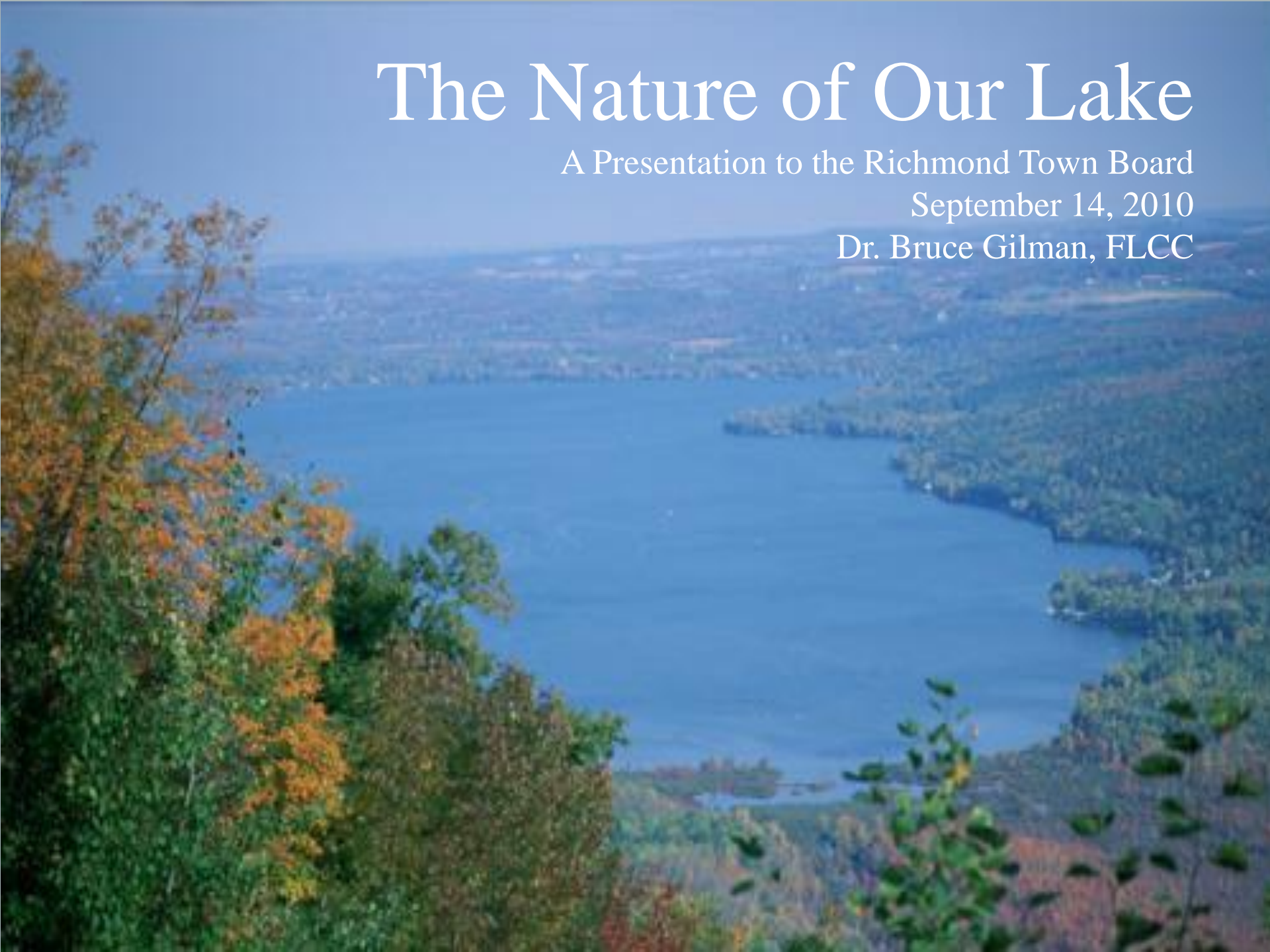


# The Nature of Our Lake

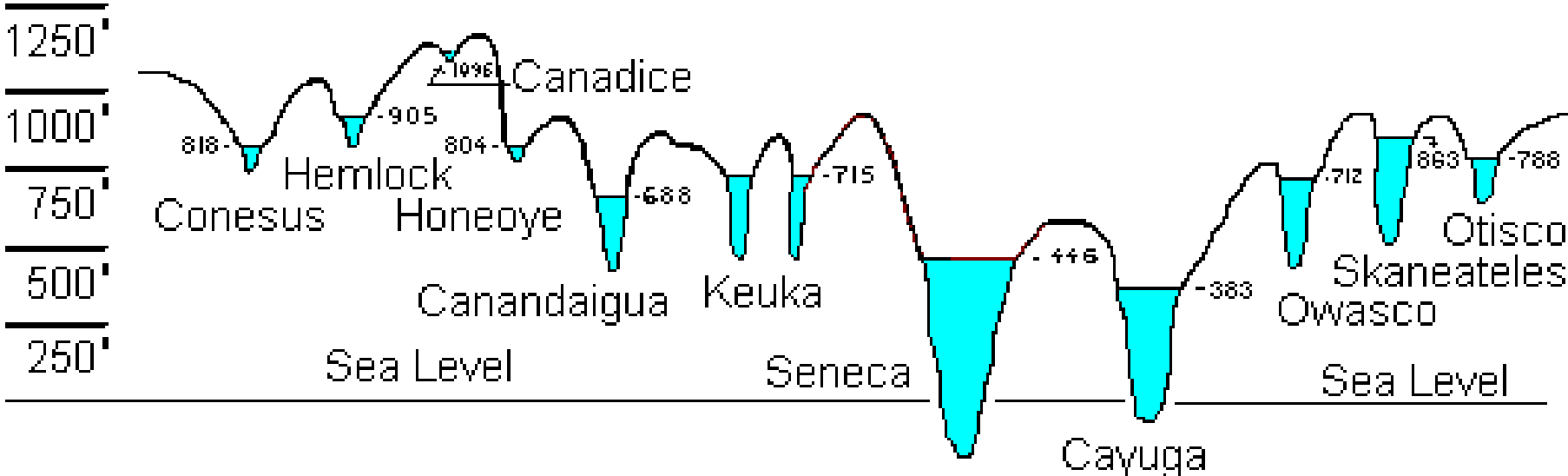
A Presentation to the Richmond Town Board

