

From Amy Smagula **the Editor**

This issue of *LakeLine* is intended to serve as a general primer on lakes for the many lake and watershed residents and associations across the landscape, who help to safeguard the integrity of our surface waters. We hope the range of articles provides some background on lakes, and that it also empowers these stewards in their efforts.



The issue opens with an article from **Frank Wilhelm** about lake formation and different kinds of lakes, and the key chemical, physical, and biological functions that happen in lakes. Frank has packed a lot of information into his article, including some links where you can find additional resources about the topics he covers.

I then include an overview of watershed activities that can affect water quality, and the impacts that those activities can have. I provide a list of general lake and watershed protection tips that are helpful across many types of landscapes, that can help lake and watershed stewards in their efforts to minimize potential impacts to their lakes from the landscape.

Steve Lundt next provides a great article about forming a lake association, including some activities that lake associations typically coordinate, and how to make sure that the association is successful for the long-term. Steve's familiarity with the make-up, activities, and function of successful lake associations comes through in this really useful article for anyone looking to form or rejuvenate a lake or watershed group.

Leah Fitchett and **V. Reilly Henson** take the topic of lake associations a step

further, and provide some guidance on how to evaluate a lake association's effectiveness. They provide a thoughtful framework for carefully evaluating elements of a lake association, and provide guidance on how to do this on the local level, with the goal of strengthening these groups through self-evaluation.

Many lake associations delve into planning and implementation projects for some element of lake and watershed management, and that often means collaborations, partnerships, and bringing in professional lake managers. In his article, **Chris Mikolajczyk** provides an example of a growing project that he is working with in New Jersey to address water quality issues across a region of many lakes. He covers a lot of elements of making such a project come together, including public-private interactions, working with boards, votes, funding, monitoring, and more.

Next, **Marc Bellaud** provides a review of in-lake management actions. He covers topics from nutrient inactivation to algal management, and also addresses managing problematic invasive species, including invasive aquatic plants and animals that plague many lake systems. He stresses the importance of proper evaluation and implementation, and discusses the process involved in making these types of projects happen.

Another very common topic is addressed in the final article of the issue, and that is lakefront property rentals. Many lakefront property owners rent out their homes and cottages for days or weeks at a time. Questions often come up about whether septic systems can handle the use, if vacationers are aware of lake-friendly behavior, and if realtors ask any special questions of property owners or prospective renters with an eye towards protecting the lake. **Laura Dlugolecki**

and **Lindsay Miller** summarize their conversations with realtors about some of these concerns.

Our student corner in this issue is co-authored by **Nell Libera**, **Jennifer Kissinger**, and **Julia Campbell** from universities across Canada. They teamed up to write an article about their research, and contributions from citizen scientists to address water quality problems in lake systems in Nova Scotia, Canada.

If you are not already a member of an organized lake group, consider joining a local or regional lake or watershed association, and helping out with efforts to protect your favorite lake. You can also consider becoming a member of NALMS, in one of our many membership categories (www.nalms.org). Being involved and active in such groups is a great way to learn more about lake and watershed protection and management, as well as a great outlet for sharing your energy, ideas and passion. These groups bring people together online and in person, and expand the network of connections around lakes, near and far.

This issue of *LakeLine* will be open source, and available on the NALMS website for anyone who is interested, so please do share this with fellow lake and watershed residents. *LakeLine* is typically a member benefit, but NALMS thought that the content of this issue was important enough to open it up and share it with whichever groups and individuals wanted to learn more about lakes and lake and watershed groups.

We hope you find this information useful!

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