



Seneca Lake **PURE WATERS** Association

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# 2019 Harmful Algal Bloom Results

Presentation by: **Bill Roege**

Final Results  
May 11, 2020

# Agenda

- Program history and statistics
- Cyanobacteria and definitions (toxins)
- Bloom experience this year
- Other lakes this year (tentative)
- Blooms over time
- Dock Monitoring Program
- Next year

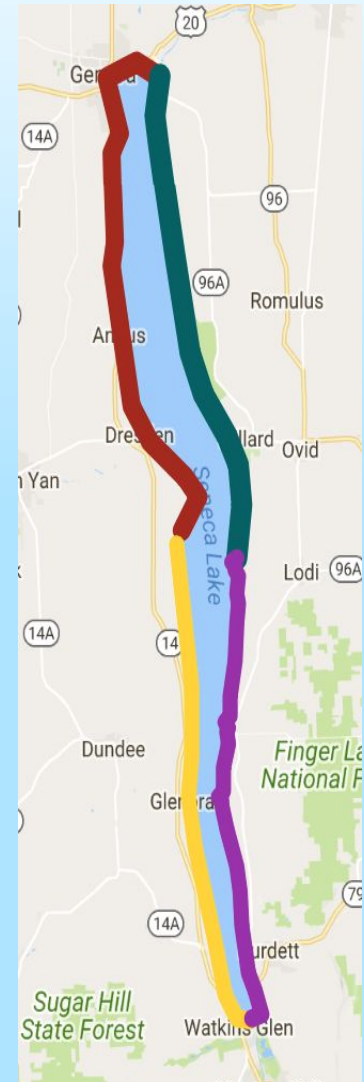
# Brief Program History

|      | # Volunteers | % Shoreline | # Reports | # Confirmed | High Toxins |
|------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 2019 | 123          | 80%         | 149       | 130         | 34/40       |
| 2018 | 102          | 75%         | 48        | 39          | 36/39       |
| 2017 | 80           | 45%         | 60        | 50          | 22/50       |
| 2016 | 40           |             | 12        | 5           | 2/5         |
| 2015 | Hot Line     |             | 9         | 5           | 1/5         |
| 2014 | Hot Line     |             | 9         | 0           | 0/0         |

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# 2019 Program Statistics

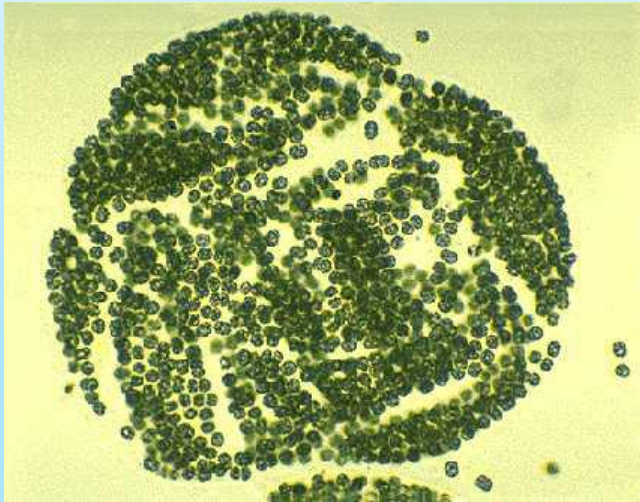
- 85 Zones—covered about 60 miles of shoreline
  - Used the same regional approach—Regional Coordinators
  - Averaged 85% coverage each week
- Differences between this year and last
  - 7-day a week coverage window vice just weekends
  - Focus on likely days
  - More volunteers and back ups in many zones
  - Surveyed into October
  - Encouraged higher sampling for FLI analysis (previously limited to DEC numbers)
  - DEC limits on toxin analysis (40 for HABs program)—special bottles
  - New reporting system, which included location data



# Cyanobacteria

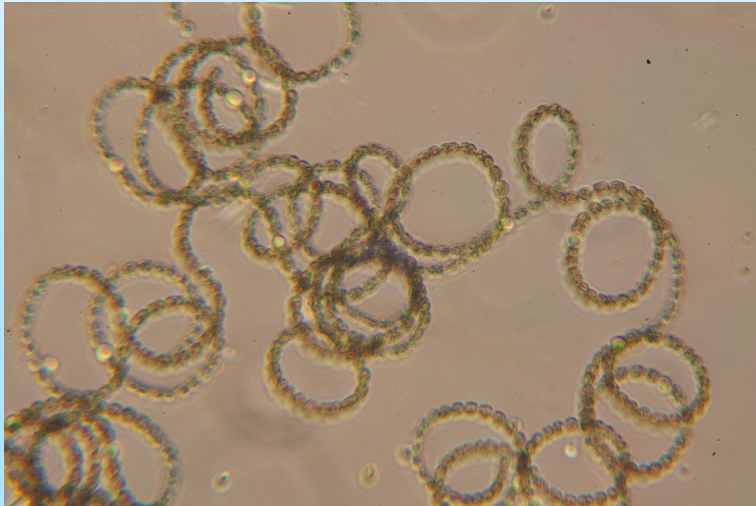
- Primary types of Cyanobacteria in Seneca Lake
    - Microsystis
    - Dolichospermum
    - Pseudanabaena
  - Bloom:  $\geq 25 \mu\text{g/L}$  of Blue-Green Chlorophyll
  - High toxins:  $\geq 20 \mu\text{g/L}$  (any toxin) for shoreline samples
    - Microcystin is the most common toxin and is the primary one tested
-

# Microcystis



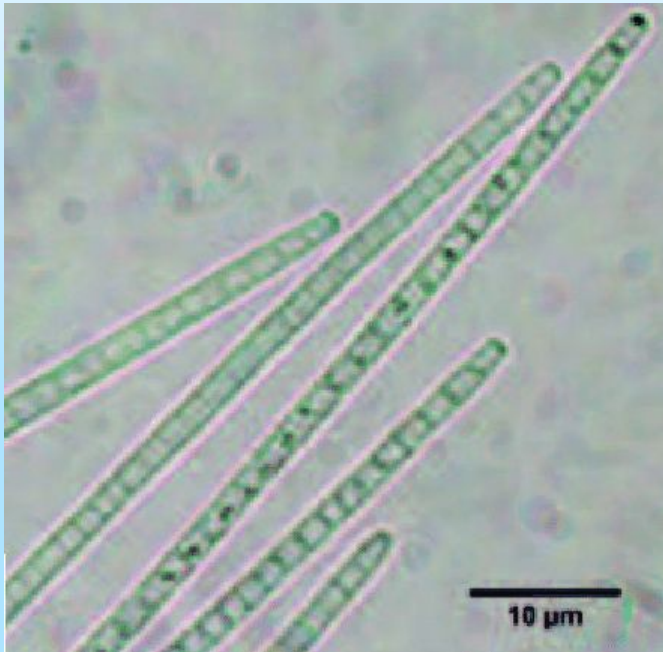
- Very small, but form colonies that are roughly circular
  - Growth inhibited at less than 15 deg C
  - Fastest growth at 32 deg C
  - Most toxic at 20 deg C
  - Produce microcystin (liver toxin) and endotoxins
  - Love phosphorus
  - May be resistant to glyphosates that kill competitors
-

# Dolichospermum (formerly Anabaena)



- Cells form linear strands: straight, coiled or bent
  - May appear brown due to gas vacuoles
  - Has specialized cells that can convert dissolved nitrogen for cell growth
  - Can move up and down in the water column
  - Prefer high nitrogen or phosphorus concentration
  - Can over winter in sediment
  - Can produce toxins, usually when cell wall is breached
-

# Pseudanabaena



- Linear colonies
  - Likes 20-30 deg C temperature
  - Not buoyant
  - Tolerates lower light levels
  - Appears to favor higher nitrogen concentrations over phosphorus
  - Can be toxic – neuro- and hepatotoxins possible
-

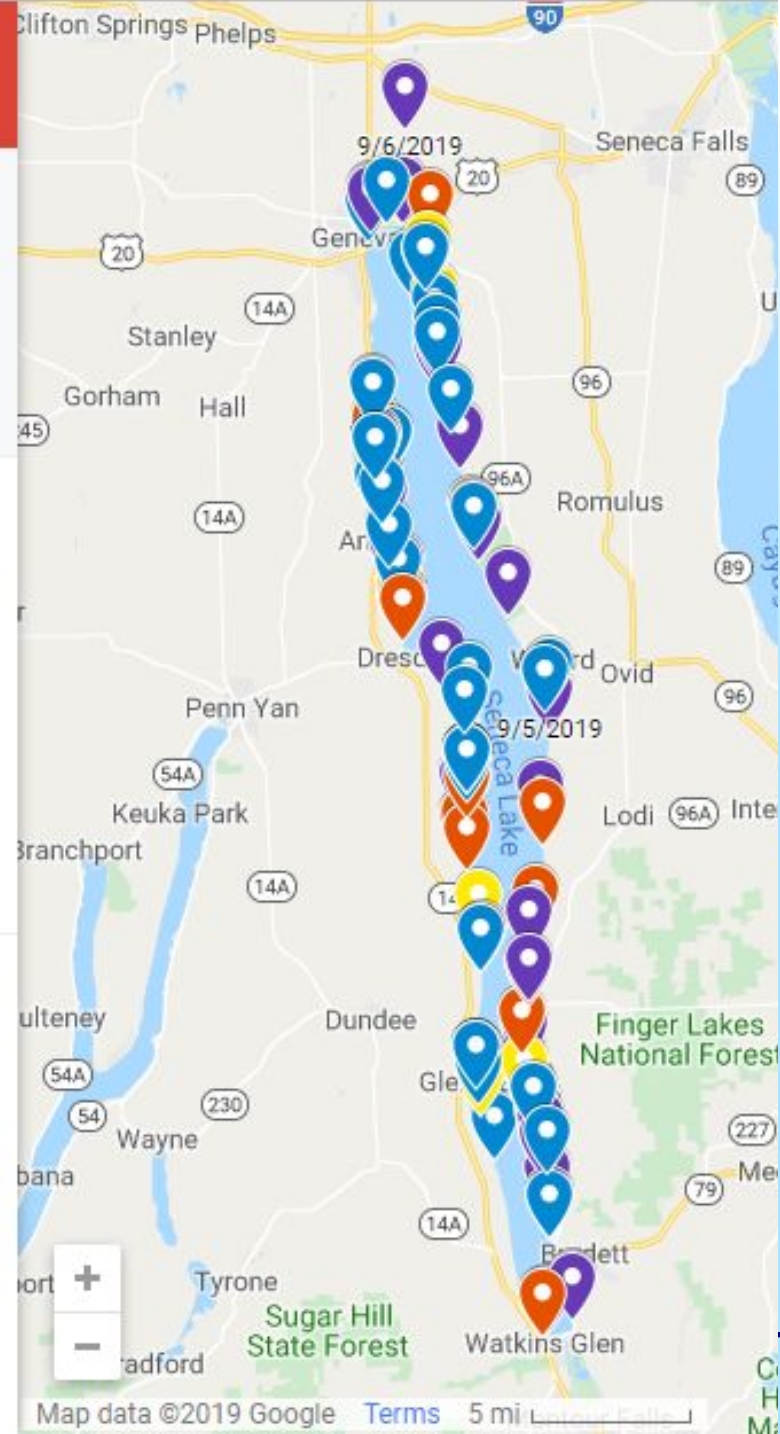


# Definitions

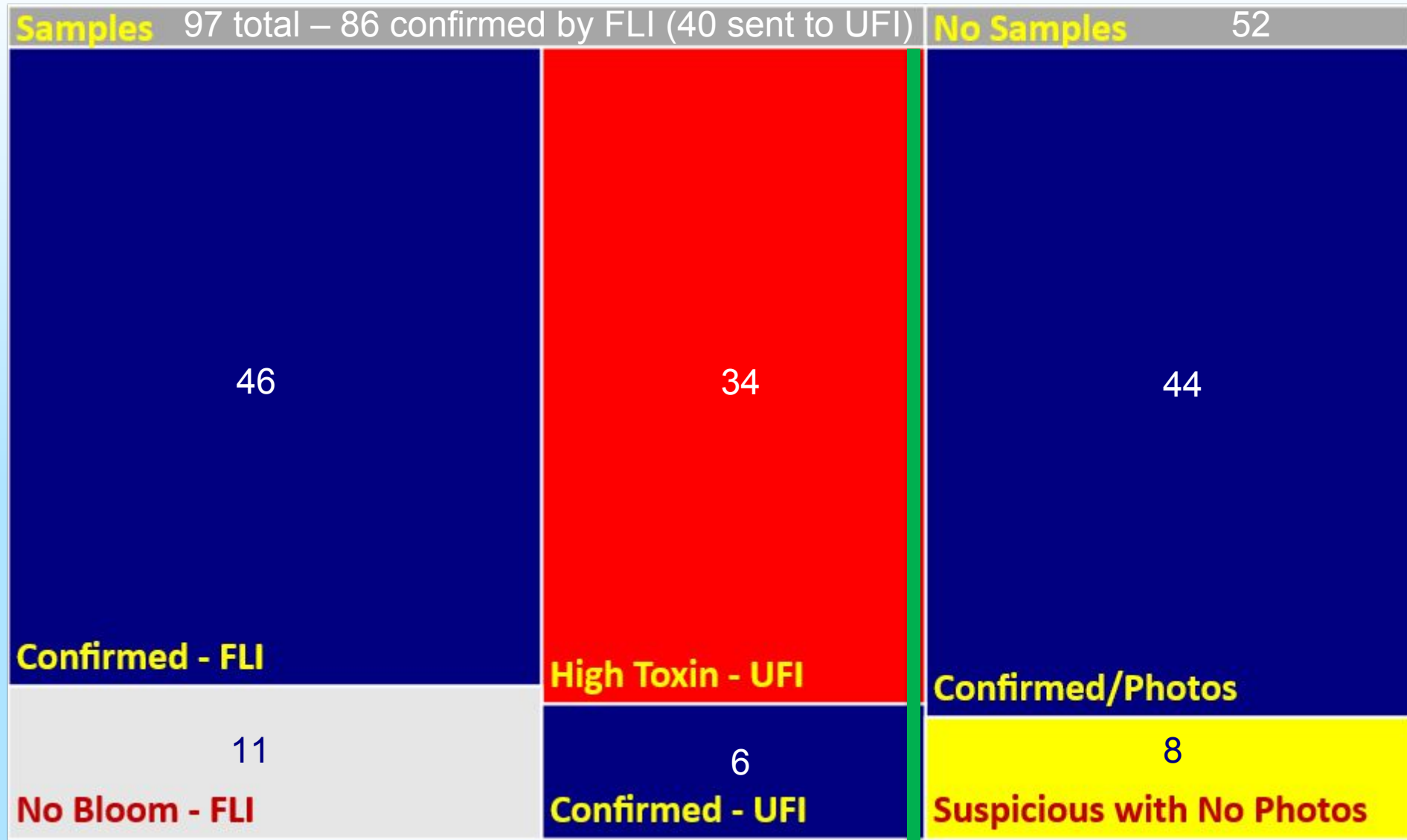
- **No Bloom**—sampled but test is  $< 25 \mu\text{g/L}$  or not sampled and photos are not conclusive
- **Suspicious**—not sampled, no photos to evaluate
- **Confirmed/Photo**—not sampled and photographic evidence is conclusive for a bloom
- **Confirmed**—sampled and lab test is  $\geq 25 \mu\text{g/L}$
- **High toxin**—Confirmed plus sent to UFI and toxin level over limit

