

# TABB LAKES NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010



## RAIN, RAIN, RAIN....— DAVE WEST

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It has been fairly wet over the past few months. According to NOAA, the Norfolk, VA climate summary for the year of 2009 was 64.66 inches of precipitation. The normal is 45.74 inches.

These wet conditions are great for ducks, fish, and mosquitoes. Along with that comes the prime conditions for mold, mildew, and algae.

Home exteriors, sides and roofs, will be vulnerable to all three of these life forms. Fortunately, they do have a lower IQ than humans (so I've been told). When any of these appear on your home, the appearance is of concern to the neighborhood. Any home can be cited for allowing their growth to persist. Here is some background for consideration. Each of these can look the same, but their affects are different. We could just call it organic growth, but the terms have become separate in everyday terms.

**Algae** can be identified as the green, red, or brown spots that grow on damp surfaces that get extended periods of sunlight. This airborne living organism can occur on almost any building material, including wooden siding and brick.

**Mildew** is a mold or fungus that usually grows in moist, shaded areas. Mildew is a misnomer. As a living organism, a fungus, it is normally observed as a black or dull gray deposit on exterior and interior surfaces that appears like dirt, but does not come off with detergent.

**Lichens** are growing organisms that are a little tougher to remove. They leave roots, dirt and sap that work together to stain painted surfaces.

**Mold** on the exterior of your home is usually in the form of green moss. Since moss is a form of mold it can "deteriorate or eat up the outside of the home" according to Kevin Bristol President of Advance Mold Remediation. Mold can also make your house look dirty and old and wreak havoc on your paint job.

Mold is a dangerous thing to leave growing on or in your home. Not only is it dangerous for the structure of your home but also for your health. The health conditions that can result from being exposed to mold are headaches, asthma, allergies and more. "Green moss or [mold] can cause allergic reactions when touched, but not very many people have allergies to moss." states Bristol.

[http://www.essortment.com/articles/prevent-mold-exterior\\_3620.htm](http://www.essortment.com/articles/prevent-mold-exterior_3620.htm)

### More info from another source

#### **Mildew**

Mildew does not grow directly on a surface but on the accumulation of dust and other organic materials that settle on it. In addition to a food source, warmth, moisture, and a shady location all encourage the growth of mildew. The most common types of mildew are black or gray but some are green or even red in color. Mildew is a surface problem that

(Continued on page 3)

**CLEAN YOUR ROOF—**

**MARK BUBERL, PROJECT MANAGER, LA JOLLA PACIFIC, LTD.**

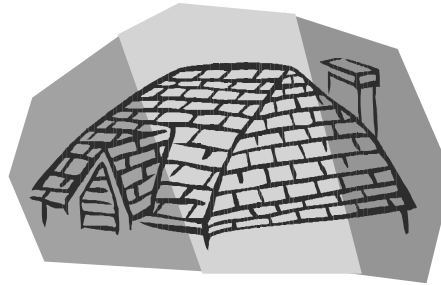
Who would have ever thought that cleaning your roof was important? Well, if you don't clean your roof and allow moss and algae to grow on the surface of your roof, you have an increased potential for rot, and the useful life of the roof will be decreased. If you have moss or algae growth, you have too much moisture. Moss cannot grow without adequate moisture, which means that the shady areas of the roof or the areas not getting direct

sunlight are more prone to problems.

Working on the roof can be very dangerous. Unfortunately, though, someone has to get on the roof to do the actual scrubbing. Use all possible precautions.

Cleaning the roof involves mixing a cleaning solution and applying it to the roof surface and scrubbing away the stains. Chlorine bleach is NOT recommended as it

can be both dangerous



and toxic to use while also removing natural colors from surfaces. A better roof cleaner is sodium percarbonate, also known as oxygen bleach. Follow directions for mixing the solution and apply to the roof; wait about twenty minutes,

then lightly scrub the area. **BE CAREFUL.** It is possible to protect your roof from further moss and algae growth by applying copper strips to the roof. Each time it rains some copper molecules wash down onto the roof and create a poisonous environment for both the moss and algae.

**ODE TO THE GREAT LIGHTS OF TABB LAKES— DAVE WEST**

'Tis the tale of Lake One and Lake Two That brings out those that help. The neighbors so true. To keep down the level of the kelp.

This message from TLHA president, Is neither Frost nor Service, For there are four+ people, That fill the void, the crevice.

Bill Hopkins has been here,

A long time so it seems That he has been involved. His perspective does gleam.

Bob Spell is the lake guy That does love his boat. From his cul-de-sac living He brings us much hope.

Ron Maddox is quiet, The Duke of the crew. His soft spoken ways, As VP, he'll listen to you.

Then there's Dave West, A blonde to the bone. As Pres for another year, Tabb Lakes he calls home.

The Committee's are in need, Few positions are filled. Thank you, Charlie R, Lou and Gary, Shirley and Clint, Christel hangs in there, too, For the long hours spent.

These are the board and committees, The long serving humble, the few. More help would be nice, How about any of you?

