Where did that green carpet that covered the lake last week come from?

From the depths of the sea! Or, less dramatically, from the bottom of Rock Lake.

Rock Lake is a deep lake that "turns over" or "mixes" twice a year. This happens in the spring and fall when the water temperatures throughout the entire water column are consistently the same. So the phosphorus that was contained in the bottom layer of the lake has now been mixed throughout the water column. This results is an algae bloom. It isn't something to be overly concerned about—it is part of the workings of a deep lake. But it does again remind us that we want to be diligent in preventing phosphorus entering the lake. (At the risk of being repetitive—remember to keep leaves from washing into storm drains or rain water washing through the leaves to the storm drain.)

Even though much of the phosphorus sits on the bottom most of the time, the turning over of the water twice a year reminds us that it is there. Activities on the lake can be another cause of it rising throughout the water column. Boat motors can disturb the bottom from power loading and also from too much power being used in shallow areas, even if the propeller does not touch the bottom of the lake. One of the many reasons for slow-no-wake zones along shorelines!

If you have a question for Rock Lake Improvement Association, please go to www.rocklake.org or mail it to P.O.Box 255.