

# New formulations move care of waterways into advanced stages

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Early- to mid-spring — before the initial growth of organic material has begun — is the best time to apply lake dyes, according to Barry Lancaster, wholesale manager for Precision Laboratories Inc., makers of True Blue.

"In a pristine lake in northern Minnesota, with no water entering or leaving, a single application in the early spring would get you through most of

the summer," Lancaster said.

"As you move south, there is more direct sunlight and organic material in the water. That contributes to the deterioration of the dye. If you put it in now [early spring] before vegetation growth really gets started, you would probably have to supplement it just once in late June or early July."

While dyes help beautify water features, especially come

tournament time, superintendents are also discovering they can help speed of play, Lancaster added.

"If someone hits a ball into a treated pond, they won't be able to see it unless it's in less than a foot of water," Lancaster explained.

"So rather than wasting time looking for it, most golfers just drop another ball and keep playing. At some courses, that's helped add another foursome

or two a day."

Lancaster estimates the average course spends \$500 annually on lake dyes. Eighty percent of True Blue's sales are to golf courses, he added.

Dyes have also been shown to be environmentally friendly. Becker-Underwood spent \$24,000 on an independent study to test the effects of its colorant on plants and animals, Underwood said.

"It was shown to be

completely non-toxic, even when used at rates up to 167 times the labeled rate," he reported.

Otterbine-Barebo Inc. began marketing a lake dye called Ottershield through its aeration equipment distributors about a year ago.

"It's very effective in quarter-to-half-acre ponds and has been well received so far," said Marketing Manager Carla Barebo.

## Enter The Becker-Underwood Lake Colorant WSP™ Contest!



BEFORE

**WIN  
\$1000**

Lake Colorant WSP™ is the fast, economical way to turn pale, dirty or off-colored water into a natural-appearing, healthy, translucent blue. Just toss in the recommended number of water soluble packets. Then, step back and watch. It's that easy!

Lake Colorant WSP is the perfect way to brighten landscapes that have water accents, to add sparkle and beauty to golf course water hazards and ponds and fountains in office parks.



AFTER

Now, you could win up to \$1,000 in Becker-Underwood's Lake Colorant WSP contest. It's easy to enter, too. Take a color photo or slide of the body of water you plan to color *before* treatment. Then, toss in the recommended number of packets of Lake Colorant WSP. *After* treatment, take another color photo or slide showing how Lake Colorant WSP improved the appearance of the water. These before and after photos/slides will be used to determine the prize winners.

### Follow these simple rules:

1. Any body of water can qualify for entry (ponds, fountains, golf course water hazards, etc.)
2. Only Lake Colorant WSP can be used to qualify for contest. Product must be used according to label directions.
3. Lake Colorant WSP product must be purchased between August 1, 1993 and July 1, 1994.
4. All entries must be postmarked by July 31, 1994.
5. To enter the contest, send "before" and "after" color photos or slides, proof-of-purchase of Lake Colorant WSP, and a brief description about how you used the product to:  
**Lake Colorant WSP Contest, P.O. Box 667, Ames, Iowa 50010**
6. Prizes awarded are as follows:  
1st Place — \$1,000    2nd Place — \$500    3rd Place — \$250
7. Decisions of the judges are final. Entries cannot be returned and therefore become the property of Becker-Underwood, Inc.
8. Winners agree to allow Becker-Underwood to use their names, photos and/or statements for promotional purposes.
9. For the names of the winners, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to: Becker-Underwood Contest Winners, P.O. Box 667, Ames, Iowa 50010

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### Calls galore

## Border collie solution wins over supers

By MARK LESLIE

GREENWICH, Conn. — Superintendents interested in buying border collies trained to herd geese off their golf courses can directly telephone the source — and get Richard Marcks off the hook, so to speak.

His phone "has been ringing constantly" since Golf Course News published an article about his border collie herding geese at Fairview Country Club here, Marcks said.

Marcks, who called the border collie idea "the hottest thing since peanut butter," said please call the trainer — Barbara Ligon — at 804-263-5912.

Marcks has been forwarding his many calls to Ligon, whose address is Rt. 1, Box 147, Shipman, Va. 22971.

"Our supply [of trained dogs] is getting low," Ligon said. "Calls have come in from coast to coast."

Since Marcks started spreading the word of his success with his dog Tac at Fairview two years ago, Ligon has supplied 15 dogs to golf courses in Connecticut and New York.

Greenwich's Parks and Recreation Department bought two dogs in April to rid its five parks of the messy geese.

Normally working with sheep, the border collies at Ligon's are trained specifically to herd geese as well. She uses a small fenced-in pond and a flock of mallard ducks.

Ligon charges \$350 per month to train a border collie.

An advance-trained dog, neutered and with all its vaccinations, can cost \$2,000 to \$2,500. She includes a video-taped demonstration of each dog working and also trains the new owners on the commands.

"I'm guaranteeing [the dogs] it's going to be a wonderful home because they end up being the hero of the golf course," Ligon said.