

# From Amy P. Smagula **the Editor**

In this issue we recognize and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which has been instrumental in protecting and improving the quality of the



nation's waters since its enactment on October 18, 1972. This important Act provides the framework for regulating pollutant discharges, setting water quality standards, maintaining drinking water standards, providing funds for water infrastructure, and for monitoring, restoration and protection activities, among many other core elements.

For those of us who work in a field of water resources management, the Clean Water Act backs our day-to-day efforts to protect and rehabilitate these aquatic resources. For anyone who lives, recreates, drinks, bathes, or otherwise relies on clean water, the Clean Water Act safeguards our access to clean water. And, for all forms of wildlife that rely on a healthy aquatic environment in which to live or obtain water, the Clean Water Act is important.

The articles that were submitted for this issue cover some of the history of the Clean Water Act, as well as results of monitoring and restoration efforts under the Act. We also learn more about the NALMS 314 Workgroup, seeking to restore funding for an important section under the Clean Water Act.

Our opening article is provided by **Kerry Kuntz, Donald Benkendorf, Danielle Grunzke, Lareina Guenzel, and Sarah Lehmann** of the Environmental Protection Agency. In their article they provide a great overview of the milestones of lake monitoring programs under the Clean Water Act over the last 50 years and

share an overview of the most recently released results of the 2017 National Lake Assessment.

Former NALMS President, **Matthew Scott**, from Maine, shares some stories of water quality concerns in Maine prior to the Clean Water Act, and talks about the very important role that a Maine congressman played in bringing about the Clean Water Act in 1972.

**David Glaser, Elizabeth Moran, James R. Rhea, and Christopher Gandino** share both the history and a success story on Onondaga Lake in New York, which they cite as having once been called one of the "the most polluted lakes in the United States." Their article discusses monitoring efforts and evaluates the sources of pollutants as well as the mitigation and restoration efforts that have been taking place in the lake over time, recognizing the requirements and values of the Clean Water Act in protecting our aquatic resources.

**Kellie Merrell**, from Vermont, contributed an article and coordinated a compilation of related pieces about the need for an enhanced Clean Lakes Program, with restored funding to support both diagnostic feasibility studies, as well as lake protection and preservation components. Sidebars from **Ralph Bednarz, Fred Lubnow, Kellie Merrell and Ginny Garrison**, and from **Tracy Lizotte** provide historic examples of the values of Section 314 funding for lakes and their watersheds. These authors are all members of the NALMS 314 Workgroup, doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work to help restore funding to the Section 314 Clean Lakes Program of the CWA.

Our "Student Corner" article is provided by **Lauren Knose**, who also happens to be the NALMS Student Director. Lauren has prepared a great article on all the benefits and opportunities that

NALMS offers for student members in what is really a resource for new and existing student members.

**Alexis Johnston**, who is an undergraduate student at the University of Cincinnati, also contributes a student article about her work as the NALMS Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) intern this past summer. Her work this summer focused on laying groundwork to ensure that NALMS provides a welcoming experience to all who wish to join and participate. Her article summarizes her work and interactions with the NALMS JEDI committee, and some of the projects she worked on.

Our NALMS President, **Chris Mikolajczyk**, provides some timely updates in his "President's Message," and talks about his experience with the Clean Lake Program in his work and personal life.

Finally, inside these pages you will find information about the upcoming NALMS Annual Symposium to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in a few short weeks. There is also a plug for the NALMS Photo Contest, which will be judged at the conference. Entries are due by October 31, emailed to [LLEditor@nalms.org](mailto:LLEditor@nalms.org). Finally, if you are someone who enjoys reading peer-reviewed literature and helping authors to hone manuscripts to a high level for publication, you might want to consider becoming the next Editor of *Lake and Reservoir Management*. An advertisement for the position is included in this issue.

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