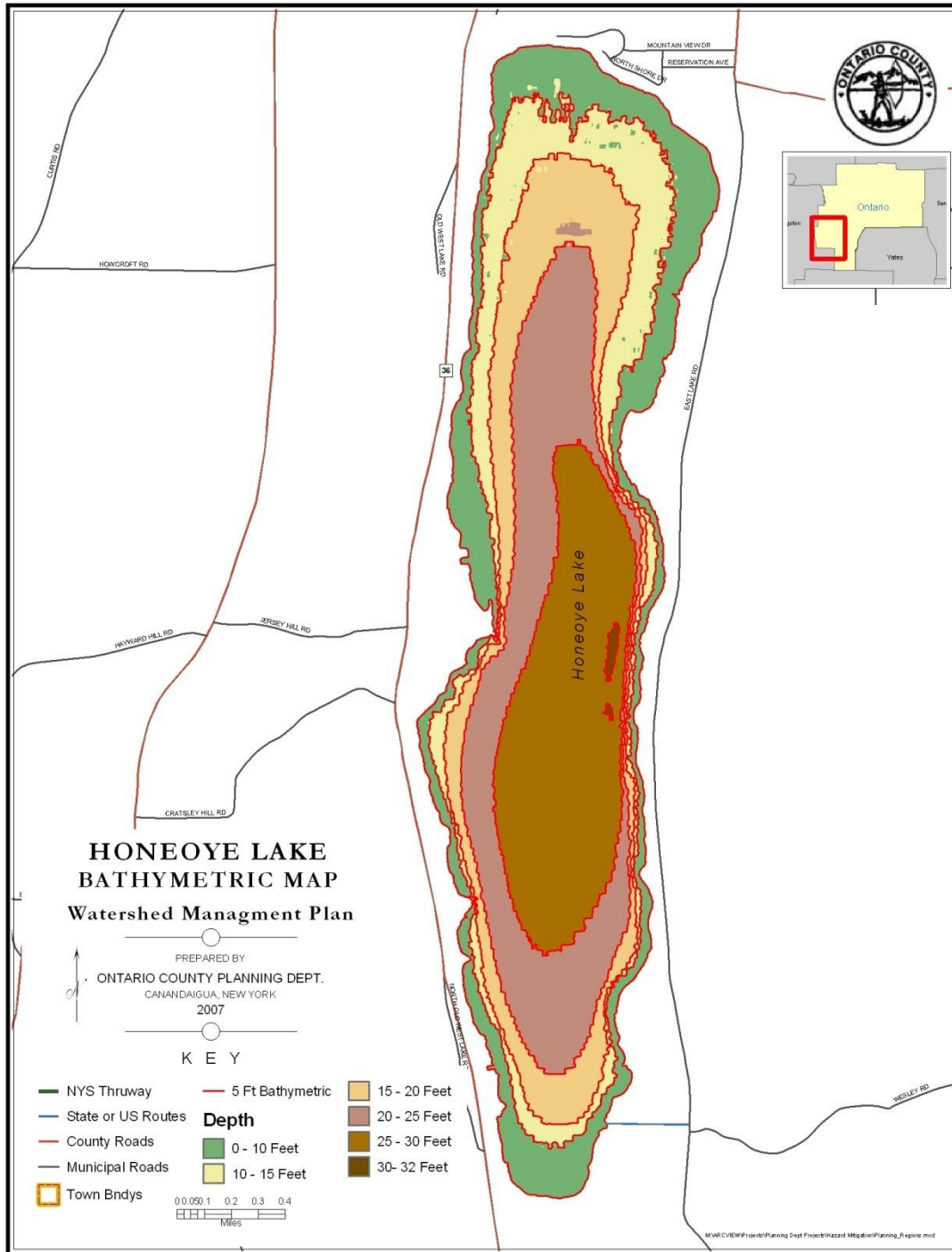
September 14, 2010

Dr. Bruce Gilman, FLCC



### COMPARATIVE DEPTHS AND LEVELS OF THE ELEVEN FINGER LAKES





# HONEOYE LAKE BATHYMETRIC MAP

## Watershed Management Plan

PREPARED BY  
ONTARIO COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.  
CANANDAIGUA, NEW YORK  
2007

### KEY

- NYS Thruway
  - State or US Routes
  - County Roads
  - Municipal Roads
