

Harmful Algal Blooms

Adirondack Lakes Alliance

Annual Symposium

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Margaret H. Murphy

What Are HABs?

- Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Cyanobacteria
(previously called blue-green algae – but not actually algae)
- May or may not produce toxins



Is it a HAB?

YES



NO



Why Should I Care?

- Health Effects
 - Rash or skin irritation
 - Exposure to toxins with more severe effects
- Impacts to recreation
 - Beach closures
- Drinking water supply concerns



What Can I Do?

- Care for and maintain septic systems
- Limit lawn fertilization and use P-free fertilizer
- Maintain a natural shoreline wherever you can
- Keep rainwater on your property
- Avoid water that appears to have a bloom



Our Speakers

- Dr. Rebecca Gorney
 - Aquatic ecologist with expertise in lakes, food web ecology, invasive species, and harmful algal blooms
 - Worked in ecosystems around the country from rain forests in Hawaii, mountains in Colorado, and urban forests in New York City
 - Coordinator of NYSDEC's HABs monitoring at the Central office in Albany
 - Assists with DEC's lake monitoring programs, HABs research, outreach, and other water quality management tasks

Our Speakers

- Dr. Dave Matthews
 - Director - Upstate Freshwater Institute, a not-for-profit organization located in Syracuse, NY
 - Research on over 100 lakes, reservoirs, and rivers in New York
 - Research interests:
 - nutrient loading and cycling in lakes
 - eutrophication and recovery of lakes
 - harmful algal blooms
 - mercury cycling
 - ammonia toxicity
 - influence of sediment processes on water quality
 - Co-author 60+ peer-reviewed journal articles