Hi everyone, I hope that you are all staying safe and enjoying the beauty of Cayuga Lake! This week has been quite the slow week concerning HABs -- there have been no bloom reports since last week on June 27th!

While this week is looking pretty clear from HABs so far, if you would like to check for the most recent HAB reports later in the week, visit the Community Science Institute’s HABs Reporting Page.

Although there are no new HABs reports, this week’s newsletter still has some fun highlights: keep reading for an interview with one of the volunteer HABs Harriers!

We are so grateful for the volunteers who contribute to the HABs monitoring program. Because of their dedication and the quick, local water testing by the Community Science Institute, Cayuga Lake has one of the most robust HABs datasets in New York State. This reporting enables us to keep you informed and provides important information about local HABs toxicity and patterns.

If you missed previous weekly HABs newsletters, you can always view them at our website's 2022 HABs Update Page.
My name is Philip Cohen. I'm a sociology professor now, at the University of Maryland, but I grew up in Ithaca and my family has always visited here, especially in the summers. I signed up to be a HABs harrier this summer after we finally bought a house on the lake, and I felt it was important to do my part for the lake’s wellbeing.

What is your biggest concern regarding the health of the lake?
Cayuga Lake has been a part of my life for more than 50 years, and I want it to be a positive presence in the lives of future generations. I'm worried that if we can't swim and recreate in the water, it will become a threat and a concern instead of a source of happiness and peace.

Has your volunteer experience made you more sensitive to other environmental concerns?
I am especially concerned about agricultural practices. There isn't much we can do immediately about the warming of the lake, but we could all pull together to support the farmers along our shores, to help them reduce harmful fertilizer runoff -- in ways that would make farming more efficient, too. There is a role for government and public mobilization for the good of the environment and the community.

What has been your favorite part about being involved with the watershed volunteer community?
I love getting out on the water in my kayak and paddling my zone on the West side of the lake. The lake has so many moods and qualities. Scanning the surface for problems feels like giving back to it.
**HABs Harrier Spotlight, continued**

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

I love to watch Ospreys hunting in the early evening, the Purple Martins along the shore, and the Canada Geese calling out at night. Mallards and their broods in the shallows, and Double-crested Cormorants skimming the surface. So, birds!

Below is a showcase of some of Philip’s personal photography (which can be found on his Flickr page) of Cayuga Lake and its creatures, paired with some fun facts about each creature!

### Creatures of Cayuga Lake

#### The Osprey

Ospreys, also called sea hawks, have an excellent ability to dive into the water and catch fish from the lake. These birds have a long lifespan averaging around 7 to 10 years.

#### Mallards

These ducks are a familiar sight for anyone strolling along Cayuga Lake or most other lakes in the U.S. At the end of breeding season, mallards shed their feathers and are flightless for 3-4 weeks.

#### The Double-crested Cormorant

Cormorants usually form colonies with nests made of sticks, string, fishnet, rope, and other random materials. Unlike many other waterfowl, a cormorant’s feathers are not waterproof.
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

Questions? Contact:

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN)
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Discover Cayuga Lake
607-327-LAKE/5253

Photo by Bill Hecht