  - Town Bndys
  - 5 Ft Bathymetric
  - 15 - 20 Feet
  - 20 - 25 Feet
  - 25 - 30 Feet
  - 30 - 32 Feet
- Depth**
- 0 - 10 Feet
  - 10 - 15 Feet



# Summer 2010 Regional Algal Blooms



Cayuga Lake



Waneta Lake



Sodus Bay



Conesus Lake

# Sandy Bottom Beach Closed

August 29, 2010



Images by  
Steve Barnhoorn

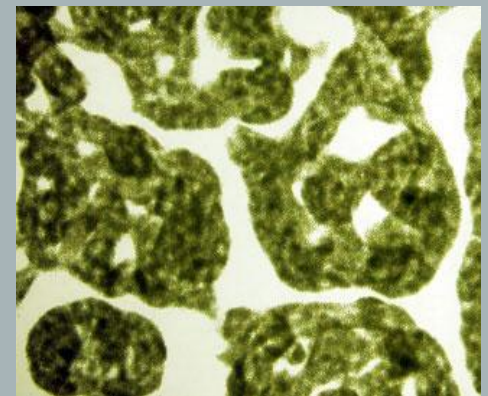
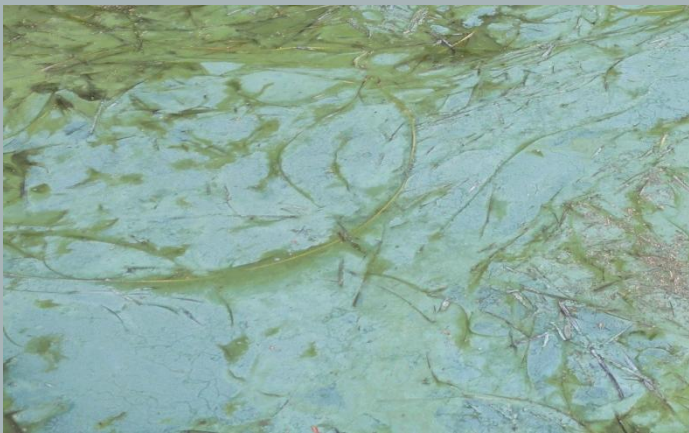
*Gleotrichia*



