



HABS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2022 CAYUGA LAKE HABS MONITORING PROGRAM

Photo credit: Bill Ebert, volunteer HABS harrier

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by CLWN Staff Intern Adele
Hancock

THIS WEEK'S CONTENTS:

HABs Update/Information
Chart
pg. 1

Interview with HABs
Harrier Hollie
pg. 4

Watershed Friendly Living
in Climate Change
pg. 5

FAQs
pg. 6

HABs Update

This week Cayuga Lake has had **seven confirmed blooms**, with one suspicious bloom. All seven samples taken are listed in the chart on pages two and three. These blooms have been in **all quadrants** of the lake.

In this week's newsletter we wanted to talk about watershed friendly living in the face of climate change. Scroll to page 5 for some tips to lessen your impact on the watershed.

We also have an interview with HABs Harrier Hollie Ellison, on page 4. Read to learn more about Hollie and what she likes about living on Cayuga Lake.

The latest incoming HABs reports can be viewed at the [Community Science Institute's HABs Reporting Page](#).

All of the previous HABs newsletters can be found at the [2022 HABs Update Page](#).

HABs Update

On the right side of the page is a Map of Cayuga Lake indicating the location of this week's HAB reports.

Index of pin color and meaning:

Purple pins: Unsafe bloom! Microcystin toxin concentration exceeds the limit for contact recreation (4.0 µg/L).

Black pins: Cyanobacteria are present in bloom (HAB) sample. Potentially toxic/harmful bloom. No sample collected.

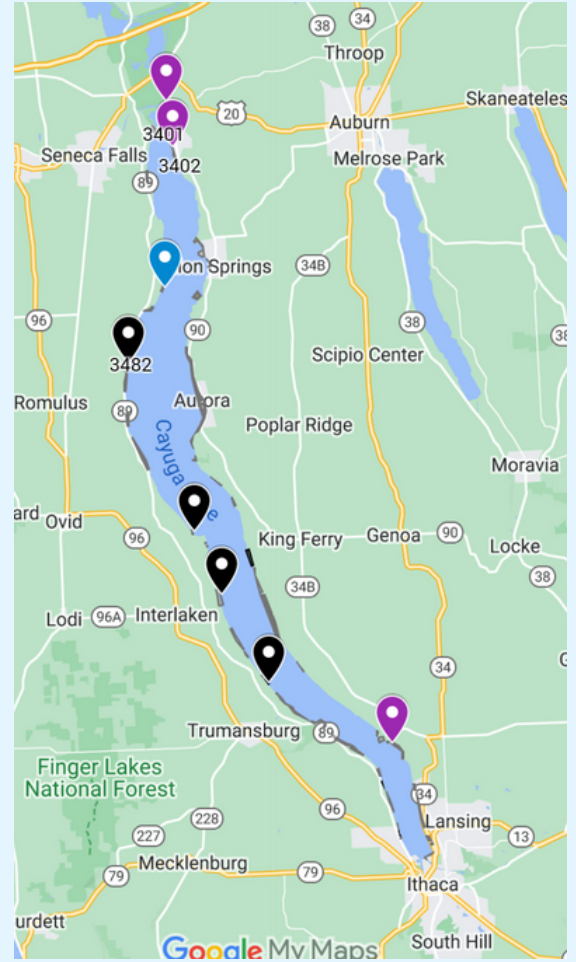
Blue pins: Suspicious HAB

Green pins: Cyanobacteria bloom with a microcystin toxin concentration less than the drinking water limit (0.3 µg/L).

Yellow pins: Cyanobacteria bloom with a microcystin toxin concentration in between the drinking water limit (0.3 µg/L) and the limit for contact recreation (4.0 µg/L).

Small green circle: Indicates that the bloom reported is an extension of a previously reported bloom.

To navigate the HABs map up close, visit CSI's [2022 Cayuga Lake HABs Reporting Map](#)



HABs Information Chart: 9/9 to 9/16

Dates presented are the date the sample was received at the CSI lab.

Total chlorophyll a is used to estimate the biomass of the cyanobacteria bloom

Microcystin is the harmful toxin that cyanobacteria produce. Microcystin toxin levels are used to measure toxicity of a bloom.

Bloom Code	Date	Location Description	Bloom extent	Microscopy	Total Chlorophyll (ug/L)	Microcystin Toxin (ug/L)	Bloom Status
22-3475-B5	9/9	Harris Park swim area, Cayuga, NY	small localized	moderate Microcystis, sparse Dolichospermum	results pending	50.2	Cyanobacteria are present in Bloom (HAB), indicated by photos and field reports.
22-3458-B3	9/9	boat ramp at north end of lake	small localized	dense Microcystis, sparse/moderate Dolichospermum, sparse Oscillatoria	results pending	474	Cyanobacteria present in Bloom (HAB), indicated by photos and field reports

