President’s Message –

A new year is upon us, and most of us think about new directions, and that long list of ambitious resolutions from last year.

I’d like to propose that your lake or watershed group consider a new project - hosting the NALMS International Symposium. Symposia are already being organized for 2012 and 2013, but NALMS would like to receive proposals for the following years.

I’ve helped organize two of these symposia, first as Program Co-chair for the symposium at the Banff Springs Hotel in 1998, and then as Conference Chair at Chateau Lake Louise in 2008. Working on these two events was one of the smartest decisions I’ve ever made, and very enjoyable. You greatly expand your professional network and meet the leaders in various fields, hone your project management skills, and learn a great deal about lake and watershed management. There are other benefits to your society and to NALMS that are too numerous to mention here.

Normally a group begins the process of hosting the symposium by submitting a written proposal, which is reviewed by the NALMS Conference Advisory Committee and Board of Directors. For the proposal you will need to have a conference chair(s) and some names for other key roles. My experience has been that a major conference like this requires at least a year and a half to organize, and some functions must start about two years in advance. Preparations for NALMS2008 started four years before the symposium. The more time you allow, the better the symposium.

Contact the Chair of the Conference Advisory Committee, Jeff Schloss (jeff.schloss@unh.edu), for details on submitting a proposal, to confirm which years are currently available, and to ask any questions.

Al Sosiak
President - NALMS
Al.Sosiak@telus.net
Well, I hope the New Year has started off great for you all! It’s been an eventful beginning of the year for me. My wife and I welcomed our first child, Sullivan, to the world on Christmas Day. Since then we’ve been busy honing our diaper changing skills, learning what all the squeaks and gurgles mean, and trying to catch up on sleep whenever possible. Here’s a picture of our little “Sully” waving or perhaps high-fiving all of you for your lake management efforts.

While I was fortunate to be able to take some time off, membership efforts at NALMS continued during my time away. Today we are still working to finalize some of 2011’s initiatives including our most recent renewal period for memberships that expired on December 31, 2011. So far we have 235 new and renewing members during this period but we are still working on getting a number of members renewed. I look forward to reporting the final results in next month’s issue of NALMS Notes.

Until then I’d like to recognize all of the new and renewed NALMS members from this period. Thanks to all of you for your support of NALMS and our lakes!

New NALMS Individual Members:

Douglas Galvas, Matt Ladewig, Brooke Landry, Mark Lewandowski, Richard Losee, Dr. Clelia Luisa Marti, Ryan McCaw, Matt Pierce, Arthur Prest, Roxane Tremblay, John Valkusky, Maxine Verteramo, Tom Wilcox, Jason Williams, Jeremy Williamson

Renewing NALMS Individual Members:


Renewing NALMS Organizational Members:


Finally, I want to highlight a NALMS Membership Benefit of which you may not be aware. Through the NALMS/Taylor & Francis partnership, which brings many of you the Lake and Reservoir Management Journal, NALMS is able to offer all individual Professional, Lake Leader, Student and Emeritus members an additional gratis journal subscription each year.

NALMS members can choose from one of the following publications for free:

- Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management
- Coastal Management
- Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology
- European Journal of Phycology
- International Journal of Environmental Studies
- International Journal of Water Resources Development
- Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning
- Journal of Land Use Science
- Reviews in Fisheries Science
To take advantage of this offer, NALMS members should email me at garenz@nalms.org with the title of the journal they are interested in and a current email address where Taylor & Francis can send an access code.

Please, don’t hesitate to take advantage of all your membership benefits! And as always, if you have any questions or concerns about your membership, please contact me at 608-233-2836.

Greg Arenz  
Membership Services Coordinator  
garenz@nalms.org

NALMS Office Notes

This is the time of year I would normally be bringing my ice skates down from the attic for 6 weeks or so of improving my admittedly poor skating skills at the local park. I’m beginning to think that might not happen this winter. The local skating ponds opened for the first time this winter for a couple of days this week, but they’re all closed now due to high temperatures that have been up to 25° above normal. Above freezing temperatures have been the norm so far this winter with only brief glimpses of a typical Madison, Wisconsin winter. We hit 51° yesterday with another 50° day forecast for today. My snow blower has yet to leave the garage and it doesn’t look like it’s going to see any action anytime soon. Winters like this do make my daily 3-block walk to our post office box a little more pleasant, though!

