

**\*\*Press Release \*\*** For Immediate Use July 17, 2018 **\*\*Press Release\*\***

## **Harmful Algal Blooms on Cayuga Lake: Information**

*Blooms reported, sampled, tested & mapped, from July 2 - present*

Pasted below and attached is HABs Update - "Harmful Algal Bloom Update" issue 3, newsletter for the week of July 16, 2018.

### **New in this issue:**

**Explaining "No bloom," "Suspicious," "Confirmed," "Confirmed with high toxins"**  
**Introducing the 2018 Cayuga Lake Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Program Quadrant Leaders!**

**Attention:** DO NOT ENTER THE WATER IF HABs ARE PRESENT

If you see a bloom, don't touch it. Keep your children and dogs away. Report the bloom to [habshotline@gmail.com](mailto:habshotline@gmail.com) with the location, time, date and two photos.

Link to the map of reported HABs locations around Cayuga Lake with test results, and of shoreline zones regularly patrolled by HABs Harriers:

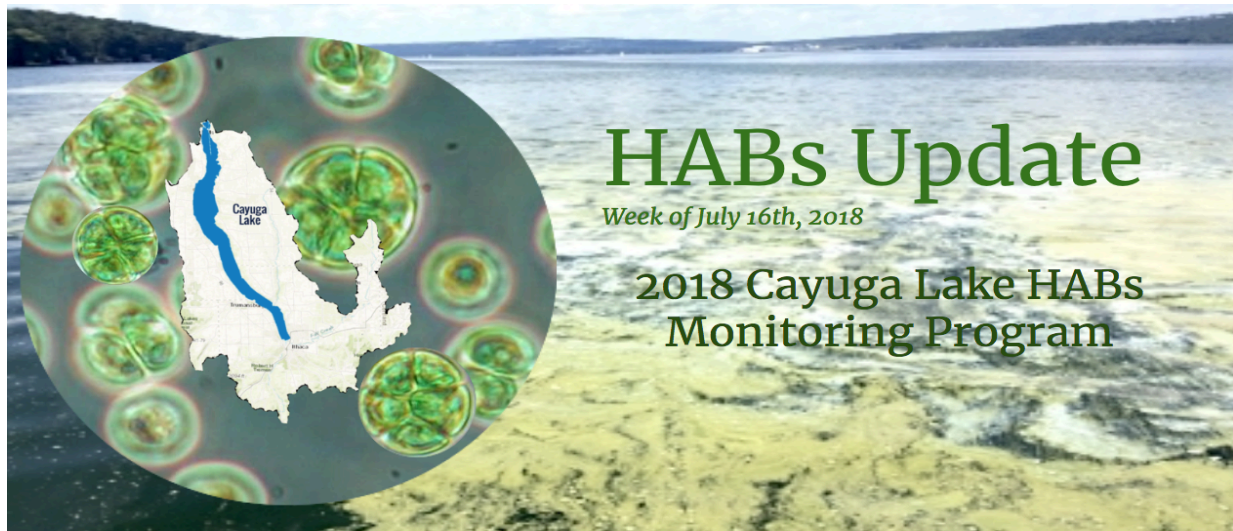
<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

Please read more in the July 16 *HABs Update* below, share widely with friends and the public, and keep an eye out for updates throughout the summer.

For more information contact:

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### **Harmful Algal Bloom Update 3**

