

NALMS Symposium Wrap-Up

by Philip Forsberg, NALMS Executive Director

Conference Photos: Todd Tietjen



November 4–7, 2025

45th NALMS International Symposium

Myrtle Beach Convention Center • Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Visit Myrtle Beach

Navigating Change Together: Enhancing Lake, Reservoir, and Watershed Resilience

NALMS WELCOMED MORE THAN 440 ATTENDEES FROM THROUGHOUT THE US, CANADA, AND NINE OTHER COUNTRIES TO MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR NALMS' 45TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM.

The week started with a full slate of pre-conference workshops on a wide variety of topics including algae identification, lake mapping, sediment phosphorus inactivation, R, and others. The day also included field trips to Waties Island and the Anne Tilghman Boyce Coastal Reserve; a coastal marsh seine netting experience; and a tour of Brookgreen Gardens, where attendees learned about the local Gullah culture.

The three-day conference program started with an opening plenary session with talks by Dr. Jeffery Allen, Emeritus Director of the South Carolina Water Resources Center at Clemson University, and JoAnn Burkholder, a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Aquatic Ecology in the Department of Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University (Photos 1 and 2).

Technical sessions over the three days of the conference included approximately 155 oral presentations spread over 43 sessions covering topics such as reservoir management, nutrient management, invasive species management, HAB management, Carolina Bay lakes, climate, and oxygenation, among other topics.

Breakout meetings during the week included meetings for student members of NALMS, the professional certification program, Women of Aquatics, and the *Lake and Reservoir Management* journal associate editors.

The annual awards presentation was held as a plenary session on Thursday morning of the conference. The presentation recognized the accomplishments and contributions of NALMS members and other worthy recipients. The Secchi Disk Award, the Society's most prestigious award, given to a member who has made extraordinary contributions to the goals and objectives of the Society was bestowed upon Amy Smagula. A full list of 2025 award recipients can be found in this issue of *LakeLine*.

Thursday's extracurricular schedule included the Clean Lakes Classic 5K (Photo 3), which took participants on a route on the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk. Some participants added a quick dip in the Atlantic Ocean to their run. Thursday evening's activities included the inaugural "Unofficial" NALMS Mini-Golf Outing, organized by Chris Doyle (Photo 4). Seventeen teams of four players competed, with The Golf Goddesses winning the 1st place trophy, and Team Canada and Beginner's Luck tying for 2nd place. Thursday night also saw the return of the NALMS hospitality trivia contest hosted by Todd Tietjen (Photos 5 and 6). Not to be outdone by the mini-golfers, Secchi disk medals were awarded to the top three teams.

Thank you to all who attended this year's symposium! We look forward to seeing you next November in Kelowna, British Columbia, for NALMS 2026!



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

Photo 4



Photo 6



Photo 5



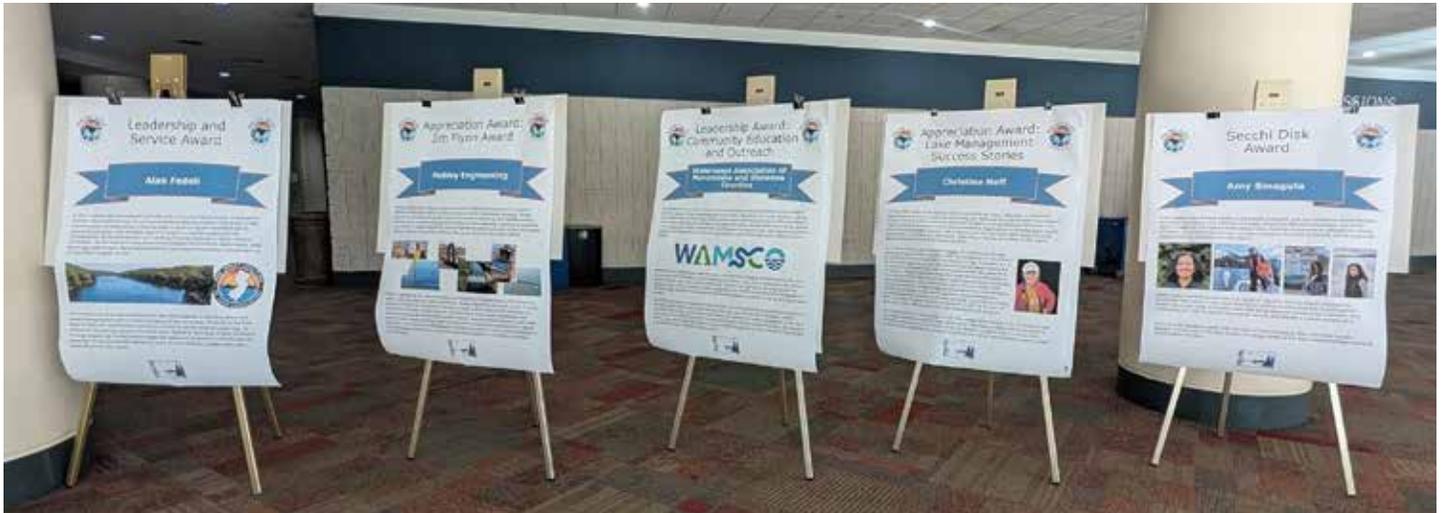
Additional Conference Event Summaries – NALMS Awards

North American Lake Management Society Honors Members & Partners with 2025 Achievement Awards

Alyssa Anderson

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON DESERVING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GOALS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY (NALMS), OR HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN LAKE MANAGEMENT, NALMS Annual Achievement Award winners represent the very best amongst its members and partners.

NALMS Achievement Awards are presented annually at the Society's International Symposium, which was recently held November 4-7, 2025, in iconic Myrtle Beach, SC. This year, NALMS was pleased to honor and recognize a variety of individuals and groups, who were nominated by their peers .