There will be quite a bit of activity here this month. By the time you get this newsletter, registration for the Eighth National Monitoring Conference in Portland, Oregon (April 30 – May 4) should be open. This is the 3rd time that NALMS has helped organize this biennial conference sponsored by the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. NALMS is a member of the Council which is co-chaired by the US Geological Survey and the US Environmental Protection Agency and includes representative of federal, state, interstate, tribal, local, and municipal governments; watershed and environmental groups; the volunteer monitoring community; universities; and the private sector. We had 950 attendees at the 2010 conference in Denver and for the 2012 conference we’ve already set a new record for the number of abstracts submitted.

Speaking of abstracts, the Call for Papers for the 2012 NALMS Symposium here in balmy Madison, Wisconsin (November 7 – 9) will be out at the end of January. With much of the same local planning committee from the 2001 and 2005 Madison conferences, this will, I’m sure, be another stellar program. The 2005 conference kick-started a lot of local discussion and efforts to improve the condition of the Madison-area lakes and this will be a good chance to check in on the progress that’s been made and
look toward future efforts. Of course, the conference won’t be only about Madison. The host committee is planning a program that encompasses a wide array of regional, national and international lake issues.
Until next month,

Philip Forsberg
Program Manager

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Call for Papers
21st Annual Southeastern Lake and Watershed Management Conference

RIPPLE EFFECT: BALANCING THE NEEDS OF WATER RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Columbus, Georgia - - - May 13-15, 2012
Hosted by the Georgia Lakes Society (GLS)

Join us in Columbus, GA for the 21st Annual Southeastern Lake and Watershed Management Conference – Ripple Effect: Balancing the Needs of Water Resources for a Sustainable Future. Come learn and share about issues that are pertinent to the eight states that are part of EPA Region 4. Excellent opportunities for all water stakeholders including federal, state, local, volunteer, academic, private, utilities, businesses exist to exchange information and technology related to assessment, protection, restoration, management, monitoring as well as to network with others and learn new skills at workshops and sessions. Conference starts with community workshops Sunday afternoon along with welcome reception. Presentations, professional workshops and exhibits follow on Monday and Tuesday. Student papers and posters will be judged for best presentation (cash award).

Abstracts are due by February 15, 2012.

Check the GLS web site, www.georgialakes.org, for details.

Please forward this to anyone who might be interested. Thank you!

2012 Aquatic Weed Control Short Course!

Mark your calendar and plan to take part in the 2012 Aquatic Weed Short Course to be held May 7-10, 2012 at the Coral Springs Marriott Hotel, Golf Club, and Convention Center in Coral Springs, FL.

www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw
Michigan: Scientists Will Chase Invading Fish With Cannon


Scientists are trying to discern whether an underwater cannon can protect valuable fish in the Great Lakes from the round goby, a predator that lurks near spawning beds and gobbles up the eggs of lake trout and whitefish. Biologists plan to use a seismic gun next fall to chase the predatory fish from several Lake Michigan reefs. Researchers hope the gobies will stay away long enough for native fish to hatch and escape. The experiment is part of the increasingly sophisticated war against invasive animals and plants that costs the nation’s economy billions of dollars each year.


Algae in Lake Reaches Cautionary Levels

Source: Lake Stevens Journal - Published on Tue, Jan 3, 2012 by JOURNAL STAFF

Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) recently found potentially toxic blue-green algae in Lake Stevens, prompting the posting of cautionary signs at boat launches and public areas around the lake. The bloom of algae was reported by citizens and samples were taken from the northwest shore and the Wyatt Park boat launch for testing. Testing results show that the liver toxin microcystin, which can sicken people and animals, has exceeded the State’s recreational guideline of 6 parts per billion. This is the first time high levels of toxins were found at Lake Stevens even though the lake was tested for toxins throughout the summer and fall.

The County and City, in coordination with the Snohomish Health District, has posted Caution signs at the public access areas of the lake. The signs warn the public not to swim in the lake, drink the water, to keep pets away from the water, to clean fish well, and to avoid areas with algae when boating...http://www.lakestevensjournal.com/news/article.exm/2012-01-03_algae_in_lake_reaches_cautionary_levels
'Judas fish' to Help Kill Lake Trout, Save Cutthroat - Transmitters Could Lead Biologists to Spawning Beds in Yellowstone Lake


Lake trout equipped with transmitters could betray their kin this summer as conservationists and Park Service officials escalate efforts to eradicate the species from Yellowstone Lake.