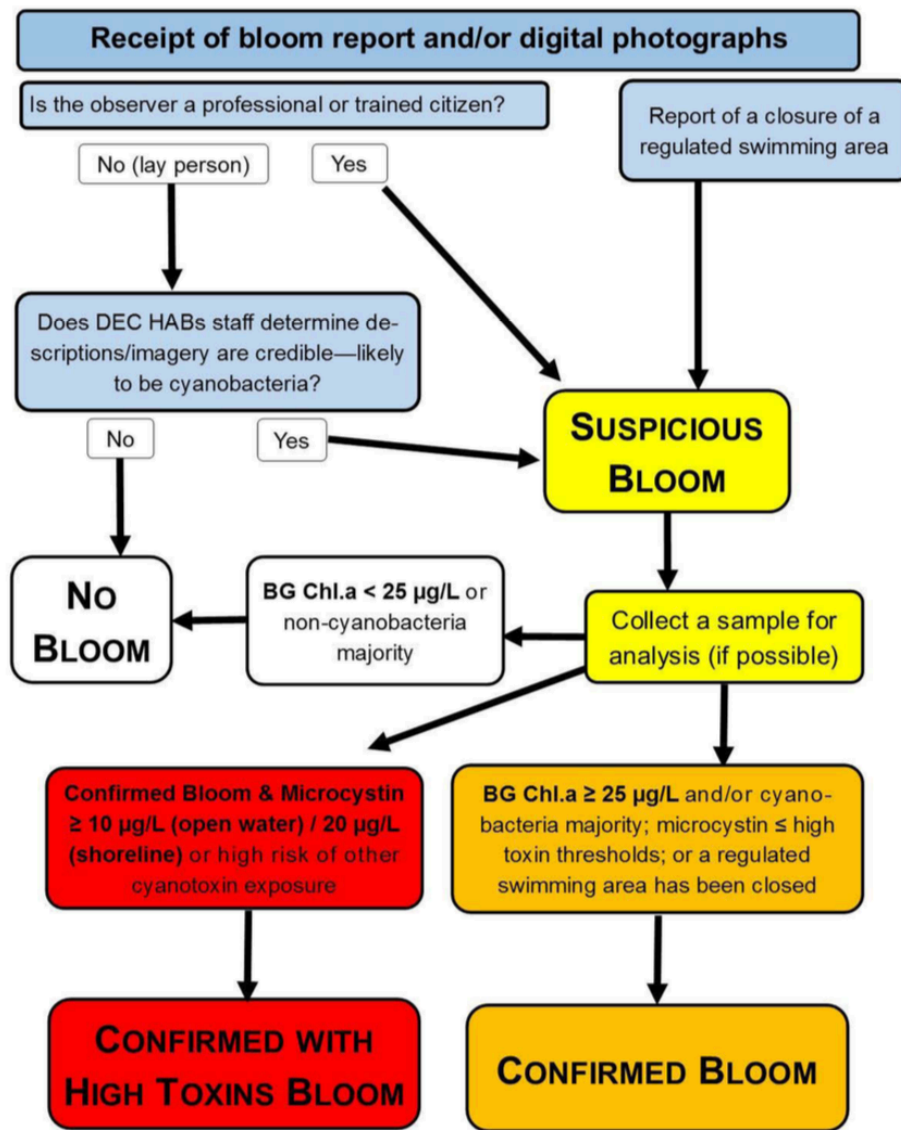
**Explaining "No bloom," "Suspicious," "Confirmed," "Confirmed with high toxins"**

Over the past few weeks of active HABs on Cayuga Lake, we've gotten some questions about the testing of toxins in HABs. Our friends at the Community Science Institute provided this note about the toxin microcystin:

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) may produce a variety of chemicals that are harmful to other species, including humans. The most common harmful chemical found in New York algal blooms is microcystin. Detailed toxicity studies have not been performed, and there is not yet a consensus on acceptable exposure levels. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has set upper limits for public drinking water supplies at 0.3 ug/L or parts per billion (ppb) and for public swimming beaches at 4.0 ppb ([EPA, 2017](#)). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) defines a “bloom with high toxin” as 20 ppb near the lake shore and 10 ppb in open water ([NYSDEC HABs Program Guide, Section 3](#)).

Below is the DEC HABs Program Bloom Status Criteria Flowchart, which explains how a bloom is classified at each step of the testing process:

## DEC HABs Program Bloom Status Criteria



## Introducing the 2018 Cayuga Lake Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Program Quadrant Leaders!



Quadrant Leaders represent four portions of the Cayuga Lake Watershed as seen in the picture on the left. These hardworking volunteers will be essentially on-call all of the time during the HABs season.

The main responsibility of our Quadrant Leaders is to respond to Hotline reports from the general public, dispatching one or more HABs Harriers to the site of a reported suspicious bloom as soon as possible. We would like to introduce the Cayuga Lake community to these wonderful volunteers who have offered up their time, energy and expertise to the 2018 HABs Monitoring Program.

**Stephan (Steve) Knapp is the Quadrant Leader for the Southeast Quadrant of Cayuga Lake.**



Aside from living on Cayuga Lake for 20 years, Steve has shown incredible commitment to keeping the lake clean and safe. He has formal environmental science, freshwater ecology and

systematics training at both Ithaca College and Cornell University. Steve put his scientific training and extensive knowledge of Cayuga Lake to use by offering fishing guide services and natural history tours from his 23 foot fishing boat for over 30 years. This remarkable service was certified by US Coast Guard.

