



HABs Weekly Newsletter

A product of the 2021 Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program

JULY 20, 2021

Photo of Myers Point by Bill Hecht

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HABs Update

by CLWN Staff Intern Alora Cisneroz

Get ready for a busy newsletter this week folks! Due to the recent intense rain, which creates lots of runoff, Cayuga Lake has seen **major** spike in blooms in the past week.

The next page features the newly reported blooms from the past week. But as always, you will find the most up-to-date information on the [CSI reporting page](#).

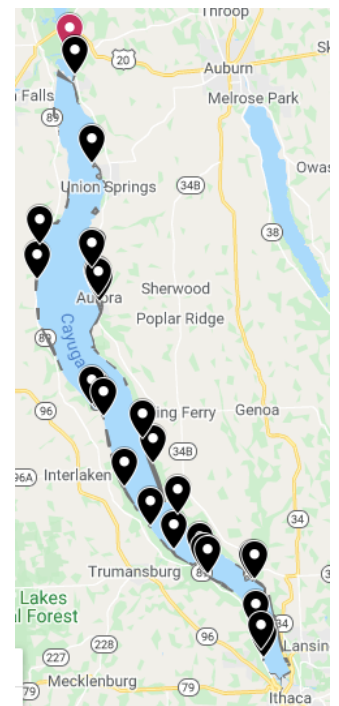
Curious to know who helps makes this bloom data testing and reporting possible? Keep reading to hear from one of our monitoring program's quadrant leaders!

HABs Update

(as of Monday afternoon)

Although the technical chart may seem a bit overwhelming this week, be sure to pay close attention to the key information: location description and bloom status. Knowing this most basic information will help keep you and your family safe.

For all of my visual learners out there, use the map on the right in conjunction with the chart to get a better feel for the bloom distribution in Cayuga Lake. If you need more, the link in the description of the photo will take you to the map where you can navigate and click on each bloom pin to view its data. Find a method that works with you!



Map indicating the locations of blooms in the past few weeks.
Credit: CSI's HABs Map

HABs Technical Chart

Bloom Code	Date Sample Received at CSI Lab	Location Description	Bloom Extent	Microscopy	Total Chlorophyll (ug/L)	Microcystin Toxin (ug/L)	Bloom Status
21-3471-B1	7/12/2021	Bloom widespread along shoreline properties in the Village of Aurora.	Large Localized	Sparse colonies of <i>Dolichospermum</i> .	120	Results Pending	Cyanobacteria Bloom (HAB): Cyanobacteria are present in bloom (HAB) sample. Microscopic examination indicates the presence of cyanobacteria and therefore the potential for the bloom to be harmful.
21-3435-B1	7/13/2021	Bloom located along the shoreline of waterfront properties on Route 89 in Varick.	Large Localized	Dense colonies of <i>Dolichospermum</i> .	3,660	Results Pending	Cyanobacteria Bloom (HAB): Cyanobacteria are present in bloom (HAB) sample. Microscopic examination indicates the presence of cyanobacteria and therefore the potential for the bloom to be harmful.
21-3436-B1	7/14/2021	Bloom located on the shoreline of just one beachfront property north of Hibiscus Point.	Small Localized	Dense colonies of <i>Dolichospermum</i> .	Results Pending	Results Pending	Cyanobacteria Bloom (HAB): Cyanobacteria are present in bloom (HAB) sample. Microscopic examination indicates the presence of cyanobacteria and therefore the potential for the bloom to be harmful.
21-3406-B2	7/15/2021	Bloom widespread along the shoreline near Fargo Dock in Aurora.	Large Localized	Moderate to dense colonies of <i>Dolichospermum</i> .	Results Pending	Results Pending	Cyanobacteria Bloom (HAB): Cyanobacteria are present in bloom (HAB) sample. Microscopic examination indicates the presence of cyanobacteria and therefore the potential for the bloom to be harmful.
21-3477-B1	7/16/2021	Bloom located along one or two shoreline properties on Ladoga Park Rd. in Lansing.	Small Localized	Moderate colonies of <i>Dolichospermum</i> .	Results Pending	Results Pending	Cyanobacteria Bloom (HAB): Cyanobacteria are present in bloom (HAB) sample. Microscopic examination indicates the presence of cyanobacteria and therefore the potential for the bloom to be harmful.
21-3437-B1	Not Yet Received	Bloom located along the shoreline of several properties on Green Lane Shores Rd. in Interlaken.	Widespread	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom.
21-3471-B1	7/17/2021	Bloom located along the shoreline of many properties on Hatch Rd. and Kingtown Beach Rd. in Trumansburg.	Widespread	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom. Based on field reports, bloom reports 21-3436-B1, 21-3435-B1, and 21-3471-B1, are likely of the same very widespread bloom.
21-3435-B1	7/19/2021	Bloom widespread on the shorelines of Taughanock State Park, both on the North Point shoreline and at the swimming area. The bloom also extends south on the shoreline of properties on Taughanock Boulevard.	Widespread	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom. Based on field reports, bloom reports 21-3436-B1, 21-3435-B1, and 21-3471-B1, are likely of the same very widespread bloom.
21-3436-B1	7/17/2021	Bloom widespread along the shoreline of entire 3436 zone include Camp Barton.	Widespread	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom. Based on field reports, bloom reports 21-3436-B1, 21-3435-B1, and 21-3471-B1, are likely of the same very widespread bloom.
21-3432-B1	7/19/2021	Bloom located along the shoreline at the Ithaca Yacht Club, both at the kayak launch and swimming area.	Large Localized	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom.
21-3430-B1	7/19/2021	Bloom located along the shoreline of many waterfront properties on Taughanock Boulevard.	Widespread	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom.
21-3431-B1	7/19/2021	Bloom located along the shoreline of many waterfront properties on Taughanock Boulevard.	Large Localized	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom.
21-3417-B1	7/19/2021	Bloom located along the shoreline of many waterfront properties on Lansing Station Rd.	Large Localized	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Suspicious Bloom: Photos and field reports indicate this is a cyanobacteria bloom (HAB). Avoid any contact with the suspicious bloom.

