

### ***Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Update***

Between August 18th to August 25th, there were four reported blooms, three of which have been examined and identified to contain cyanobacteria of the genus *Microcystis*. This monitoring season has already observed many blooms dominated by *Microcystis* with high toxin levels, unlike previous years in the early summer.



Image to the left: Bloom 20-3426-B4, located along the shoreline surrounding the boat dock at Stewart Park. The HAB contains moderate to dense concentrations of *Microcystis*. Image to the right: A microscopic image of cyanobacteria of the genus *Microcystis*.

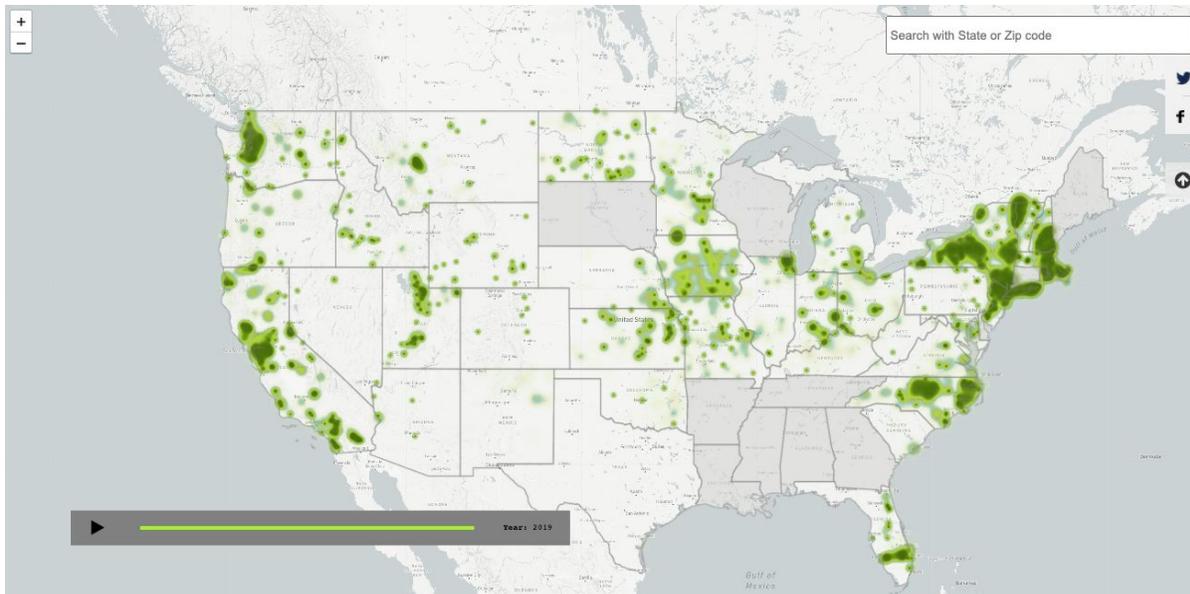
*Reminder: You may visit [CLWN's website](#) for previous weeks' HABs Updates from the 2020 Monitoring Program.*

Through public outreach, CLWN works with CSI to support their water quality research. Below is a partial chart showing the reported blooms from this past week. To get the latest update, visit CSI's [Cayuga Lake HABs Reporting Page](#), which also provides a map visualizing where the blooms are located.

<b>Bloom Sample Code</b>	<b>Date Sampled</b>	<b>Location Description</b>	<b>Bloom Extent</b>	<b>Microscopy</b>	<b>Microcystin Toxin (µg/L)</b>
<b>20-3459-B4</b>	8/18/2020	Along the shoreline near Hibiscus Harbor, Frontenac Island, and other locations near Union Springs.	Large localized	Sparse Microcystis	Results pending
<b>20-3407-B1</b>	8/23/2020	About 10 yards off shore along residential properties in the Village of Aurora	Large localized	Sparse to moderate Microcystis	Results pending
<b>20-3426-B4</b>	8/24/2020	Along the shoreline surrounding the floating boat dock at Stewart Park.	Small localized	Moderate to dense Microcystis	Results pending
<b>20-3408-B2</b>	8/24/2020	Along the shoreline between Pebble Beach and the Wells College Boathouse in Aurora.	Large localized	Results pending	Results pending

### ***A National Map of State-Reported Freshwater HABs***

Over the past 15 years all 50 states have experienced a freshwater HAB, yet there is no national database that monitors HABs or educates the public about the increase in HAB occurrences across the United States. Therefore, last year the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)—a non-profit international environmental advocacy group based in the United States—asked all 50 states for their HAB data and developed a national interactive map that identifies freshwater bodies that experienced HABs between 2008 and 2019. NRDC also published scorecards of the freshwater HAB programs in all 50 states to judge how well each state monitors and alerts the public of HABs and the risks they pose. To view NRDC’s national interactive map of state-reported freshwater HABs and the scorecards of states’ freshwater HAB programs, click [here](#).



***Check Out the Upcoming Biomonitoring Event at Six Mile Creek!***



Date: Thursday, September 10th

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Six Mile Creek, Ithaca, NY

CSI's 4-H2O Education Program enables children to explore the world of science and environmental stewardship through hands-on activities. At the upcoming event, participants will have the opportunity to collect a sample of organisms from the creek that will be used to analyze water quality and ecosystem health. Those who are interested in following the scientific sampling protocol can

have their results included in CSI's long-term water quality database. To learn more and to register for the program, visit [CSI's website!](#)

***Watch the Newest Video on CLWN's Youtube Channel!***

[Harmful Algal Blooms and the Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program](#) — A new 6-minute video has been posted explaining what HABs are and the risks they present. The video further describes the Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program, with goals of informing the public of HAB occurrences as well as accumulating information on HABs to better understand the factors that promote their development on Cayuga Lake. Almost all of the video and image content features the Cayuga Lake watershed, as well as fellow HABs Harriers and members of the HABs Leadership Team!



Produced and Edited by Sofia Walzer

## ***Reporting a HAB***

If you observe a suspicious HAB, avoid it and report it! Email [habshotline@gmail.com](mailto:habshotline@gmail.com) with the location of the bloom, the date and time, and two pictures. If possible, include the GPS coordinates of its location using the Compass app or Google Maps on smartphones. Otherwise, an address or nearby landmark will do the job! You may also call CSI at (607) 257-6606.

## ***Stay Informed!***

Before heading on the lake, you can view the interactive map on CSI's [Cayuga Lake HABs Reporting Page](#) that is regularly updated. All of the confirmed HABs that occur on Cayuga Lake are sent by CSI to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), which is then reported on the state-wide [New York HABs Reporting Page](#). You may also call your local park office on the most up-to-date water quality information (see below).

### Taughannock Falls State Park

(607) 387-6739

### Cayuga Lake State Park

(315) 568-5163

### Long Point State Park

(315) 364- 5637 or (315) 497-0130

### Lansing Myers Park

(607) 533-7388 ext. 17

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*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) and the State University of New York Environmental School of Forestry (SUNY-ESF).*

*Cayuga Lake Watershed Network*

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607-319-0475

*Community Science Institute*

[info@communityscience.org](mailto:info@communityscience.org)

607-257-6606

*Discover Cayuga Lake*

(607) 327-5253