Biologists hope these so-called ‘Judas fish’ will lead them to spawning beds, where new techniques will be used to destroy mackinaw eggs and young.

The non-native lake trout were illegally introduced to Yellowstone Lake sometime in the mid-1980s and gained a foothold by 1994. The predatory species eats Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and spawning populations of the native fish have plummeted 99 percent...

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=8103

New Delta Invader, Spongeplant, Threatens to Clog Waterways, Pumps

Source: Contra Costa Times - By Mike Taugher
Posted: 12/21/2011 05:44:02 AM PST
Updated: 12/21/2011 08:04:22 AM PST

An invasive weed just now taking hold in the Delta could clog water delivery pumps and marinas on a scale never seen here, and state officials say they are nearly hamstrung in trying to deal with it. Few have even heard of the new threat, South American spongeplant, because it has been found only recently and in just a few places, all in California.

But what they have seen so far has alarmed experts. "Your jaw drops at what's going to happen," said Lars Anderson, a weed scientist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s agricultural research service. "The weeds don't stop." Anderson and other experts say that if it is not controlled or eradicated, spongeplant could become a bigger problem than water hyacinth, one of the world's most troublesome water weeds. The state spends more than $2 million a year to control the hyacinths, established in the Delta for several decades, so water delivery pumps can work and boats can move about...

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_19587154aa
Shipwreck Near Sheboygan Named to National Register

A ship lying on the Lake Michigan floor seven miles northeast of Sheboygan — and considered one of the best preserved of any Great Lakes shipwreck – has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

The canaller Walter B. Allen, which sank in a storm in April 1880, lies upright and intact in about 170 feet of water and is remarkably well preserved, experts say.
"This ship is remarkably intact. It's one of the best preserved in Lake Michigan," said Jim Draeger, deputy state historic preservation officer at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison...

Divers inspect the Walter B. Allen, which lies in about 170 feet of Lake Michigan, seven miles northeast of Sheboygan. Submitted photo


Denver's Famous Waterlilies Exposed During Park Construction

Denver is famous for many a splendid thing — 300 days of sunshine, the picturesque Rocky Mountain foothills and, of course, the Broncos.

Few realize the city also is known in water-gardening circles for being home to a special pair of waterlilies now facing a questionable fate.

The Denver Delight and Bea Taplin waterlilies, with their floating leaves and pink and white flowers have thrived for more than a half-century in Berkeley Lake in northwest Denver.

The city this year drained the lake in a construction project that will improve drainage — part of a $3 million bond-funded project at the city park to be completed next summer. Some plant enthusiasts, however, worry the hardy lilies won't survive...

Dillon Gets Top Honors in Clean Marinas Program

Source: Summit Daily News. December, 23 2011 1:25 pm

The Dillon Marina has just received top honors by the Colorado Marina Association with its certification award in the Colorado Clean Marinas Program. In what was called “a first for the state” by CMA director Paul Clukies, Dillon’s marina had a score of 100 percent on all criteria to be certified in the program.

The Clean Marina Initiative is a voluntary, incentive-based program promoted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and others that encourage marina operators and recreational boaters to protect boating water quality by engaging in environmentally sound operating and maintenance procedures. Marinas that participate in the program are recognized for their environmental stewardship.

To receive certification, a marina has to meet the program’s rigorous criteria and must adhere to a set of ongoing standards and requirements. These standards reflect best management practices for minimizing the environmental impact of boating and marina operations.


'Don't Be a Fool! Pick Up Your Poo!'


From the YouTube entry:

The Russian River Watershed Association (California) sponsors a video contest for high school students each spring in celebration of Water Awareness Month. The intent of the contest is to increase awareness of the importance of water. The focus topic for the 2011 contest was "Clean Up Your Pet Waste." The winner of the contest is Don't Be a Fool! Pick Up Your Poo! by Ryan Yanes, Rancho Cotate High School.


Satellites Find Supply Falling Mostly Due to Agriculture

Source: ScienceNews - By Devin Powell Jan 14, 2012; Vol.181 #1(p.5)

SAN FRANCISCO --- Groundwater levels have dropped in many places across the globe over the past nine years, a pair of gravity-monitoring satellites finds. This trend raises concerns that farmers are pumping too much water out of the ground in dry regions.
Water has been disappearing beneath southern Argentina, western Australia and stretches of the United States. The decline is especially pronounced in parts of California, India, the Middle East and China, where expanding agriculture has increased water demand.