Leader Spotlight: Christy Gunderson VanArnum

As the Northeast HABs Harrier Quadrant Leader for the HABs Monitoring Program, Christy is a major force behind the success of the monitoring program. I hope that this feature sheds some more light into the logistics of the HABs program and celebrates the people who dedicate their time to protecting our community. Thank you to Christy who was generous enough to spend some time answering my questions!

What does the behind-the-scenes process look like after a bloom is reported by a community member?

When a bloom is reported on Cayuga Lake, usually it is Nate Launer (CSI's HABs Monitoring Program Coordinator) that checks out the report first. He notices which quadrant it is in and sends out an email or text to the harriers and quadrant leader in the zones closest. Whoever is closest or able to get to the bloom quickest, contacts the landowner and makes arrangements to go quickly and collect a sample. Typically, those samples are dropped off to the cooler in Aurora and then I figure out how best to get them to the lab. We have been very lucky that my daughter works not far from the Lab in the summer so samples often travel with her and Nate will pick them up. Other times, Nate and I meet in Lansing or I take them on to the lab. Sometimes I am unavailable and the harriers themselves make the longer trek to the Lab. We have a lot of dedicated people working on this!



Christy and her kids in Aurora after she finished swimming across Cayuga Lake.

Tell us a bit about what it means to be a HABs quadrant leader. What do your responsibilities look like?

As a HABs Quadrant Leader, I see myself as the the go-between for the Harriers and the Lab. Most of the blooms in the Northeast Quadrant are in the far northern zones of the lake in Cayuga. That is quite a drive to Ithaca. I live close to Aurora, about the mid-point of the lake. It works out pretty well for me to pick up samples in Aurora and find the best way to get them to the lab. I also monitor my own zone frequently. All quadrant leaders also have "on-call" weekends through out the summer when we are the ones monitoring incoming bloom reports and reaching out to harriers for help sampling.

Leader Spotlight (Cont.)

Why did you become a quadrant leader? What is rewarding about the role?

I think I really became a quadrant leader by default honestly. I am a teacher and have summers "off" so I have some flexibility. Living and having my zone near the drop off cooler doesn't hurt either. I really like feeling like I am helping the program and being part of the solution.

Fun question: Favorite memory or story of Cayuga Lake?

I grew up in Aurora and the lake has always been part of my life. My parents live on the lake and it is where our family gathers as often as possible. During my childhood the lifeguards at the Wells College Dock were the neighborhood childcare workers. We spent all day everyday there. It breaks my heart to see the beach closed so often now, and kids not able to enjoy the lake as much as we did. When I moved away and had children, I made sure to bring them back for nearly a month every summer. They loved every minute and were ready to make the move back to Aurora as soon as we could.



Christy's daughter and her cousins ready for a jump into the lake at sunset.

Art Feature



This grand yet quiet landscape called "Finger Lake" was painted in 1935 by Alison Mason Kingsbury. This oil painting shows the view of Cayuga Lake from South Hill in autumn. In addition to being a well-regarded regionalist painter, Kingsbury worked on murals, two of which include The Willard Straight Hall Mural and the WWI Memorial Chapel Mural.

Image Credit: Alison Mason Kingsbury papers, #3663. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

FAQs

What is the HABs Monitoring Program?

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). Through this monitoring program, we seek to protect public health, water quality, and the larger ecosystem from HABs.

How can I know if there is a HAB near me?

The fastest way is to [look at our HABs Reporting Page](#), which provides an updated map with all the critical information. NY's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) also [maintains a HABs map](#). Additionally, this email newsletter will also communicate any reported HABs for the past week.

Where can I report a potential HAB?

[Use this form](#) or email habshotline@gmail.com. Please be sure to include all of the information required: personal information (your name, email, and phone number), bloom information (observation date and time and location of the bloom), and two pictures (one close up to show bloom composition and one from far away to show bloom extent).

Where can I easily view past HABs newsletters?

The CLWN website posts each weekly newsletter under the [2021 HABs Update page](#).

If I have more questions, who can I contact?

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN)

CLWN Executive Director, Hilary Lambert: steward@cayugalake.org

607-319-0475

Community Science Institute (CSI)

info@communityscience.org

HABs Monitoring Program Coordinator, Nathaniel Launer:

nathaniel.launer@communityscience.org

607-257-6606

Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL)

(607) 327-5253