

THE GREAT POND



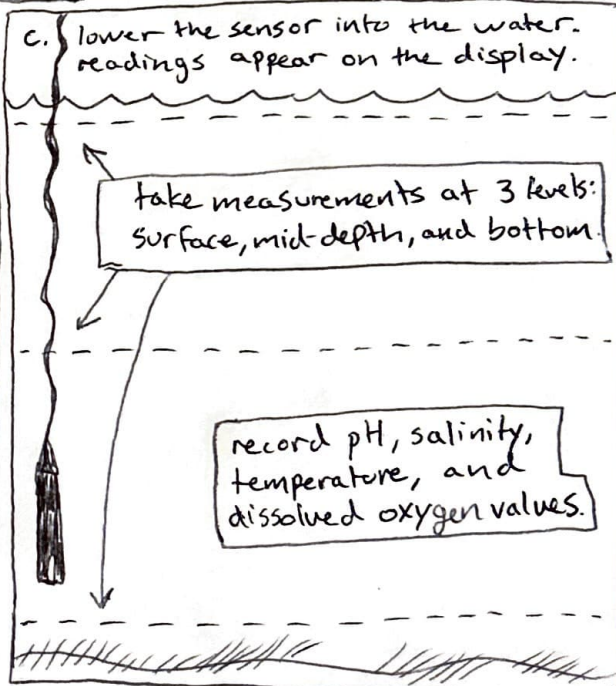
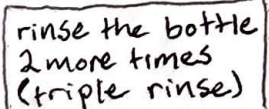
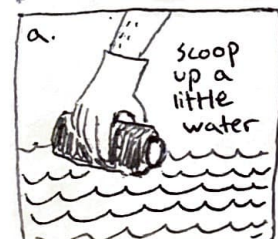
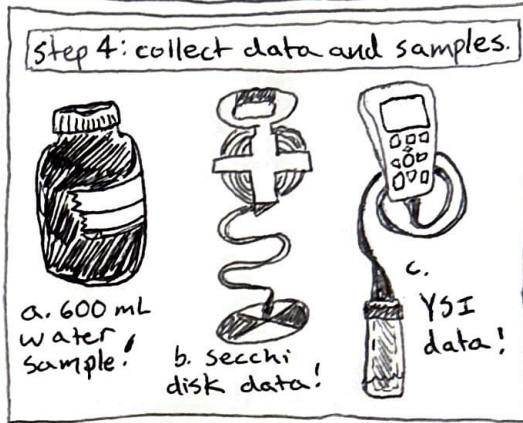
WOW!

over 5 pages
of action-packed
comics!

COOL!

FOUNDATION

COMIC BOOK!



ANNA vs. THE SECCHI!

battle of the century!

4 months ago...

yes, I'm especially excited to use -

what's it called? the secchi disk! nice!

You're hired!

thank you!

summer comes quickly and with it, the start of work...

boy, I can't wait to use the secchi!

walking backwards while carrying bag is difficult!

Anna, today you'll use the secchi disk.

Secchi day!

disappearance: 0.9m

depth: 1.2m

reappearance: 0.7m - oh whoops

it... broke.

it's okay, it happens to everyone!

a few weeks pass...

I've been avoiding the secchi... but it's time to give it another shot.

today - today is secchi redemption!

secchi going well, my curse is -

-oh my god

Please accept my resignation and a check for all damages, \$10,000.00.

I'm going to seek my fortunes... elsewhere.

a full time career drifting and dancing on the beach!

Anna completed a successful secchi disk run on:

July 3, 2025.

and is still employed by the GPF

Secchi history!

1865: original Secchi developed by Angelo Secchi. Plain white, 30cm diameter.

1899: modified by George Chippole to the Secchi disk we all know and love today. 4 alternating black & white quadrants, 30cm diameter.

