# SOME ALGAE AND DIATOMS FROM A PEAT BOG LAKE IN WESTERN WASHINGTON STATE.

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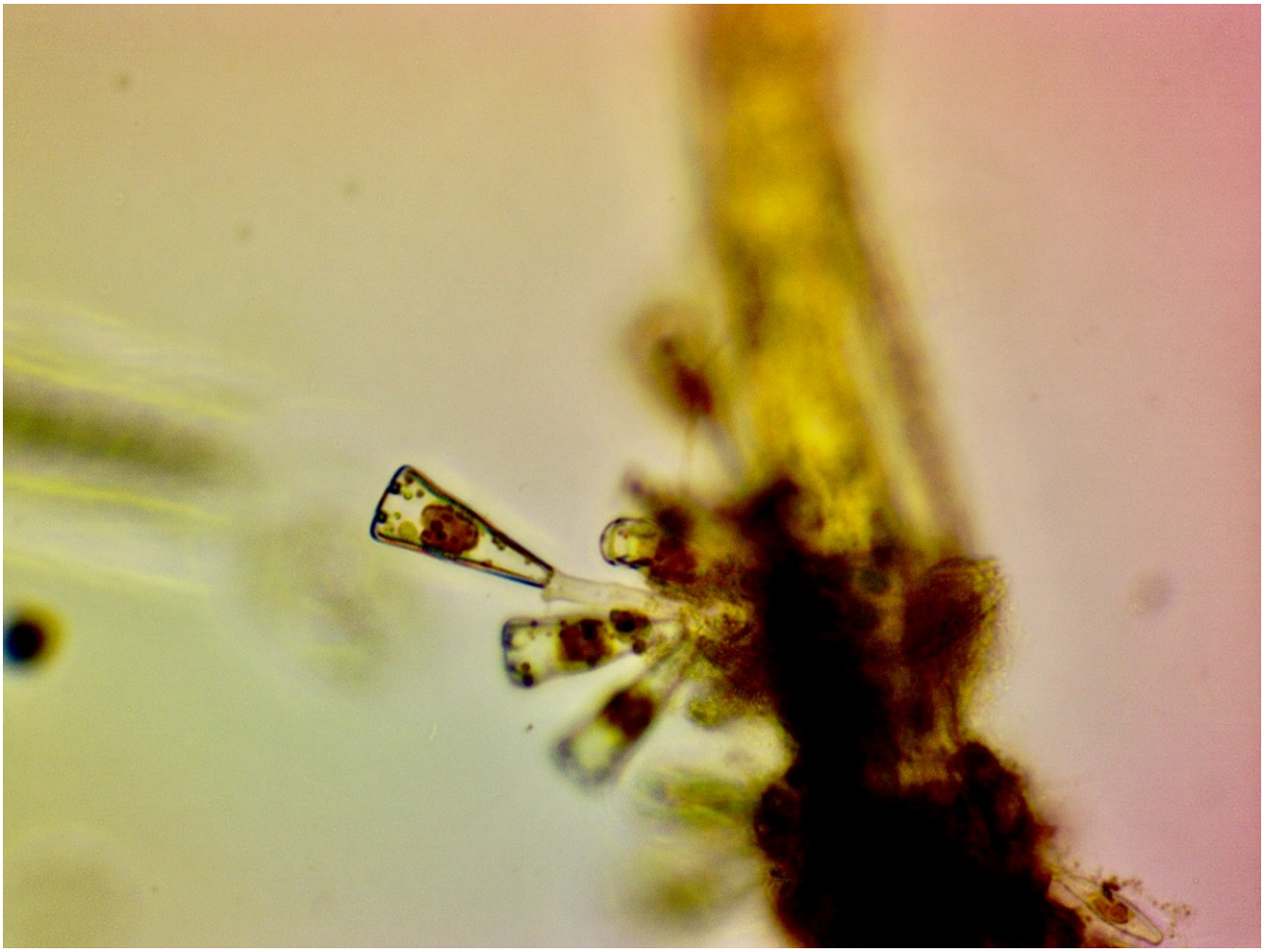
Scriber Lake Park is an interesting locality in regard to its biota. The lake itself sits in a peat bog and the aquatic vegetation includes a number of spatterdock  (yellow water lilies) plants. The lake is stocked with game fish and the boardwalk is popular with anglers. I decided to see if I could take a water sample during the algal bloom in May and so contacted the Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Department to make sure I could make the sample. They did not have any objections and so on May 17 of this year I used a mosquito larva dipper to take a water sample from the east side of the boardwalk in the spatterdock and examined drops from that sample on May 18 and 19, 2023 with an OMAX trinocular microscope, with an OMAX camera. All photomicrographs were taken at 400X. This is only a spotlight observation and in no way was intended to be a scientific sample. In essence I was just curious as to what species were present.

