

From Victoria Chraïbi the President

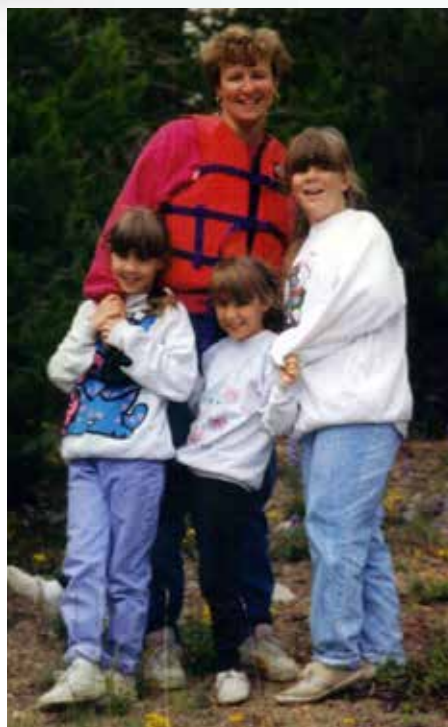
My childhood in Colorado was imprinted by two annual lake traditions: Every summer, my family



would rent a boat to cruise Lake Dillon (see images at right), a reservoir that provides drinking water to Denver. Each fall, my family would visit Echo Lake in the mountains to enjoy the changing colors of

the aspens. My mom snapped a photo of the three kids on a log during an early visit that we replicated every year until we dispersed for college (see below). These outings marked the changing seasons and the progression of our lives. I invite you to take some time this July for Lakes Appreciation Month to remember the lakes that have shaped your life past and present. Your research and management sites, your favorite spots for boating, fishing, birding, hiking, or picnicking with family and friends, or the bridge you drive over every day – whatever it may be! Lakes often provide the backdrop for our fond memories, family traditions, and daily routines.

Even so, lakes deserve to be more than a backdrop, and we at NALMS encourage you to consider lakes as a main character in your summer outings. Enjoying lakes and



conserving lakes go hand in hand. As David Attenborough riffed on the common saying, “No one will protect what they don’t care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.” To this end, NALMS spends this month focused on raising both the awareness and appreciation that underlies management and conservation. The K-12 lake poster contest invites youth to express their opinions and values of lakes. The Libraries Love Lakes program provides outreach materials for summer readers. The Robert Carlson Secchi Dip-In rallies volunteers to gather valuable data while putting community members in touch with the waters they live near and the consideration of the water quality relevant to their community. NALMS members put in the time and effort to request their states recognize lakes as economically, socially, culturally, and environmentally important during the month of July.



Through art, science, advocacy, and the simple act of spending time on our lakes, we fortify the importance of lakes in our lives and communities. For NALMS and our members, this mission continues throughout the year. Right now, we can particularly revel in it. I hope you and your loved ones enjoy a summer of sun, splashing, and Secchi discs.

Victoria Chraïbi is a tenured associate professor of aquatic ecology at Tarleton State University and the assistant director of Timberlake Biological Field Station, for which she coordinates educational outreach programming and manages student research initiatives. She holds a B.A. in biology and Spanish from Hanover College, Indiana; a Fulbright scholarship to McGill University, Quebec; an M.S. in water resources science from the University of Minnesota Duluth; and a Ph.D. in earth and atmospheric sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As a paleolimnologist, past research includes Lake Memphrémagog, Lake Superior, and Yellowstone National Park. As a phycologist, current research focuses on Texas streams and reservoirs. Victoria joined NALMS as a student member in 2011, and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2018.