Bloom Code	Date	Location Description	Bloom extent	Microscopy	Total Chlorophyll (ug/L)	Microcystin Toxin (ug/L)	Bloom Status
22-3477-B5	9/9	public access point along Ladoga Park Rd, Lansing, NY	large localized	Dense Microcystis, sparse Dolichospermum	results pending	177	Cyanobacteria Bloom (HAB). indicated by photos and field reports.
22-3473-B2	9/13	Shoreline along Interlaken Beach Rd, east of Shepherdess Cellars	large localized	Dense/moderate Microcystis, Dolichospermum present	results pending	results pending	Cyanobacteria Bloom (HAB). Indicated by photos and field reports
22-3482-B1	9/13	From Goose Watch Winery up to County Road 124	widespread	moderate Microcystis	results pending	results pending	Cyanobacteria are present in Bloom (HAB). indicated by photos and field reports.
22-3491-B2	9/13	shoreline between Americana and Frontenac Point Vineyards	large localized	dense Microcystis, moderate Dolichospermum	results pending	results pending	Cyanobacteria are present in Bloom (HAB). indicated by photos and field reports.
22-3476-B2	9/13	Wyers Point Road in Ovid, NY	large localized	moderate Microcystis, sparse Dolichospermum	results pending	results pending	Cyanobacteria are present in Bloom (HAB). indicated by photos and field reports.
22-3448-B2	9/13	Shoreline along Canoga Shores Drive	n/a	no sample collected	no sample collected	no sample collected	Suspicious Bloom. Photos indicate that the suspicious bloom may be a harmful algal bloom (HAB)



Some of this week's blooms. Photo Credits: Left, Sally Sumner, Right, Harriet Becker. HABs Harriers

Meet Hollie Ellison: HABS Harrier Volunteer

Hollie is a volunteer in the Ovid area. Learn about what brought her to the area, and what she finds interesting about living on Cayuga Lake!

What is your favorite part about living along the lake?

Having lived in New York City for more than 20 years, I very much appreciate the beauty and nature (and quiet!) of the lake.

What is your biggest concern regarding the health of the lake?

I'm concerned about the lake being able to provide for the wildlife. This is their home, first and foremost.

What has been your favorite part about being involved with the watershed volunteer community?

I love being able to tangibly help the scientists as they study this important work that will benefit the lake's future.



Hollie with her dogs Tony and Lily

Would you recommend others to volunteer?

For anyone who is lucky enough to experience time on the lake, volunteering as a HABS harrier is an easy way to help in its prolonged health.

Did you have a connection to the area before becoming a volunteer?

I had rented a cottage on the lake for years, drawn to the area as a place where I could drive to from NYC and vacation with my dogs. We were fortunate to then buy property in 2013 in Sheldrake. With our companies now allowing for remote work, we are now able to spend a large part of the year from here.

Do you have a favorite plant or animal you've enjoyed around Cayuga Lake?

As city people, it took us a while to know what all these creatures around us are! Every evening we have a heron (which we had called the 'tall guy') sit on our dock, like clockwork. The bald eagles are showboaters, and are a fan favorite of our guests, who suspect that we stage their flights.

Tips for Watershed Friendly Living

Tips for Renters

Renters can often find it difficult to change their impact on the watershed. When you aren't able to alter structures like septic systems and lawns, it can feel like you are forced into unsustainable habits. However, there are always small changes you can take control over. Actions like reducing your time in the shower, installing low flow shower heads, and making sure to fill dishwashers and washing machines before running them, all help to reduce the amount of water you use. Other preventative measures - like being sure you are only putting drain/sewer safe materials in your sink - prevent pollution.



Water saving tools

Tips for Homeowners

As a homeowner, you have the opportunity to take larger steps to lessen your impact on the watershed. Much like renters, you can change daily habits like reduced shower time. You can also make structural changes to your home, like installing rain barrels and upgrading your septic system or having it inspected regularly. The land surface around your home is another place that can be improved.

Consider turning paved spaces back into permeable surfaces, and changing high effort grass lawns into rain gardens or pollinator habitats that don't require fertilizer or mowing.



Grass pavers turn an impermeable surface into a permeable one

Why do these changes matter?

The Finger Lakes are expected to experience more intense rainfall events, summer dry spells, and heat stress events due to climate change. People living in the Cayuga Lake Watershed need to prepare for both flooding and drought scenarios, and these strategies make us more prepared to deal with the changes happening in the watershed.

FAQs

Where can I look for HABs updates near me?

To keep an eye out for HABs in your area or anywhere around Cayuga Lake, visit the [CSI's HAB's Reporting Page](#). In addition, this newsletter will contain weekly updates about reported HABs.

Where can I report a HAB or a suspicious HAB?

Please fill out the [HAB Report form](#) with the required information or email us at habshotline@gmail.com. When you are sending in a report, please make sure to include your contact information and photos of the bloom (one close-up for detail and one further away to show the extent of the bloom), location, date, and time.

Safety Tips:

1. Stay away from any suspicious blooms
2. Never swallow untreated lake water.
3. Don't swim in cloudy, discolored, or suspicious-looking water - it could contain microorganisms that are harmful to humans
4. Make sure to wash your hands after contact with water before you eat, or shower after swimming



KNOW IT, AVOID IT, REPORT IT!

Questions? Contact:



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Photo by Bill Hecht

