
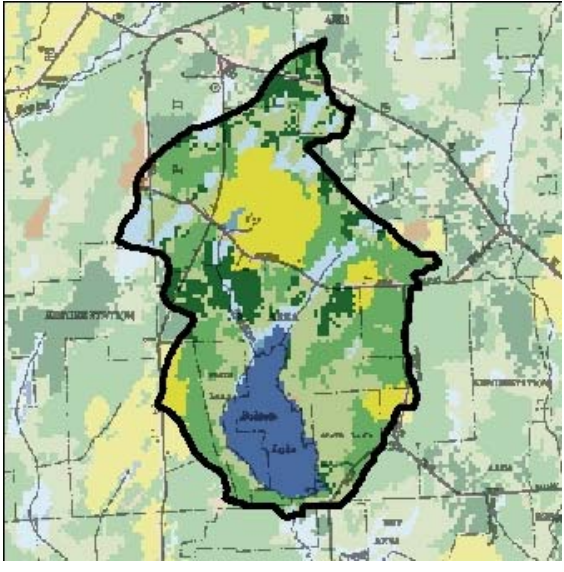











Balsam Pond		Town of McDonough	Chenango County
			
	Lake Characteristics	Surface area (ac/ha)	19 / 8
		Max depth (ft/m)	10 / 3
		Mean depth (ft/m)	5 / 1
		Retention time (years)	unknown
		Lake Classification	C
		Dam Classification	C
	Watershed Characteristics	Watershed area (ac /ha)	1352 / 547
		Watershed / Lake ratio	70
		Lake & wetlands %	19.8%
		Agricultural %	14.5%
		Forest, shrub, grasses %	64.1%
		Residential	1.6%
LCI Participation	Years	2013-2014	
	Samplers	Chandler Rowell, Dan Hayes, Scott Cook Scott Kishbaugh, Cliff Callinan	

Trophic state	HABS Susceptibility	Invasive Vulnerability	PWL Assessment
Eutrophic	No reported blooms, High susceptibility	Invasives present, High vulnerability	Unassessed

Water quality values for Balsam Pond for the 2014 sampling season. "Seasonal change" shows current year variability. Light red color indicates eutrophic conditions in top table and bloom conditions in bottom table.

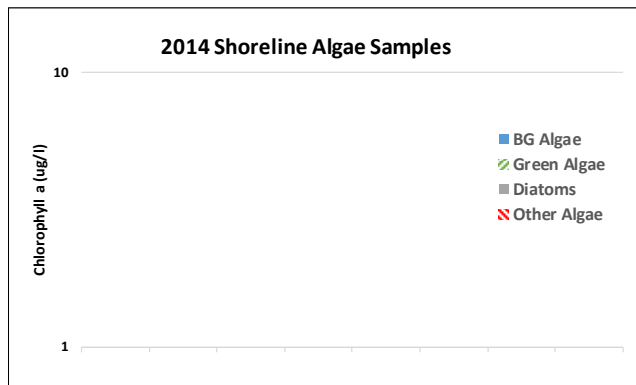
Open Water Indicators	2013	2014 Sampling Results				Seasonal change	2014 Avg
	7/30	6/18	7/16	8/19	9/18		
Clarity (m)	1.5	2.1	2.1	2.4	1.7		2.1
Surface TP (mg/l)	0.029	0.019	0.018	0.016	0.016		0.017
Surface TDP (mg/l)	0.011	0.023	0.011	0.009	0.009		0.013
Deep TP (mg/l)							
Deep TDP (mg/l)							
Deep/Surface TP							
TN (mg/l)	0.76	0.580	0.570	0.420	0.430		0.500
Surface N:P Ratio	26	30	31	26	27		29
Deep/Surface NH4							
Chl.a (ug/l)	15.4	7.9	9.1	6.7	6.4		7.6
pH	7.1	7.8	6.9	6.8			7.1
Conductivity (umho/cm)	50	52	53	45			50
Total Organic Carbon (mg/l)							
True Color (ptu)	90	34	38	28	34		34
Deep Manganese (mg/l)							
Deep Iron (mg/l)							
Deep Arsenic (mg/l)							

