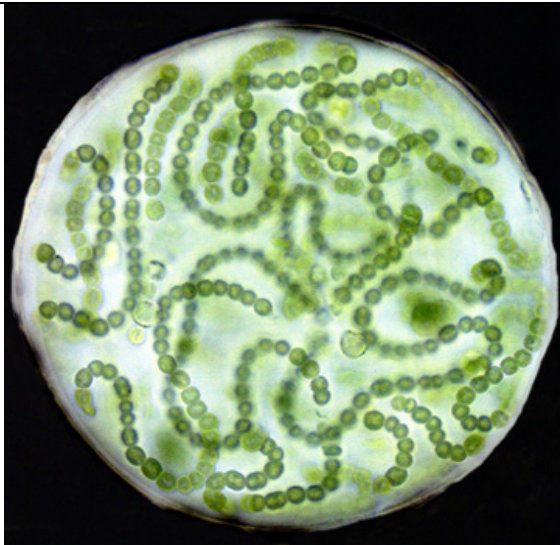


# Hailees' Seaweed Eggs

In September I had a young visitor in our office. Hailee Hoodle phoned me and said that she had found some interesting things in the lake near Christina Creek and wanted to bring them in to see if I could identify them. She arrived at the office and showed me a baggie full of soft round algae type things that I later found out the locals called Seaweed Eggs. I had no idea what they were really called and what they actually were, so I promised Hailee I would find out for her. I sent pictures of the samples to Vic Jensen (Provincial Biologist in Penticton) and to Rob Knight (Provincial Biologist in Vancouver) and waited for a response. Vic Jensen ended up here at the lake to do the fall water sampling program so I gave him the baggie of samples so that he could look at them under a microscope to obtain a proper identification. The following week I heard back from Vic and also from Dr. Rick Nordin - who is a University of Victoria Professor and expert in water resource management. (Rob Knight had forwarded him the photographs to see if he could identify them as well). Both biologists came back with the same identification and I notified Hailee of the results.



**Hailees' Samples were brought to the MOE lab in Penticton**



***Nostoc* as seen through a microscope**

What the "eggs" are is *Nostoc* (a blue green algae / cyanobacteria) that grows in colonies in a small gelatinous globe sort of form. With over 200 species - *Nostoc* are common and widespread in a diverse array of habitats. *Nostoc* is found mostly in terrestrial habitats, such as moist rocks and cliffs, alkaline soils, wet meadows, and the edges of shallow lakes, and is associated symbiotically with assorted vascular plants, mosses, ferns, and fungi in lichens. Vic Jensen also noted that like all cyanobacteria, they are able to fix nitrogen and as Christina Lake is very low in available nitrogen it makes sense to find it in the lake. The genus is also found in mostly benthic habitats of unpolluted lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers.

Hailee asked if she could come to the office and look at the samples under a microscope as she was going to use them for her Science project. I said “sure but we will need to find a microscope”. Melina, Hailees’ Mom found one and we set up a date and time for us to have a closer look. Hailee dissected a sample and had a good look at what *Nostoc* looks like and produced a drawing of what she saw through the microscope and will include this information in her science project.

## Hailee Has The final Word!

I have been collecting *Nostoc* (seaweed eggs) ever since I can remember, even my Mom collected them when she was a kid. I’ve seen only two on the shore in the Autumn, but the rest were all under water during the Summer. My favourite part about this project was looking through the microscope and seeing all the little circles form together in squiggly lines. *Nostoc* is very interesting. Brenda LaCroix is an awesome Instructor; I would definitely do another project with her. Whenever I have a question, I can just go up to the Community Stewardship Resource Centre and get my answer right away. I appreciate Brenda and the other Biologist’s very much, for their commitment in helping me find the answer that I was looking for, and because I had fun while exploring it too!



**Hailee – A budding young scientist!**

**Photo Credits: Brenda LaCroix**

**Microscopic View –**

**[http://siliciasecchidisk.conncoll.edu\\_main.html](http://siliciasecchidisk.conncoll.edu_main.html)**

**Submitted By: Brenda LaCroix and Hailee Hoodle**