

****Press Release ** For Immediate Use July 3 2018 **Press Release****

Harmful Algal Blooms on Cayuga Lake

Get to know the monitoring program and learn what to do if you see a bloom

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) were a big problem on Cayuga Lake during 2017. On July 2 and 3, 2018, suspicious blooms are being reported at Long Point State Park on the lake's east shore, and on the Romulus shoreline across the lake. Pasted below and attached is "Harmful Algal Bloom update 1", a newsletter for the week of July 2, 2018. In it the public will find answers to their questions about what HABs are, and where to report it when they see one.

The basic message is: if you see a bloom, don't touch it. Keep your children and dogs away. Report the bloom to habshotline@gmail.com with location, time, date and two photos.

Please read more and share widely with the public.

We will be producing and sharing the newsletters regularly during the HABs season ahead.

For more information contact:

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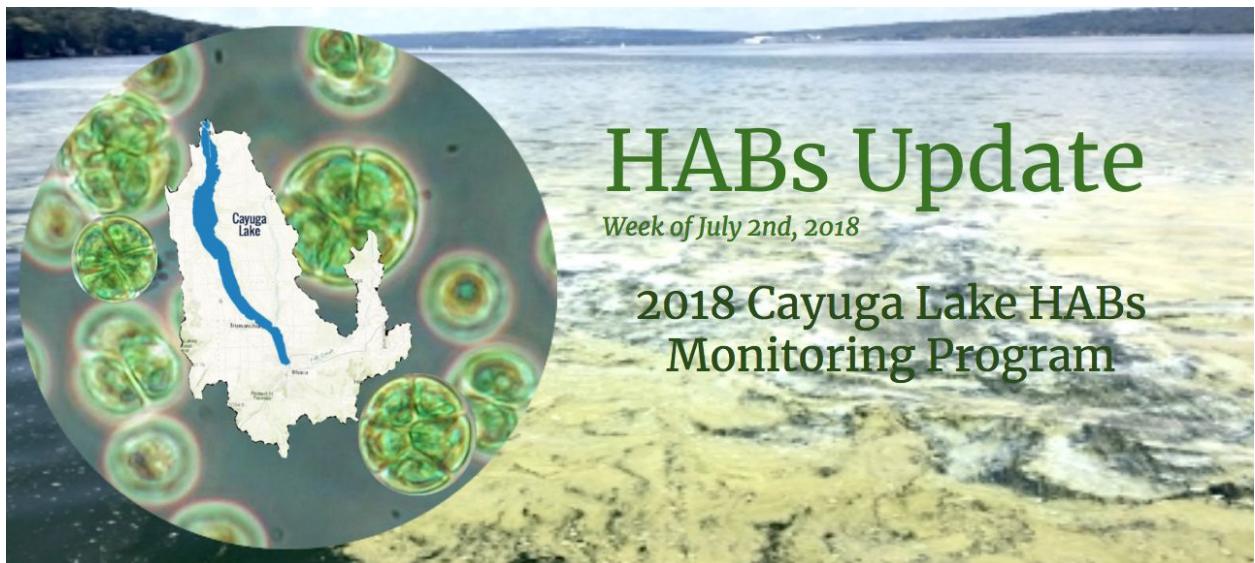
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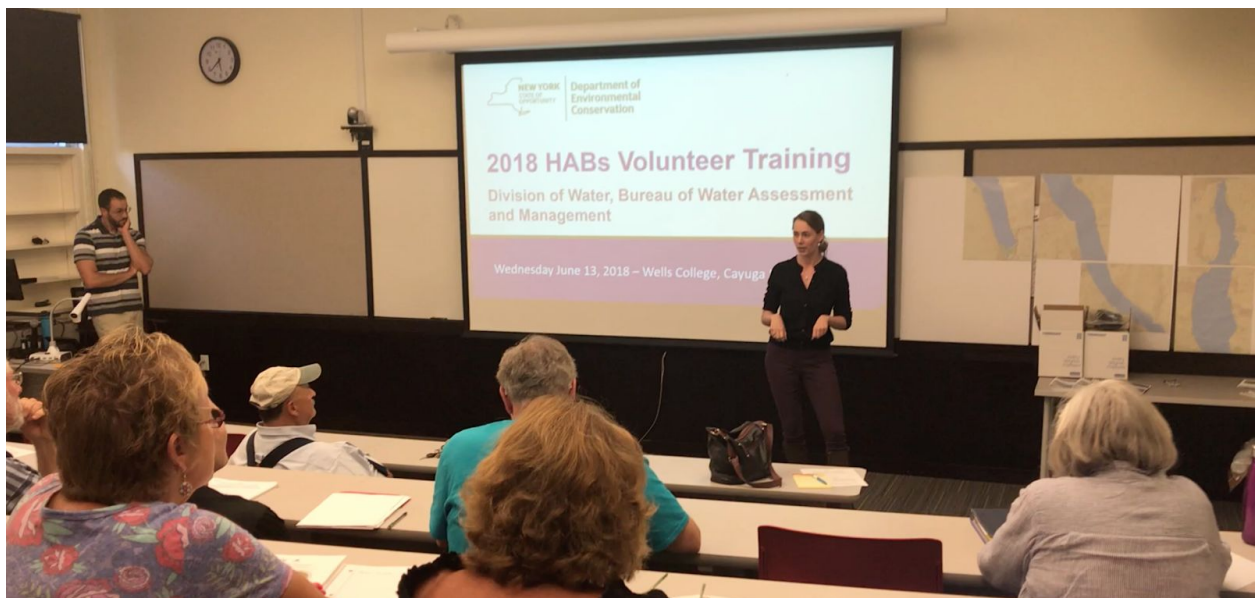


