

Thank You Clean-Flo!

Spring Valley Estates subdivision was developed in the late 1960s from an 80 acre tract of farm land. The lake itself is approximately 10 acres and is fed by four natural springs. Over the years, run off from adjacent farm lands and lawns have caused an increasing problem with layers of muck (up to 3.5 feet in some parts), with weeds and with different types of algae. There was an increase of this problem starting around 2003 and by 2013 the algae bloom was so severe it was difficult to fish, swim or even run a trolling motor through it. There was a foul odor to the water and the fish had a notable slime and an unhealthy appearance. There was also fear that the increasing muck would eventually clog off the springs that naturally feed it.

In 2010, members of the Spring Valley Home Owners Board began to explore their options as it was evident that no action would certainly result in a large fish kill and a dead lake within a few short years. Having the lake dug out at a cost of approximately \$44,000.00 – 88,000.00 was not a long term solution as only 1/3 of the lake was even reachable by this method. There was also risk with this method of puncturing a hole in the bottom of the lake. Another option was to completely drain the lake and re-dig which would have been at least a 3-4 year process not to mention the fish loss we would have sustained. Dredging was not an option due to the layout of the lake and the surrounding lands. So with all of this in mind the board started searching for other affordable and viable options on-line and discovered Clean-Flo's web site.

Because of a lack of knowledge and expertise in lake maintenance and restoration we were skeptical that Clean-Flo's system would even work. It took 3 years and a lot more reading and research for the board to realize we HAD to do something, so we put our faith in the hands of Clean-Flo. It was a great decision.

Under the direction of Clean-Flo's team, we installed the aeration system in September 2013 and added our first round of biologicals. By the spring of 2014 we could once again at least run a trolling motor without it being bogged down by moss. By February 2015 we have recorded a reduction in the muck level of approximately 7 – 18 inches, and for the first time in many years the fishing is

incredible. Our bass, blue gill, crappie, and catfish populations have increased. What's more they are bigger, they are clean, they are healthy looking and they are not slimy.

Clean-Flo's staffs have been terrific to work with. They have been very good in helping to figure out not only what products we need but also keeping us within our budget. They have made sure that we have detailed instruction on how and when to apply their biological products. Even though they are several states away, we have been able to easily reach them by phone if we have questions or by e-mail to send them pictures or videos so that they can help us figure out what to do next. We have been very happy with their customer service and especially with our results.

Thank you Clean-Flo from all of us here at Spring Valley Estates, for all of your expertise and assistance. Our leap of faith has paid off. We look forward to continuing to work with you in helping to keep our lake healthy.

P.S., if fish could talk, they would be thanking you also for improving their habitat.

Paul Turner – SVE Board Member & Lake Committee Chair