



AUGUST 2021

WHAT'S UP AT UP YONDA FARM

Naturalist Snapshot

We've got 15 minute Naturalist Snapshot mini programs offered daily during open hours. Topics range from meeting some of our resident live animals, getting you started exploring Up Yonda on your own, learning about the Adirondacks, and so much more!

Pack your lunch and head up to Up Yonda Farm for the day, and while you're here, take advantage of these educational programs! Check out our weekly schedule on Facebook or at www.upyondafarm.com

Summer Junior Naturalist Program

The Summer Junior Naturalist Program has started. You have until *September 22* to register and start having some fun! Make sure you email photos or a scan of completed work to Up Yonda at uyfeec@gmail.com before September 22 so that we can mail you your Summer Junior Naturalist badge and certificate. Registration information on our website, www.upyondafarm.com



Thank you volunteers!

We are thrilled to have many new faces join our team of volunteers this summer! We wanted to extend a special thank you to these individuals from Warren County Master Gardeners, local high schools, and our community that help make Up Yonda Farm such a special place. From helping us maintain our gardens to working on special projects throughout the property, without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, many things we do wouldn't be possible. If you know an Up Yonda Volunteer, give them a high five!

AUGUST EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

We've got lots of upcoming public programs in August! Check out a few highlights below for information on how to join the fun!

Paint with Patrice (Family Session) - August 4, 2-4pm

Join Patrice Jarvis-Webber to paint a Monarch Butterfly! For families of all experience levels. Class size is limited, and costs \$25 per participant. Take home a finished 8x8" canvas, no framing needed.

Call us to reserve your spot!

Kayak with a Naturalist at Round Lake Preserve - August 7, 10:00-11:30, 1:00-2:30

In partnership with the Town of Malta Parks, Recreation & Human Services, meet us at the Round Lake Preserve to learn about wetlands and aquatic flora and fauna. Bring your own kayak (and lifejacket), experience kayaking required. Register for your spot at www.maltaparksrec.com

Hug-A-Tree - August 11, 1:00-1:45pm

Sponsored by the Friends of Up Yonda Farm, Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue will present a program on safety tips for kids on what to do if they ever get lost outdoors. This program is free with a paid Day Use Fee, and is geared towards kids aged 6 to 11.

Paint with Patrice (Adult Session) - August 18, 6-8pm

Join Patrice Jarvis-Webber to paint a poppy inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe! For adults of all experience levels. Class size is limited, and costs \$25 per participant. Take home a finished 8x8" canvas, no framing needed. Call us to reserve your spot!

Naturalist Snapshot - Daily during open hours!

Check our website for weekly calendars of programs!

Harmful Algal Blooms

By Abby Saks, Up Yonda Farm Volunteer

In November 2020, a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) occurred in Lake George for the first time. A HAB is an overgrowth of algae that forms in water, and generally looks like a mat or clump of blue-green water. Usually, that algae is made of cyanobacteria, which are a type of bacteria that can photosynthesize, or use sunlight to produce oxygen and energy that they (and other organisms) can use.

So why do algal blooms occur, and what makes them harmful? Algae naturally grows in all bodies of water, but due to environmental changes, it has been growing at much higher amounts in recent years, forming non-harmful algal blooms. Lake George is naturally an oligotrophic lake, meaning that it has clear, deep water and minimal plants & algae growth, but due to septic and stormwater runoff entering the lake, the amount of nutrients in the water has increased. So, algae grows in excessive amounts on the surface, which prevents all of the plants underwater from absorbing sunlight for photosynthesis. Normally, those plants are responsible for supplying the water with oxygen through photosynthesis, so when they are unable to photosynthesize, the water becomes depleted of oxygen in a process called eutrophication.

While that can hurt the surrounding wildlife, those algal blooms are still non-toxic. HABs, including the one that just occurred in Lake George, however, are made of cyanobacteria that do produce toxins, known as cyanotoxins, that are poisonous in high concentrations. Research is being done by the Jefferson Project on Lake George to determine why some algal blooms have toxic cyanobacteria and some don't. It is also unfortunately difficult to differentiate whether an algal bloom is harmful or not on your own. If you see any of the following characteristics in a nearby algal bloom, though, be sure to take pictures and then fill out the New York State Suspicious Algal Bloom Report form.

Characteristics of HABs (from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation):

- Parallel streaks of green on the water surface
- Green dots, clumps, or globs on the water surface
- Blue, green, or white spilled paint look on the water surface
- Bright green water

You can also try to do your part to make sure that the water around your house does not become a breeding ground for any potential algal blooms. First, make sure that wastewater is properly treated, whether it is by the municipality or a septic tank; water and waste in broken septic tanks has already been leaking out into the lake, and could be a cause for the more frequent algal blooms. You should also try minimizing the amount of fertilizer and pesticides you use, if at all, since both drain into the lake when it rains and raise the nutrient levels to unnatural amounts. Hopefully, if people and municipalities can work together, this problem will be eliminated from Lake George's future, and everyone will be able to continue to enjoy the lake for decades to come.