

Did you know that the headwaters of the west branch of the Cayuga Inlet and the headwaters of Pony Hollow Creek in Newfield are only a half a mile apart but the first flows to the Great Lakes and the second flows to the Chesapeake Bay? Wow, what a divide!



Staff

Stephen Penningroth
Executive Director,
Technical Director

Noah Mark
Lab Analyst

Adrianna Hirtler
Bio-Monitoring
Coordinator

Bill George
Data Entry

Michi Schulerberg
Sr. Laboratory
Analyst, QA
Officer

Claire Weston
Outreach
Coordinator

Abever
Figueroa
Web Developer

volunteers in the rural Finger Lakes and Upper Susquehanna River regions of New York State. CSI's volunteer partnerships reveal the condition of small watersheds that are studied rarely, if at all, by short-staffed government agencies and grant-driven academic institutions.

CSI is immensely fortunate to enjoy support from a dozen stakeholders in Tompkins County, including county government and most municipal governments, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District and Cornell University. Together they make it possible to assemble uniquely long-term, comprehensive water quality data sets on southern Cayuga Lake tributaries. From our core territory of Tompkins County, CSI has reached out to partner with volunteer groups in neighboring areas: In the Upper Susquehanna River region to establish baselines for small streams before fracking could take place; in the Seneca Lake watershed to support the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association's stream monitoring initiatives; and in Cayuga and Seneca Counties to assess the impacts of agricultural land use on Cayuga Lake. The outbreak of harmful algal blooms (HABs) this past summer has reinforced CSI's Cayuga Lake-wide focus as we join with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, the Floating Classroom, NYSDEC and other stakeholders to develop strategies for coping with the HABs threat.

mouth at the lake. Sampling events are conducted one to five times a year under a range of flow conditions, from base flow to stormwater. Volunteers transport samples to our lab in Ithaca where CSI staff perform certified analyses of a dozen indicators including nutrients, E. coli, sediment and salt. Results are entered in CSI's one-of-a-kind free, public, online database (database.communityscience.org), which incorporates interactive maps and dynamic tables and graphs to assist the public in interpreting results.



Our **Red Flag Monitoring** program predominates in the Upper Susquehanna River watershed. Volunteer teams perform quality-assured field measurements of five basic water quality indicators once a month and mail their field data sheets to CSI, where staff enter results in our database. Red Flag teams also submit samples twice a year for analyses of phosphorus and nitrogen nutrients.

Biomonitoring Partnerships collect benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI, aka "bugs" or "critters") from stream bottoms and identify