



# HABs Weekly Newsletter

A product of the 2021 Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program

JUNE 2021

Photo of Myers Point by Bill Hecht

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## *HABs Update*

by **CLWN Staff Intern Alora Cisneroz**

Although June may be coming to a close, the HABs monitoring season is just getting started! Since the last newsletter, the start of the monitoring program officially began on the 27th. Even though there have not been any newly reported HABs since the writing of this newsletter, you can stay updated through the [CSI reporting page](#).

In case you missed last week's newsletter, you will soon be able to find a copy of it on the CLWN website under the 2021 HABs update page. All future HABs newsletters will also be made publicly available there.

Cheesy slogan for the week: Be sure to check for a bloom before you put on your swimming costume!

# Lake Friendly Living Q&A: What can homeowners do?

*A conversation with CLWN Program Associate Jennifer Tufano*

## **Q: What's your elevator pitch to folks about the Lake Friendly Living program?**

A: The Lake Friendly Living program is a set of 12 simple steps any homeowner can take to improve the water quality around their home which ultimately help improve the water quality of Cayuga Lake. *Our website features the two critical pieces to getting started: [The Cayuga Lake Homeowners guide](#), which is the ultimate how-to guide for the 12 strategies, and [the Lake Friendly Living pledge](#).*

## **Q: Tell us a bit about the history of the program. Why was it created? Who contributed to it? What was your role in getting the program launched?**

A: The program started a few years ago on Seneca Lake and CLWN Steward Hilary Lambert connected our organization to the founders. Slowly, other lakes began creating LFL programs and eventually it was decided we should connect ourselves and our programs to one another, creating a strong voice for improved water quality throughout the Finger Lakes. Personally, I came in later to the game to assist Board member Ed Currier (and his wife Nancy, former CLWN Board member) with their liaison work, and to support the program in whatever ways I could.

## **Q: Can you talk a bit more about the Lake Friendly Living Coalition and how it's connected with the Lake Friendly Living Program?**

A: The LFL Coalition formed in 2020, again, as a way to unite our programs and voices to give Lake Friendly Living a wider reach. The current coalition of lakes include Canandaigua, Cayuga, Keuka, Otisco, Owasco, Seneca, and Skaneateles. Our logos are very similar and we adopted the same signage so as people travel through the Finger Lakes region, they may see Lake Friendly signs as they go. Two of the lakes' program are called Lake Friendly Lawn Care, but essentially the 12 simple steps are the same.

## **Q: What has been the response from the folks who have taken the pledge and adopted some of the changes at their home?**

A: In general, pledgers are positive and pleased to not only be making personal improvements to their property, but also to show outward signs (literally and figuratively!) of some water management best practices. The CLWN is working hard this year to create more a cohesive collective feel for them, so they can rely on one another for not only improvement tips, but for each of them to become local ambassadors for the program.



An example of the types of pledge signs you may see throughout the Finger Lakes region

**Q: What are some examples of the types of strategies that are the most impactful in helping to protect Cayuga Lake?**

A: This is just my opinion, but I would say the most impactful thing a homeowner could do would be to not put anything on their lawn that they wouldn't dump directly into a water body. This includes pesticides and fertilizers - there are good fertilizers out there! But some are so terribly harmful and are unnecessary.

A: LFL liaisons, Nancy and Ed Currier, advocate for testing your lawn soil for its needs before doing anything! And to think about creating a natural lawn ecosystem and let some "weeds" grow so that they become part of a diverse system that might attract beneficial organisms. Think beyond the lawn into the earth below and the benefits of encouraging earthworms which naturally enrich the soil. Additionally, they find it important to observe your landscape to find out the flow of runoff water as it makes its way to the lake. Ask yourself if you can you work to capture that runoff and allow it to infiltrate—planting native plants with deep root systems, or creating rain gardens, or simply mowing the lawn to 3 inches will allow for more capture possibilities.

## **Art Feature**

In a way to celebrate the beauty and share our love for Cayuga Lake, this newsletter will feature a new piece of art each week. The art may take the form of a photograph, a painting, or poem, but they will all be inspired by Cayuga Lake. If you find it fulfilling, please use the featured piece as an invitation to reflect on your own personal connection to the lake and the ways in which it ties us to one another throughout time and place.



*This week's art feature is a delicate and dreamy painting titled "View of Cayuga Lake". Although there is no listed artist and date, the signature at the bottom right appears to read "ABC 24".*

Credit: View of Cayuga Lake

John Henry and Anna Botsford Comstock papers, #21-23-25. 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](mailto: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).

## If I have more questions, who can I contact?

### [Cayuga Lake Watershed Network \(CLWN\)](#)

CLWN Executive Director, Hilary Lambert: [steward@cayugalake.org](mailto:steward@cayugalake.org)  
607-319-0475

### [Community Science Institute \(CSI\)](#)

[info@communityscience.org](mailto:info@communityscience.org)  
HABs Monitoring Program Coordinator, Nathaniel Launer:  
[nathaniel.launer@communityscience.org](mailto:nathaniel.launer@communityscience.org)  
607-257-6606

### [Discover Cayuga Lake \(DCL\)](#)

(607) 327-5253