



# WESTCHESTER

Search our site



Past 7 Days

[Advanced search tips](#)

## SERVICES

- Subscriber Services
- E-Newsletter Signup

## NEWS

- Westchester
- Rockland
- Putnam
- New York
- Newswatch: Iraq
- Crime/Public Safety
- Education
- Environment
- Gov't&Politics
- Health
- Religion
- Transportation
- Obituaries
- Weekly Publications

## SHOPPING

- Shopping
- Coupons
- Local Stores

## PHOTOS

- Daily gallery
- Local sports
- Special galleries
- Order reprints

## SPORTS

- NY report
- Varsity Central:
- HS Sports
- Outdoors
- All-Stars
  - Rockland
  - West.-Putnam
- Columnists
  - Rick Carpinello
  - Jane McManus
  - Ian O'Connor
  - Glenn Sapir
- 60 seconds
- Behind the scenes
- National
- Suburban Golf

## BUSINESS

- Business News
- Markets
- Local stocks
- Real estate
- Technology
- David Scheppe

## LIVING

[E-mail this story to a friend](#)      [View printer-friendly version](#)

## Weeds choke lakes as new rules delay cleanup permits

By **SEAN GORMAN**  
THE JOURNAL NEWS  
*(Original publication: June 21, 2005)*

LEWISBORO — The view of Lake Katonah from a pair of nearby benches yesterday offered a tranquil picture of ducks resting on a floating platform and ripples forming over the water.

But passers-by need only look down at the water's edge to spot the swath of stringy, brownish weeds submerged in the lake amid patches of green, bubbly algae.

Jeff Mear, chairman of the Lake Katonah Club lake committee, said the offending vegetation should be gone by now, but new state environmental requirements have caused delays all over the region in getting annual spring permits to snuff out pesky plant life in lakes.

As a result, almost all of Lake Katonah's 24 acres is now filled with unwanted vegetation, Mear said. About a week ago, neighbors around the lake waded into the swimming area and, using hands and rakes, tore out about 2,000 pounds of weeds, Mear said.

"It took us 10 hours over two days just to clear the small swim area," Mear said last week. "These weeds can grow 3, 4 inches a day. They grow like crazy."

Glenn Sullivan, the president of Allied Biological, a Hackettstown, N.J., company that applied for Lake Katonah's pesticide permit, said the DEC this year required additional paperwork to get the permit. The extra steps include an additional period for public comment and a form asking for information on the history of the lake's management and whether any endangered species are in or around the water body, Sullivan said.

Wendy Rosenbach, a DEC spokeswoman, said the agency this year adopted stricter rules for obtaining aquatic pesticide permits, and that has caused a slowdown.

"There is a backlog," Rosenbach said. "... We're working on them as quickly as possible to make sure they get out in a timely way."

Lakes that meet certain criteria — such as those that are of special regional concern, those that cover more than 6.4 acres, or those that have endangered, threatened or rare species — are now reviewed by the agency's Division of Environmental Permits, which Rosenbach said entails a more comprehensive examination.

"We're just taking a more careful look at them ... to be more environmentally safe," Rosenbach said.

The DEC's Web site this week shows there have been about 20 applications to put aquatic pesticides in water bodies in Westchester and Putnam counties, including lakes in Bedford, North Castle, Carmel and Kent. In all of DEC's Region 3 — which has headquarters in New Paltz and covers Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan and Orange counties — 62 applications have been referred to the Environmental Permits Division, Rosenbach said. Of those, only four have been approved. Rosenbach couldn't specify which ones.

Sullivan's company, Allied Biological, also applied for a permit to eradicate weeds in Truesdale Lake, an 83-acre water body in South Salem. That permit received approval last

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED  
**PRISCO**  
Appliances, Televisions  
and Electronics  
*"The Satisfied Customer Comes First"*

**one student  
at a time**

Basketball Poles  
Game Tables  
Rec. Equipment

**CLICK HERE  
TO VIEW  
THE HOUSE**

**First Choice  
Realty Plus**  
914-667-9100

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Life&Style  
Antiques  
Day in the Life  
Calendar  
Travel  
Intown  
Celebrations  
The Bridal Book

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Dining  
For kids  
Games  
Movies  
Music  
Theater  
THE LINE

**WEEKLIES**  
The Patent Trader  
Review Press

**OPINION**  
Editorials  
Letters  
Matt Davies  
• The Pulitzer Prize  
Community Views  
Columnists  
• Bob Baird  
• Arthur Gunther  
• Laurie Nikolski  
• Phil Reisman

**CLASSIFIED**  
Jobs  
Homes  
Cars  
Grocery Coupons  
Local Classifieds  
Local Stores

**FYI**  
Corrections  
News Standards  
About us  
Contact Us  
FAQ  
Subscribe  
How to advertise

week, Sullivan said. Last year, pesticide already had been applied to the lake by mid-May.

"It's a little bit weedy. It depends on who you talk to," Gary Struve, a member of the South Salem lake's management committee, said last week. "It can make it difficult for sailboats."

Lake Dutchess, which is on the border of Pawling and Kent, is still awaiting its permit to kill algae.

"It's like green jello. ... The homeowners are furious," said Patrice George, a member of the Lake Dutchess Association. "I don't understand this at all. This is not a new application. This is something we've been doing forever, as other lakes in our area have done."

At Lake Katonah, the average water depth is only about 5 feet, meaning sunlight can easily reach the lake floor and spur weed growth, said Mear, who hopes the permit comes through this week.

One type of vegetation in the lake — curly leaf pond weed — is an invasive species, Sullivan said, meaning it eventually will crowd out the lake's indigenous vegetation.

The plant growth was particularly bad last weekend, said Cheryl Neuburger, who lives near Lake Katonah and tried to take a boat out on it.

"You can't even row. It was like rowing on a carpet," Neuburger, 39, said after dropping her children off at a bus stop next to the lake yesterday. "You put the oars in, and you come up with, literally, 20 pounds (of weeds and algae) on one oar."

---

[Home](#) - [Business](#) - [Sports](#) - [Life&Style](#) - [Classified](#) - [TheLine](#) - [E-Newsletter Signup](#) - [Contact Us](#) - 914-694-9300 - [Obituaries](#)  
- [Newspaper Subscriptions](#) - [How To Advertise](#) - [About Us](#) - [Job Opportunities](#)

**This site is best viewed using Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape 6.0**



Copyright 2005 The Journal News, a [Gannett Co.](#) Inc. newspaper serving Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties in New York.

Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) (updated 12/17/2002)