



Photo of Myers Point by Bill Hecht

HABs Weekly Newsletter

A product of the 2021 Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program

AUGUST 3, 2021

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HABs Update

by **CLWN Staff Intern Alora Cisneroz**

This week has been relatively quiet on the side of bloom reports. So if you're looking for some reading material to satiate your need for water quality news, I have just the thing for you!

CLWN has just released [our second quarterly "Network News" newsletter](#) where you can learn about how our Lake Friendly Living coalition was recognized by the NYS Assembly, how citizen scientists are trying to make HABs testing cheaper with field kits, reflections from the Cayuga Climate Action on local progress, and much more! (There may even be some new CLWN merch!)

If that still isn't enough water news for you, [CSI also released their monthly update report](#). In it you can find updates on synoptic stream monitoring, red flag monitoring, biological monitoring, and HABs Monitoring.

Happy reading!

HABs Update

(as of Monday 8/2)

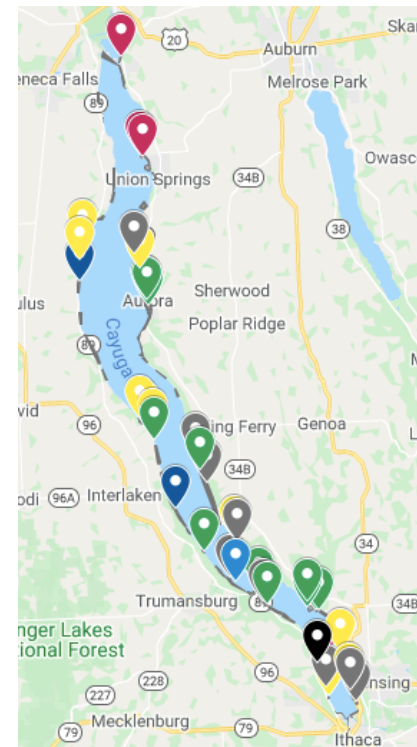
As was mentioned earlier, it's been a wonderfully quiet week for HABs! Since the most recent newsletter last Tuesday 7/26, we've had only a few reported blooms.

In other exciting news, the chlorophyll and microcystin toxin results for all the past blooms sampled this season have been updated. All of those "Results pending" notifications now have actual values! You can find that data on [CSI's Master Results Table](#) here.



Photos taken of bloom 21-3432-B2, located North of the Ithaca Yacht Club along the shoreline on Glenwood Road. Colonies of *Dolichospermum* were detected in the sample, which is why the bloom is now considered a HAB.

Credit: [CSI's HABs Map](#)



Map indicating the locations of the recent blooms on Cayuga Lake.
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
21-3432-B2	7/26/2021	Bloom located along the shoreline of waterfront properties on Glenwood Rd.	Small Localized	Sparse 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.
21-3436-B2	7/28/2021	Bloom located 200-300 yards from the shoreline near S Frontenac Rd.	Small 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.

Meet the Cayuga Lake Watershed Networks Interns!

Curious to know the who the interns are this summer and what we have been up to? Keep reading!

Meet Maeve Day! Climate Change and Watershed Outreach Intern



Hi! My name is Maeve, I am a rising Senior in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell studying Human Development with minors in Environment & Sustainability, Nutrition & Health, and Gerontology.

As the Climate Change and Watershed Outreach Intern, I have been working on two main outcomes for this summer: First, to create a plan of outreach to citizens within the Watershed that live off the lake and may be harder to reach. The second goal is to actually adapt a previously developed document (See: [Lakeside Living in a Changing Climate](#)) aimed at encouraging and simplifying sustainable living at home to these individuals who don't live directly on the lake. By the end of August, I am

hoping to have finalized these two documents and be in a good position to engage in outreach!

I have had such a great time learning a lot about the natural and built environment around Cayuga Lake, gaining some valuable experience with climate communication skills, and learning how customizable home sustainability can be. I have appreciated my time with CLWN this summer so much, and I'm super excited for the next few weeks as my work begins to materialize into a tangible output!

Maeve can be reached at her email: mmd275@cornell.edu

Meet Hannah Jo! Climate Change Website and Annual Report Intern



Hi, my name is Hannah! I am originally from Bear, Delaware and I will be a senior this fall at Cornell studying Environment & Sustainability with minors in Plant Science and Climate Change.

I am the Climate Change Website and Annual Report Intern this summer and have been working on developing resources about climate change around the watershed, specific environmental changes we have seen in the past few decades, and what adaptation and mitigation looks like in this area. I hope to provide members of our community with a better understanding of how climate change is affecting us right now and to encourage engagement with what we can all do to help! It has been so rewarding applying knowledge and research skills I have learned in class to support Cayuga Lake and its residents with information I hope will clarify and expand current understanding about our changing world.

Hannah can be reached at her email: hj253@cornell.edu

**Meet Brittany
Beckwith!**
*Climate Change
Youth Outreach
Intern*



Hi, my name is Brittany, and this summer I am the Climate Change Youth Outreach Intern for CLWN. I am going to be a senior this fall majoring in Environment & Sustainability. I am originally from Central Florida.

This summer, I have been helping the Network with their mission to do more in encouraging local youth engagement with the watershed and with important topics like climate change. From reading long academic papers, to understanding how platforms like 'Tik-Tok' and 'Instagram' can be (surprisingly very) educational, to talking with youth and community groups from throughout the watershed, our goal is to provide a wealth of resources for youth, educators, and more to get involved with protecting our unique environment.

My favorite part of this internship is meeting everyone at CLWN, and getting a chance to connect with other watershed interns, they are the kindest and most thoughtful people. It has also been great to be able to go on the Teal lake cruises with Discover Cayuga Lake- I highly recommend you try to book a seat on one of their sunset cruises!

Brittany can be reached at her email: beb232@cornell.edu

**Meet Alora
Cisneroz!**
*HABs
Communication
Intern*



Hi! I'm Alora, the trusty person in your inbox every Tuesday with the HABs Newsletter. This fall I'm going to be a junior at Cornell (Major: Environment & Sustainability Minor: Law and Society). Eventually, I hope to work in some capacity for the federal government on climate change policy. Although DC is in my future, I live in Ithaca during the school year, and am originally from the Bay Area in Northern California.

This summer, I have been helping to research, write, and distribute critical HABs information to the broader Finger Lakes community. But beyond communicating the existing water quality dangers in the newsletter, I also strive to elevate features that celebrate the beauty of our region--both its community and natural wonders. You might have noticed this through the arts features, leader spotlight, and photos of Cayuga Lake. I hope that by pairing some of this celebratory information with the serious reality of HABs, community members are reminded of the root reason *why* we must all take action to protect the watershed: a shared love for the region and the people who live here. I hope that by the end of the summer, I have provided news to the community that both educates as well as empowers us into action.

So far, my favorite thing about my intern experience at CLWN has been how I have learned so much more about the Finger Lakes region and the community members who care for it. Unfortunately, as a Cornell student, it's typical to be slightly isolated from the reality of the broader community. Getting immersed this summer through my work has helped me feel more at home in Ithaca.

Alora can be reached at her email: aec248@cornell.edu

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 CSI's 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