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## Widespread Blooms Reported

1 message

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association <info@senecalake.org>

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## Seneca Lake **PURE WATERS** Association



### Seneca Lake Experiences a Widespread Bloom Event

Yesterday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, Seneca Lake experienced one of the most widespread bloom events since the Pure Waters HAB program began in 2014.

After two days of blooms along the North shore (Geneva and state park waterfront), volunteers reported more blooms at the same locations Wednesday morning. By mid-day, volunteers along the Northwest shore, from Long Point to Geneva, reported and documented extensive blooms along the shoreline and well out into the lake. In addition, the Hobart and William Smith research vessel William Scandling, also reported blooms in the middle of the lake.

By early afternoon, reports were also coming in from Northeast and

Southwest shoreline volunteers. There was also a report from the Southeast late in the day.

This bloom was very intense, some longtime residents remarked that they had never seen anything like it. The blooms lingered all day and into the evening, but by this morning, the winds had picked up and the blooms have broken up.

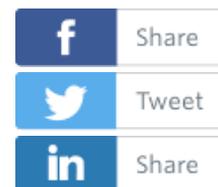
Seneca Lake was not alone. Other lakes in the area, including Canandaigua, Cayuga, and Keuka, also experienced extensive bloom events. The very calm winds likely contributed, but given the day was cloudy and water is getting very cool, there is some mystery what triggered an event that was so widespread and intense this late in the season.

HAB volunteers captured extensive documentation and our dock mounted cameras will provide additional information. Pure Waters also received many public reports and photos via the HABs email and hotline. We are pleased that everyone is out there looking and helping ensure information is getting out.

Anyone can access the volunteer reports on the Pure Waters HAB webpage map. Photos can be viewed by selecting the appropriate dot on the map.

The Pure Waters official HAB shoreline monitoring season runs through this weekend. Some volunteers will continue to monitor through October.

**Share this Seneca Lake Bloom Watch Report  
with friends and family!**



**What is one of the best things I can do to stay on top of this situation?**

Visit the Seneca Lake Pure Waters website frequently at [senecalake.org/Blooms](https://senecalake.org/Blooms). It has the most current information. In addition, if

you live on the lake, it might be a good idea to check with neighbors and determine who your local Shoreline Survey Volunteer is. All of Pure Waters volunteers are a wealth of information and a good person to know. Our 120+ volunteers are well distributed around the lake and many residents have regular conversations with our volunteers as they survey our shores on a regular basis.

If not a Pure Waters member, consider joining. We can use your support and help as we work hard to accomplish our mission of Preserving, Protecting and Promoting Seneca Lake Water Quality. Click [here](#) if you would like to become a member now. Those who need to renew and know their login information can click [here](#) to renew.

I look forward to keeping you up to date as we finish up our HABs/Cyanobacteria season. Enjoy fall in the Finger Lakes!!

Bill Roege  
HABs Director  
Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association

## **HAB FACTS: What you need to know!**

Exposure to any cyanobacteria HABs can cause health effects in people and animals when water with blooms is touched, swallowed, or when airborne droplets are inhaled. This is true regardless of toxin levels; some blue-green algae produce toxins, while others do not. Exposure to blooms and toxins can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea or vomiting; skin, eye or throat irritation and allergic reactions or breathing difficulties.

Because blue-green algal bloom conditions change rapidly over time, the best prevention is to take steps to avoid waters with visible blooms:

People, pets, and livestock should avoid areas with blooms or surface scums, or water that is noticeably discolored.

Avoid blooms when swimming, boating, fishing, and don't eat fish caught from areas of water with blooms.

If you or your pets are exposed to blue-green algal blooms, stop using the water and rinse off with clean water.

Consider medical attention for people and animals if symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting; skin, eye, or throat irritation; and allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur after contact with surface waters with blooms.

Never drink untreated surface water. Even if you treat it in your home with water filtration, chlorine, ultraviolet (UV) light, or other treatment; it's still not protected from blue-green algae and toxins.

If you would like to see where HABs are occurring in NY State, visit the DEC Website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>. Their map is [here](#).

**Report a Bloom** [habsdirector@senecalake.org](mailto:habsdirector@senecalake.org)



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