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Made with Google My Maps

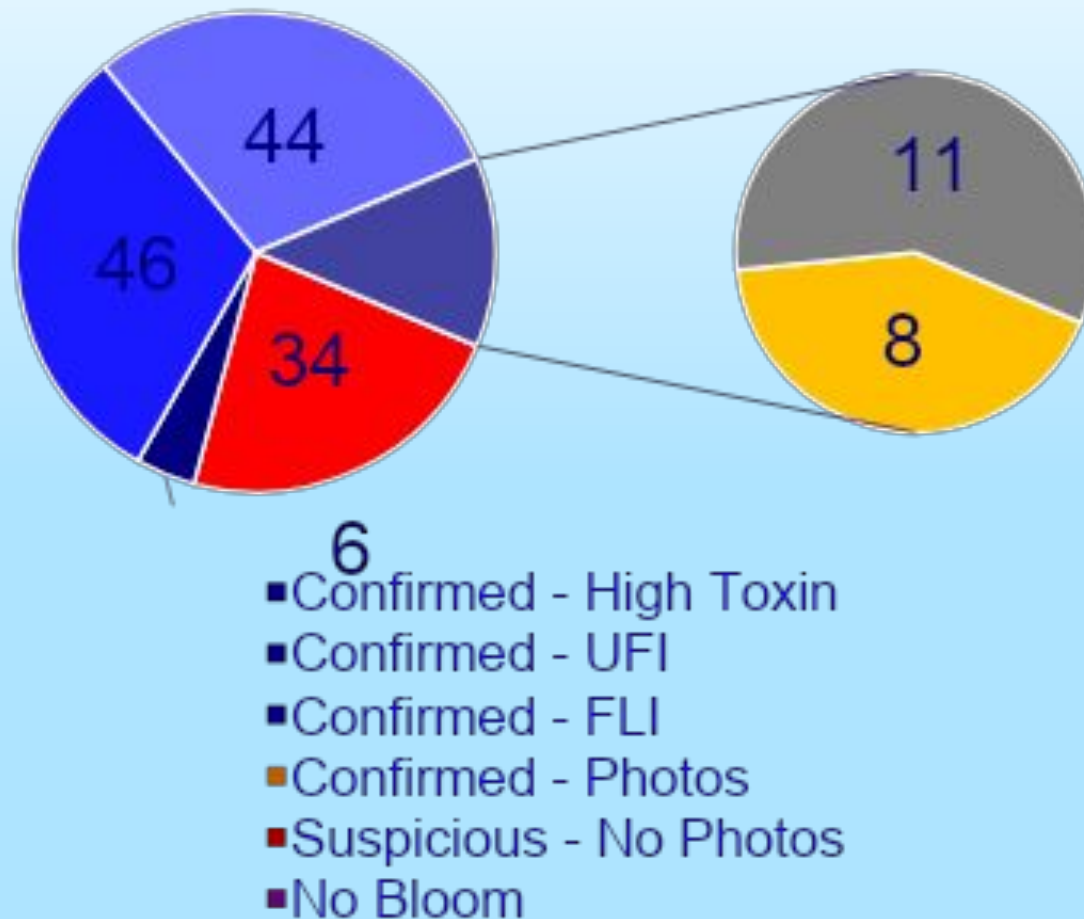


# 2019 Seneca Lake Bloom Reports



149 total valid bloom reports – 130 confirmed

# Seneca Lake 2019 Sampling and Bloom Status



# Bloom Summary by Region

| Bloom Summary 2019         | Northwest | Northeast | Southeast | Southwest | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Confirmed with High Toxins | 10        | 7         | 7         | 10        | 34    |
| Confirmed by Lab Results   | 19        | 10        | 16        | 7         | 52    |
| Confirmed by Photo         | 19        | 13        | 4         | 8         | 44    |
| Total                      | 48        | 30        | 27        | 25        | 130   |

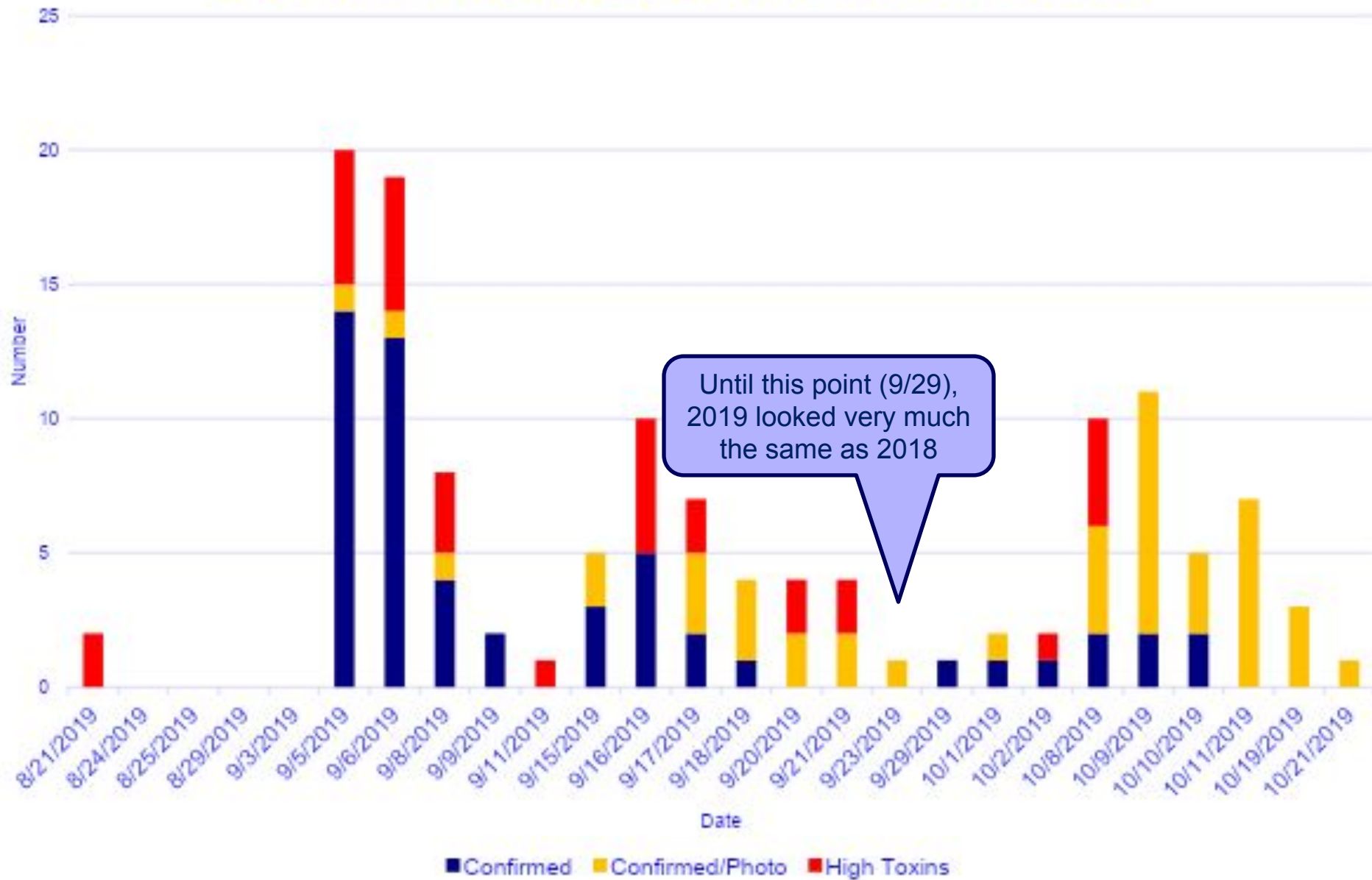
| Toxin Samples                               | 40 |        |
|---|----|--------|
| High toxins ( $\geq 20 \mu\text{g/L}$ )     | 34 | 85.0%  |
| Recreational Std ( $\geq 4 \mu\text{g/L}$ ) | 39 | 97.5%  |
| Drinking Std ( $\geq 1 \mu\text{g/L}$ )     | 40 | 100.0% |

# Toxins

| Toxin Samples           | Northwest | Northeast | Southeast | Southwest | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Less than 4 µg/L        | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1     |
| 4 to less than 20 µg/L  | 0         | 0         | 4         | 1         | 5     |
| 20 to less than 75 µg/L | 1         | 0         | 4         | 1         | 6     |
| Greater than 75 µg/L    | 10        | 7         | 3         | 8         | 28    |
| Total                   | 12        | 7         | 11        | 10        | 40    |

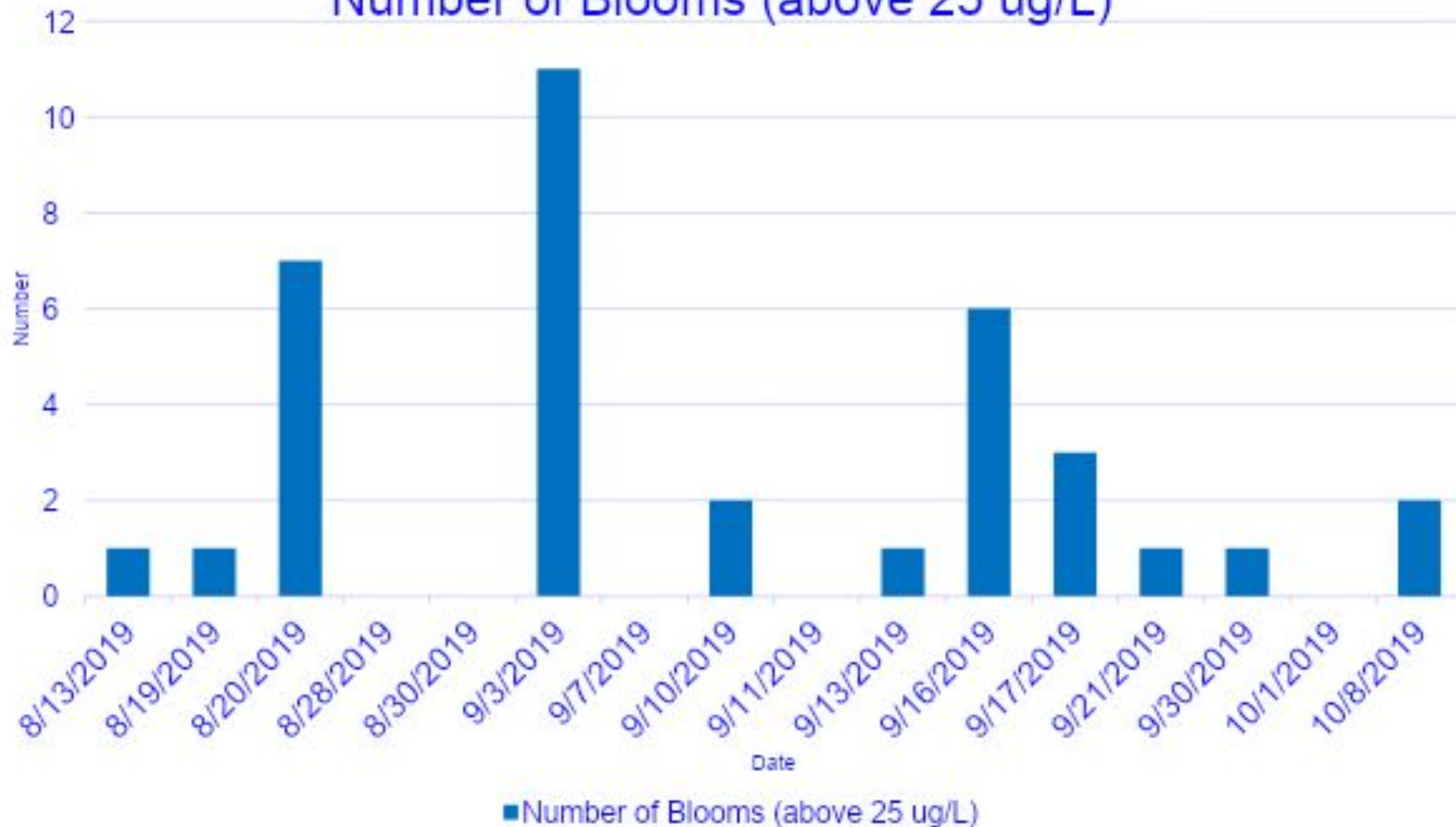
| Toxin Samples - Visual  | Microcystis | Dolichospermum |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Less than 4 µg/L        | 0           | 1              |
| 4 to less than 20 µg/L  | 0           | 5              |
| 20 to less than 75 µg/L | 2           | 4              |
| Greater than 75 µg/L    | 16          | 12             |
| Total                   | 18          | 22             |

