

# From Amy Smagula **the Editor**

**H**appy summer! It's prime lake time right now, with many people out and enjoying what our lakes, ponds, and reservoirs have to offer. Among the activities to enjoy, remember that July is [Lakes Appreciation Month](#), and the annual [Secchi Dip-In](#) event is kicking into gear. We hope you



take time to organize or participate in an event, and take a few minutes to measure and report the Secchi depth measurement in your favorite waterbody.

While you are out and about on the water, please take caution and note any possible murkiness, scums, or other manifestations of algal blooms that might be occurring. It is also prime time for potentially Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) to pop up, so much so, that every other year *LakeLine* focuses the summer issue on the topic of HABs, and what is currently going on in terms of research, technologies and advisories. Summer 2019 is one of those years where we check in on HABs.

It seems like HABs are occurring at an ever-increasing frequency, with Lake Erie's large and long-lived bloom well-publicized in the media in recent years, and fears lingering of another such epic bloom. More locally and recently I am sure many of you have had your fair share of HABs that threaten drinking water supplies, reduce recreational values and opportunities in waterbodies, and that pose human health risks.

NALMS is fortunate to have members who are active in research related to HABs, many of whom participate in the NALMS HABs Program, co-chaired by Angela

*LakeLine* encourages letters to the editor. Do you have a lake-related question? Or, have you read something in *LakeLine* that stimulates your interest? We'd love to hear from you via e-mail, telephone, or postal letter.

Shambaugh (VT DEC) and Shane Bradt (UNH Cooperative Extension). The membership of this group is large and diverse both in backgrounds and geographic distribution of the participants, both key in contributing to the knowledge base of this group.

Co-chair Angela Shambaugh took a co-editor role with me for this issue of *LakeLine*, and identified authors who could provide some interesting updates on their work and the science of HABs. Angela provides an introduction to the issue on page 10, where she outlines the topics and authors of each article in this issue.

In addition to contributing to the *LakeLine* HABs issues every other summer, the NALMS HABs Program is focusing on developing a webpage and Story Map related to inland HAB issues in the US and parts of Canada. This will help to connect NALMS members with information and up-to-date HABs as they occur. Watch for that to be unveiled in the coming months from NALMS.

Further, co-chair Angela Shambaugh was selected to lead an Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) team on cyanobacteria prevention and management. The primary outcome of this effort is a web portal resource for state and private lake managers to assist

in bloom response. As an organization, NALMS plans to contribute significantly to this effort.

The group also developed a position statement and associated white paper on HABs as part of their work for NALMS. Both documents can be found on the NALMS website at <https://www.nalms.org/nalms-position-papers/toxic-cyanobacterial-blooms/>.

Thank you to the NALMS HABs Program, and the contributions of each of the authors in this issue. These updates and the emerging information and technologies shared here will aid us in recognizing and reporting blooms in the months and years ahead.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *LakeLine*.

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