Shoreline bloom and HABs notifications

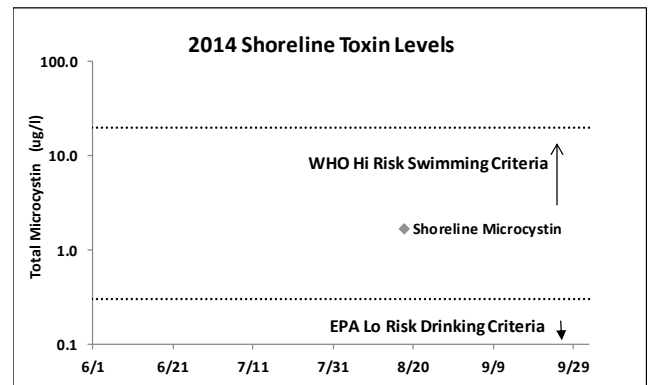
Date of first listing	Date of last listing	# weeks on the DEC notification list	# Weeks with updates
NA	NA	0	0

HAB Indicators	HAB criteria	6/18	7/16	8/19	9/18
BGA	25 - 30 ug/L				
microcystin	20 ug/L				
anatoxin - a					

HABs Status Shoreline Algae

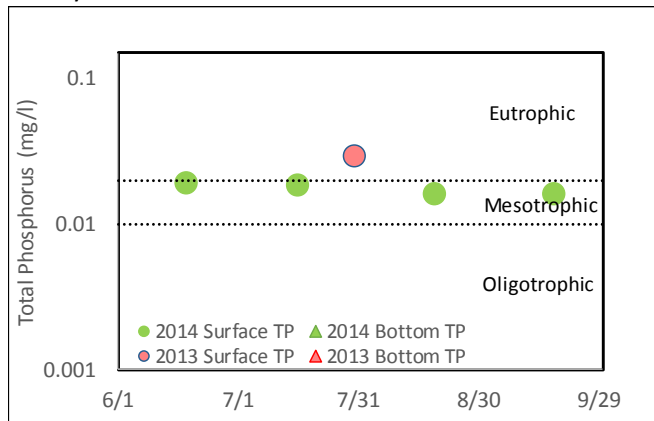


Shoreline Toxins

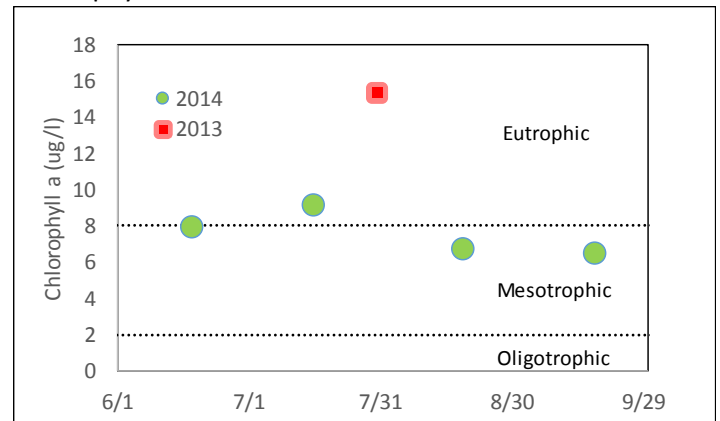


Seasonal Changes- Balsam Pond 2014

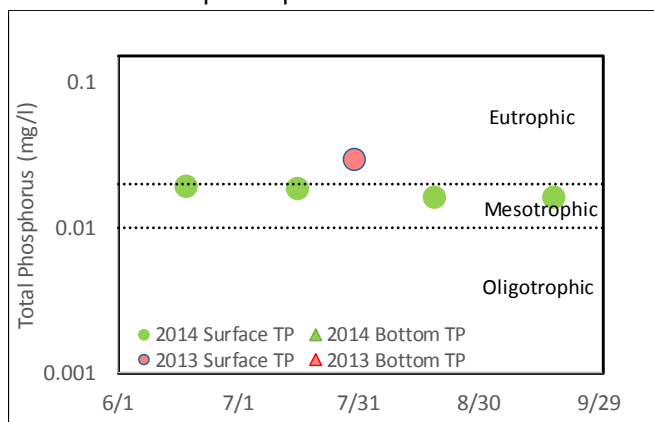
Clarity



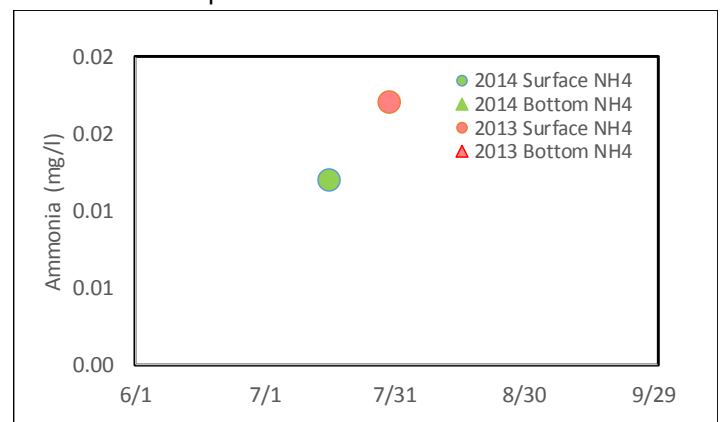
Chlorophyll a



Surface and Deep Phosphorus

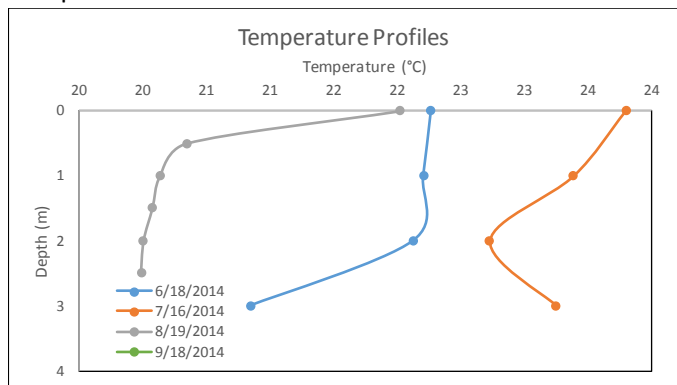


Surface and Deep Ammonia

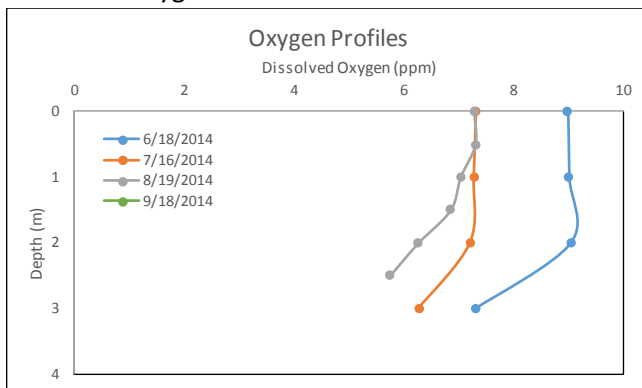