# 2019 Seneca Lake Confirmed Blooms





## Canandaigua Lake: Number of Blooms (above 25 ug/L)





## 2019 Cayuaga Lake Bloom Days (CSI Data)



# Keuka Lake

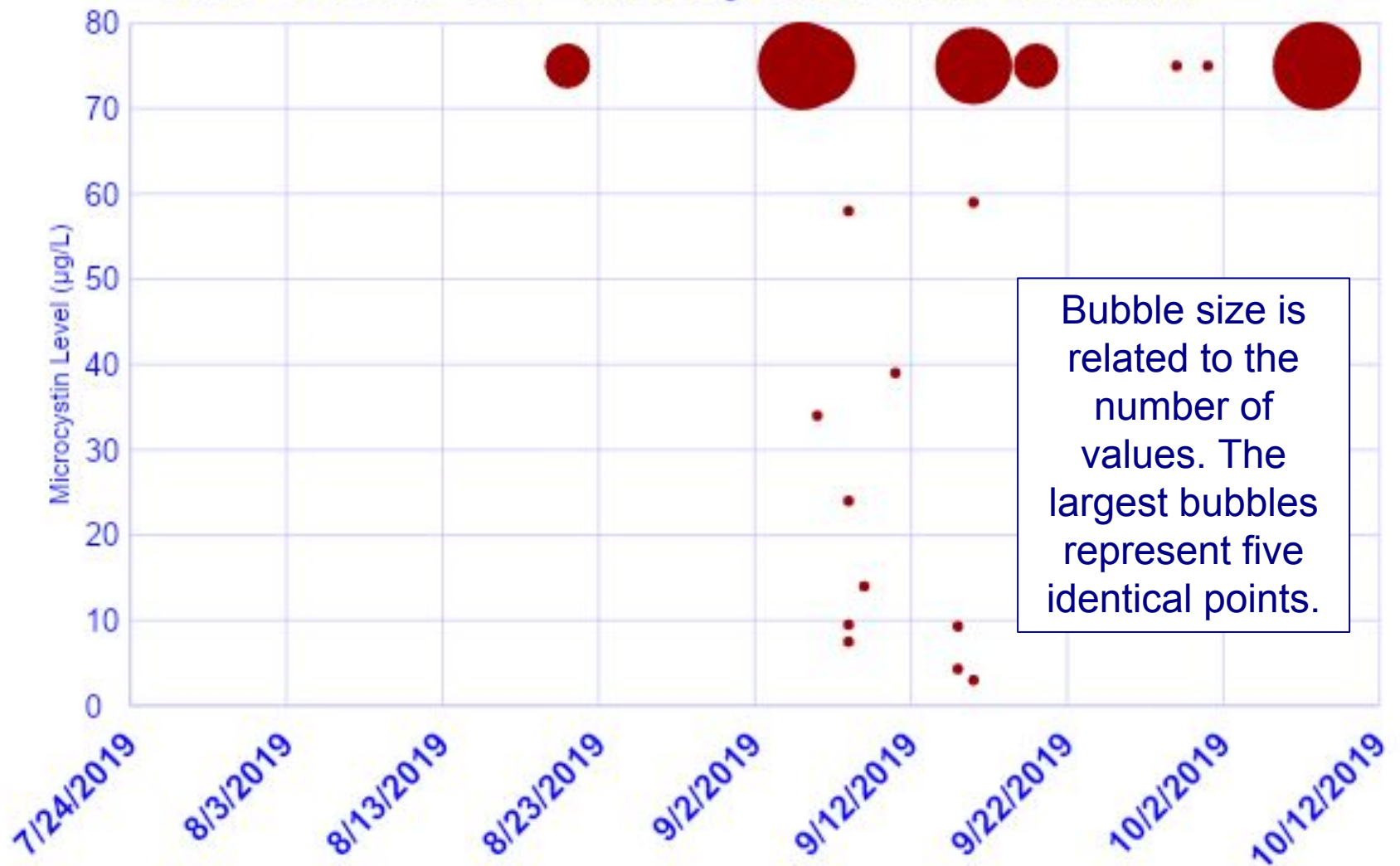
- Keuka just started their program this year
- Not too many sightings during the main season
  - Mainly 9/17-9/21
- However, they also have photos and samples of blooms into October
  - October 5, 9, 10, 11, 19 and 21!
  - Samples taken on 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Results appear to confirm blooms

# Cyanobacteria Dominance Over Time

| August                                       | September 5-17  | September 17 and beyond   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Microcystis</b> dominant in both samples. | <b>Dolichospermum</b> dominant in 50 of 65 samples.<br><u>14 of 37 samples on 9/5 and 9/6 were Microcystis dominant.</u><br>Next Microcystis dominant sample was on 9/17. | <b>Microcystis</b> dominant in all 18 samples.  |
| Both high toxins.                            | 20 of 26 samples sent to UFI were high toxin.<br>All 6 of the non-high toxin samples were <b>Dolichospermum</b> dominant  | Ten of 10 samples sent to UFI were high toxin.  |
| <b>Pseudanabaena</b> present in one sample.  | <b>Pseudanabaena</b> was 3 <sup>rd</sup> or not seen during this period.  | <b>Pseudanabaena</b> first beat out Dolicospermum for 2 <sup>nd</sup> place on 9/20. Then it was always second after 9/21 as Dolichospermum phased out. |

**It appears the main Cyanobacteria types have different life cycles in Seneca Lake**

## 2020 Seneca Lake - Microcystin Levels Over Time



# Dominant Species by Region

| Cyanobacteria<br>Dominance 2020 in<br>Toxin Samples | Northwest | Northeast | Southeast | Southwest | Total |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Microcystis Dominant                                | 8         | 5         | 2         | 3         | 18    |
| Dolichospermum<br>Dominant                          | 4         | 2         | 9         | 7         | 22    |
| Total   | 12        | 7         | 11        | 10        | 40    |

# Dock Station Project

- How much do weather and water conditions vary around the lake?
  - Do certain local conditions correlate with HAB sightings?
  - HABs may be very transient, persistent visual HAB searches might lend a clue (perhaps most promising aspect)
  - Weekly near shore water sampling to see if there is variability geographically and over time (compare with mid-lake CSLAP and HWS data)
  - Provide funding for lab and research time at FLI and HWS
-

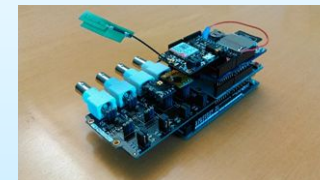
# Equipment



Solar weather station  
Base station  
indoors—internet  
capable



Time-lapse camera  
SD Card, battery  
operated



Experimental data logger  
with  
water temperature and  
dissolved oxygen sensor  
Solar powered (not in  
picture to left)

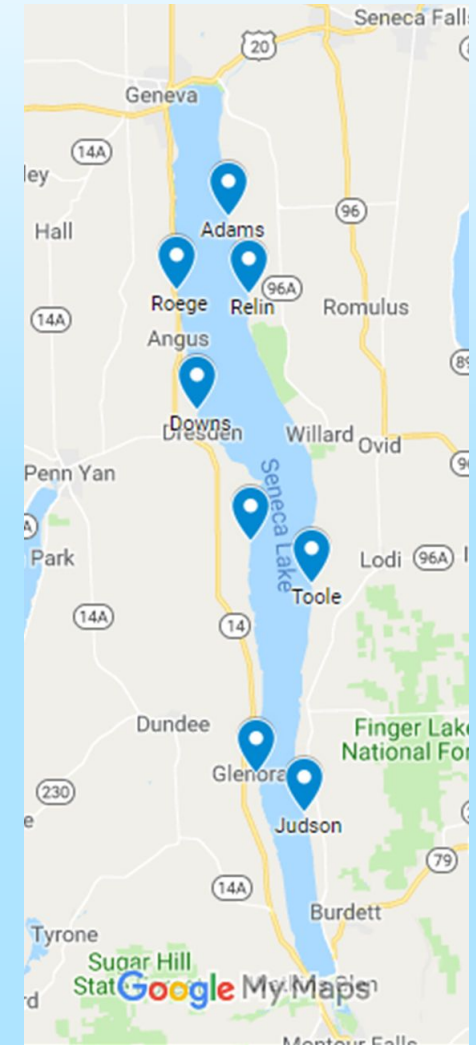


Water temperature  
sensor  
Special "Bluetooth" data  
download



# Eight Locations Around the Lake

- Dock stations at 8 locations around the lake
- Water sampling at 4 of those locations, one in each quadrant
- One location testing a dissolved oxygen sensor

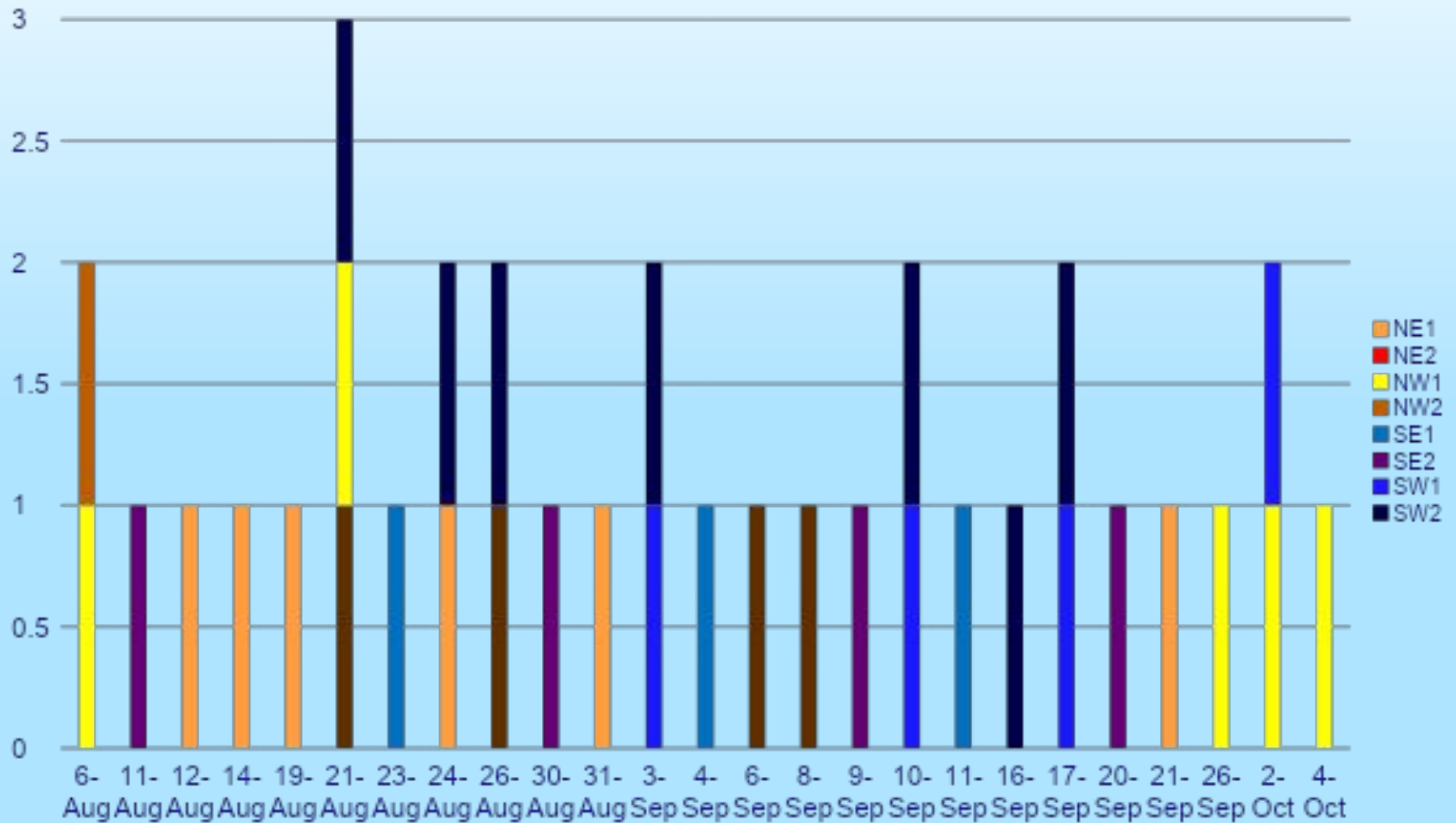




# Bloom Results

- All locations found multiple blooms via the camera
- There were 34 total blooms detected (one camera malfunctioned in mid-August)
- Cameras saw blooms on 12 days in August that volunteers did not report blooms
- Camera saw blooms on 15 days in September and October that the local volunteer did not see them
- Many other days volunteers saw blooms when the camera did not detect them

# Dock Blooms



# Hot Spots

- While there could be observations bias, there were “hot spots” at the following locations
  - Near the mouths of Kashong, Keuka Outlet, Big Stream and a small stream south of Long Point
  - Sampson marina

# Take Aways

- The vast majority of blooms are highly toxic
- Correlations with weather and water data are ongoing
  - We have a lot more data this year to compare
- Seneca does not seem to have the earlier season some other lakes have
- Blooms are not necessarily concentrated in one part of the lake, although on some days they are sporadic in a certain area
- The October blooms were a surprise
  - Need to investigate potential reasons (e.g., calm and sunny with lots of bacteria still in the water column and temps still around 16 deg C and below)
  - Other lakes have the same experience

# Future

- Situation
    - We are able to find a lot of blooms with good certainty and communicate them quickly
    - DEC will not be sponsoring toxin testing
  - New Focus Areas—Fill in where we have less knowledge
    - Drinking water focus – need toxin testing (must pay) and a strategy
    - Open water blooms – find a way to get a better handle on them and relationship to shore blooms
    - More shoreline sampling at hot spots?
    - Finding out more about currents (do blooms move with current and winds)
    - Better October bloom coverage (and sampling)
  - Research needed on Seneca to help understand our lake
    - Fund a summer intern and research at HWS/FLI
-

# Next Year

- Continue shoreline monitoring program
  - Keep the ArcGIS real-time map and spreadsheet on our website
  - Add more real-time notifications (e.g., Twitter, FB)
  - Volunteers report all NO BLOOM surveys
  - Focus more on drinking water and recreational limits
  - DEC not funding toxin testing, so we have to decide whether to fund testing for regular shoreline samples
- Looking into better mid-lake coverage
  - Now that we are very good at shoreline monitoring, it is time to look further from shore
  - Pilot program being developed

# Next Year (cont)

- Continue the dock monitoring program
  - Would like to fund additional research and a summer student
  - Try and fund cellular-enabled cameras and monitor them so we can respond for potential observation and sampling
  - If funding permits, we will continue the weekly water quality sampling effort
- Signs

