

**Recollections of Last Summer's Algae Bloom**  
**On Woahink Lake**  
March 2, 2006

On or about the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 2005 I began to notice a strange smell from our tap water. Suspecting a malfunction of our filtering system I carefully checked out the filters and sterilizer (we use UV radiation) and found that there was no problem that I could determine. I then called my next-door neighbor and asked if he had noticed any unusual odor from his tap water. He had noticed something, he said. Since he has a similar system to mine, I then called another neighbor whom I knew did not have the same type of system (they were using a chlorinator). They reported that they did NOT notice any problem with their water. Not knowing what to expect, I decided that we would boil the water we drank just in case there was something our filter system was missing. After a few days had passed, the odor got noticeably worse, and neighbors were talking to one another about the problem. It was definitely a fishy odor, which sometimes was strong enough to taste. I mentioned that boiling the water and passing it through a filter pitcher seemed to reduce and sometimes even eliminate the odor that was apparently volatile enough to have evaporated during the boiling process. It quickly became apparent that those of us with the UV systems were all experiencing the odor problem and those using the chlorinator systems were not. I suspect that is because the chlorinated systems all used a charcoal final stage filter to eliminate the chlorine odor and taste, and this was apparently eliminating the fishy odor of the algae also.

The problem worsened and then got better, and when we thought it was about gone, it worsened again. I began thinking about moving my charcoal filter to the end of the filter chain after the UV system, and adding a temporary chlorine drip ahead of the filters, but before I could implement that idea, the problem began to taper off around the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, and was completely gone by the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. We had another episode around the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, but it only lasted a few days, and the odor was not as strong. There have not been any problems during the winter months.

Jerry Ferree  
83511 South Cove Way  
Dunes City