The pH varies, according to the Scriber Lake Study, from 6.55 to 8.06. While the lake is often empty of water birds, I have observed mallards, a hooded merganser, Canada geese, wood ducks, great blue herons, a green heron and a pied-billed grebe there. From spring to fall there are a variety of dragonflies around the lake. Fish include large-mouth bass and yellow perch, among others.

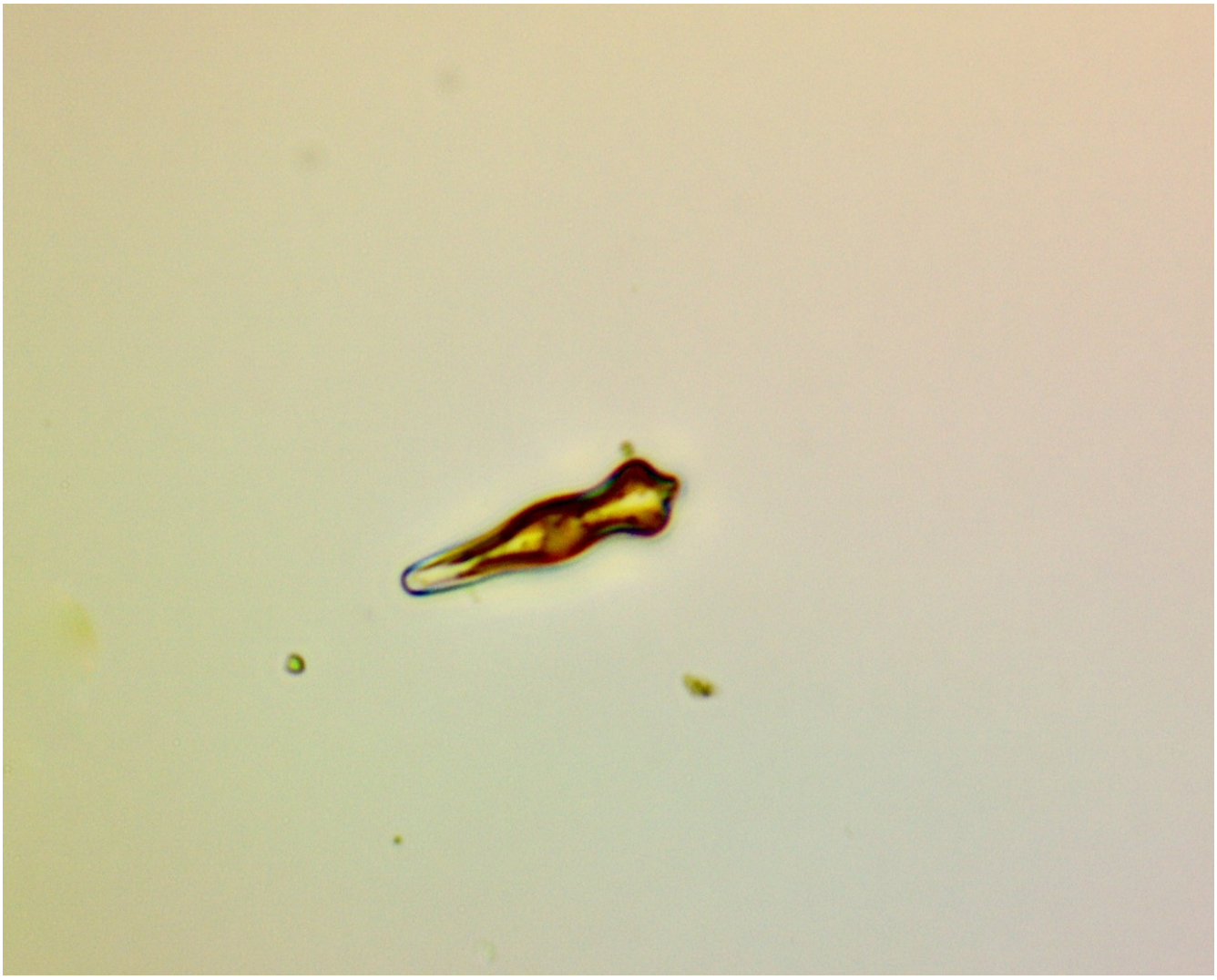
Scriber Lake, Lynnwood, Washington. The sample was taken near the center of this photograph on the far side of the lake.