# New Toxin Focus

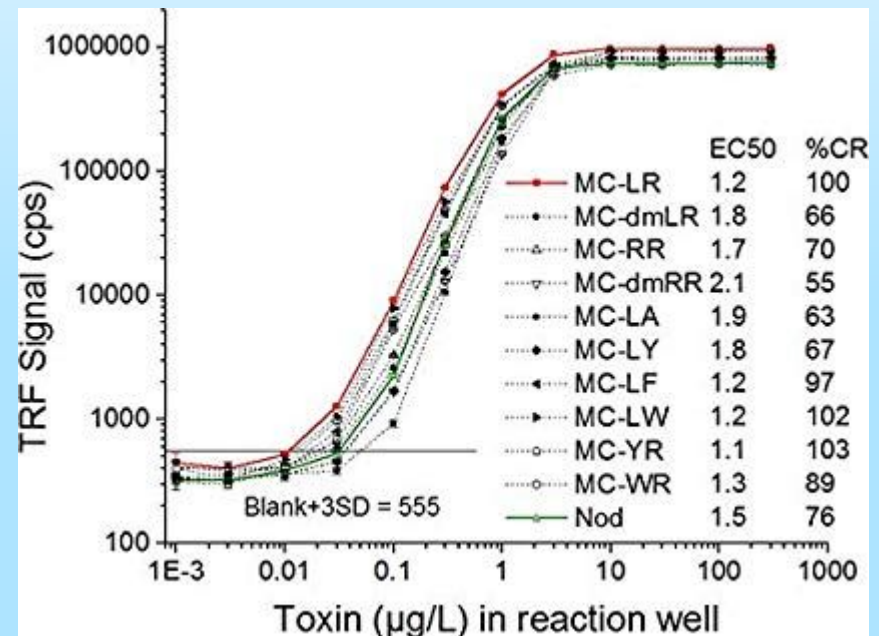
- Until now, the focus has been on the presence of blooms, but we want to investigate toxins more
  - Answer the question: **“When is it safe to go in the water again?”**
  - Leverage the dock monitoring program and hot spots
  - Multiple toxin tests through the bloom cycle, and after
  - Canandaigua focusing on toxins in “clear” water
- Drinking water focus
  - Try out new toxin field test kits to determine what we might recommend to private households that draw water from or recreate in the lake



# “5 Strands” Toxin Test Kit



Three kits are \$86 on Amazon



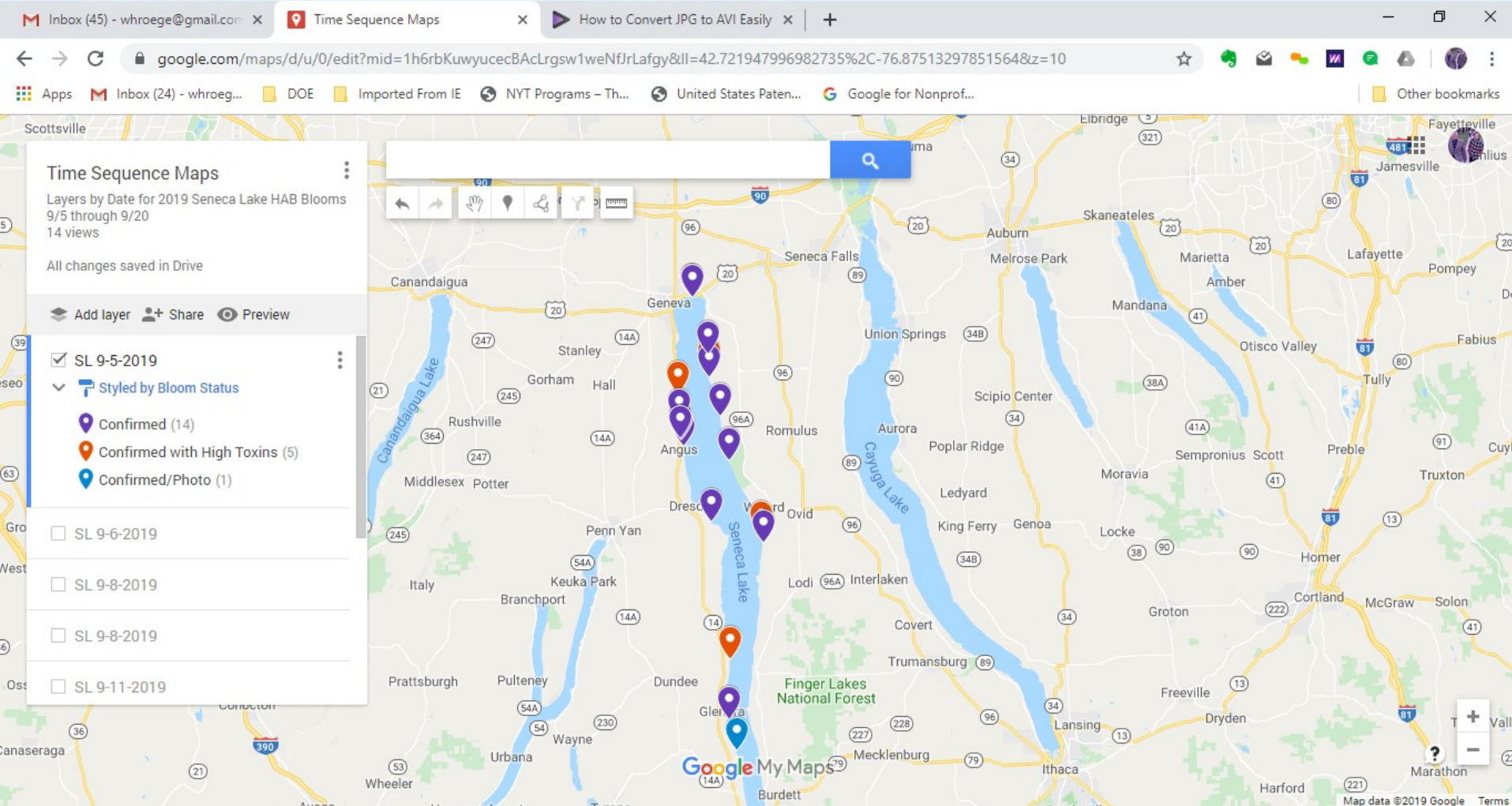
Tests for many Microcystin-based toxins at concentrations down to 0.1 µg/L in 15 minutes

# Closing

- Volunteers did a great job
  - Hope they come back and new people get involved
  - Need volunteers to help manage the program and get the word out
    - Regional Coordinators and assistants
    - Data collection and quality control
    - Communications and education
  - Will communicate more results throughout the winter as they emerge
-