Depth Profiles- Balsam Pond 2014

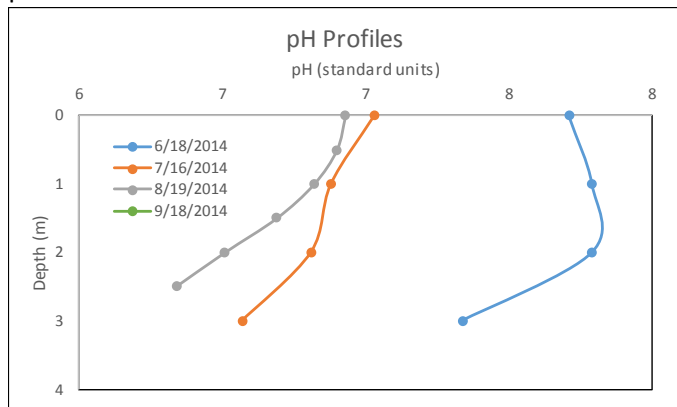
Temperature



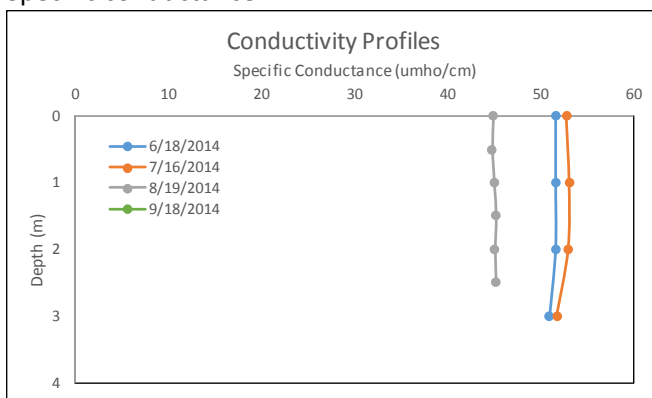
Dissolved Oxygen



pH



Specific conductance



Scorecard

Lake Use			
	PWL	2014	Primary issue
Potable Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable
Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>		No impacts
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>		Algae levels
Aquatic Life	<input type="checkbox"/>		Bottom Oxygen
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>		Invasive plants
Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>		Invasive plants
Fish Consumption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable

Supported / Good
 Threatened / Fair
 Stressed / Poor
 Impaired
 Not Known

LCI sampling summary- Balsam Pond 2014

What is the condition of the lake?:

NYSDEC conducted routine (monthly) sampling of Balsam Pond as part of the Lake Classification and Inventory Survey of the Susquehanna River basin. Balsam Pond can be characterized as eutrophic, or highly productive, based on low water clarity, high algae levels (chlorophyll a), and high nutrient (phosphorus) levels. The lake has near neutral pH, soft water, moderately high water color, and high nitrogen levels.

Do conditions change over the summer?:

No seasonal changes were measured in specific conductance, chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, and water clarity. Small seasonal decreases were measured in pH.

Do conditions change from surface to bottom?:

Balsam Pond is not consistently thermally stratified, so deep samples were not collected. It is assumed that water quality conditions are mostly similar from surface to bottom. Oxygen levels are probably high throughout the lake.

How do these conditions compare to nearby lakes?:

Compared to other nearby lakes, Balsam Pond usually has similar chlorophyll a levels, phosphorus readings, calcium levels, and chloride levels, and lower water clarity, pH, and conductivity.

Have these conditions changed over time?

This lake has not been previously sampled through the LCI or CSLAP, so changes in conditions over time cannot be evaluated.

Were any algal blooms or HABS observed or reported?:

Water quality conditions indicate a moderate susceptibility to blooms, based on nutrient levels, with no reported blooms along the shoreline or in the open water.

Are there any aquatic invasive species on the lake?:

There is at least one invasive plant species reported or present at Balsam Pond, and no invasives have been reported in nearby waterbodies. Invasive species reported in the lake include variable watermilfoil. No invasive animals have been reported in Balsam Pond. Balsam Pond has high vulnerability for new invasives, based on the presence of invasive plants.

Were there any other observations?:

Native aquatic plants observed in the lake included common bladderwort and watershield. It is likely that other native plants are found but were not observed during LCI sampling.

Are any designated uses likely impacted by these conditions?:

Balsam Pond supports recreation use. This waterbody is not designated for use as a public water supply. Public bathing may not occur (via beaches or formally designated areas), but would appear to be supported. Recreation is stressed by high frequency of algae levels above criteria protecting recreational use, and impacted by excessive phosphorus levels. Aquatic life is threatened by depressed bottom DO. Aesthetics are fair due to presence of invasive aquatic plants. Habitat is impacted by presence of invasive aquatic plants. Fish Consumption use is

considered to be unassessed. There are no health advisories limiting the consumption of fish from this waterbody (beyond the general advice for all waters). However, due to the presence of impacts/ contaminants in the lake and the uncertainty as to whether the lack of a waterbody-specific health advisory is based on actual sampling, fish consumption use is noted as unassessed, rather than fully supported but unconfirmed.

What actions, if any, are appropriate for consideration?:

A buffer of native plants next to the lakeshore may help reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. In the rest of the watershed outside the control of the municipality, stewardship activities such as pumping septic systems, reducing fertilization, shoreline erosion and channelized stormwater runoff, and other best management practices can also help to maintain or improve water quality. More information about in-lake algae control measures and watershed nutrient control measures to improve lake condition can be found in Diet for a Small Lake (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82123.html>).

How to Read the Report

In order to make this lake report as easy to digest as possible for the typical reader, only the most critical information collected in the LCI is presented. We hope that presenting the data in a more succinct manner will draw in more readers and hold their attention. Unfortunately, this new format leaves little room for definitions of terms, so we are including this section primarily as a glossary of terms for which the typical reader may not know the definition.

The report begins with the lake name, town, and county. The next section contains some physical characteristics of the lake. The surface area is the two dimensional area of the lakes surface and is given in units of acres and hectares. The max depth is the water depth measured at the deepest part of the lake and is given in units of feet and meters. The mean depth is either known from a rigorous study of the bathymetry of the lake or is calculated as 0.46 times the maximum depth and is given in units of feet and meters. The retention time is the time it takes for a drop of water to pass through a lake, given in units of years. The lake classification is a letter defining the “best uses” for this particular lake, based on the legal classification assigned by New York state. Class AA, AAspec and A lakes may be used as sources of potable water. Class B lakes are suitable for contact recreational activities, like swimming. Class C lakes are suitable for non-contact recreational activities, including fishing, although they may still support swimming. The addition of a T or TS to any of these classes indicates the ability of a lake to support trout populations and/or trout spawning. The dam classification is a letter defining the hazard class of a dam if one exists. Class A, B, C, and D dams are defined as low, intermediate, high, or negligible/no hazard dams in that order. A “0” or blank indicates that no class has been assigned to a particular dam, or that no dam exists.