Site where sample was collected. Note Spatterdock.

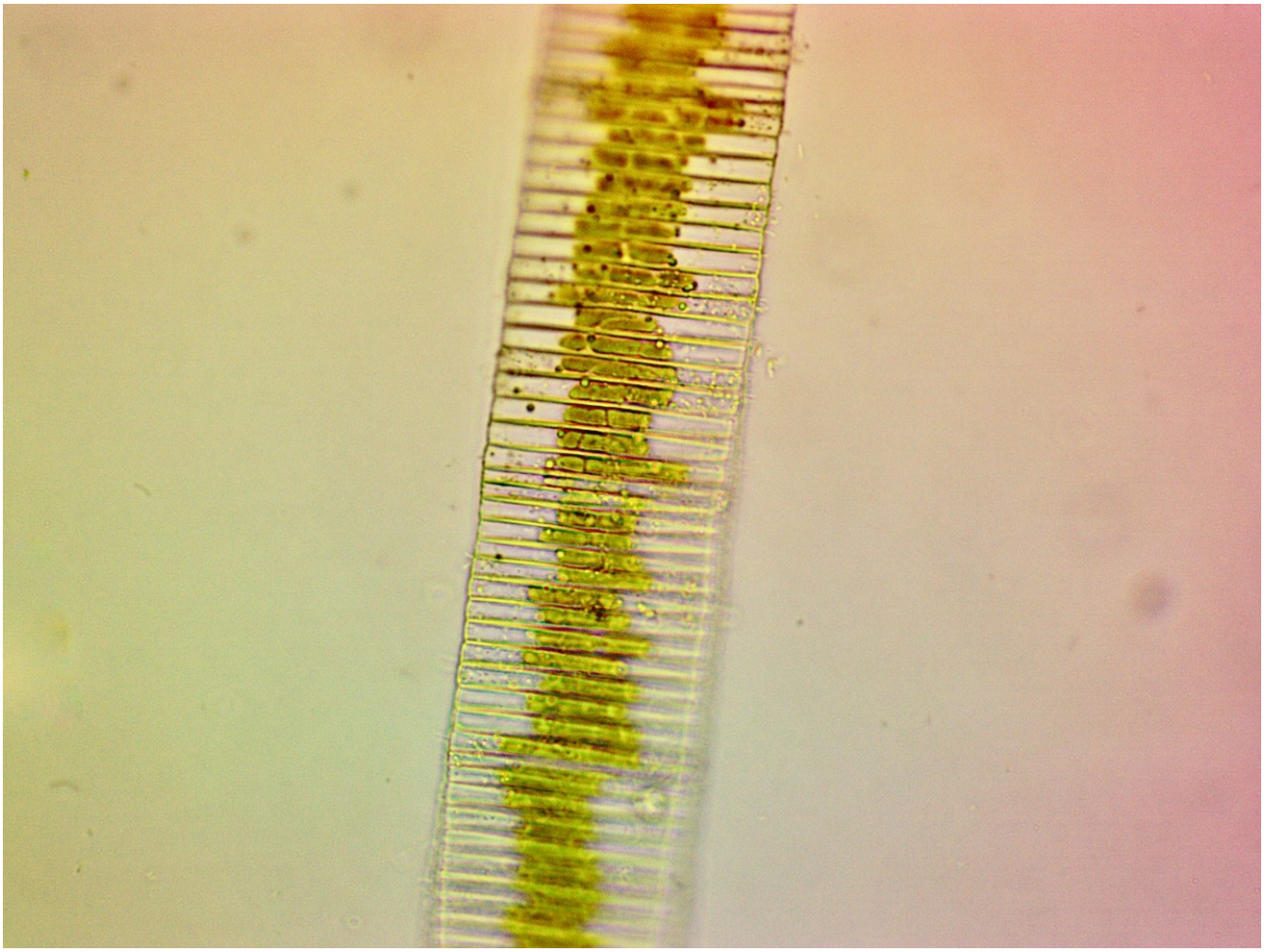
One thing that surprised me about the samples was the apparent lack of ciliates, flagellates and rotifers. There were many diatoms and several species of green algae. One great find was that of *Gomphonema* diatoms living as epiphytes on green algae.