"Groundwater is being depleted at a rapid clip in virtually all of the major aquifers in the world's arid and semiarid regions," says Jay Famiglietti, a hydrologist at the University of California Center for Hydrologic Modeling in Irvine, whose team presented the new trends December 6 at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union...


**Congress OKs $300 Million for Great Lakes Cleanup**


TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Congress has approved $300 million to keep a multiyear program going that is aimed at fixing some of the Great Lakes’ biggest environmental problems, from invasive species to river bottoms laced with toxic chemicals.

Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was contained in a larger spending bill that cleared the House and Senate last week and awaits President Barack Obama’s signature.

The measure also will set aside roughly $533 million for loans at little or no interest for states in the region to upgrade leaky sewer systems...


**Lakes Near Cities Bearing Brunt of Mercury Emissions -- USGS Report on Lakes and Mercury**

*Source: Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E reporter. Published: Tuesday, December 20, 2011*

Mercury loads in lakes near U.S. cities are four times greater than in rural waterways, the U.S. Geological Survey said in a study released today.

USGS said the study is the first to examine the difference in mercury levels between lakes close to urban centers -- where emissions from coal-fired power plants would be expected to be higher -- and those in rural areas. The study was published in the journal Environmental Pollution.

Researchers examined atmospheric deposition of mercury -- the transfer of the toxin from air to water or earth -- by comparing lake sediment within 30 miles of cities to sediment from lakes more than 90 miles away from urban areas.
"With all of the environmental issues requiring attention, this study is an excellent example of how science can help target our attention and actions to geographic areas where mercury's toxic impacts are likely to be the greatest in the near term on both ecosystems and humans," USGS Director Marcia McNutt said in a statement.

The study comes as U.S. EPA is expected to release the nation's first standards for mercury and other air toxic emissions from power plants this week (see related story). The agency has reportedly signed the final regulations but at press time had yet to make them public.

Coal-fired power plants and industries are among the primary sources of mercury emissions in the country. Once the mercury leaves the plants, it can end up in lakes through wind patterns or falling in precipitation. Mercury can also contaminate lakes through runoff.

Atmospheric deposition is the predominant way mercury emissions reaches ecosystems, where it can accumulate in fish, other wildlife and humans.

"This finding could have important implications for management of mercury emissions to reduce the risks mercury poses to humans and wildlife," USGS scientist Peter Van Metre, the author of the study, said in a statement. "The results illustrate the importance of reducing mercury emissions in the U.S. and not focusing only on emissions globally."

Researchers found, for example, that mercury deposition to South Reservoir, a lake 6 miles north of Boston, was five times higher than what was found in Crocker Pond, which is 130 miles north in western Maine. USGS said such a pattern repeated itself elsewhere.

The research comes after a comprehensive study in October on mercury in the Great Lakes, which are close to several cities with large coal-fired power plants. Researchers for that study found that mercury contamination in the Great Lakes region is on the decline but that on average mercury concentrations in game fish exceed levels that pose a risk to human health (Greenwire, Oct. 11).

Margherita Pryor (OEP 06-1); U.S. EPA, New England; 5 Post Office Square, #100
Boston MA 02109-3912; 617-918-1597 pryormargherita@epa.gov

Website of the Month – http://www.darbynelson.com/

NALMS member Darby Nelson has established a website, www.darbynelson.com, to help reach out to people who love lakes. His goal is to "draw in both lake association folks as well as those with no organizational affiliation." He says, "The great benefit of NALMS membership is that it provides a forum where we can share ideas, insights and approaches and collectively improve our lakes' futures."
Update Contact information:

Please let the NALMS Office (garenz@nalms.org) know if you have or are planning to change your contact information, so we can make sure you do not miss any of the NALMS monthly newsletters, updates, or general NALMS announcements. NALMS appreciates this.

Open Invitation to Add to the Next E-newsletter

If you are having a conference, have a lake-related question, need advice, looking for similar lake problems/solutions, have an interesting story to share, or just want to be heard throughout NALMS, please send your material to Steve Lundt at slundt@mwrdr.dst.co.us. All e-newsletter material is due to Steve Lundt by the first Friday of each month to be considered for inclusion in that month’s e-newsletter. The newsletter goes out electronically monthly.