

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : epidemic in the honey hole!

Re: epidemic in the honey hole!

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URL:

I'm not discounting some sort of contaminant. But this isn't uncommon, and the most common culprit is low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, which can happen quite naturally.

Turnover of water is one common culprit in the fall and spring, bringing the oxygen depleted water from the bottom to the top, and vice versa. Also, poorly timed algae blooms can do it. In a perfect world, algae actually creates oxygen in the water. But this is only true during photosynthesis. On cloudy days, at night, etc., it consumes more than it makes. Likewise, dying algae consumes more than it makes.

So my guess may be that the premature warmth caused an algae bloom. But that's bad this early, days are too short and nights too long. Get a few cooler, cloudy days, and it dies. Low water doesn't help either, less supply of good clean water that feeds the pond.