

Rindge Conservation Commission invites the public to a free two-part talk on Saturday, October 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Rindge Recreation Center. Dr. Catherine Owen Koning, Professor of Environmental Science at Franklin Pierce University, will discuss how the university, Town of Rindge and Pearly Pond Association joined together to reverse the declining health of Pearly Pond. Hilary Snook, Senior Scientist at the EPA's New England Regional Laboratory will talk about cyanobacteria, the toxic Blue-Green algae found in local lakes this summer. These presentations should be of interest to the general public, members of lake associations, and everyone who enjoys fishing, boating, swimming or any other water activity.

Dr. Koning was the lead scientist and project manager for the ten-year Pearly Pond Watershed Restoration Plan. She will review the history of the pond's degradation, primarily from excess phosphorus, and successful steps taken to identify and reduce the sources of pollution. Ongoing monitoring and corrections are important to keeping Pearly Pond healthy. The story of Pearly Pond's remediation applies to all the water bodies in our area.

Earlier this year we read about Cyanobacteria Advisories issued for beaches in the Granite State. Cyanobacteria, or Blue-Green algae, is toxic to people and pets. Hilary Snook's career has taken him to lakes, streams and ponds across New England, where he helps local groups better manage water quality. He will educate attendees on harmful cyanobacteria blooms—what are they, why do they endanger our health and how do we keep blooms from happening.

The Rindge Recreation Center is located at 283 Wellington Road, Rindge. For more information contact the Rindge Conservation Commission at rindgeconcom@town.rindge.nh.us.