Harmful Algal Bloom Update 1

Cyanobacteria blooms, commonly referred to as harmful algal blooms (HABs), pose a threat to Cayuga Lake. They can produce toxins that lead to sickness and even death in people and pets, and they have the potential to undermine Cayuga Lake as a source of drinking water and a desirable place to live or spend a vacation. Last year, over 40 blooms were reported on Cayuga Lake, but only a fraction of those reported blooms were sampled and analyzed for toxins. This year, we are working together to track, understand, and ultimately manage this emerging threat.

We have recruited over fifty people around the lake to train as HABs monitors. They will patrol a designated stretch of shoreline once a week, report on absence or presence of HABs, and, if a HAB is found or suspected, take a sample and rush it to CSI's lab near the Tompkins County Airport. This rapid response model is based on what Owasco and Seneca Lake (100 people this year!) have done in previous years. As a result we will be able to report to the public around the lake quickly and efficiently when a HAB is spotted, exactly where it is, and learn if it is toxic or not, much faster than last summer.

HABs Harrier volunteers will be tracking where and when HABs blooms arise to keep the public safe from the toxins that are frequently found in the blooms. HABs Harrier are assigned to a stretch of lakefront to survey once a week and to collect samples if blooms are spotted. These samples will be analyzed for toxicity and all results will be sent to the public to alert them of a bloom in their area. The HABs monitors ensure that more of the lake has eyes on it, making the process of identifying blooms and keeping the public safe from exposure much faster.



The objective of this monitoring program is two-fold:

1. Maintain vigilant surveillance of the Cayuga Lake shoreline to observe and sample suspicious algal blooms so that users of the water in affected areas may be alerted to any threat the bloom may pose

2. Build a long-term HABs dataset that can help us understand where, and under what conditions, cyanobacteria most commonly bloom in Cayuga Lake. Establishing a robust dataset is the first step in effectively managing and ultimately preventing HABs.



If you see a HAB, avoid it and report it. Keep kids and pets away!

Quickly notify us at habshotline@gmail.com

We need the following information:

1. **Pictures** of the bloom
2. **Location** of bloom (GPS coordinates are highly preferable but approximate address and nearby landmarks will also do)
3. **Date** and **time** when pictures were taken.

A trained HABs Harrier will respond, and take a sample for analysis if needed. We'll let you know what we find out.



To see where HABs have been spotted on Cayuga Lake:

Check out the following map provided by the Community Science Institute:

<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

Check out the DEC HABs Notification Page:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>



To learn more about HABs with links to research, the global scope of this problem, and information about possible causes and solutions, check out our HABs page at www.cayugalake.org/harmful-algal-blooms-habs-immediate-action-and-information.html



The Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program is a collaborative effort led by a local consortium of three nonprofits: The Community Science Institute (CSI), the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN), and Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL), working in collaboration with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the State University of New York Environmental School of Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

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