

August 22, 2019

TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS ARE GETTING WORSE ACROSS NEW YORK. THE LATEST MONITORING REPORT FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOUND OVER 60 LAKES AND PONDS SUFFERING FROM HARMFUL BLOOMS. THE SWIRLING GREEN CLOUDS SHOW UP IN THE WATER WHEN A COMBINATION OF EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS AND HIGH TEMPERATURES PROVIDE THE PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR THE MICROSCOPIC PLANTS TO PROLIFERATE. THAT INCLUDES IN ONEIDA LAKE, WHERE THE NAMESAKE BEACH AT VERONA BEACH STATE PARK IS STILL CLOSED.

Sept 3, 2019

THIS YEAR'S WET WEATHER COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON NEW YORK'S FALL FOLIAGE. SOME MAPLE TREES ARE ALREADY DROPPING THEIR LEAVES, AND INSTEAD OF TURNING YELLOW AND ORANGE THEIR FOLIAGE GOES FROM GREEN TO BROWN. THE CULPRIT IS THE BLACK TAR FUNGUS, A DISFIGURING INFECTION THAT THRIVES IN MOIST CONDITIONS. EXPERTS SAY IT'S LIKELY TO CUT DOWN ON THE BRILLIANT COLORS TOURISTS LOVE THIS SEASON. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT'S RELATIVELY HARMLESS AND DOESN'T CAUSE ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE TO TREES.

Sept 9, 2019

IS RADIOACTIVE WASTE GETTING INTO THE STATE'S LANDFILLS? THAT'S A QUESTION THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WANTS ANSWERED. THE AGENCY IS MOVING TO MAKE EVERY LANDFILL INSTALL RADIATION DETECTORS AS PART OF AN OVERHAUL TO WASTE DISPOSAL RULES. BUT LANDFILL OPERATORS ARE BALKING AT THE MOVE, SAYING IT'S AN UNNECESSARY EXPENSE FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF SITES. RADIOACTIVE WASTE IS TIGHTLY CONTROLLED, BUT INNOCUOUS ITEMS LIKE CLAY POTS, OLD CAMPING LANTERNS, GLASSWARE, AND GRANITE COUNTERTOPS CAN SET OFF THE RADIATION DETECTORS.

Sept 13, 2019

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS GETTING IT'S OWN AIR FORCE. IT'S NOW USING A SQUADRON OF 22 DRONES DEPLOYED ACROSS THE STATE. OFFICIALS SAY THE REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLES WILL HELP WORKERS TRACK WILDLIFE AND MONITOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS. IT'S ALSO EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND THE D-E-C'S SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES. A SINGLE DRONE EQUIPPED WITH A CHEAP NIGHT VISION CAMERA CAN SCAN A HUGE SWATH OF FOREST FOR MISSING HIKERS AND CAMPERS.

Oct 14, 2019

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ALIEN EGGS. THAT'S A REQUEST FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. AND, NO, IT'S NOT A HALLOWEEN PRANK. THEY ACTUALLY WANT PEOPLE TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE EGG CASES OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY, AN INVASIVE INSECT FROM ASIA. THE D-E-C IS ASKING RESIDENTS TO REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS OF THE DISTINCTIVE EGG CASES LEFT ON ON TREES BY THE INSECT, AND THEN DESTROY THE EGGS. YOU CAN FIND AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE AT D-E-C-DOT-N-Y-DOT-GOV.

Oct 16, 2019

IF YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A FARMER THE STATE WANTS TO HELP OUT. THE CUOMO ADMINISTRATION HAS ANNOUNCED ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANTS AVAILABLE TO NEW FARMERS. THE MONEY CAN BE USED TO DEVELOP FARM OPERATIONS WITH NEW CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINERY FOR SUPPORTING HARVESTING AND PRODUCT

PROCESSING. ANY FARM LESS THAN TEN YEARS OLD CAN APPLY FOR THE FUNDS, WHICH ARE HANDED OUT IN LUMP SUMS UP TO FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.