

# From Chris Mikolajczyk the President

Happy fall to us all! As the calendar now officially reads fall, Mother Nature really shows off her colors here in Colorado with the aspens



achieving their annual golden hue. Soon we'll be skiing again as fall is only about two weeks long in the Rockies (or at least that what it seems like some years). As always, it's an amazing place

to be as the animals and trees prepare for the winter with a fervor.

This issue of *LakeLine* highlights the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA) on October 18th. As lake managers, residents, and overall advocates this Act has meant so much to the quality of the waterbodies of our nation. The Act was first written in 1942 as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the amendments of 1972 overseen by the 1970 formation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are what we recognize to this day. The Act placed the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters into the hands of the individual states. As part of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Lakes Program was also established in 1972 as Section 314 of the Act, to provide financial and technical assistance to states in restoring publicly owned lakes. The program has funded a total of approximately \$145 million of grant activities since 1976 to address lake problems, but there have been no appropriations for the program since 1994. The Section 314 Clean Lakes Program was reauthorized in September 2000 as part of the Estuaries and Clean Water Act of 2000, but no funds were

appropriated. Section 319, established in 1987 to address non-point source pollution and develop non-point source management programs, has been the major source of funding with regards to lake and watershed management since. The NALMS 314 working group is currently seeking the restoration of funding specifically to Section 314 of the program to address in-lake concerns such as invasive species, harmful algal blooms, and the effects of climate change, along with the current Section 319 funding, which addresses non-point source watershed management.

The recently released results from the 2017 National Lakes Assessment support the need for an enhanced 314 Clean Lakes Program. The 2017 report indicates that nutrient pollution remains a widespread stressor with almost half of the nation's lakes in poor condition for elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Similarly, algal biomass, measured as chlorophyll-*a*, was rated poor in 45 percent of lakes, and excess algae associated with hypereutrophic conditions was observed in 24 percent of lakes. The algal toxin microcystin was detected in 21 percent of lakes, and 2 percent of lakes, or approximately 4,400 lakes, exceeded the EPA recreational water quality criterion for microcystin. Past-president Lisa Borre and myself, representing NALMS, were able to meet with the leadership of the EPA's Office of Water and Wetlands this past June to begin to discuss these issues.

The 314 working group has also been developing and implementing a survey or series of surveys to lake managers regarding existing financial resources and existing programs for in-lake management and assisting in the design of the advocacy campaign and developing supportive multi-media products. Multi-media

products will include brochures, Power-Point presentations, information kits, and a compilation of links to resources that will be useful to the campaign. The intent is for these products to be used by lake advocates across the country to campaign for restoring funding to, and enhancing, Section 314 of the CWA. As part of this, a review of the 2022 Government Accountability Office report also occurred and will be a factor in considerations related to those findings.

Coincidentally, in October of 1972, I was a two-year-old toddler, but my parents have told me the story of my first visit to the local park, Mindowaskin Park, located in Westfield, New Jersey. As the story goes, we got out of the family car and as soon as I saw the small waterbody present in the park, Mindowaskin Pond, I made a beeline straight toward it. I never stopped. I ran right off the small stone wall and straight into the water, where my mother proceeded to then rescue me. Word on the street is this is how the Clean Water Act was developed at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

In other NALMS news, the host committee for the annual symposium in Minneapolis is in overdrive for the annual meeting that's just a few weeks away now. Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are still available for the upcoming conference. This year's theme: "Leveraging Experience to Manage Diverse Lakes, Landscapes, and People." Early-bird registration has now closed, but registration remains open right up until conference time. There is also the opportunity for some excellent workshops, field trips, and, of course, the technical sessions. Full program and

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(From the *PRESIDENT*, continued from p. 9 . . .)

conference details are available on the conference website (<https://www.nalms.org/nalms2022/>). We are looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible in Minneapolis.

A reminder to save the date! Please join us for the 13th National Monitoring Conference April 24–28, 2023, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, *and* in a limited virtual setting. This hybrid conference provides opportunities for water stakeholders – federal, state, tribal, and local water professionals; nonprofits, academia, water consultants, and industry; and volunteer and community scientists – to network, develop new skills and partnerships, and exchange information. Keep an eye on <https://www.nalms.org/2023nmc/> for full details!

As we are all coming out of our busy field seasons, I wish you all a happy fall. I'm really looking forward to seeing many of you again in Minneapolis. It has been much too long. In fact, this picture of my sister and I was taken at the last in-person NALMS symposium. I'm kidding of course, but this picture does represent what the Clean Water Act has done for me



personally as this picture of two-year-old me was taken pre-Clean Water Act in a formerly heavily industrialized section of the Hudson River in Newton Hook, New York State. Today this section of river thrives with numerous migratory species and abundant mating pairs of bald eagles. To quote the Bandamanna Saga, a section of the Sagas of Icelanders, “*Wisdom is welcome wherever it comes from*” and I look forward to both talking and learning from you all again in November.

**Christopher Mikolajczyk**, CLM, is a senior project manager and certified lake manager for Princeton Hydro and conducts the management, oversight, and coordination of aquatic ecology and water resource projects in three main areas: aquatic resource restoration and management, aquatic ecosystem sampling and investigations, and stormwater quality modeling and management. Chris is the current president of NALMS. 🐦

## YOU could be the winner of the 2022 NALMS Annual Photo Contest!

Two winning images will be selected, a Member's Choice winner selected by Symposium attendees and an Editors' Choice winner selected by the editor and production editor for the entry that will make the best *LakeLine* cover.

Prizes will be awarded to the contest winners, and your favorite lake or reservoir photo could grace a cover of *LakeLine*!

Entries will be judged during the 2022 NALMS Symposium in Minneapolis, MN.

You must be a NALMS member to submit an entry. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Photos should be of sufficient resolution to print from (at least 300 dpi at 8.5" x 11").

Maximum of one submission per person.

Entries must be received by Monday, October 31, 2022.

Send your entry to:  
Amy Smagula, LakeLine Editor  
[LakeLine@nalms.org](mailto:LakeLine@nalms.org)