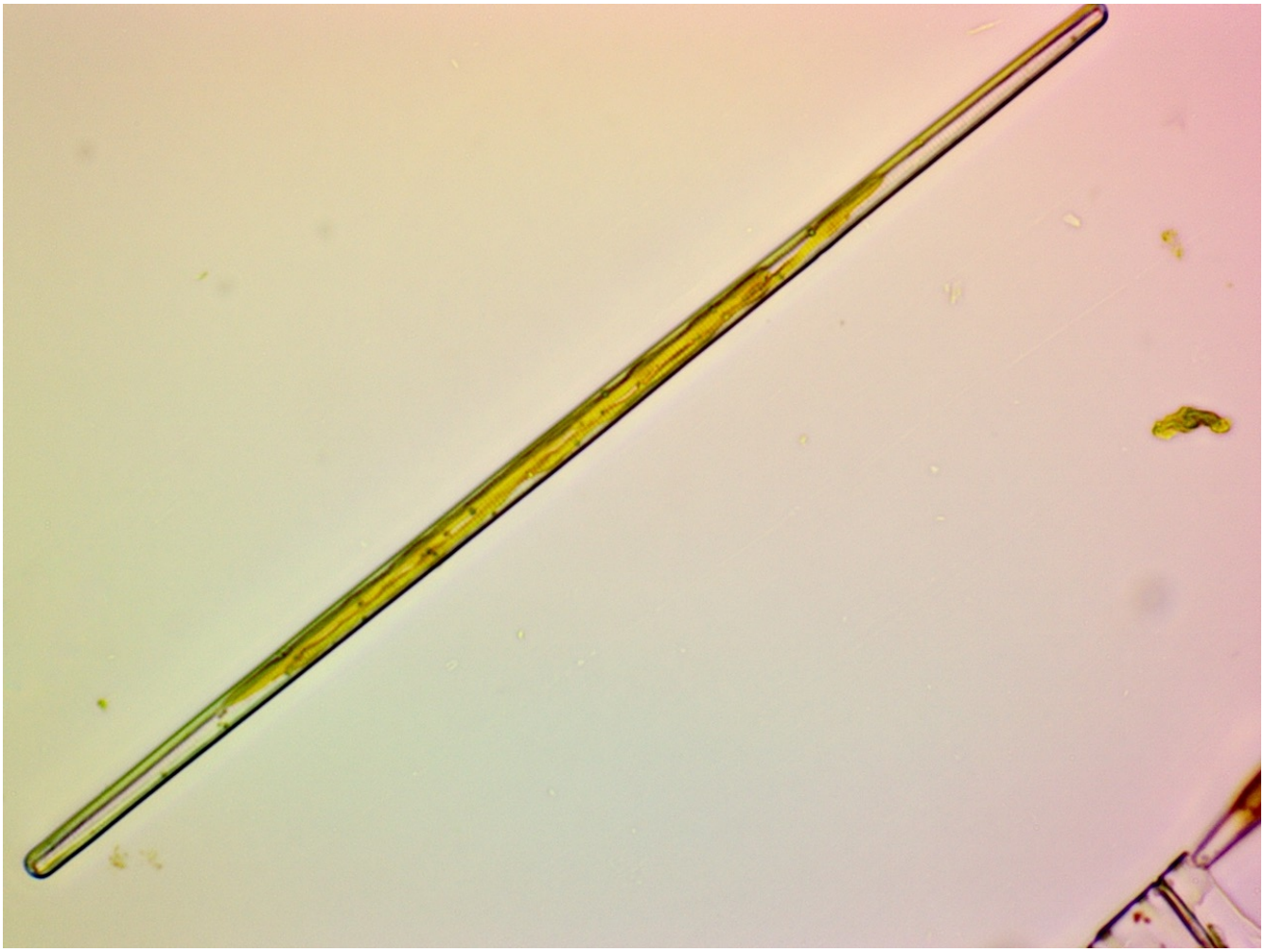
Epiphytic *Gomphonema* diatoms on green algae.