*Anabaena*



*Microcystis*



# What are cyanobacteria?

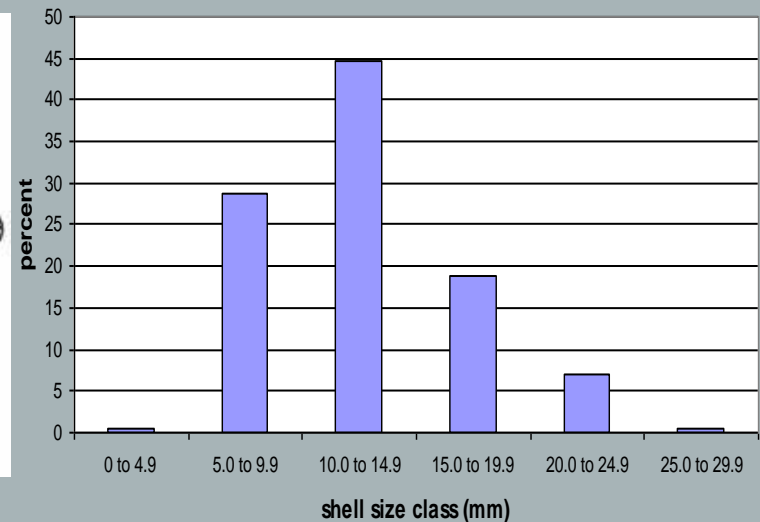
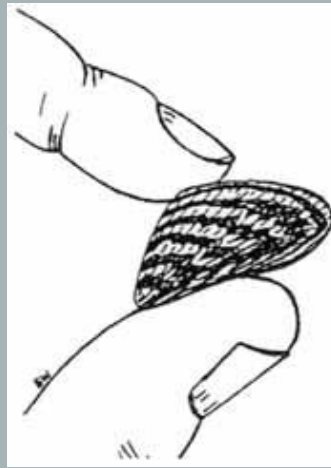
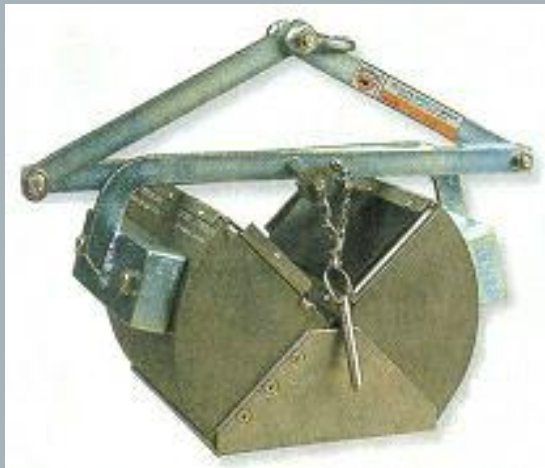
- ▶ Formerly known as blue-green algae
- ▶ Primitive, single celled organisms that can grow as filaments, chains or loose colonies
- ▶ Often surrounded by a gelatinous matrix
- ▶ Naturally present in lakes and streams, usually in low numbers
- ▶ Can form large scum layers, blankets and mats across the water surface

