

We are HABs Harriers*!

**Harrier: [har-ee-er] noun, from the verb harry, to harass or attack repeatedly.*

Example: A Harrier Hawk attacks small game.

We are volunteers for the 2019 Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program!

Cyanobacteria blooms, commonly referred to as harmful algal blooms (HABs), pose a threat to Cayuga Lake. They can produce toxins that lead to sickness and even death in people and pets, and they have the potential to impair Cayuga Lake as a source of drinking water and a desirable place to live or spend a vacation. Last year, over 40 cyanobacteria blooms were documented on Cayuga Lake by the Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program, many of which were found to have toxin levels above limits set by the NYS Department of Health. This year, it is imperative that we continue to work together as a community to monitor HABs occurrence on Cayuga lake as closely as possible.

HABs Harrier volunteers are tracking where and when HABs arise to keep the public safe from toxins that can be found in blooms. Following training, HABs Harriers are assigned a stretch of lakefront to survey once a week and collect samples if blooms are observed. Among other analyses, these samples will be tested for toxicity and all results will be made publicly available so that *you* know of suspicious blooms in your area. Routine vigilant surveillance of Cayuga lake will make the process of identifying blooms, testing samples, and publicizing results faster and more efficient, ensuring that you are protected and informed.

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).



**If you see a HAB, avoid it and report it.
Keep kids and pets away!**

Quickly notify us at habshotline@gmail.com or report it on CSI's website at www.communityscience.org

We need the following information:

1. Pictures of the bloom
2. Location of bloom (GPS coordinates are highly preferable but approximate address and nearby landmarks will also do)
3. Date and time when pictures were taken

A trained HABs Harrier will respond, take a sample for analysis if needed, and let you know what we find out.

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