



Cayuga Lake HABs Update August 28, 2019

Update Harmful Algal Blooms are appearing on the lake again, following a quiet month. As in 2018, the later-season blooms are, to date, more toxic than those earlier in the summer.



Nathaniel Launer's 8/23 report to HABs Harriers:

"We enjoyed a long stretch of beautiful summer weather on Cayuga Lake without any HABs. Unfortunately, as we approach the later summer months, HABs have started to occur on the lake again. During this seventh week of HABs monitoring, seven blooms were reported and sampled in the northern quadrants of the lake.

"Similar to last year, we are starting to observe a change in the cyanobacteria found in these blooms. In July, nearly all of the blooms were primarily composed of the cyanobacteria *Dolichospermum*. This week all seven bloom samples

were primarily composed of *Microcystis* (photo: Suspicious bloom, northeast Cayuga Lake shoreline, late August 2019. Photo by H & B Davidson).

“In 2018, blooms primarily composed of the cyanobacteria *Microcystis* that occurred on Cayuga Lake in the later summer months were measured to have much higher concentrations of the microcystin toxin. Unfortunately, we are starting to observe what may be a similar pattern this year.”

Nathaniel Launer is Outreach Coordinator & Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program Coordinator at the Community Science Institute. CSI trains water quality and HABs volunteers, conducts lab analyses at their certified water lab, and shares data online at www.communityscience.org. Contact Nathaniel at 607-257-6606 and via nathaniel.launer@communityscience.org .

Cayuga Lake 2019 HABs Monitoring Map To stay up to date on HABs and toxicity around Cayuga Lake, check the online map maintained by the Community Science Institute:

<http://www.communityscience.org/volunteer/harmful-algal-bloom-monitoring/cayuga-lake-habs-reporting-page/> .

HABs in the News

Excess nutrients come from farming:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/25/opinion/water-quality-agriculture.html> “Polluting Farmers Should Pay - Fertilizer runoff is making us sick. States can step in to regulate farmers.” Catherine Kling, Cornell University.

Excess nutrients come from other sources, too:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/25/nyregion/toxic-algae-nyc-parks.html> “Algae That Can Kill Dogs Is Discovered in 3 N.Y.C. Parks - The green-blue blooms of toxic algae have been found in Central Park, Morningside Park and Prospect Park.” Christina Goldbaum, NYT. [*Ed. note – HABs have been detected in these urban waters previously.*]

Seneca County farms to build systems that “bolster resiliency to flooding and erosion” - excerpts from an 8/27/19 press release: “Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced \$2.3 million will be awarded to 24 farms across the state through the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Grant Program. Launched by the Governor in 2015, the program helps farms reduce their operational impact on the environment and address the impacts of extreme weather events resulting from climate change...”

“Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded \$106,100 to work with two farms in the Cayuga Lake Watershed on various water management systems that will bolster resiliency to flooding and

erosion. Implementation of runoff reduction BMPs (Best Management Practices) have been identified as priority actions and align with goals set forth in the Cayuga Lake Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Action Plan.

“Seneca County SWCD’s District Manager, Erin Peruzzini says, “Seneca County is all too familiar with the increasing frequency of extreme storm events and the subsequent erosion and flooding impacts it has on our natural resources. Not only will this funding help farmers continue to support productive and environmentally sustainable agriculture, but it will also aid in protecting Cayuga Lake, an invaluable resource.””

Full press release and project details available from Erin Peruzzini and staff Erin.Peruzzini@ny.nacdnet.net 315-568-4366 ext. 6039. Watch for more in the forthcoming autumn issue of Network News, quarterly newsletter of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.

Sarasota, FL: Congressman Buchanan holds news conference with medical experts on red tide research:

<https://www.bradenton.com/news/local/article232970902.html>

Medical study will begin to assess HABs impacts to human health.

Dogs & HABs – More information from the ASPCA:

<https://www.asPCA.org/news/pet-safety-alert-rising-dangers-blue-green-algae> “Pet Safety Alert: The Rising Dangers of Blue-Green Algae.” 8/16/19.

Check the beach for HABs before you go!

One way to limit HABs-related uncertainty is to call park offices ahead of your trip to the beach. By doing so, you can find the most up to date information on water quality.

[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

[Village of Cayuga: Harris Park](#) (315) 252-1707

[Wells College Dock and Swimming Area, Village of Aurora](#) (315) 364-7293

HABs & Your Health

- For more information about HABs and what to do if a pet or child may have had contact with one, check out the DEC’s HABs page: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html> .

- Also see the DEC and NYS Dept. of Health resources and links under 'Algal Blooms/Swimming & Water Contact Advisories' at <https://www.cayugalake.org/> .
- If you think you've seen a suspicious bloom, be sure to send an email to habshotline@gmail.com with the *location, date, time, and photos* of the suspicious HAB.

The Cayuga Lake HABS Updates are compiled and edited every other week by Hilary Lambert, Steward/Executive Director of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. We have been working with the public to protect our lake since 1998. Contact Hilary steward@cayugalake.org and programs staff Jenn Tufano Grillo programs@cayugalake.org – office phone 607-319-0475. "It takes a Network to protect a watershed" – www.cayugalake.org & Facebook, Instagram.

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).

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