

From Perry Thomas the President

Greetings to all from my home in Kentucky, where cardinals visit the feeder outside our kitchen window, redbud blooms pop among fresh green leaves of hedgerow shrubs, and a pair of snapping turtles perform their spring dance in the pond next door. As the number of



COVID-19 cases increases daily across North America, natural rhythms of springtime bring hope that current uncertainty will lead to positive change. While we wait to learn how the need to protect our health will affect plans for 2020 conferences, NALMS leadership continues conversations with partners about new and ongoing initiatives.

Discussions with leaders of the Society of Lake Management Professionals (SLMP) during their 2020 Summit in January revealed common needs among SLMP and NALMS members, as SLMP focuses on management of small private lakes while NALMS focuses on management of larger public waters. For example, how can SLMP and NALMS members use online marketing tools to increase awareness of lake ecology and the importance of protecting lake watersheds? We encourage *LakeLine* readers to visit the SLMP website (lakeprofessionals.org) and consider attending the 2021 SLMP Summit scheduled for January in Savannah, Georgia, with the theme of “Building Bridges to Profit from Change.”

Meanwhile, the evolving partnership between NALMS and the Aquatic Plant Management Society (apms.org) has brought fresh perspectives to each organization. As we explore the question

of how to frame a joint technical session for upcoming conferences, we focus on the integration of in-lake management approaches with lake-watershed management measures to address Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Important questions surface during our conversations, such as “When does the need to protect public health require communities to take simultaneous actions in lakes and in their watersheds?” We look forward to addressing this question and others through a combination of expert presentations and robust discussions, whether face-to-face or online during 2020.

Looking further into the future, members of the Consortium for Aquatic Science Societies (CASS, aquaticsocieties.org) consider how to strengthen collaboration while planning for the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM) scheduled for May 16-20, 2022 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In preparation for JASM, NALMS anticipates finding new ways to highlight and expand the work of our Inland Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Program, in collaboration with other CASS members.

As we consult with partners during these days of social distancing, we consider innovative approaches not only to lake and watershed management but also to the ways we connect with one another. This issue of *LakeLine* highlights the importance of NALMS’ role in bringing updates from the research community to inform the work of lake

managers and community leaders. How can we broaden the audience that receives these important updates? Are we using online marketing tools effectively? If our members do not have opportunities to meet in person during the coming year, are there other ways we can support the kinds of inspiring and information-rich interactions that happen during our annual Symposium? We hope to answer these kinds of questions as we continue conversations with partners over the coming months.

Perry Thomas holds a Ph.D. in biology with a focus on aquatic ecology. She taught ecology and worked as a college administrator until 2015 when her career path took a turn into state government. After working with the Lakes Program of the Vermont Watershed Management Division, she now collaborates with environmental scientists in the Kentucky Watershed Management Branch. She feels fortunate to collaborate with thoughtful, dedicated colleagues – many of whom share her passion for paddling. 🐉

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