**Volunteer!**

**STORMWATER COMMITTEE – LOU LAFRENAYE**

On 11-13 Nov 2009, we had the first test of our upgraded drainage system. The Nor'easter (also known as Nor" Ida since it was remnants of Hurricane Ida) dropped 11 inches of rain on our community. The good news is that our lakes rose only 31 inches from the rainstorm and not high enough to flood any roads or homes. That was due to the recent drainage

improvements that added a second 24" drainage pipe at our Lake 1 outflow area, a larger drainage pipe inserted under Route 171 (Victory Boulevard), along with drainage ditch improvements in that area. These improvements allowed more water to flow out of our lakes during the



storm preventing the lakes from overflowing into homes. The last flooding event in our neighborhood occurred on 1 Sept 2006 during

Tropical Storm Ernesto. That storm dropped 10" of rain in a short time and our lakes rose 54" flooding roads and homes on Bridge Wood Drive, Leslie Lane, and Monty Manor. The drainage improvements mentioned above had not been made at that time.

**RAIN, RAIN, RAIN... (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

can occur on siding, shingles, decks, patios, roofing materials, stucco, driveways, and even concrete. Normally it does not affect the strength or other important properties of exterior surfaces. It just looks bad.

**How To Test For Mildew**  
 Many times mildew looks like dirty spots and is hard to visually identify. An easy way to test to see if it is present is to dab a drop or two of a fresh bleach solution. Some would recommend using an oxygen bleach solution (1 tsp. dissolved in a pint of hot water) or 3% hydrogen peroxide, but you can use chlorine bleach as well. Mildew

will usually bleach out in a minute or two. Dark areas that do not bleach are probably dirt.

**Other Common Exterior Stains**

These can generally include tannins from leaves, algae, mold, animal and bird droppings, organic matter, food, grease and oil.

**Traditional Methods For Removing Exterior Organic Stains vs. Using Oxygen Bleach based products like Deck and Patio Cleaner**

Traditional methods many times involve the use of harsh toxic chemicals and acids like chlorine bleach, TSP

(trisodium phosphate), lye or oxalic acid. Care must be taken not to spill these materials as they can harm you, your pets, plants, clothing or other sensitive materials. Pressure washers are also used, because they are fast and can easily reach inaccessible areas like pitched roofs or second floors. However, they can also erode sensitive wood shingles, wood decks, or other exterior surfaces.

**A Word On Pressure Washer Use**

While power washers can make it easier to clean inaccessible and/or pitched areas on roofs or decks, care must be

taken when using them. Too high of a pressure can damage. Also washers that blend water with the cleaning solution can dilute it too much to do any effective cleaning. In general, using a pressure washer to rinse the roof after the cleaning solution has been applied and had a chance to work is the best situation.

*[http://www.oxyboost.com/wooddeck\\_pages/exterior.html#other](http://www.oxyboost.com/wooddeck_pages/exterior.html#other)*

**TABB LAKES EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE—LOU LAFRENAYE**

**Heating Things Up  
.....Safely!**

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January, and February; and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round. York County Department of Fire & Life Safety has experienced this firsthand. Its emergency response crews repeatedly respond to kitchen fires and heating equipment fires.

The primary cause of the kitchen fires responded to in the county is unattended cooking. Leaving the kitchen while something is on/in the stove, in the microwave or toaster or toaster oven is NEVER a good idea. The intention may be to just briefly leave the kitchen, but distractions happen and the results can be devastating.

During the colder months, the primary source of heating

equipment fires in the county is chimneys that are in need of repair or cleaning.



**Facts & figures**

- In 2002, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 45,500 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments. These fires caused an estimated 220 civilian fire deaths, 990 civilian fire injuries, and \$449 million in direct property damage.

- These fires fell 14% from the 2001 total to the lowest point since data collection began. Deaths from these fires fell 12% and injuries fell 11%.

- Fireplaces or chimneys rank first in the number of fires among types of heating equipment. Most of these were caused by creosote build-up.

- Portable and fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, caused a disproportionate share of the home heating

fire deaths. Space heaters were involved in 25% of the home heating fires but 74% of the deaths.

- The leading cause of space heater fires was combustibles too close to the heater, except for wood stoves, where the leading cause was creosote build-up, and fixed electric space heaters, where the leading cause was equipment unattended.

*Source: Fire statistics were derived from NFPA's annual fire department survey. Detailed statistics were derived by NFPA from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and NFPA's fire department survey.*

**Safety tips:**

- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory, and be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician, according to manufacturer's

instructions or applicable codes. Make sure a qualified technician checks to see that the unit has been properly installed.

- Keep or maintain a 36-inch (1-meter) clearance between space heaters and anything that can burn.

- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave the room or go to bed.

- Have any gas-fueled heating device installed with proper attention to ventilation. If unvented gas space heaters are used in bedrooms or bathrooms, make sure they are small and well mounted. NFPA codes prohibit use of liquefied petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies.

- Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, chimney connectors and all other solid-fueled heating equipment inspected annually by a professional, and cleaned as often as inspections suggest.

