



# HABS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2022 CAYUGA LAKE HABS MONITORING PROGRAM

Photo by Bill Hecht

JULY 7th, 2022

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## HABs Update

by CLWN Staff Intern Maria Lee

With all of the Fourth of July festivities occurring this past week, this marks one of the busiest times of summer.

As of now, there have been **no confirmed HABs**.

Although there were no confirmed HABs last week, the volunteer HABs Harriers did find a **suspicious bloom** located in the NE quadrant of Cayuga Lake.

This suspicious bloom serves as a reminder that sometimes HABs can last for days, while other times they can come and go quickly. If you encounter an area with a suspicious bloom, keep people and pets away from it to be safe from potential toxins.

The most up-to-date information on HABs reporting is available on the [Community Science Institute's Reporting Page](#).



Map showing the location of suspicious bloom on June 30th



Photo of suspicious bloom

## Lake Friendly Living

HABs can be induced by an excess of nutrients in the water, most specifically phosphorous and nitrogen. While the cyanobacteria that form HABs do occur naturally in lake water at low concentrations, there are actions residents can take in the watershed to reduce pollution that causes the cyanobacteria population to grow rapidly, causing a HAB. By taking care of your home, you can prevent runoff that could lead to HABs.

The Cayuga Lake watershed encompasses approximately 785 square miles where storm water runoff moves into the lake and impacts its water quality. **Residential properties generate part of that runoff.**

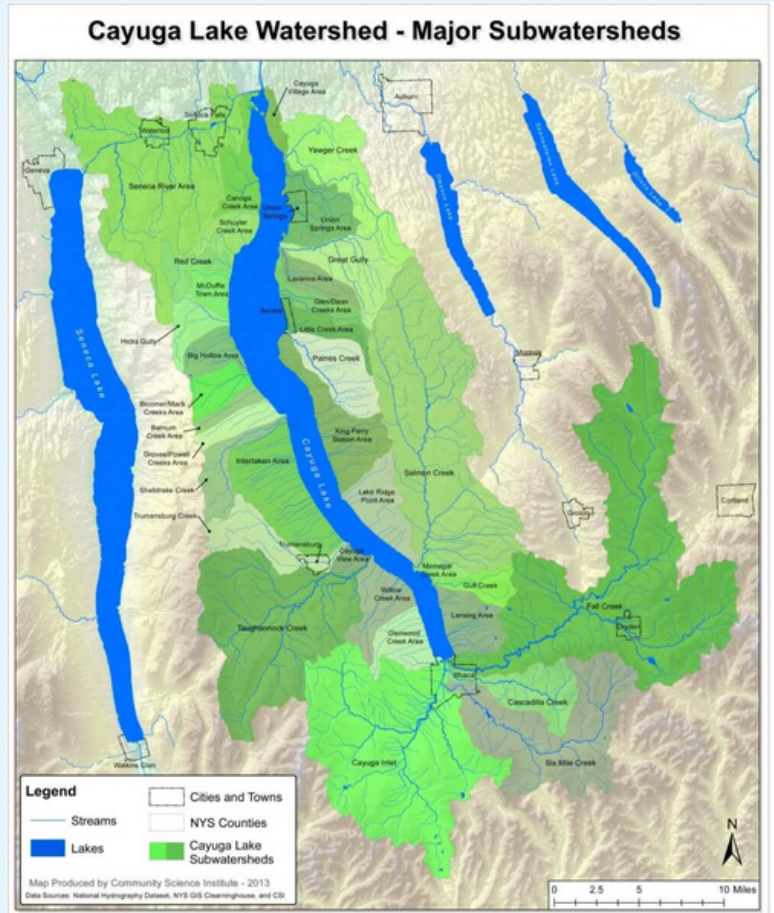
The lake is home to a vast array of aquatic life and serves as a source of drinking water for many.

As members of the community surrounding Cayuga Lake, we all have a role to play in the well-being and health of this beautiful ecosystem.

### How can you make an impact in your daily life to protect Cayuga Lake and our water?

Our Lake Friendly Living program provides practical steps towards protecting the lake ecosystem that you can take that best fit your home situation.

**YOUR HOME CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WATER QUALITY OF CAYUGA LAKE!**



## Lake Friendly Living

- Take the pledge at our website to commit to reducing pollutants, and in turn, to minimize runoff and do your part to prevent nearby HABs.
- View the 12 Simple Steps for sustainable waterfront living and integrate them into your lifestyle
- Visit CLWN's webpage on Lake Friendly Living or this Homeowner's Guide for more information!



## Creatures of Cayuga Lake

Cayuga Lake alone is home to at least 90 species of fish and 43 species of aquatic plants, while the Cayuga watershed is home to 150 species of breeding birds and 55 native species of mammals.

This week we will be taking a look at **Cladophora** - a genus of filamentous green algae. This algae grows by attaching itself to rocks, wood, or other hard surfaces mainly in freshwater ecosystems. You may notice this plant in shallow, near-shore areas around Cayuga Lake. Cladophora may form into green mats that can be confused for a Harmful Algal Bloom. However, if you look closely, Cladophora has a filamentous, stringy appearance and could be scooped out of the water, while HABs consist of cyanobacteria that are too small to be seen with the naked eye. Rather, HABs seem to change the color of the water itself and can form small clumps or streaks of green. Similar to HABs, **Cladophora blooms are linked to an increase of nutrients** like phosphorous in the water. Water runoff contributes to the prevalence of these blooms, which can be harmful to fish and other lake inhabitants.



**Living cladophora growing on a hard underwater surface**

Photo credit: [NYSDEC webpage](#)



**A stringy looking, filamentous cladophora bloom**

Photo credit: Becca Keyes, [American Marine University Research Institute](#)

## 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](mailto: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:



#### **Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN)**

Liz Kreitinger, Steward/Executive Director: [steward@cayugalake.org](mailto:steward@cayugalake.org)



#### **Community Science Institute (CSI)**

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#### **Discover Cayuga Lake**

607-327-LAKE/5253

Photo by Bill Hecht