The next section contains some watershed characteristics including the watershed area in acres and hectares and the land use composition of the watershed. A watershed is the entire area that will drain to a particular lake and is constrained by the topology and hydrology of the land. The watershed area was calculated by the US Geological Survey “StreamStats” program. This area map was then used to calculate land uses from the most recent (2011) National Land Use Cover data on the NYSDEC ArcGIS mapping program. The map itself is shown on the left side of the front page. In general, blue colors show water, green and light brown show forested or shrub land, yellow and dark brown are agriculture, and pink to red is developed land. The program participation section lists the years the lake has been sampled

through LCI over a two year period, and the names of the DEC samplers conducting the work.

The next section includes four boxes. The trophic state of a lake refers to its nutrient loading and productivity- in other words, how much algae is produced, and the cause (nutrients) and outcome (changes in clarity) of this algae growth. An oligotrophic lake has low nutrient and algae levels (low productivity) and high clarity while a eutrophic lake has high nutrient and algae levels (high productivity) and low clarity. Mesotrophic lakes fall somewhere in the middle. For most lakes, the nutrient of concern is phosphorus. A more productive lake will support more plant life, which may be good for warmwater fish, but may lower the quality of the lake if growth becomes excessive.

The harmful algal bloom susceptibility section contains a summary of the available historical HAB data. Although the factors that lead to the formation of HAB's is not yet well-understood, a history of HAB occurrences and high nutrient levels may indicate a susceptibility in the lake that could result in more HAB events in the future.

The invasive vulnerability section indicates if aquatic invasive species (AIS) are found in this lake or in nearby lakes. Invasive species are non-native and tend to rapidly colonize a waterbody once introduced, leaving little space for native species. Lakes with invasives or near other lakes with invasives are vulnerable to introductions of new AIS.

The next section is the priority waterbody list (PWL) assessment section. The PWL is a statewide inventory of the waters of New York State that DEC uses to track support (or impairment) of water uses, overall assessment water quality, causes and sources of water quality impact/impairment, and the status of restoration, protection and other water quality activities and efforts. A PWL assessment is broken into categories that include the following: potable water, swimming or public bathing, recreation, aquatic life, aesthetics, habitat, and fish consumption. All of the categories except aesthetics and habitat are accessed on a scale to determine if each of the listed uses are supported. The scale goes from best to worst in the following progression: fully supported, threatened, stressed, impaired, and precluded. Aesthetics and habitat are evaluated as good, fair, or poor. The cited PWL assessment reflects the "worst" assessment for the lake. The full PWL assessment for each lake can (or will eventually) be found on the DEC website by searching on "PWL" and the lake basin, at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/36730.html#WIPWL>.

The rest of the report contains a collection of tables and charts. A glossary of all the water quality and HABs indicators used in the plots and tables is included below. Of particular note are the seasonal change and average for the sampling season. There is also a seasonal change sparkline chart, which only shows the last year of summer trends. The average column summarizes the average of the last year of sampling results, with all samples weighted equally in the reported average. Data shown in these plots represent 0-2 meter depth integrated surface samples and grab samples collected one meter from the bottom in the deepest section of thermally stratified lakes.

The next table contains a summary of shoreline (and open water if appropriate) HABs data for the lake, along with the associated HAB notification information. If a HAB is suspected, a sample from the worst part of the bloom (usually along the shoreline) is collected and sent in for laboratory confirmation. A HAB notification is added to the HAB database where entries

are updated on a weekly basis. Additional information- samples or visual reports- are used to update these listings. The HABs Status plots show the algal component (total algae and fractions associated with cyanobacteria (blue green algae), green algae, diatoms, and other algae, as measured by chlorophyll *a*, in any collected samples, and the associated levels of total microcystin. The shoreline toxin data graphs include the World Health Organization (WHO) high risk criteria to protect swimmers and the EPA low risk criteria to protect those using *treated* (not raw lake) drinking water.

The next section of the report shows seasonal changes in water clarity, (extracted) chlorophyll *a*, surface and deep phosphorus (if deep samples are collected) and surface and deep ammonia levels. Surface samples are indicated with round markers, while deep samples are shown as triangular markers. If multiple years of samples were collected, results from all samples are shown, with previous years data shown in red.