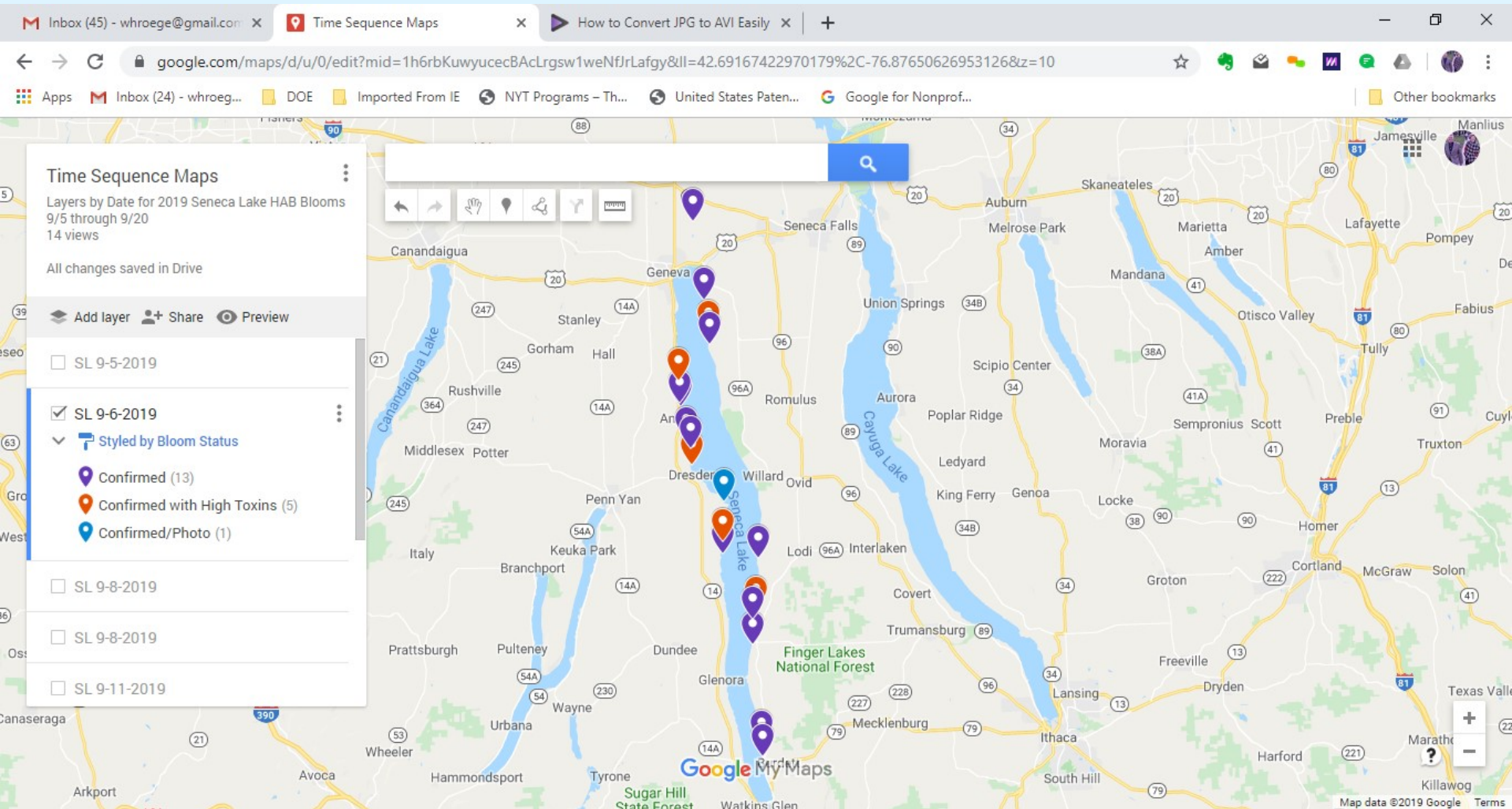
# Questions

# September 5

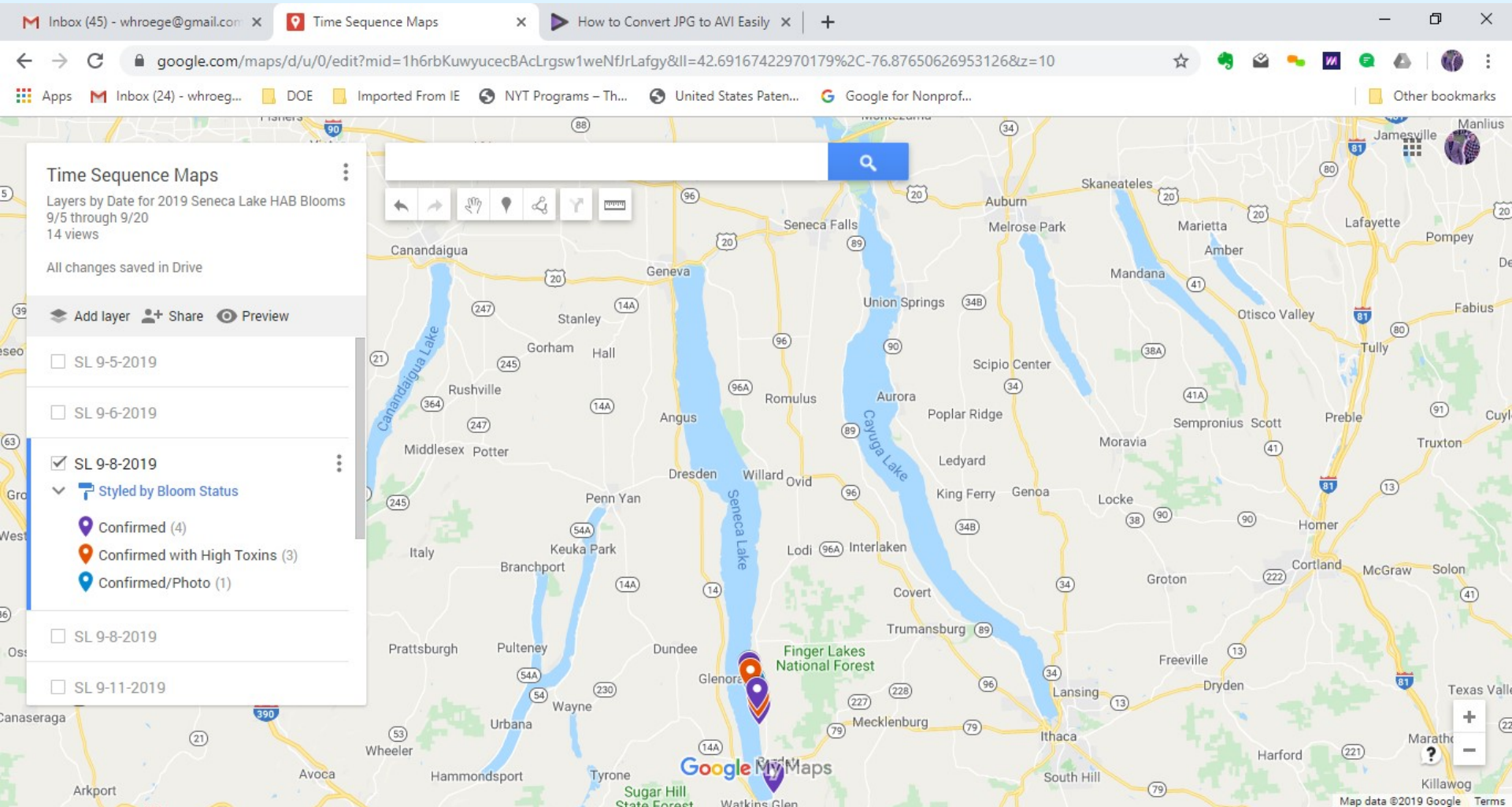




# September 6

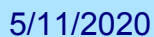


# September 8

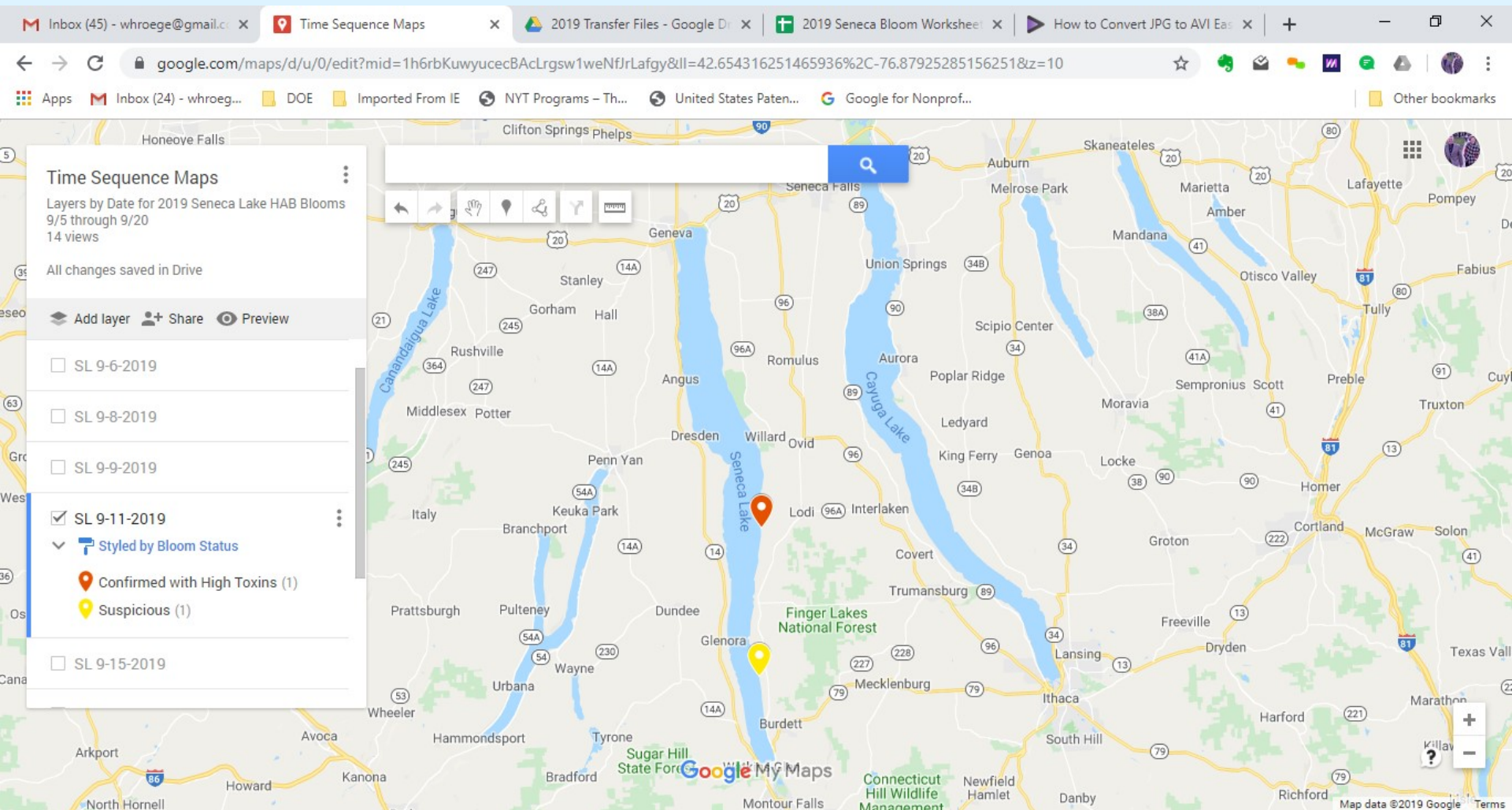




# Seneca Lake PURE WATERS Association

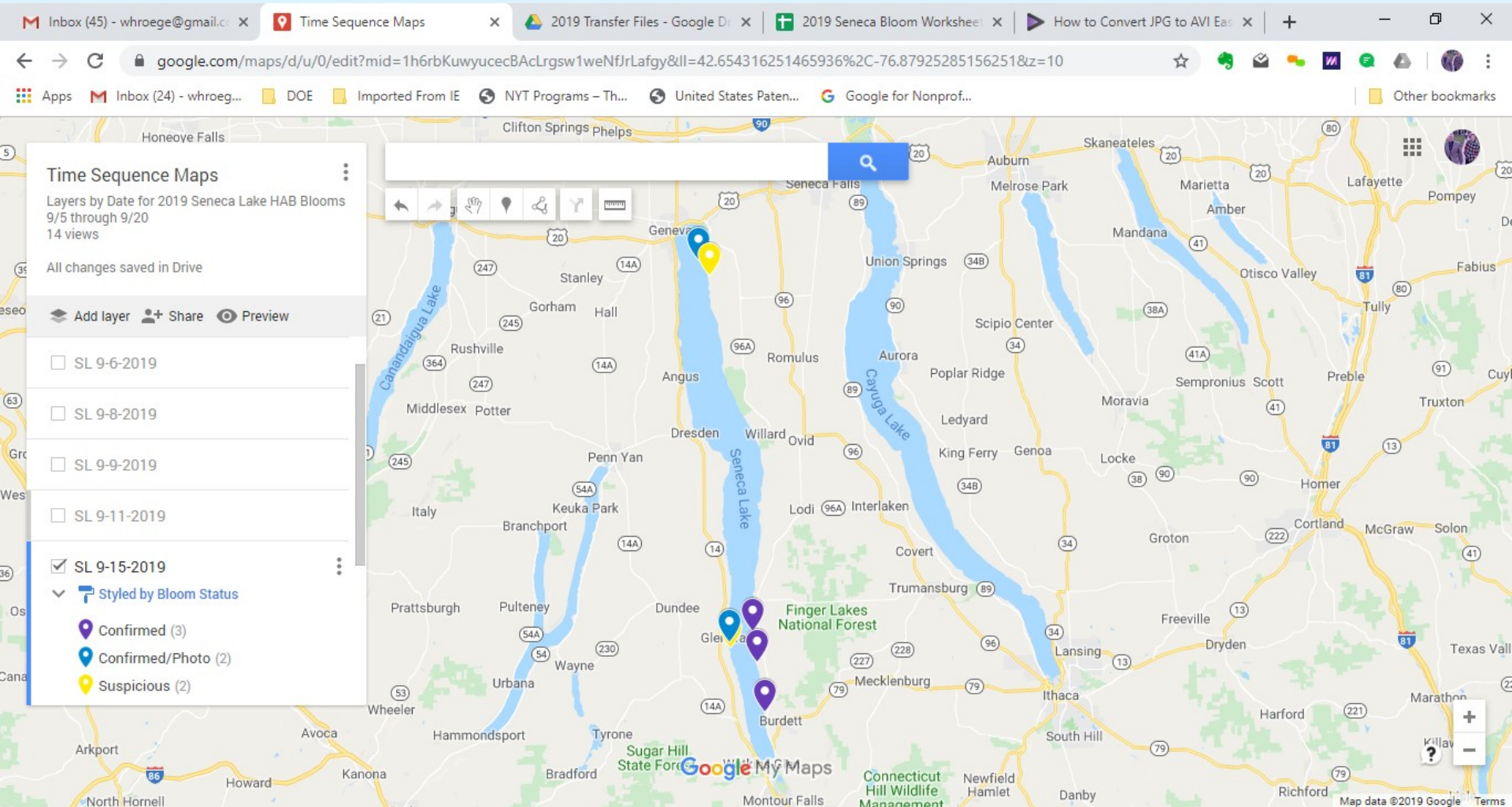


# September 11

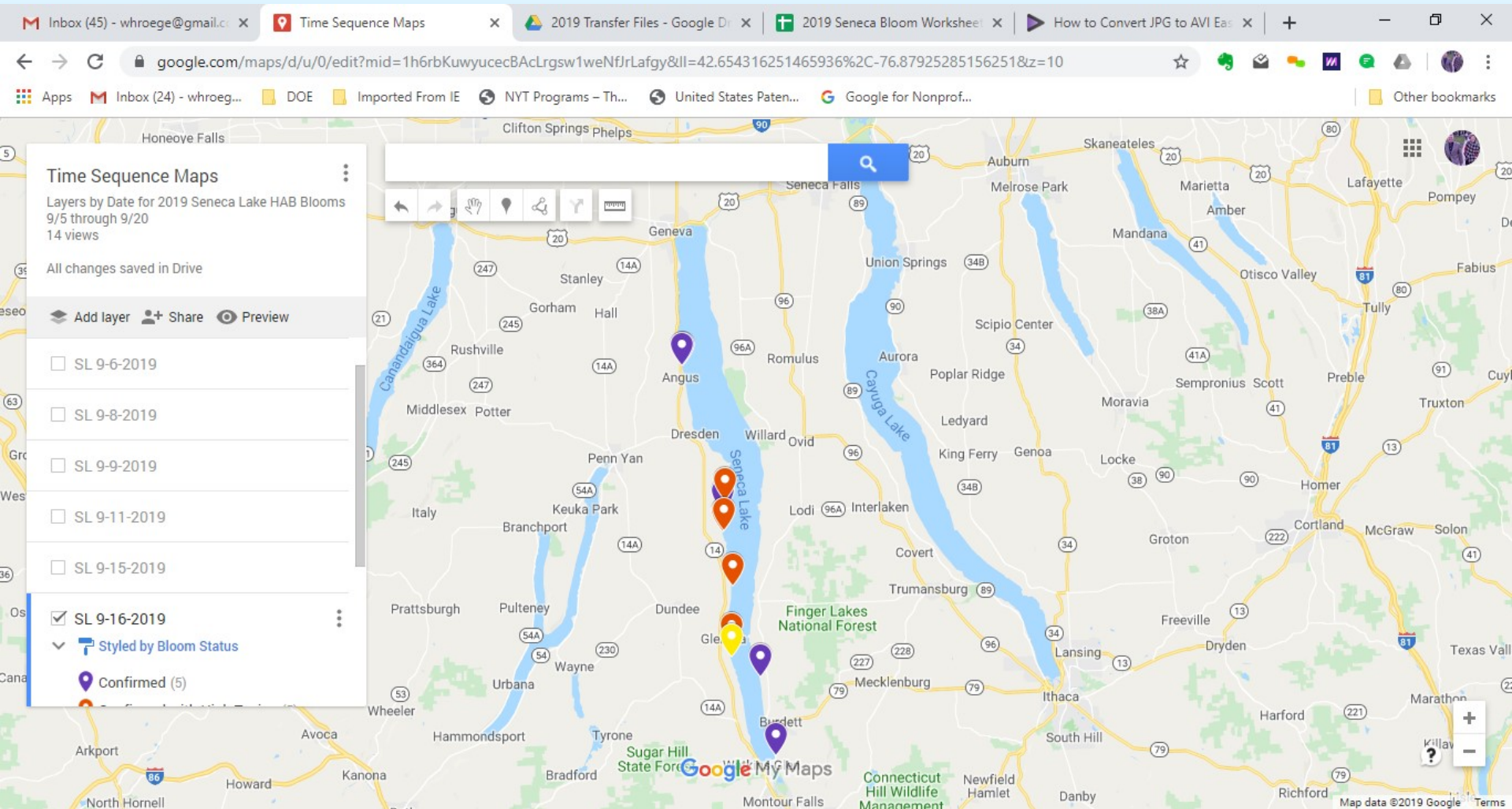




# September 15

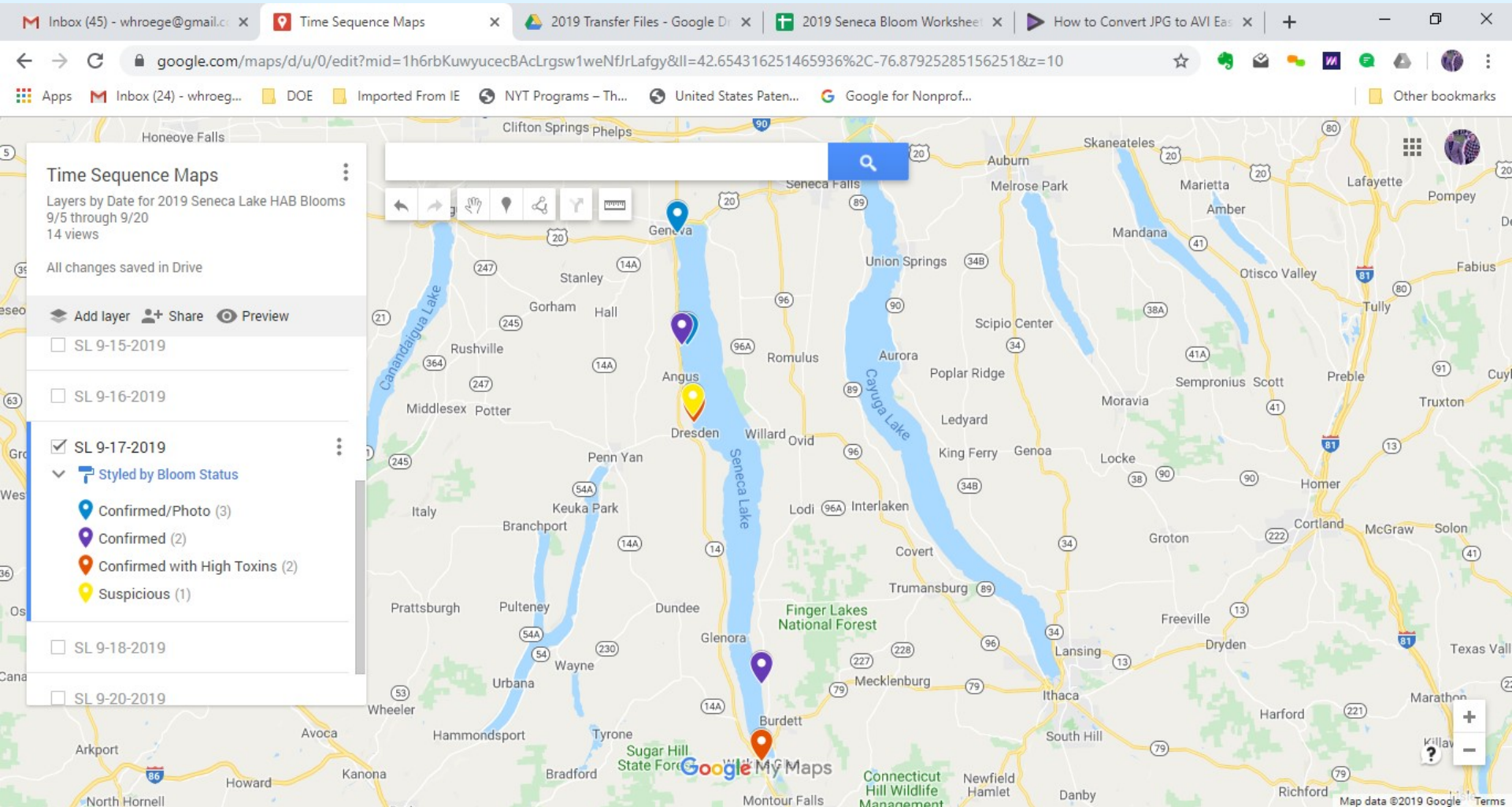


# September 16

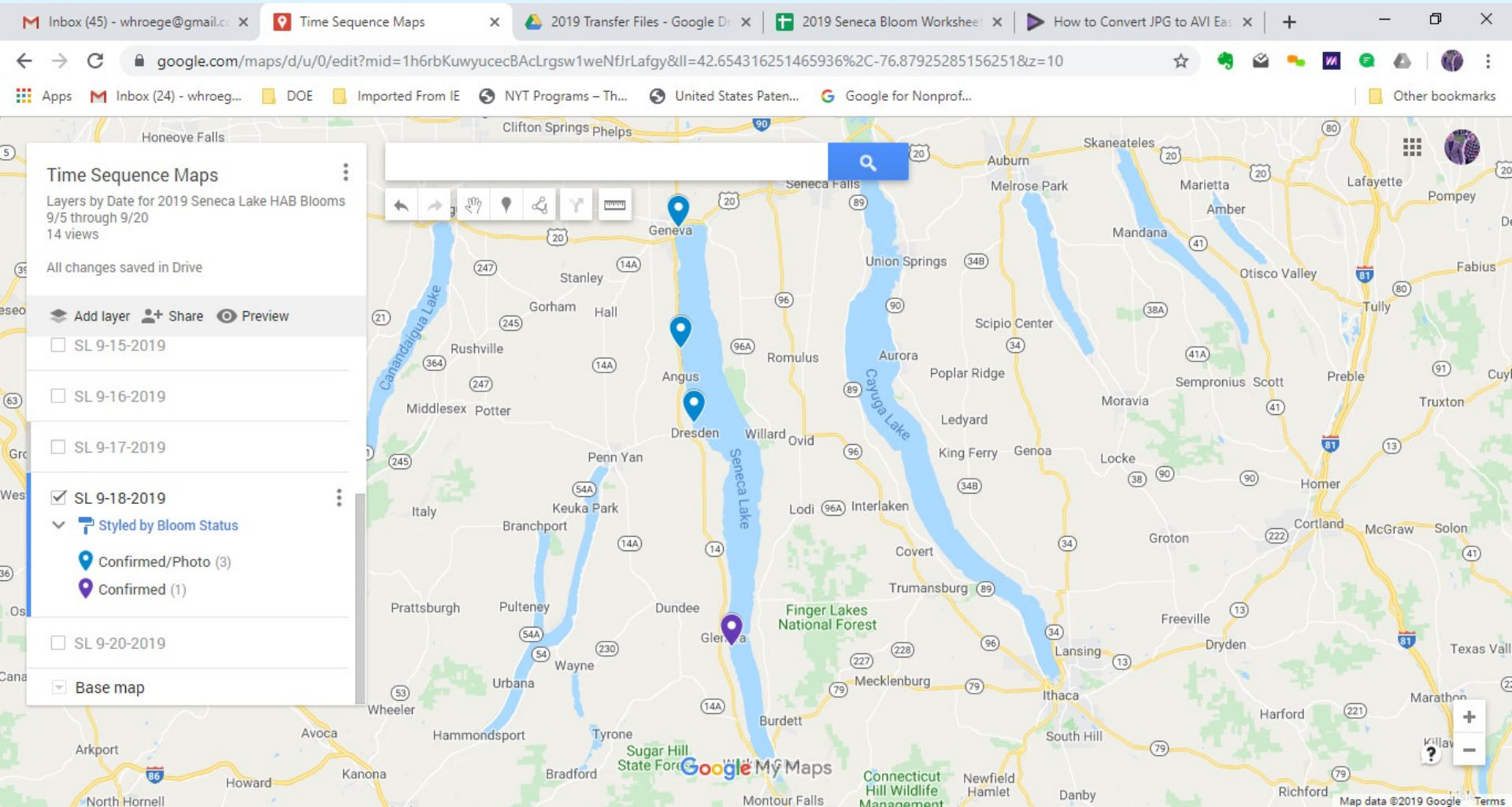




# September 17

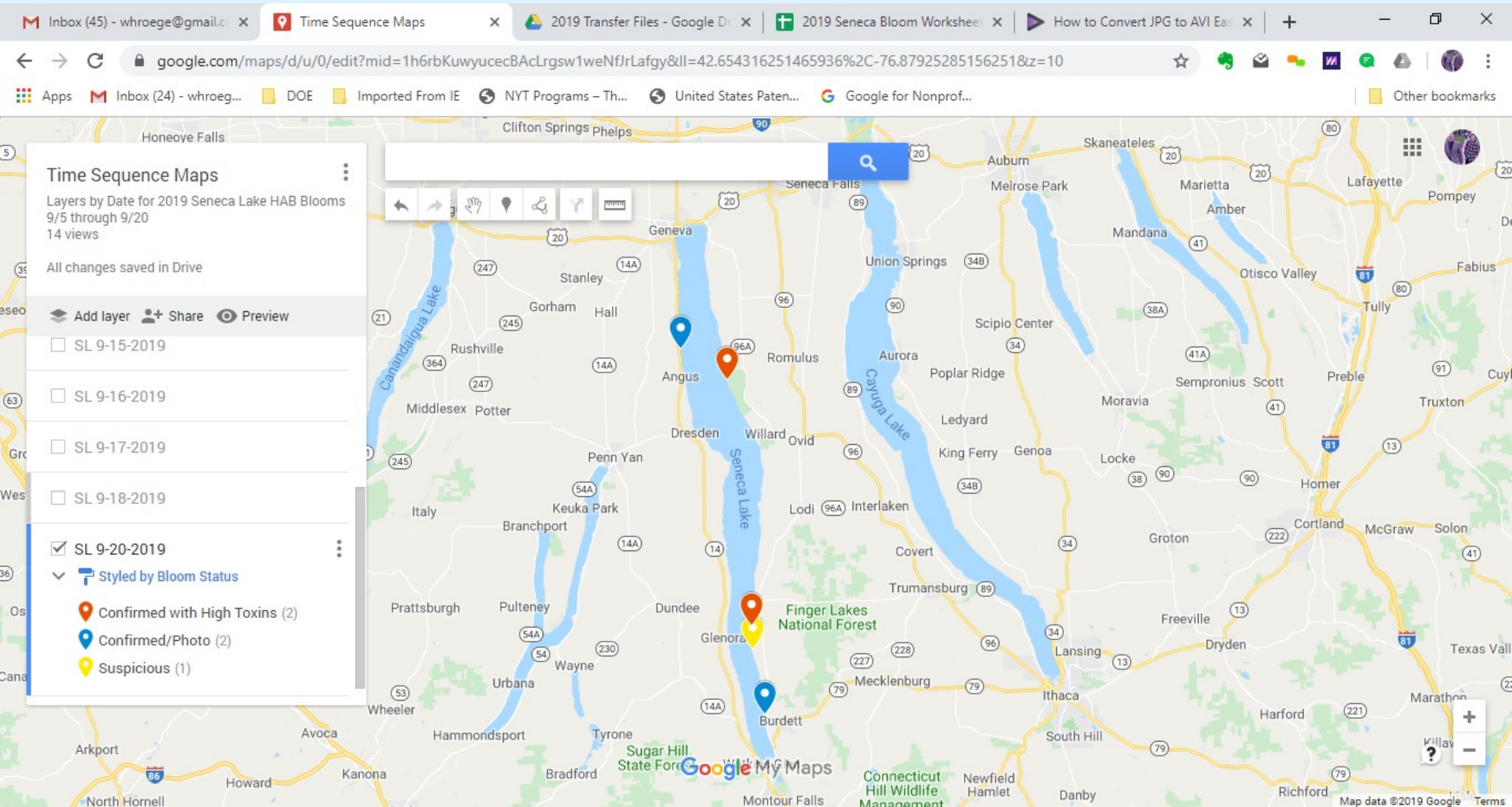


# September 18

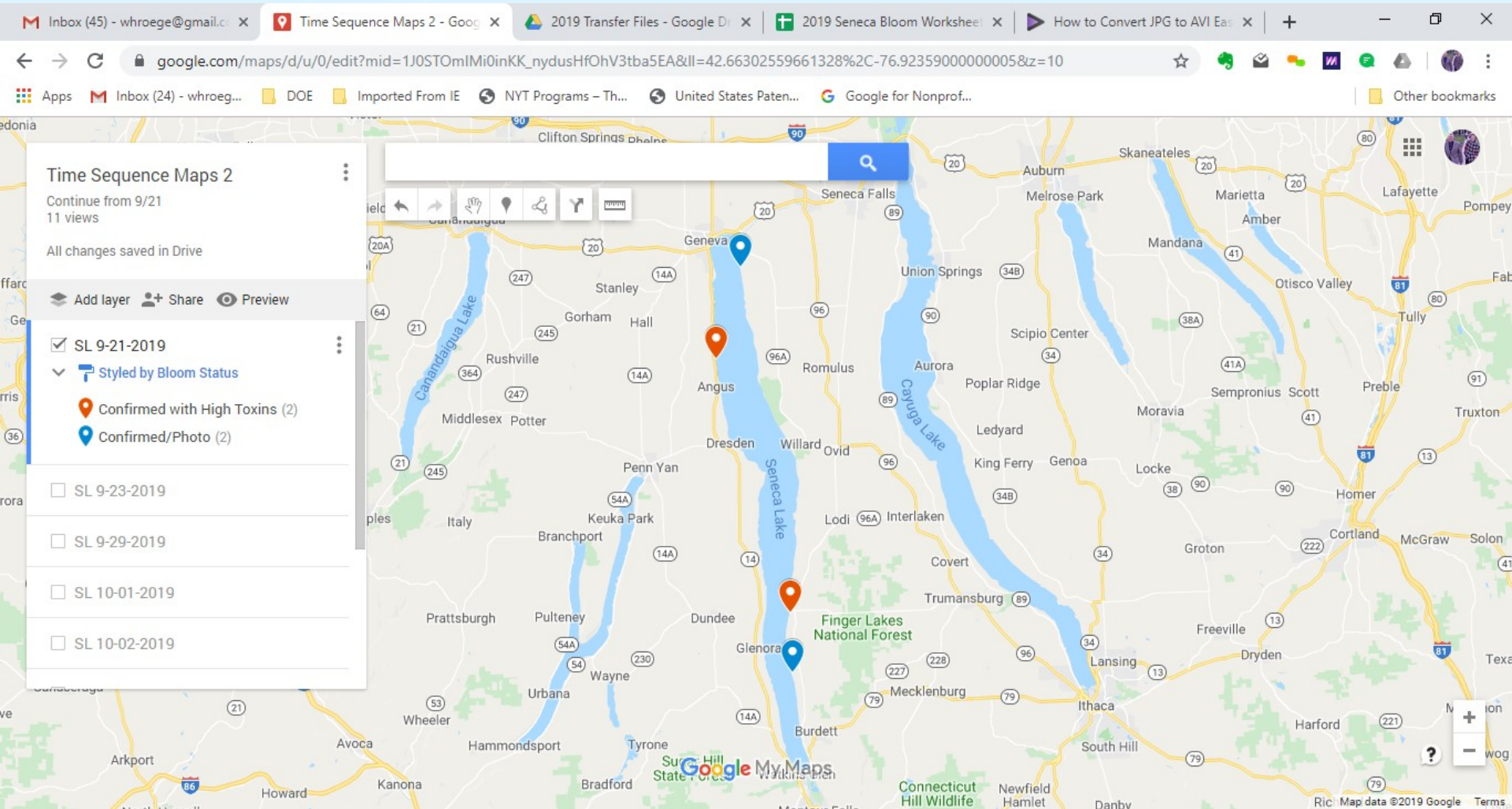




# September 20



# September 21





# September 23

The screenshot shows a Google Maps interface with a time sequence map of Seneca Lake. The sidebar on the left, titled "Time Sequence Maps 2", lists several dates from 2019. The selected date is "SL 9-23-2019", which is marked with a checkmark and a blue location pin icon. Below the date list, there is a section labeled "Confirmed/Photo (1)". The map itself shows Seneca Lake and the surrounding area, including towns like Seneca Falls, Auburn, and Ithaca. The map includes a search bar, navigation controls, and a "Google My Maps" watermark.

