

As a side note, the almost immediate response to this email from over 40 members was overwhelmingly thankful and appreciative for it.

Dear MDSA MEMBER:

Lake Minnewaska is a unique and fragile natural environment. The use of cosmetic products including sunscreen, lotions, and deodorant that come off of human bodies in the water is detrimental to the Lake, and profoundly unpleasant for other swimmers. Those who have the need to protect themselves from the sun when swimming should consider a swim costume that offers UV protection and is appropriate for a natural environment. In other words, put on a shirt (check out www.swimoutlet.com).

This is an important environmental issue. Swimming in the Lake is not like swimming in a pool, which is already a chemical cocktail. We cannot ban sunscreen, but as swimmers you need to understand how harmful it is to the natural environment. AND, none of us wants to taste someone else's scented body lotions, perfumes, powders, and deodorants while swimming in our beloved Lake Minnewaska!

This is not an original idea. In many places (Mexico and soon Hawaii, e.g.), banning most sunscreens because of the harmful chemicals in them is law. And think of the harm the chemicals are doing to your skin.

If you insist on putting on creams, please do it sparingly at home and give your skin a chance to take it in. Sunscreen put on just before entering the water will only come off in the water and does absolutely no good yet causes harm.

**Thank you for your consideration,
Judy Mage and Stephanie Bludau Tor, MDSA Co-coordinators**