2025: Anna breaks 2 secchi disks.



wind turbines offshore

the ocean

ospreys

dune grass

otters

Kayakers

White oak

red maple

american beech
(suffering blight)

huckleberries

Sometimes, the beauty of the
great ponds compels us to overcome
our fears - such as my fear of
drawing animals...

sound of waves crashing
on the barrier beach.

beach rose

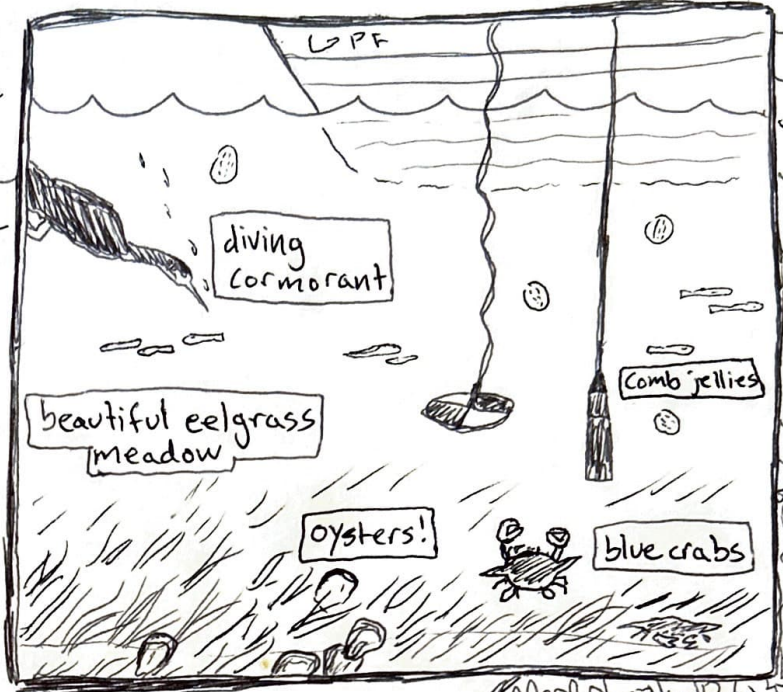
cormorants drying
their wings

marsh elder

oyster rafts

canada geese

swans



cattails

phragmites

poison ivy

white-tailed deer

what catches your
eye on the ponds?

BACK AT THE LAB!

time to process samples and field data!

Step 1: rinse off everything.

anyone want to run through the water?

Step 2: lunch break.

woops.

plain bagel

lollipop

Step 3: the Fluoroprobe.

data is saved, compiled, and analyzed on the computer.

use bbe++ (software program)

wow!

uses lasers (!) to determine cell concentrations inside our water samples

gives us an idea of how much cyanobacteria is present

pretty cool

25 mL sample placed inside

differences in concentrations help us determine if a bloom is present.

25 mL

this sample had 0.00 cyanobacteria cells / mL!

Shake up sample

fill up syringe and shake to rinse

empty into waste bucket.

Shake it up!

fill up the syringe, put some into the cuvette

empty into waste bucket.

fill up to the 25 mL line

and place in the fluoroprobe

Start

Stop

run the sample and repeat!

Step 4: the FluoroQuik!

measures phycoerythrin (aka a pigment in cyanobacteria)

5 mL water samples are frozen, then poured into a little cuvette

makes cute little beeps

and placed in the FluoroQuik!

Step 5: look at notable samples under the microscope.

aha! I've found it!