(Continued on page 5)

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMITTEE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)**

Use only wood that is properly seasoned to reduce creosote build-up.

- When burning wood in fireplaces or wood stoves, it is important to use properly seasoned wood. The U.S. Department of Energy cautions that

green wood has more moisture and is likely to smolder, leading to more creosote build-up. They recommend a moisture content of 20-25%, noting that wood that is too well seasoned may also result in creosote build-up.

- Make sure your

fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.

- Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each

sleeping area.

If you have any questions or need further information on fire prevention and safety, please call the York County Fire & Life Safety office at 890-3600 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFO...FROM LOU LAFRENAYE**

**York County has an agreement with radio station WXGM - FM 99.1 to broadcast York County specific information at set times during an emergency.** For more information on preparing for emergencies, go to our Tabb Lakes Emergency Response

Committee web site located at <http://www.tabblakes.org/CERT/things.html>. **The York County Fire and Life Safety has recently updated their web page and address.** It is now located at [www.yorkcounty.gov/Default.aspx?alias=www.yorkcount.y.gov/fire](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/Default.aspx?alias=www.yorkcount.y.gov/fire)

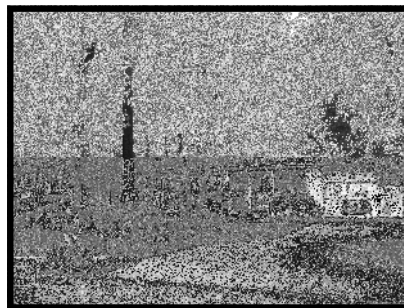
Information on fire safety, community programs, and CERT training can be found at their web site.

**The York-Poquoson Chapter of the American Red Cross has updated their web site [WWW.YPCREDCROSS.ORG](http://WWW.YPCREDCROSS.ORG)** The site includes an updated

calendar that shows upcoming red cross classes. I noticed that a new class has been added to their list called "Dog and Cat Pet First Aid". This class is scheduled for Saturday, February 20. Check the calendar at their web site for times or call 898-3090 for more information.

**YARD OF THE MONTH**

There is no recognition for yards during December-February. We will begin again in March. At that time, if you would like to nominate your yard or a neighbor's, please contact Cox-Lee Management (886-3022) and submit the name and address.



NOVEMBER  
105 Naurene Court  
Allan and Lillian Resnick

If you are receiving this newsletter via USPS and would rather receive it electronically, please go to our website: [www.tabblakes.org](http://www.tabblakes.org) and fill out the form. Of course, you could always download it from the web at any time! Save your home association some money in postage and printing!

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These advertisements are not an endorsement by the Tabb Lakes Homes Association. If you would like your ad to appear in our newsletter, please see our web-site for proper procedures.

**Your ad  
 could have  
 been here!**

NOTE: There was no newsletter published 4th quarter 2009.

**Tabb Lakes Homes Association**  
**P.O. Box 8088, Tabb, Virginia 23693**  
Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Request for Approval

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of request: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of modification:** (deck, patio, outbuilding, addition, fence, etc.)

**Plans and specifications:** Please attach a copy of plat with a sketch of proposed modification. Show approximate shape & measurements. List colors and materials to be used if needed for approval.

*I have provided an accurate representation of the planned modification. I will notify the ARC of any changes that need to be made which would affect their approval prior to resuming work on the project.*

Signature of homeowner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Homeowner check list:**

- County permits: 890-3522
- Call Miss Utility before digging, to locate underground utilities: 1-800-552-7001

**Committee Action** Date of receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Approval by maintenance committee (i.e. mods affecting lake area)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as submitted
- \_\_\_\_\_ Approved subject to modifications as required by covenants
- \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved for reason listed on reverse side

**Architectural Review Committee signature and date:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

You may return this form to any of the persons listed below for processing. Mailing will delay the review process by approximately one week. To submit online, see our website at <http://tabblakes.org/>

**Tabb Lakes Homes Association Officers**

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Dave West	534-7442
Vice President	Ron Maddox	867-7261
Member-At-Large	Bob Spell	867-8184
Member-At-Large	Bill Hopkins	867-9229

**TABB LAKES HOMES  
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 8088

Yorktown, VA 23693

<http://www.tabblakes.org>

Don't forget Valentine's Day is February 14!

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Activities	Vacant		
Architectural Review	Vacant		
Emergency Response	Lou Lafrenaye	867-8333	tlert@tabblakes.org
Grounds Maintenance	Bill Hopkins	867-9229	grounds@tabblakes.org
Lake Maintenance (Lake 1)	Bob Spell	867-8184	lakemaint1@tabblakes.org
Lake Maintenance (Lake 2)	Gary Porter	867-9120	lakesmaint2@tabblakes.org
Neighborhood Watch	Christel Doucette	867-8863	watch@tabblakes.org
Newsletter Editor	Shirley Flanagan	867-6860	newsletter@tabblakes.org
Stormwater	Lou Lafrenaye	867-8333	stormwater@tabblakes.org
Web-Site Manager	Clint Flanagan	867-6860	webmaster@tabblakes.org
Welcome	Vacant		