From the Editor

From Amy P. Smagula

Happy spring! This issue of *LakeLine* focuses on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), with contributions from several authors sharing different aspects of AIS work, from the national level to the local level, and from the United States and Canada.

We start off with updates of AIS work from three federal agencies with programs that focus on the subject. First, **Susan Pasko** with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shares an article outlining national priorities for research related to AIS, based on feedback from partners who work with aquatic invasive species across the country. Research priorities include several focus areas, and once complete, will help to direct activities related to AIS in the coming years. Next, **Michael Greer** from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research, and Development Center highlights work that the Corps is focusing on, as it relates to various AIS. Our third update on federal initiatives comes from **Ian Pfingsten** with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Ian provides an overview of the USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) Database, discussing how data come in, maps are made and used, and how anyone can contribute to the database. He also references some other platforms that are available by both professionals and others who are interested in tracking and reporting AIS observations.

As a focus on a problem species, **Brian Ginn** and **Tyler Harrow-Lyle** provide an update on their work with starry stonewort, a macroalga species that has proven to be invasive in some parts of North America. They share new findings and observations from Ontario, Canada.

With AIS being a common problem among our lakes and ponds, many of us adopt the perspective of the more eyes, the better. Having a well-trained, engaged, and active group of volunteer monitors helps with monitoring for and reporting new infestations. **Angela De Palma-Dow** and **Jo Latimore** provide a review of the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch (EAPW), which is a component of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program of the Michigan Clean Water Corps. Their article focuses on their work to evaluate the EAPW program, based on feedback from evaluations and surveys of program participants. Their findings have helped to strengthen the program and reinforce the valuable contributions of program volunteers.

Because much of AIS work involves public outreach and messaging, social marketing is an important element to couple with the science related to AIS. **Tim Campbell** and **Bret Shaw** discuss the value of combining natural and social sciences in the context of AIS outreach initiatives. They highlight the importance of understanding the target audience and crafting and packaging messaging in multiple ways to convey key messaging and effect behavior change.

Cathy McGlynn and **Ceci Weibert** share targeted AIS prevention activities occurring in the Great Lakes and Northeast regions of the U.S. and in some Canadian provinces, in the form of a summer Landing Blitz. The Landing Blitz is a focused event in late June and early July, including courtesy boat inspections and education events at public access sites to promote *Clean, Drain, and Dry* messaging. The events include social media blasts and other means of advertising. It's a great model to follow wherever you are, and it makes for a great way to spread the word during a very popular boating time.

Our final theme article is from **Jesse Smith**, who provides a great overview of important elements to consider when planning for an AIS management program.

The Student Corner article is from **Amber White**. Amber provides an overview of her graduate work looking at the fate and transport of aquatic herbicides.

In addition to the themed articles, there are two contributed articles on recent research work that authors wanted to share. The first is from **Christopher Nietch**, **Paul Gledhill**, **Nathan Smucker**, **Matthew T. Heberling**, **Erik Pilgrim**, **Richard Mitchell**, **Amina Pollard**, and **Lester Yuan** with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They share their work on stream monitoring and benthic algae DNA metabarcoding to inform the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in a watershed in Ohio. The second recent research article is from **Heather Shaw** and **Paige Thurston**, who share their work tracking climate change in high elevation waterbodies in the Canadian Columbia Basin, including their plans for 2023 and beyond.

Our Lakespert, **Steve Lundt**, shares some remarkable findings regarding AIS in wastewater treatment ponds, that highlight the importance of outreach and prevention on many levels.

Also in this issue, we hear from our NALMS President **Kiyoko Yokota**, and include some important announcements about upcoming NALMS events, and share some great recognition that a group of young students received in New Jersey, thoughtful lake stewards in the making!

We hope you enjoy this issue of *LakeLine*. And please remember, Clean, Drain and Dry your gear – prevention of AIS is key!

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