Time Sequence Maps 2

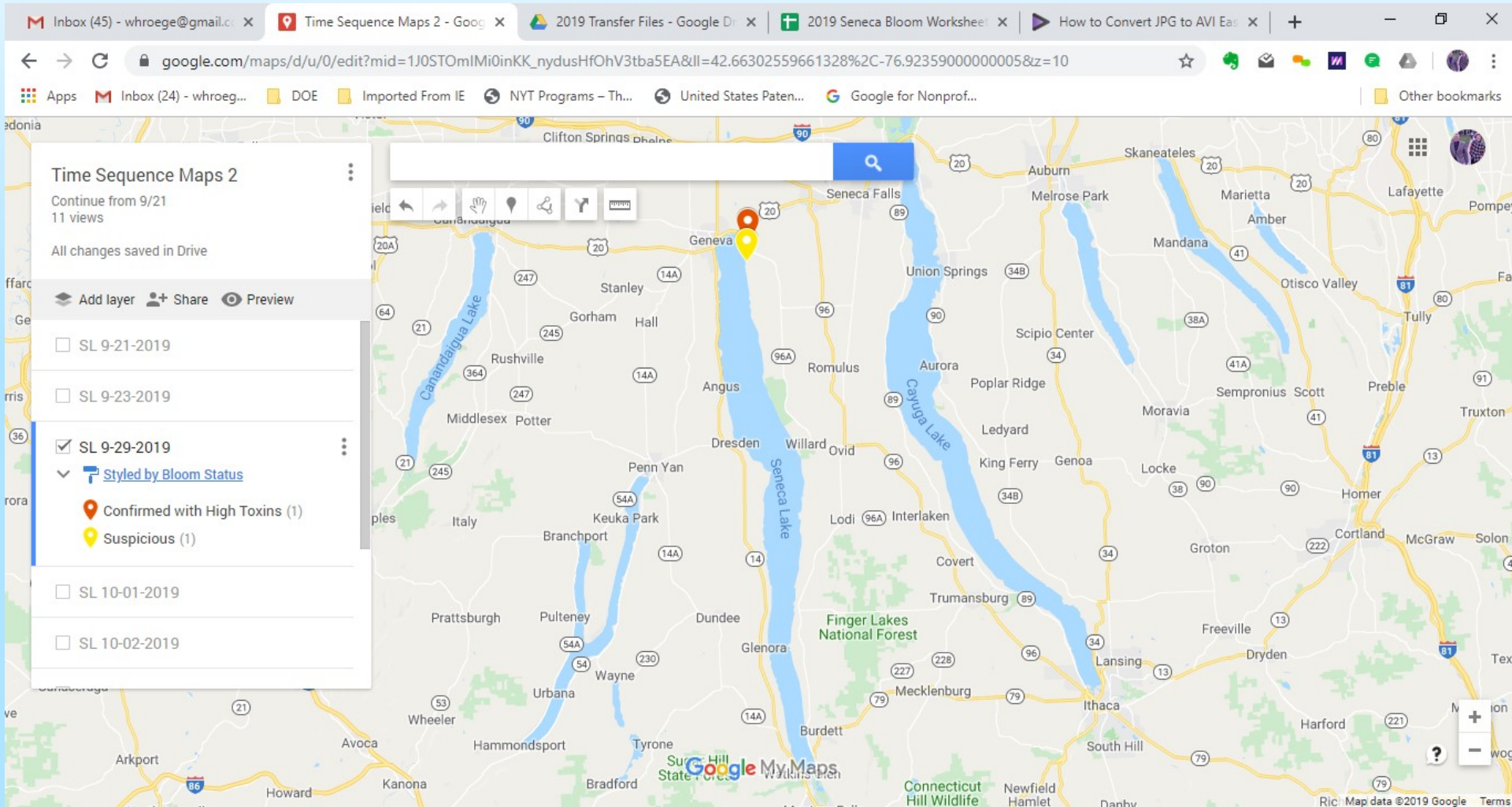
Continue from 9/21  
11 views

All changes saved in Drive

Add layer Share Preview

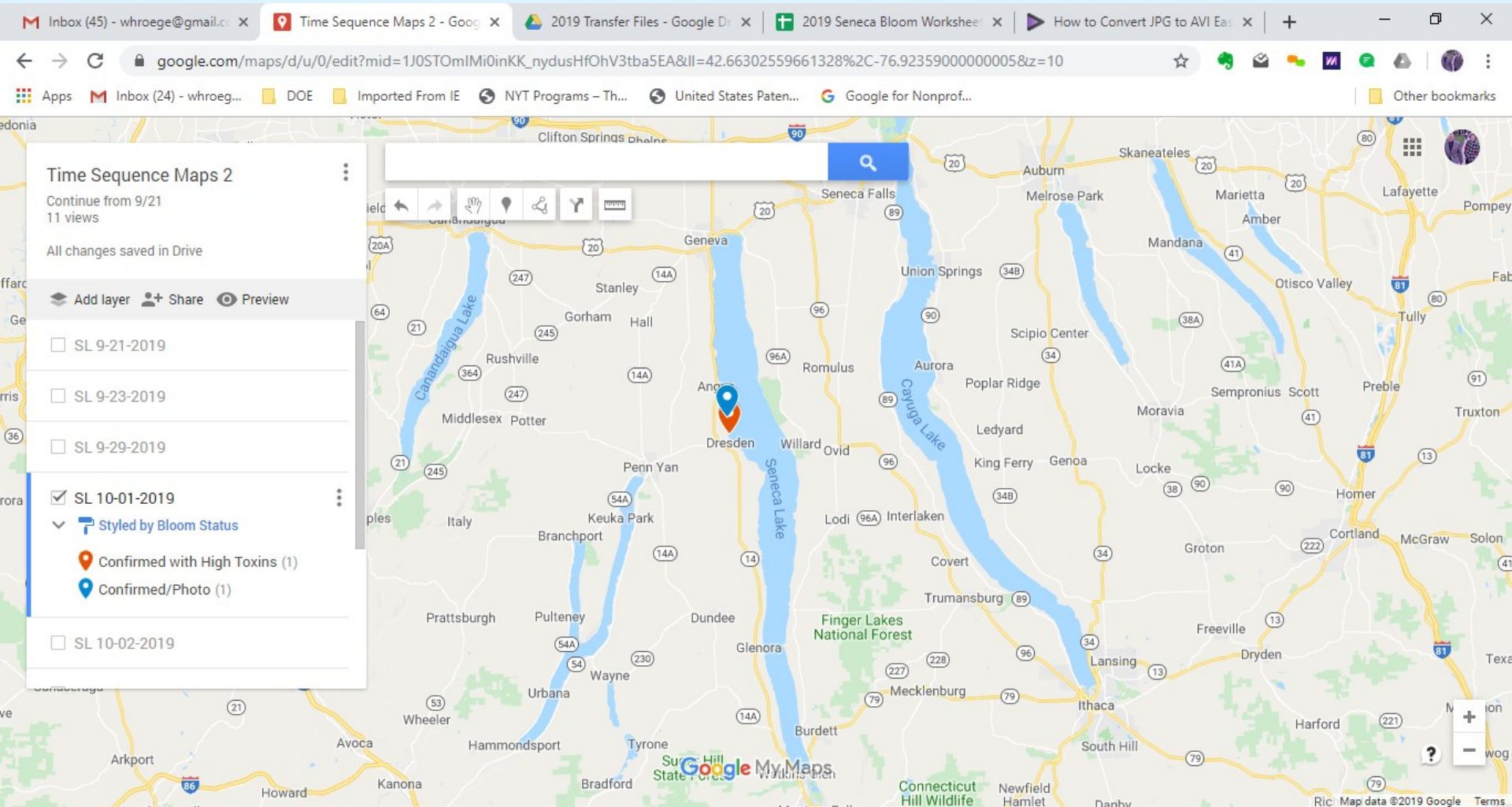
- ☐ SL 9-21-2019
- ☒ SL 9-23-2019
- ☒ Styled by Bloom Status
- ☒ Confirmed/Photo (1)
- ☐ SL 9-29-2019
- ☐ SL 10-01-2019
- ☐ SL 10-02-2019
- ☐ SL 10-08-2019