# Why be concerned about cyanobacteria?

- ▶ May cause taste and odor problems in drinking water
- ▶ Some strains produce toxins that can be harmful in significant concentrations
- ▶ Blooms of cyanobacteria disrupt normal lake ecology, and large amounts of dissolved oxygen are consumed from the water when they decompose



# Why have cyanobacteria become more common in recent years?



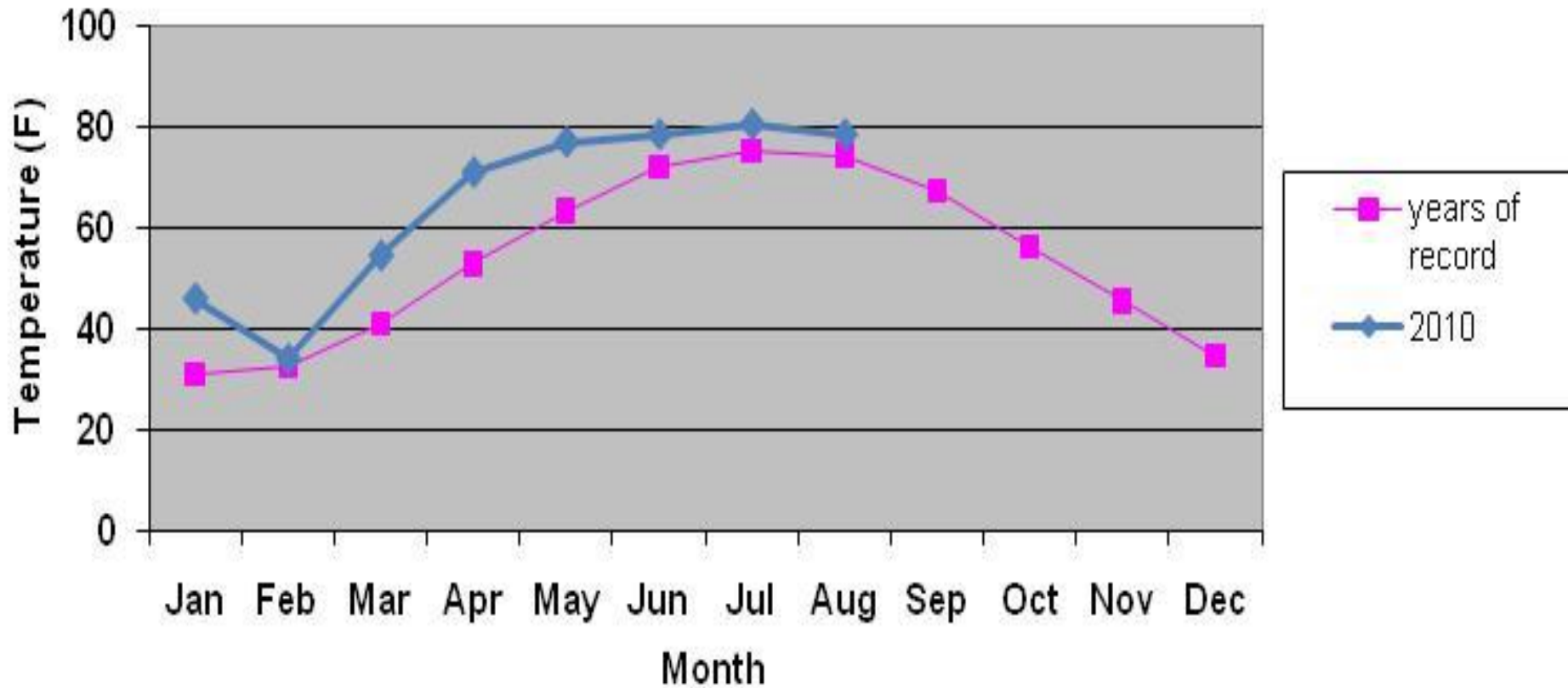
# What influences the growth of cyanobacteria?

