

The Importance of Volunteer HABs Monitoring

Stephen Knapp, *HABs Harrier Volunteer and Quadrant Leader*



A Sense of Community Response

Help get volunteers operating with a sense of urgency create a greater sense of community.

Energized volunteers get the attention of agencies and administrators.

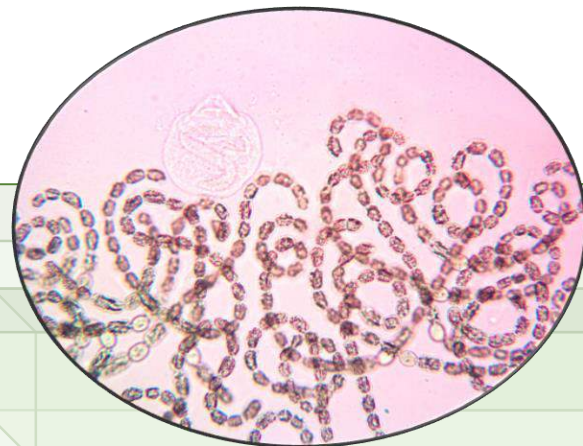


Community Motivation

We serve as cheerleaders for those that respond to program initiatives. Even those that report non-HAB events need affirmation and encouragement

Affirmation is critical for Harriers as well. We ask a lot from them. We all need to be reminded that we may be limiting exposure to toxins for a significant number of people and pets.

Some Harriers can't wait to get their samples under the microscope

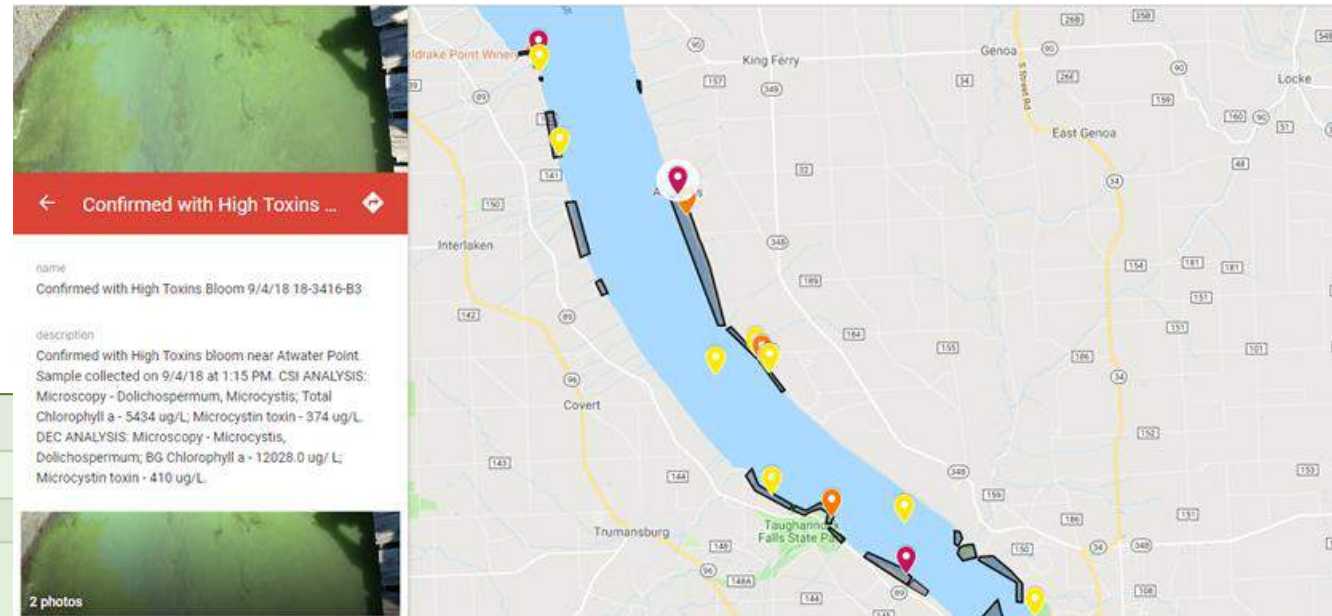


Team Effort

A volunteer team effort is critical.

- There will always be times when those involved with the program are not available.
- Team members can and do step in to fill the gaps.
- Some zones are monitored as a family effort

Anyone reporting a bloom can see a tangible result when the report is timely reported on the lake map



Education and Empowerment

Volunteers receive training not readily available to the general public. This knowledge can be powerful in the hands of energized volunteers. They can be a hub of information

Harriers are force multipliers. Neighborhoods learn of their efforts and absorb Harrier expertise. Every observation trip on the lake provides opportunities for “end of the dock classrooms”

A little celebration at the successful end of the year program can go a long way!