# September 29

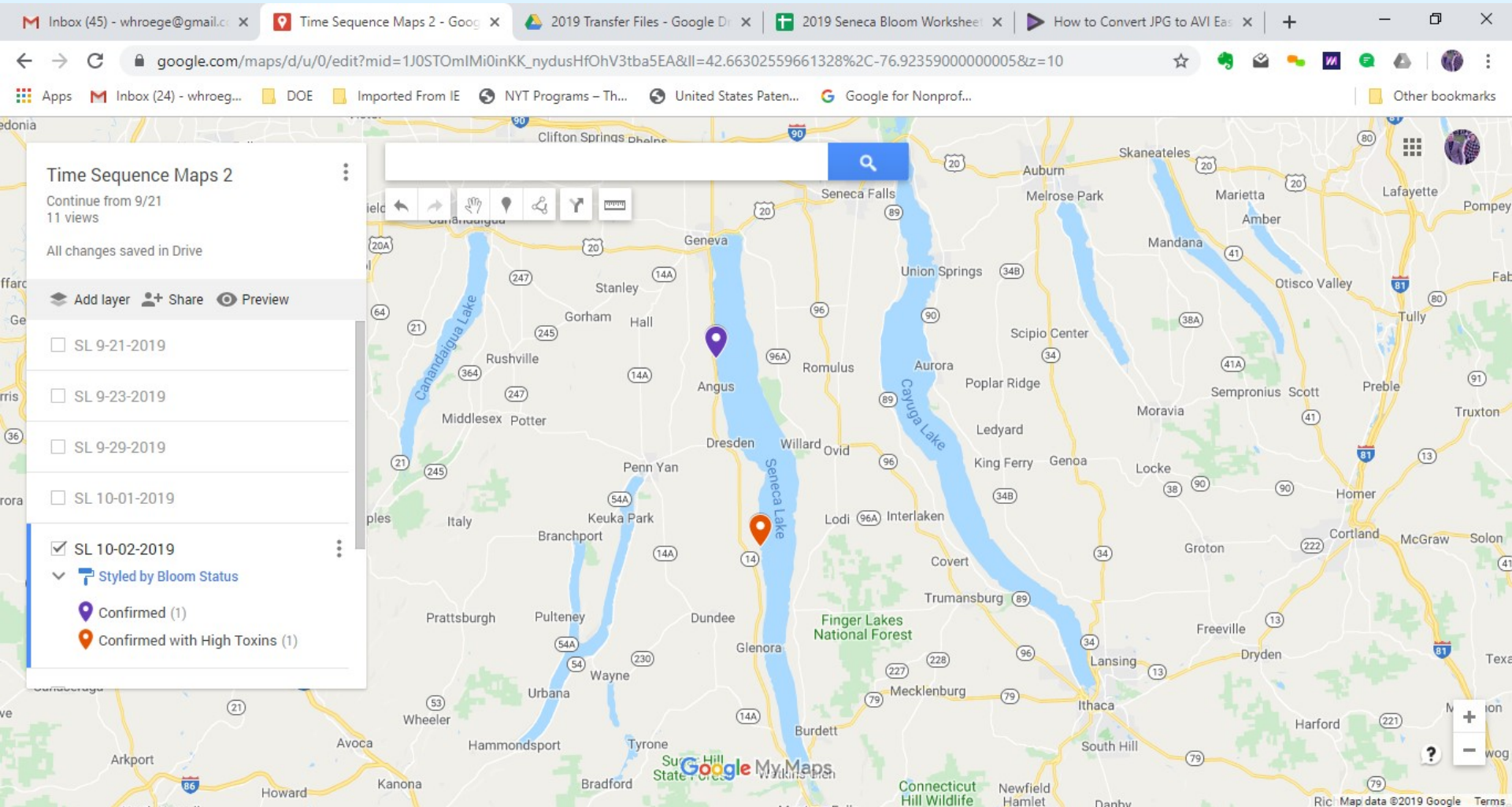




# October 1

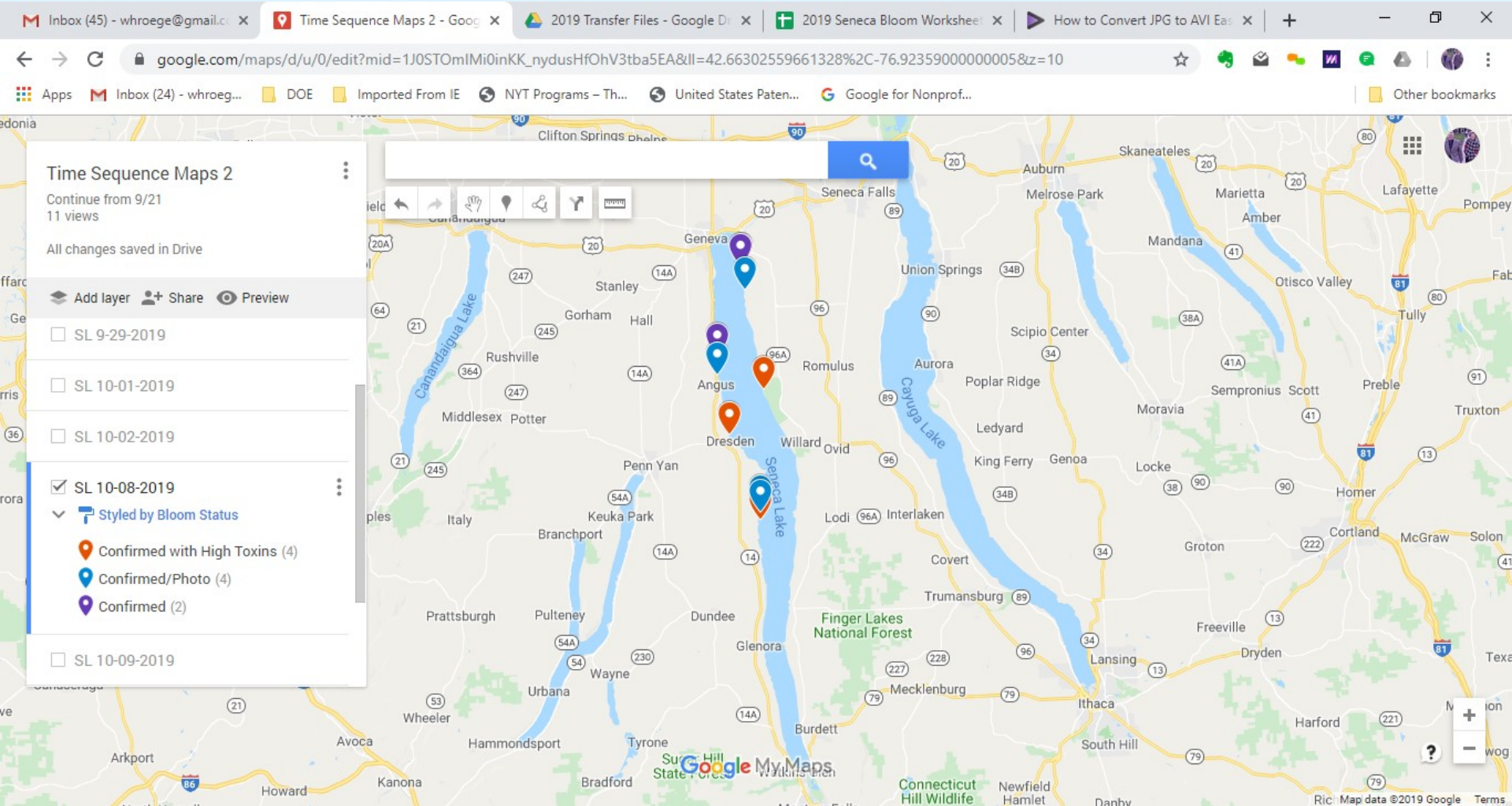


# October 2

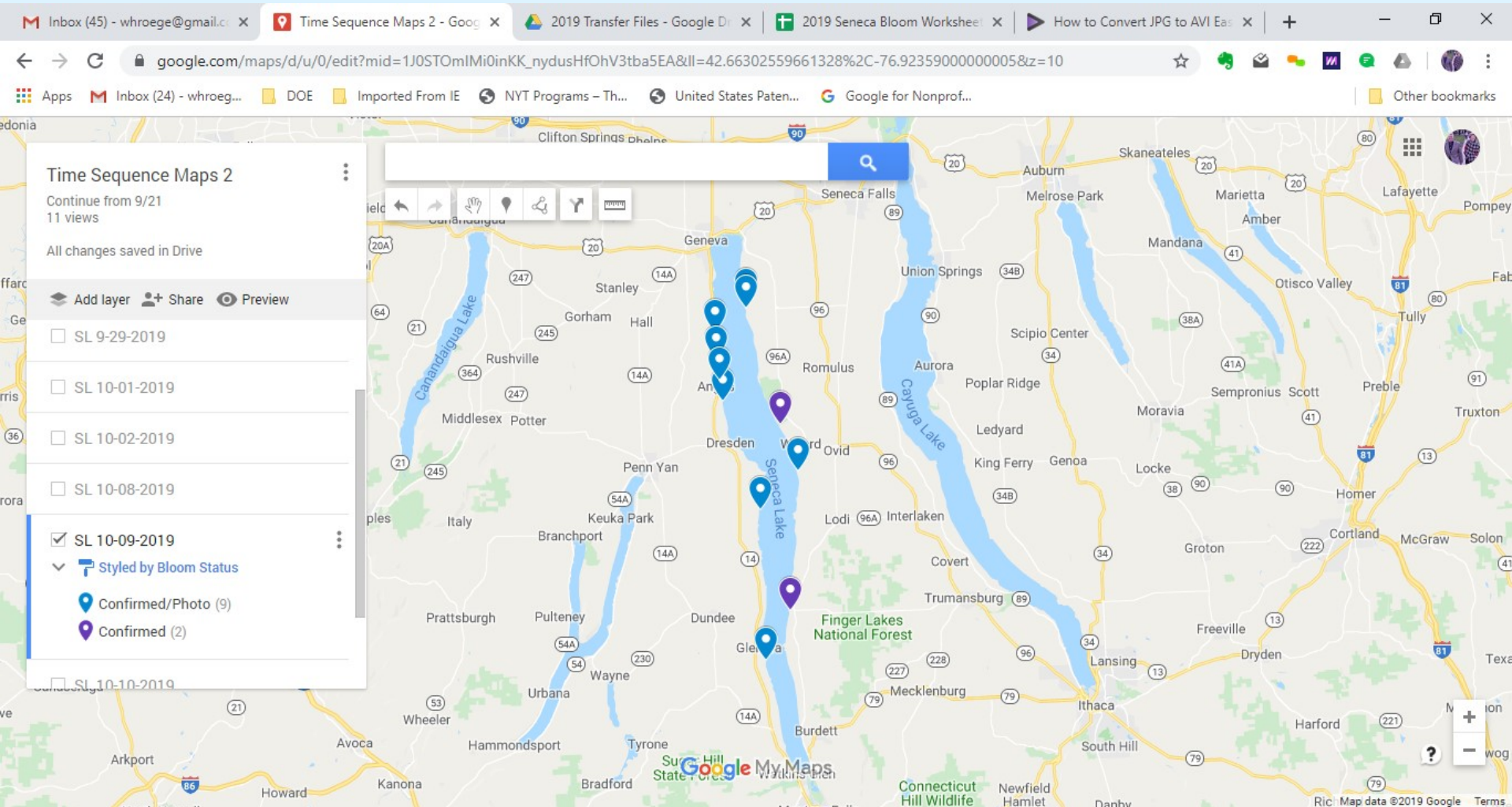




# October 8

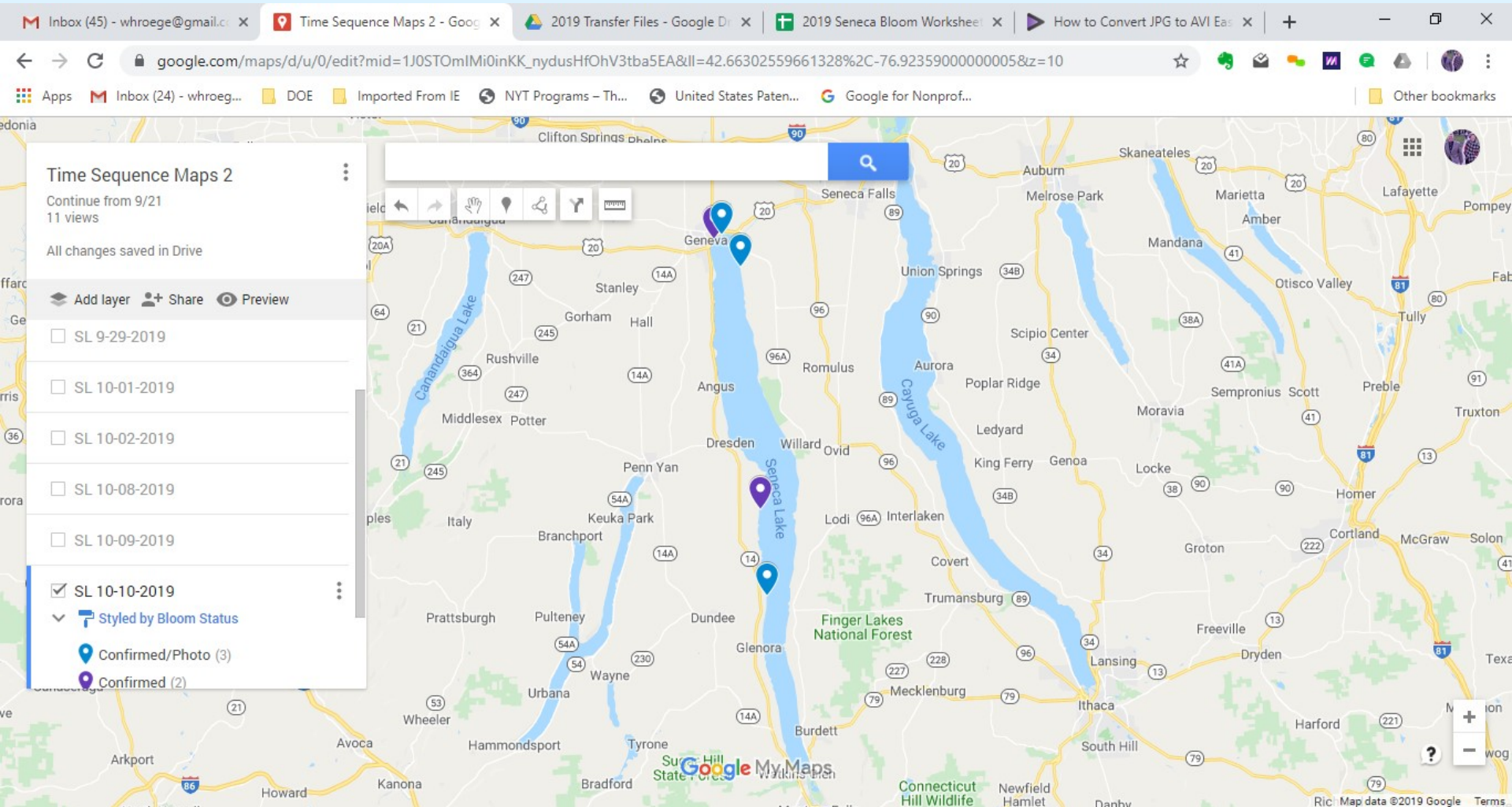


# October 9

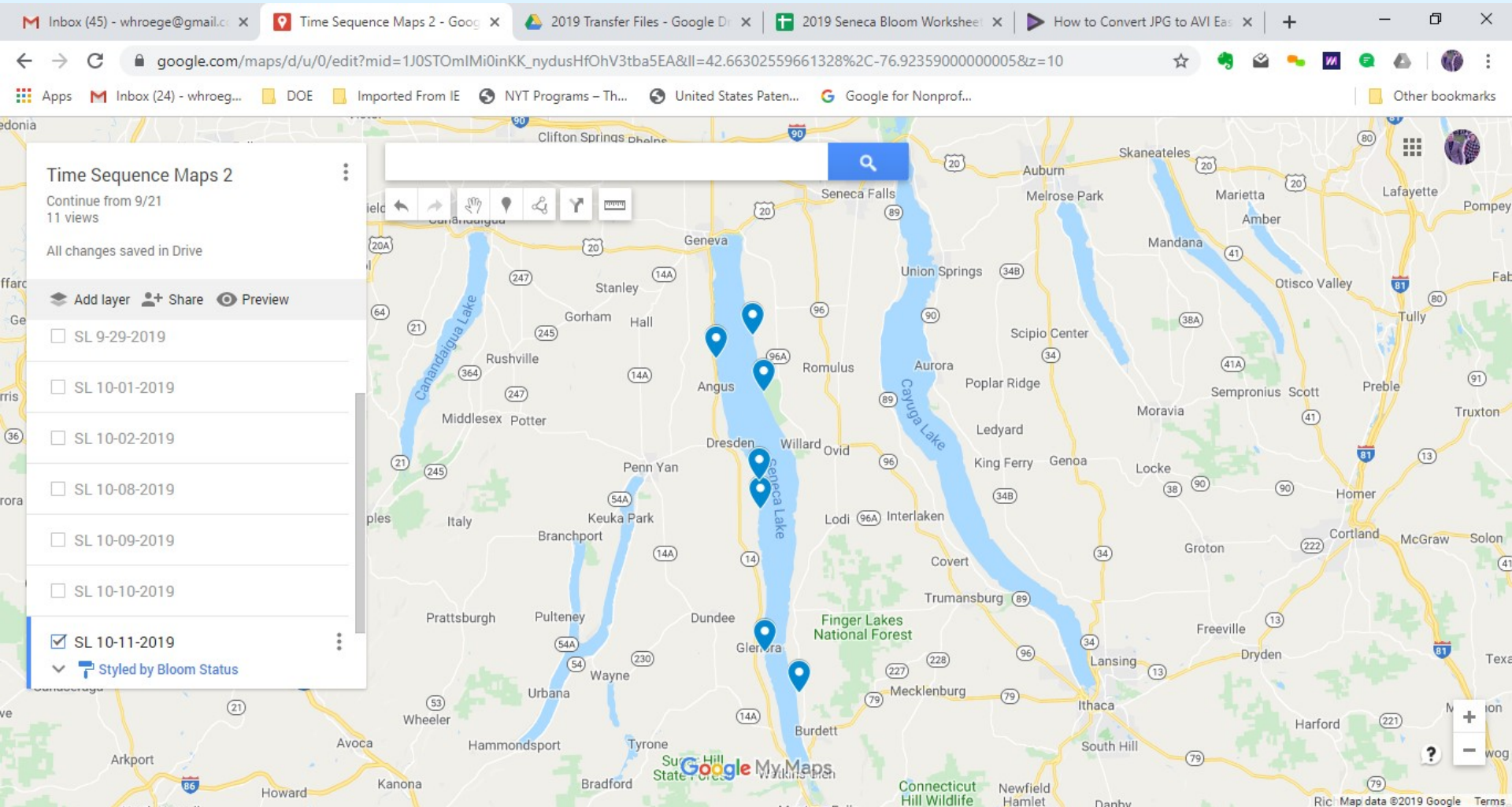




# October 10

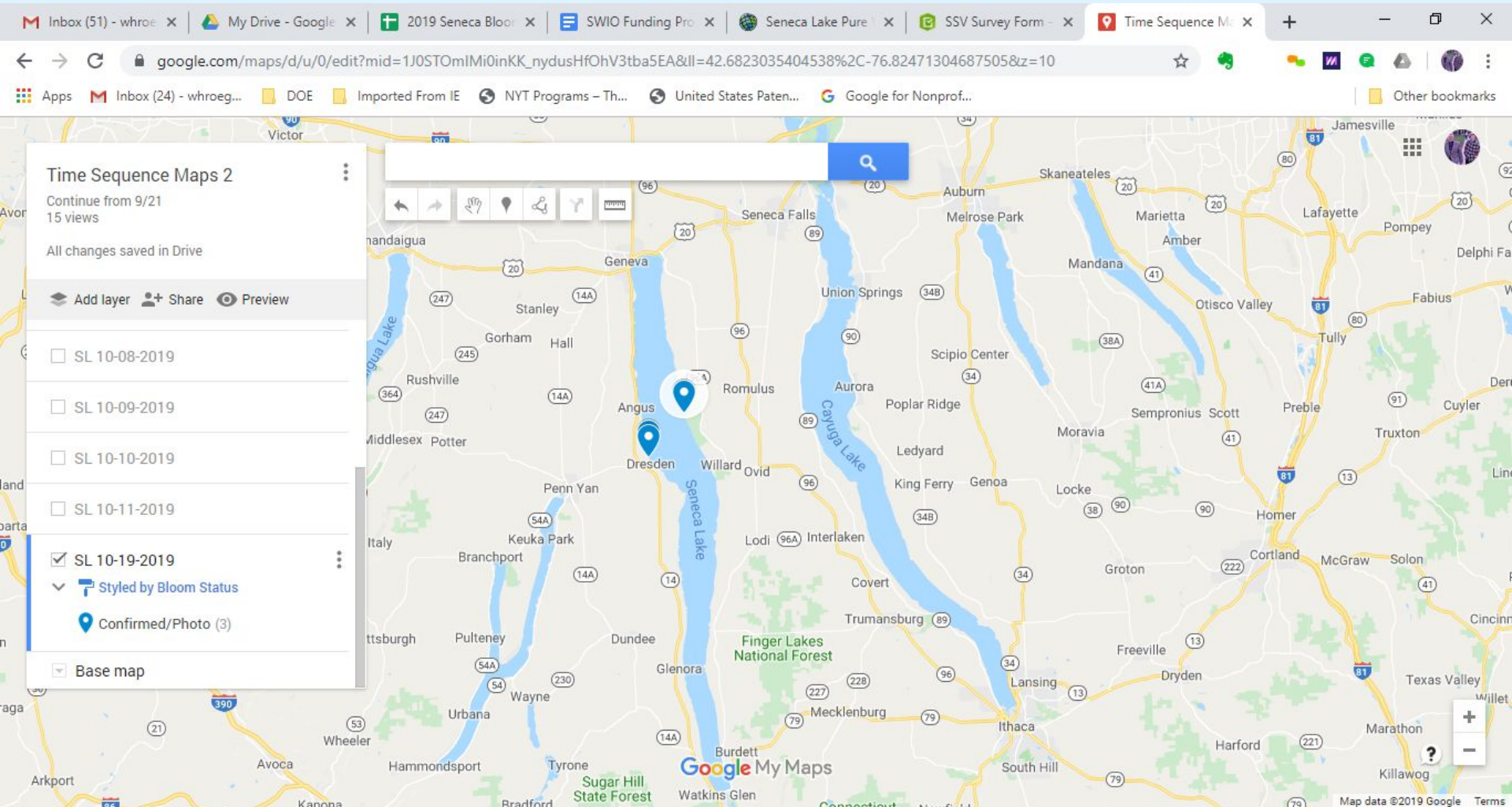


# October 11





# October 19



5/11/2020

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# Agenda

- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3



# Title Slide

# Title

## Text

- Outline Level 1
  - Outline Level 2
    - Outline Level 3
      - Outline Level 4

# Title – 2 Column Layout

Column

Column