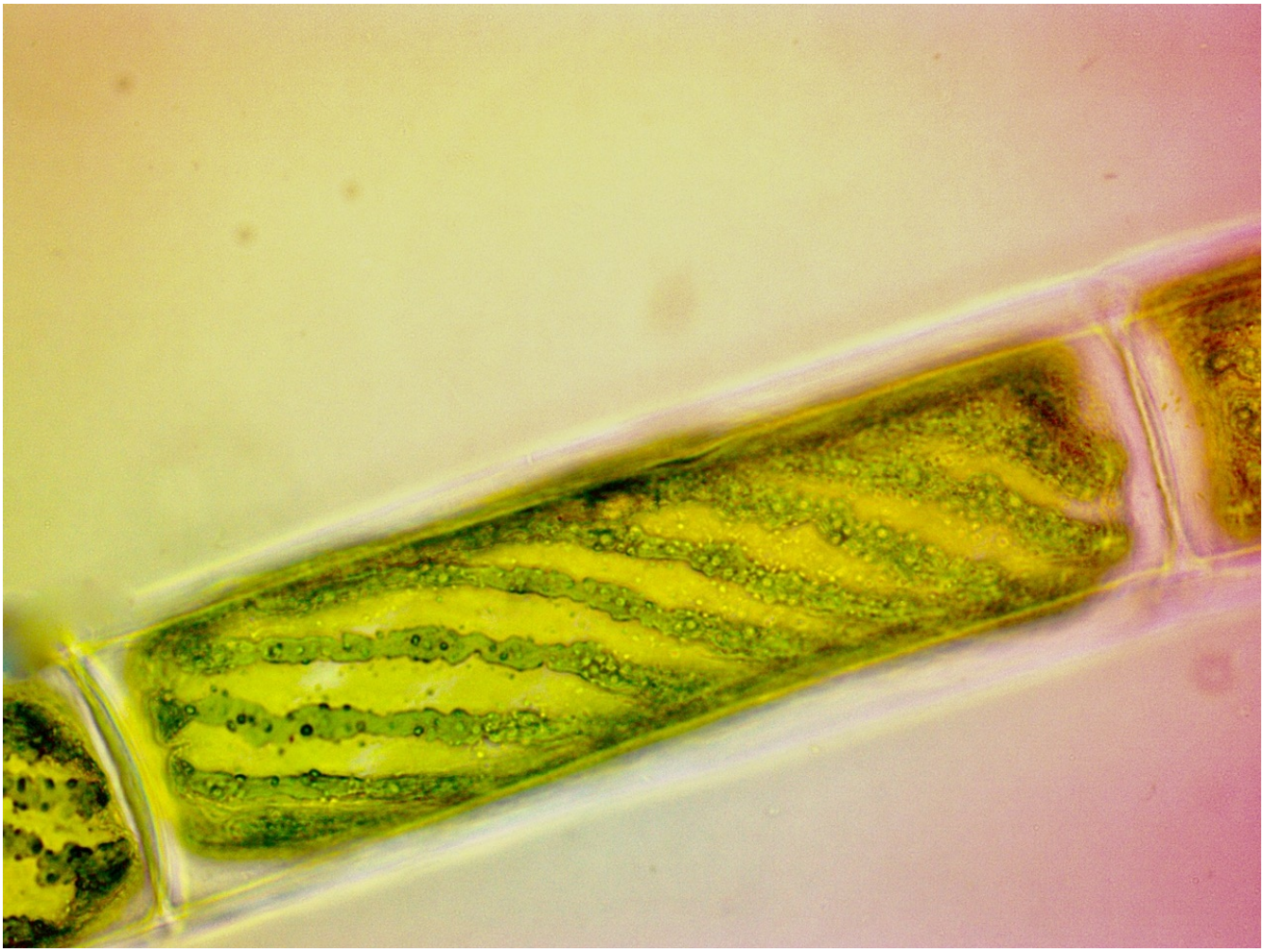
*Gomphonema acuminata.*



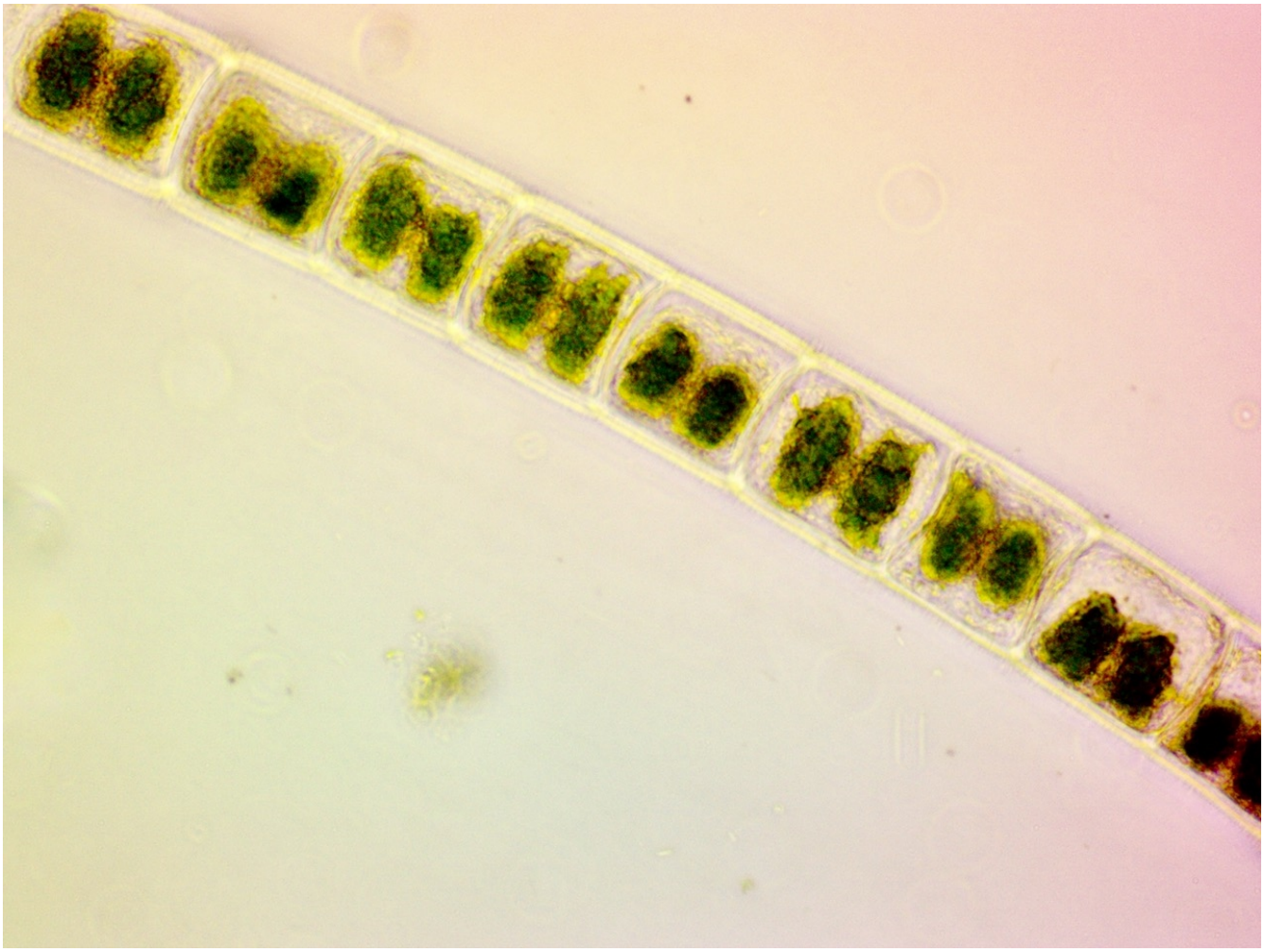
*Fragillaria* sp. - a colonial diatom.



*Ulnaria* sp. - a very long and thin diatom.



*Spirogyra* sp.  A very beautiful example.



*Zygnema* sp.

Finally, the microorganisms were similar to those from other sites that Mary Tiffany and I had sampled in Edmonds, the *Fragillaria* being an exception. However, this being only one sample I cannot make any absolute statements about the “flora” there.

All photos were taken by me.

Any comments would be welcome, email – tithonia65 AT gmail DOT com.

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