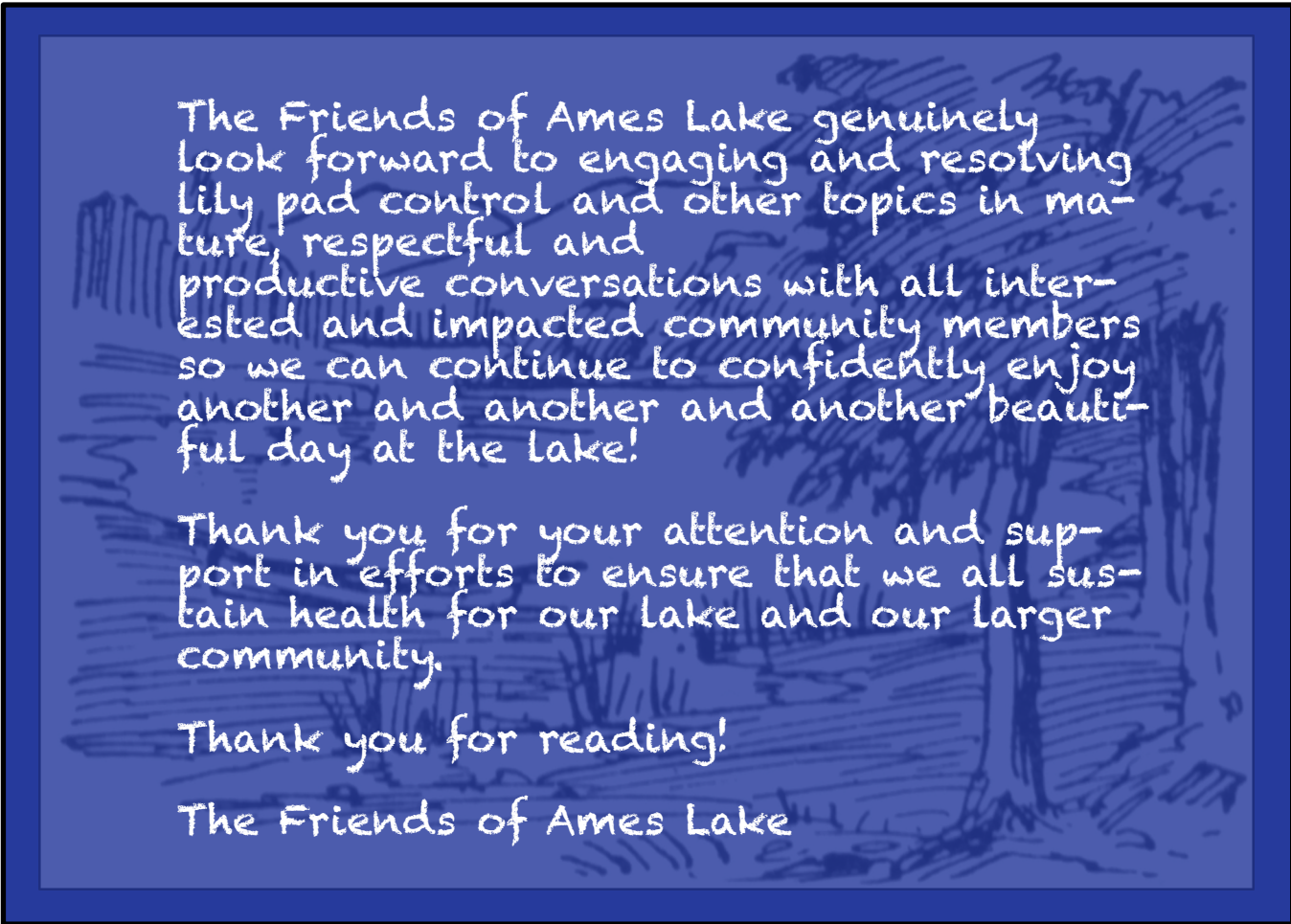


THE DAY AFTER THE TREATMENT, THE HERBICIDE IS UNDETECTABLE.

Cont.

Q. WHAT DO YOU WANT AMES LAKE HOMEOWNERS TO DO?

- **Learn more** and ask questions so our conversations are respectful and fact-based.
- **You can request** the longer narrative of this letter or contact us by sending an email to: friendsofameslake@hotmail.com
- **Learn more** by subscribing to the new Friends of Ames Lake website: www.friendsofameslake.com. You'll find many resources and once in a while we will send you updates.
- **Encourage the ALCC board** to have an open discussion with all members of the community



The Friends of Ames Lake genuinely look forward to engaging and resolving Lily pad control and other topics in mature, respectful and productive conversations with all interested and impacted community members so we can continue to confidently enjoy another and another and another beautiful day at the lake!

Thank you for your attention and support in efforts to ensure that we all sustain health for our lake and our larger community.

Thank you for reading!

The Friends of Ames Lake