These organisms respond to:

- ▶ warm water (hot summer days)
- ▶ sun light
- ▶ the nutrient phosphorus
- ▶ calm, stagnant water conditions

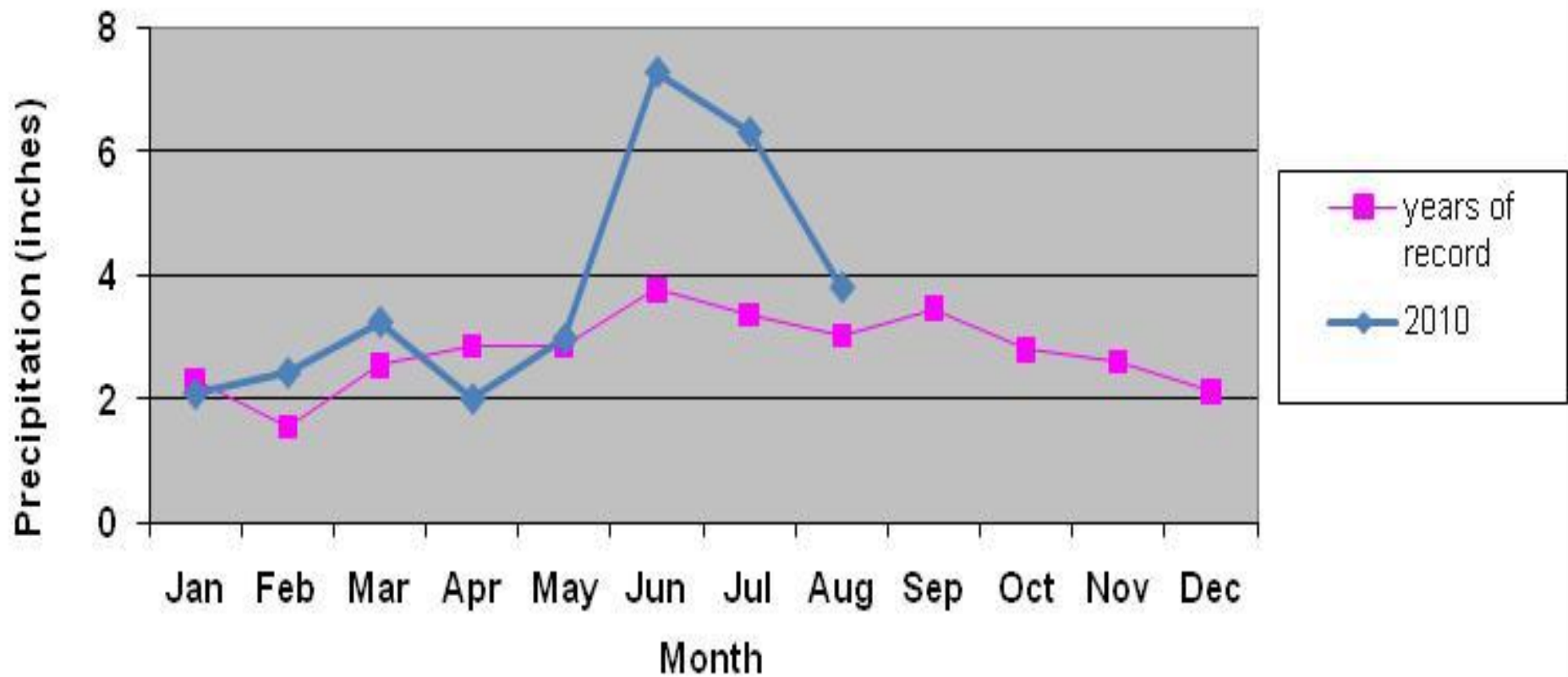
# Average Daily High Temperatures

## Honeoye Wastewater Treatment Plant



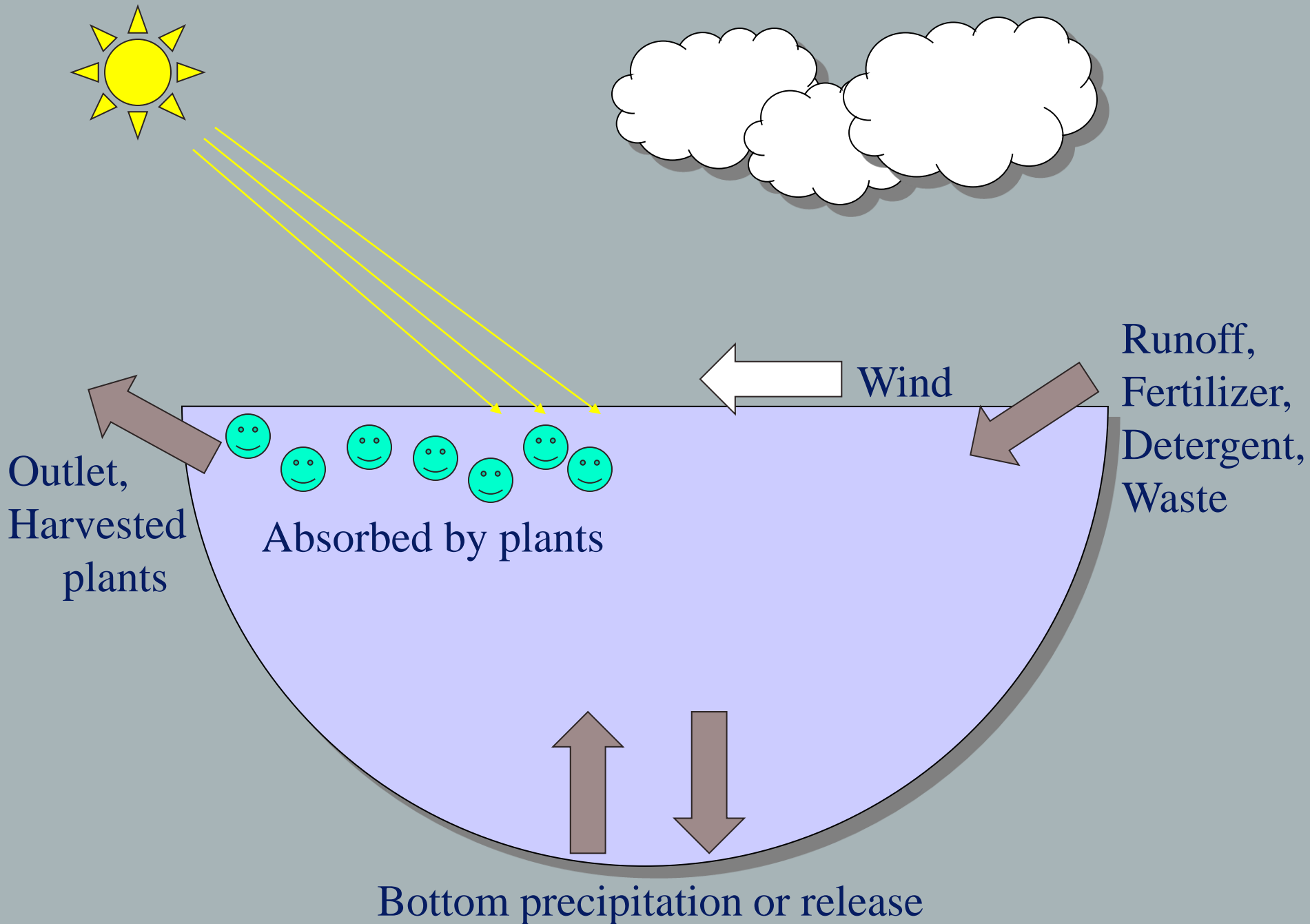
# Monthly Total Precipitation

## Honeoye Wastewater Treatment Plant



# Phosphorus Cycle in Honeoye Lake

- ▲ Increases in phosphorus
  - ▲ Internal loading of “legacy” phosphorus
  - ▲ External loading from watershed and atmosphere
- ▲ Decreases in phosphorus
  - ▲ Chemically bound in deep, frequently anoxic bottom substrate
  - ▲ Removed in mechanically harvested plants
  - ▲ Lost downstream through lake outlet



# Honeoye Lake and Watershed, 1940's