The depth profile section shows the water temperatures, dissolved oxygen, and some combination of pH, conductivity, or oxygen reduction potential (ORP), the latter an indication of the likelihood (present or recent) of oxygen deficits. These field depth profile measurements are not as accurate as laboratory measurements, and in some cases may indicate some measurement or calibration errors. This report identifies when these measurement may be less accurate or not representative of conditions at that time.

The next section of the report includes Lake Use Scorecard. The scorecard presents the results of the existing Priority Waterbody List assessment for this lake in a graphical form and compares it to information from the current year from LCI data and other lake information. The scorecard also includes a column that lists some primary issues that could impact specific use categories. Multiple issues could affect each designated use, but only the primary issue is listed.

The final section of the report is the Lake Summary. This includes a brief summary of the most recent LCI data for the lake, although there is some comparison to previously LCI data when available. It is essentially the same as the Q&A section of reports generated through the NY Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), and with the Lake Use Scorecard, represents perhaps the most easily understood single page summary of the LCI data for the lake. This was intentionally created as the last page of the report to allow easy copying and distribution to interested parties.

Glossary of water quality and HAB indicators

Clarity: The depth to which a Secchi disk lowered into the water is visible, measured in meters. Water clarity is one of the trophic indicators for each lake.

TP: Total phosphorus, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface (1.5 meters below the surface). TP includes all dissolved and particulate forms of phosphorus. Total phosphorus is a second trophic indicator for each lake.

Soluble P: Dissolved phosphorus, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface, measured in water that passes through a 0.45 micron filter. It is an estimate of the amount of phosphorus available for biological uptake or growth, although available phosphorus is more accurately measured by soluble reactive P.

Deep TP: Total phosphorus measured in milligrams per liter at depth (1-2 meters above the lake bottom at the deepest part of the lake)

Deep Soluble P: Dissolved phosphorus measured at depth, measured in milligrams per liter

TN: Total nitrogen, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface. TN includes all forms of nitrogen, including **NO_x** (nitrite and nitrate) and **NH₄** (ammonia).

Surface N:P Ratio: The ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus, unitless (mass ratio), in surface samples analyzed for TP and TN. This ratio helps determine if a lake is phosphorus or nitrogen limited.

Deep to Surface NH₄ Ratio: The ratio of ammonia measured in deep and surface samples; this is a surrogate for lake anoxia when these ratios are > 10

Chl.a (ug/l): Chlorophyll a, measured in micrograms per liter as chlorophyll extracted from surface water samples using reagents and a desktop fluorometer

pH: A range from 0 to 14, with 0 being the most acidic and 14 being the most basic or alkaline. A healthy lake generally ranges between 6 and 9.

Conductivity: Specific conductance is a measure of the conductivity of water, measured as micromhos per centimeter and corrected to 25 degrees centigrade. A higher value indicates the presence of more dissolved ions that help conduct electricity. Conductivity results may indicate hard or softwater conditions with high ion concentrations resulting in hardwater.

Total (or Dissolved) Organic Carbon: Organic carbon measures the carbon (total or dissolved) in living material within the water, measured in milligrams per liter.

True Color is a visual measure of the brownness of the water, based on water passing through a 0.45 micron filter and compared to a visual series of standards developed from a platinum-cobalt standard (and thus measured as platinum units)

Deep Manganese, Iron or Arsenic measure total manganese, iron or arsenic levels in milligrams per liter in samples collected near the lake bottom. Elevated levels indicate anoxic conditions.

BG Chl.a (ug/L): Chlorophyll a from blue-green algae, measured in micrograms per liter. Readings above 25 ug/L are indicative of bloom conditions.

HABs Reported?: Were any algal blooms reported within a week of the dates listed, and, if so, were they located along the shoreline, in open water, or both?

BGA: Blue-green algae, as measured with a desktop or field fluorometer and reported as micrograms per liter of unextracted chlorophyll a

Microcystin: The most common HAB liver toxin; total microcystin above 20 micrograms per liter indicates a “high toxin” bloom. However, ALL BGA blooms should be avoided, even if toxin levels are low.

Anatoxin-a: Another type of toxin that may be produced in a HAB and may be more dangerous as it targets the central nervous system. Neither EPA nor NYS has developed a risk threshold for anatoxin-a, although readings above 4 micrograms per liter are believed to represent an elevated risk.