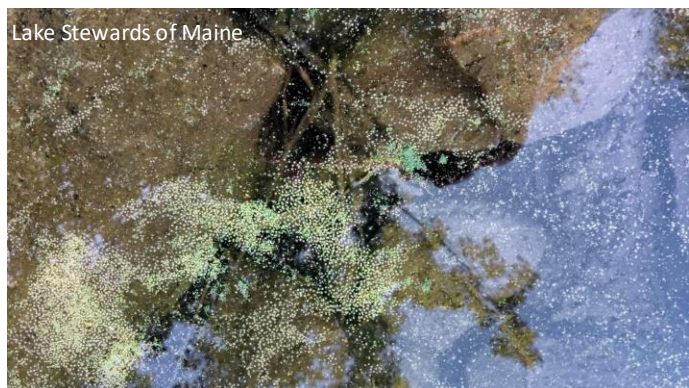


What are those green blobs in the lake?



Lake Stewards of Maine



Pete Countway (Bigelow)

In Great Pond and Long Pond, one of the most nuisance forms of algae that we have are a cyanobacteria (or blue-green algae) called *Gloeotrichia* (or *Gleo* for short).

Beyond being a nuisance, *Gleo* can also cause some lake users to get itchy skin when they go swimming; *Gleo* in very high abundances can also possibly produce toxins.

The *Gleo* blooms we get on Great and Long Pond are very different from the blooms currently occurring on North Pond (which are a different type of cyanobacteria).

On North Pond, we get whole lake cyanobacteria blooms; on Great and Long Pond, we get local blooms of *Gleo*, mostly on the shoreline.

Gloeotrichia Facts:

- *Gleo* is a large (~2 mm) colonial genus of Cyanobacteria
- *Gleo* is made up of spherical colonies of radiating straight filaments called trichomes
- In North America, *Gleo* appears in relatively clear lakes during late summer and fall
- The colonies develop in the bottom waters near sediment containing phosphorus (P), then they adjust their buoyancy with gas vesicles and rise to the surface where they can be distributed horizontally by wind-driven water currents
- *Gleo* have been linked to the P cycle in lakes because they transport P from the bottom to the surface when they migrate
- Along with their role in the P cycle, *Gleo* also play an important role in lake nitrogen (N) cycling because they can fix N from the atmosphere
- *Gleo* can produce toxins, but studies on Great Pond and Long Pond have not detected levels of concern

If you have more questions about *Gleo* or would like to join our volunteer *Gleo* monitoring program on your shoreline, please e-mail danielle.wain@7lakesalliance.org