Steve also has extensive experience with HABs. He participated in early HABs training, provided sampling and served as an organizer and sampler of both Cayuga lake and stream waters in conjunction with Community Science Institute water testing programs. Even Steve's son Colden is getting in on the HABs Harrier Action, serving as a monitor for the zone where he lives.

Steve loves to fish on Cayuga Lake, and shares his catch with his neighborhood, just south of King Ferry.

When asked what Cayuga Lake meant to him, Steve responded:

"I live on the lake and rely on it for drinking water. I rent out a cottage on the same property that features a peaceful stay on beautiful and pristine waters. Most importantly, the lake provides a spiritual anchor for my daily life."

Welcome to the team, Steve! We are so grateful for your expertise and support!

**Andy Yale is the Quadrant Leader for the Southwest Quadrant of Cayuga Lake.**



Andy has been enjoying Cayuga Lake since he was a boy. He likes to sail, motor, fish, and swim but his favorite lake activity is drifting in a boat on the lake, observing and taking in the wonderful environment. Aside from lake activities, Andy bikes on the Black Diamond Trail. Cayuga Lake was an important part of Andy's childhood and his present; he and his family live "just above her shores."

When asked what Cayuga Lake meant to him, Andy responded:

"I love the perspective it gives on where we are, placed among the hills."

Welcome to the team, Andy! We are so thankful to you and your fun-loving spirit!

**Bill Ebert is the Quadrant Leader for the Northwest Quadrant of Cayuga Lake.**



Bill Ebert and his wife Jane have been living on the northwest shore of Cayuga Lake for 30 years. His relationship with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network began five years ago when Bill and two of his granddaughters attended an evening workshop held by CLWN Stewart, Hilary Lambert, on invasive species at Wells College. Bill had brought with him a bucket of unidentified slime, hoping to find someone at the workshop who knew what it was. The slime turned out to be cladophora, a non-toxic green algae commonly found in lakes. A few emails later, Bill was elected to the CLWN's Board of Directors.

As a board member, Bill has initiated many water monitoring campaigns. Due to concern about the quality of the water coming out of Canoga Creek, Bill and the CLWN started a water quality monitoring program on Canoga and Burroughs Creeks. This program has been going strong for four years now, gathering and publicizing eye-popping data about the sources of pollution on Cayuga Lake. After the success of this program, Bill is collaborating again with the CLWN and the Finger Lakes Institute to develop a proposal for a pilot restoration project for either Canoga or Burroughs creek with the Citizen Science Institute. Additionally, Bill was enlisted along with his friend, Tom Casella, by the DEC to do the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), and monitor water quality at the north end of Cayuga Lake. Last summer, Bill and Tom did weekly monitoring on a stretch of lakefront to create a census of all plant species found there.

It's easy to notice Bill's experience in water quality monitoring and passion for Cayuga Lake. He has been an amazing asset to the CLWN organization due to his stick-to-itiveness, his ambition and his readiness to take action.

Welcome to the team, Bill! Thank you for donating your time, energy and expertise to this program!

**Christy Gunderson VanArnum is the Quadrant Leader for the Northeast Quadrant of Cayuga Lake.**

Christy grew up and currently resides right on Cayuga Lake in Aurora. After growing up on the lake and falling in love with the water, Christy went back to college for fisheries and aquaculture and received a Masters Degree in Aquatic Science/Aquaculture. Christy has been working in the field of aquatic sciences for 10 years, and is now a teacher in the area. She still spends her summers on the lake.

Christy's favorite lake activity is swimming! With a lifetime of experience on the lake, she was able to swim across Cayuga Lake at its widest point to Aurora several years ago.

When asked what Cayuga Lake meant to her, Christy responded:

"Cayuga Lake is my entire family's favorite place. It is critical to all who live here."

Welcome to the team, Christy! We so appreciate your passion and support for the lake!

### **To see where HABs have been reported on Cayuga Lake:**

Check out the following map provided by the Community Science Institute:

<http://www.communityscience.org/cayuga-lake-2018-harmful-algal-blooms-results/>

Check out the DEC HABs Notification Page:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>



To learn more about HABs with links to research, the global scope of this problem, and information about possible causes and solutions, check out our HABs page at

[www.cayugalake.org/harmful-algal-blooms-habs-immediate-action-and-information.html](http://www.cayugalake.org/harmful-algal-blooms-habs-immediate-action-and-information.html)



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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