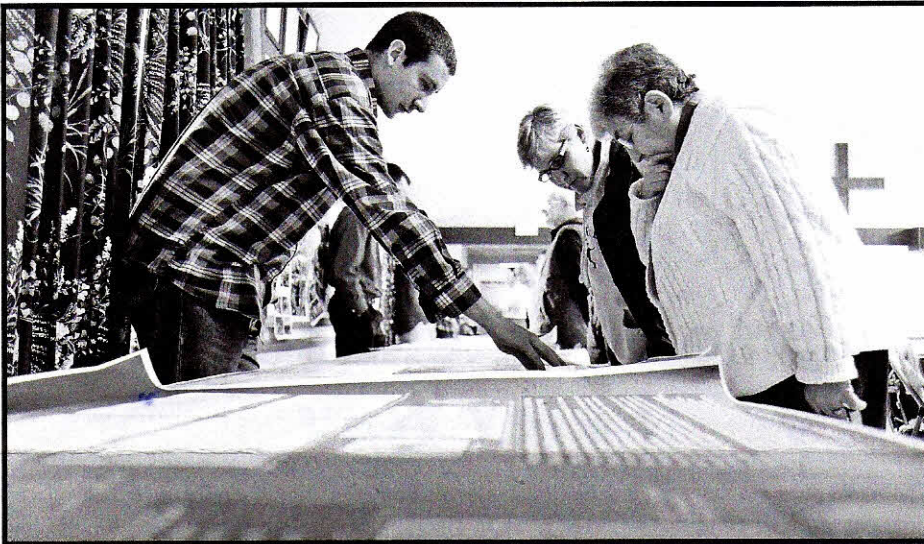


The Tully News

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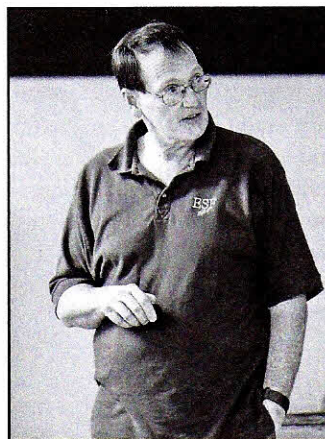
Is the Algae in the Kettle Lakes Dangerous?



Matt Clegg, left, a student at SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry, explains some of the work he and other students did while studying algae on Song Lake.

A crowd of about 60 people wondered about that question as they attended a presentation by Dr. Gregory Boyer on April 17 at the Tully Community Church. Boyer is chair of the Environmental Chemistry Department at SUNY – ESF and is director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium. He is an expert in algal toxins and has been around the globe researching, monitoring and analyzing algae blooms from Lake Champlain to Lake Taihue in China. His lab is one of the primary labs in the region for measuring fresh water algal toxins. Along with several students in his classes, Boyer presented information and the results of studies that have been done in the Kettle Lakes and particularly Song Lake.

The blue-green algae which is common in the area is actually a cyanobacteria. It uses light to grow. Boyer said you can



Dr. Gregory Boyer

near shore. Some colonies can be huge. However he added that not everything is a cyanobacteria. Duckweed is not an algae and pollen may also look like algae.

Boyer noted that it is probably not an

identify it when you see it because it looks like surface scum. It gets blown by the wind and often concentrates

algae if 1. The material is bright green, 2. It consists of long cohesive strands, 3. It is attached to rocks or debris or, 4. it has leaves or other structure. Harmful blue-green algae has been reported all over the United States and there is some concern when it comes into contact with people. Of the 2,000 to 3,000 different species about 20 are harmful. Some can produce liver toxins, neurotoxins, and nasty compounds such as swimmers itch. When blue-green algae dies, it uses up the oxygen in the water and can suffocate fish. Some people have no problems with the algae and others are very allergic to it. While no one in the United States has died from contact with blue-green algae, over the years a number of people have gotten sick.

What should you do if you see it? First, remember that not all algae are toxic. Don't drink the water. Be careful of contact with the algae. And keep pets away from it. Dogs won't drink the algae water but if they swim through it they may try to lick it off their fur.

Boyer reported that the blue-green algae is very common in New York State and about half of all the samples taken in Lakes around the state were positive. About 15 to 20% of the samples were strong enough to cause concern. Song Lake, he noted, has very high levels of the microsystems.

Blue-green algae needs several things to survive and thrive. They need nutrients in the form of carbon dioxide nitrogen and phosphorus. They need calm winds. They need warm temperatures and a seed to start the population. Boyer noted that all conditions are pretty good for continued blooms and that this will be a longer than normal growing season. He added that the best way to control blue-green algae is to make

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The Tully News

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Derek Perry shows how to clean the spokes on a tire at a free workshop on May 11 at the Tully Free Library. Also visible in the photo with their own bikes are Matthew Commers and Angelo Cook.

Bicycle Maintenance – the Perry Way

Most people in Tully probably know Derek Perry as that friendly face behind the counter at the post office. However Derek is also an accomplished bicycle rider. He has ridden literally thousands of miles over trails, through woods and along roadways. His top of the line bicycles are expensive. So when it comes to bicycle maintenance it's a good bet that he knows what he is talking about. When not biking or working at the post office, Perry works part-time at a bicycle shop.

On May 11th and 18th Perry presented a maintenance workshop on behalf of the Tully Free Library that was free of charge to anyone interested in attending. During the first evening of the workshop, with several of his bicycles, he showed how to strip a bicycle down, clean it, lubricate it and make minor adjustments. He also discussed different types of tools that are used, different types of cleaner/lubricant, and what tools and equipment you might want to take with you while riding. Approximately 10 people attended a workshop and several brought their own bikes.

More information on bike maintenance and adjustment was presented on May 18 and the program will be available again on June 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library parking lot.

Algae - Cont'd

sure that sewer systems are not leaching into the lakes, that lawn fertilizers are also not getting into the lakes and to control runoff from farm sites. He added those are about the only things of the growth conditions that people have control over.

Dr. Boyer was presented by the Cortland – Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Inc. A lively question and answer session followed the presentation.

Tully MOO York Dairy Run

Saturday, June 2, 2012
Song Mountain

Registration forms are available on the front table at the Tully Municipal Building.