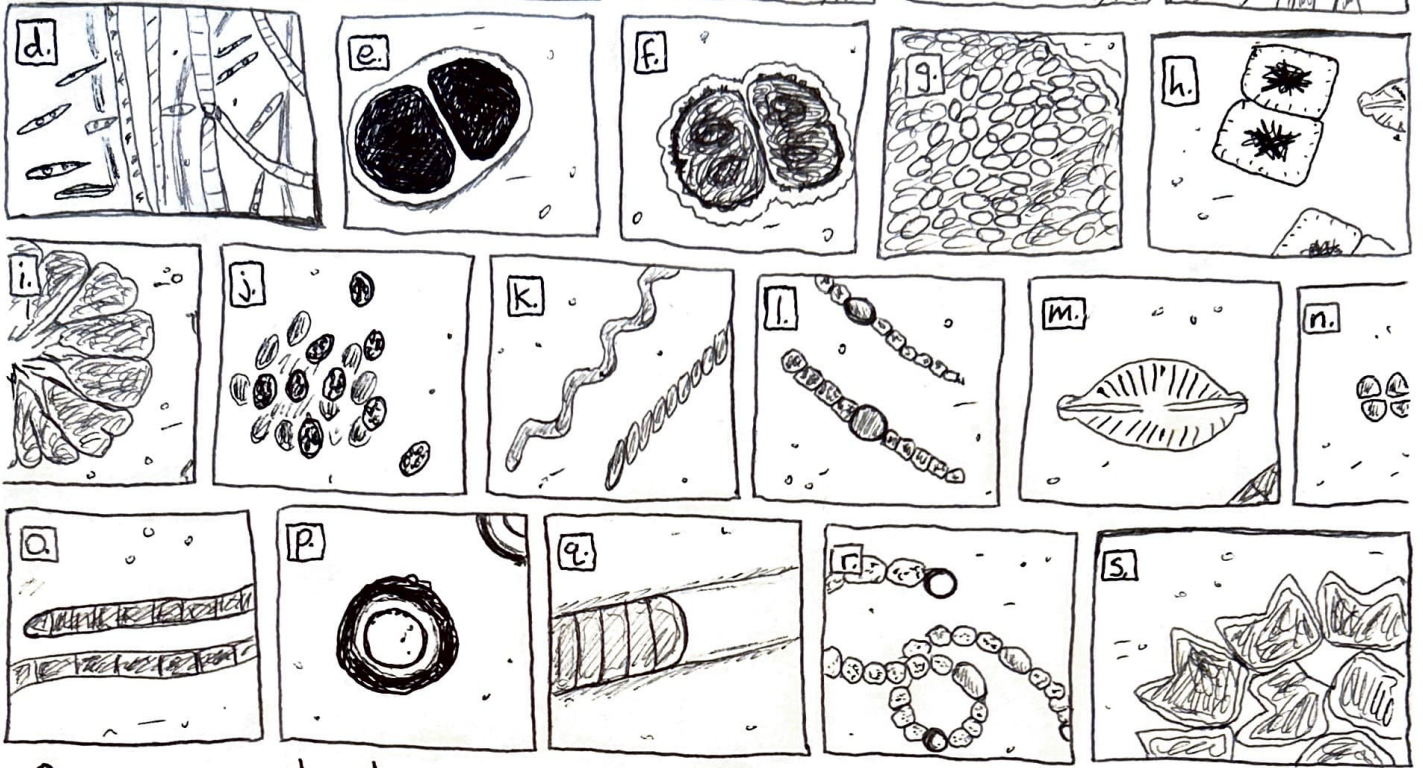
a perfect slide with no air bubbles!

Step 6: dishes.

okay! we got this.

LOOK INTO THE MICROSCOPE!

Can you spot the cyanobacteria?



Once you start seeing the beautiful and unmistakable patterns of cyanobacteria under the microscope, you start seeing the same patterns everywhere....



- * a. Oscillatoria
- * b. merismopedia
- * c. green algae
- * d. green algae
- * e. chroococcus
- * f. cosmarium
- * g. aphanothece
- * h. diatoms
- * i. gonophosphoria
- * j. microcystis
- * k. spirulina
- * l. anabaena
- * m. diatom
- * n. merismopedia
- * o. planktothrix
- * p. air bubble
- * q. lyngbya
- * r. dolichospermum
- * s. pedicellaria



I feel that comics have an incredible potential to reach new audiences and increase engagement in the scientific community. I also hope that people feel inspired to create their own comics, or simply to experiment with other modes of communication. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to pursue this exciting project!

**THANKS
FOR
READING!**

Want to learn more?

visit: greatpondfoundation.org

Acknowledgements:

I'm grateful for the incredible GPF team, who I had the amazing privilege of working with this summer. I would like to express my thanks to each of the following:

Owen Porterfield, Ben Chester, Kendall Rudolph, Carly Inghram, Maria Ventura, and Emily Reddington

THE GREAT POND FOUNDATION COMIC BOOK!

WHAT?

over 5 pages of
action packed comics,
exploring some
aspects of the
Great Pond Foundation

WHO?

The Great Pond
Foundation is a nonprofit
that monitors the
coastal ponds of
Martha's Vineyard.

WHEN?

created summer 2025.

WHY?

See page **7**

HOW?

pen and paper,
patience, and
passion.

WHERE?

in your hands!
right here!