NALMS Leadership & Service Awards, formerly known as the Technical Merit Awards, are given annually to recognize and honor individuals or groups for **Successful Projects, Volunteer Actions, Research Efforts, and Public Education/Outreach**. The 2025 Leadership and Service Award recipients are as follows:

- *Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties (WAMSCO)*
Community Education and Outreach
- Alan Fedeli
Volunteer

The Lake Management Success Stories Award is awarded to an individual or team who has demonstrated improvement in lake/reservoir condition or watershed management in a cost-effective manner. The **Advancements in Lake Management Technologies Award** is awarded to an individual or team who have completed research projects that contribute to the science of lake management. The 2025 Appreciation Award winners are as follows:

- Christine Neff (left), Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area
Lake Management Success Stories Award



The **Jim LaBounty Best Paper Award**, established in 2003, is given annually to recognize and honor the best paper published in the Lake and Reservoir Management journal. This year's honor went to:

- R. Gorney, E. Nystrom, M. Stouder, A. St. Amand, C. Sauve, D. Clark, E. Stelzer, C. Givens & J. Graham
"An evaluation of cyanobacterial occurrence and bloom development in Adirondack lakes"

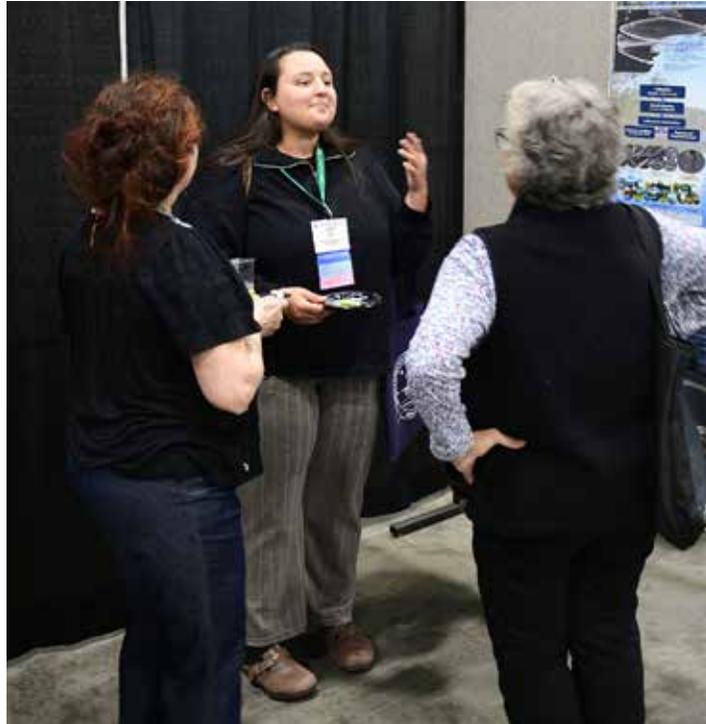
Special awards also included the **Secchi Disk Award**, the **Jim Flynn Outstanding Corporation Award**, and the **Friends of NALMS Award**, given annually, respectively, to the individual and the corporation who has made the most significant contributions to the goals and objectives of the Society. The 2025 special award winners are as follows:

- Amy Smagula
Secchi Disk Award (photo at right)
- Mobley Engineering
Jim Flynn Outstanding Corporation Award

NALMS Student Paper Awards

Each year the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) presents student awards to the best student presentation and best student poster (photo at left, below) at the annual NALMS symposium. The 2025 student awards were sponsored by the New England Chapter of NALMS.

The NALMS Board of Directors renamed the student award as the Jody Connor Student Award in memory of Jody Connor, a long-time friend of NALMS who was active on the Education Committee and participated in the reviews of student presentations and posters. The first-place winners receive a check for \$250 and a plaque, while the honorable mention or second place winners receive a plaque. The awards are based on scientific merit, research design, visual aids, clarity, and presentation.



We are delighted to share that the 2025 *first-place oral presentation winner* is **Julie Critchfield, University of California Davis, Davis, CA**, for her talk entitled "Quantifying Differential Cooling in Deep Oligotrophic Lakes." The 2025 *first-place poster presentation winner* is **Lillian Doll, Clemson University, Clemson, SC**, for her poster entitled "Validating the Pond Shoreline Assessment Tool (PSAT) Using Grand Strand Stormwater Wet Ponds to Implement as a Future Inspection Technique." Congratulations to Julie and Lillian for your excellent work!

We are also happy to share the 2025 Honorable Mention awards, for both oral and poster presentations! The 2025 *honorable mention oral presentation winner* is **Catherine Schlenker**, for her talk entitled "Examining the Impact of Emerging Contaminants on Phytoplankton Communities in a Managed Reservoir: Lake Murray, SC." The 2025 *honorable mention poster presentation winner* is **Summer Weidman**, for her poster entitled "Using Satellite Imagery to Detect Northern Hydrilla: Time[1] Series Analysis of Northern Hydrilla in the Connecticut River From 1994–2024." Congratulations to Catherine and Summer!

We thank the New England Chapter of NALMS for sponsoring the student awards and for all of the students who presented and/or attended the NALMS symposium in Myrtle Beach! We look forward to excellent student participation at the NALMS 2026 symposium in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada!

NALMS Photo Contest Results

THIS YEAR NALMS RECEIVED 35 ENTRIES IN THE NALMS PHOTO CONTEST,
COVERING A RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND LAKES ACROSS THE GLOBE.

TWO WINNERS WERE SELECTED:

Popular Vote (voted on by NALMS conference attendees):

Standing on bubbles, frozen in time at Pigeon Lake, Alberta

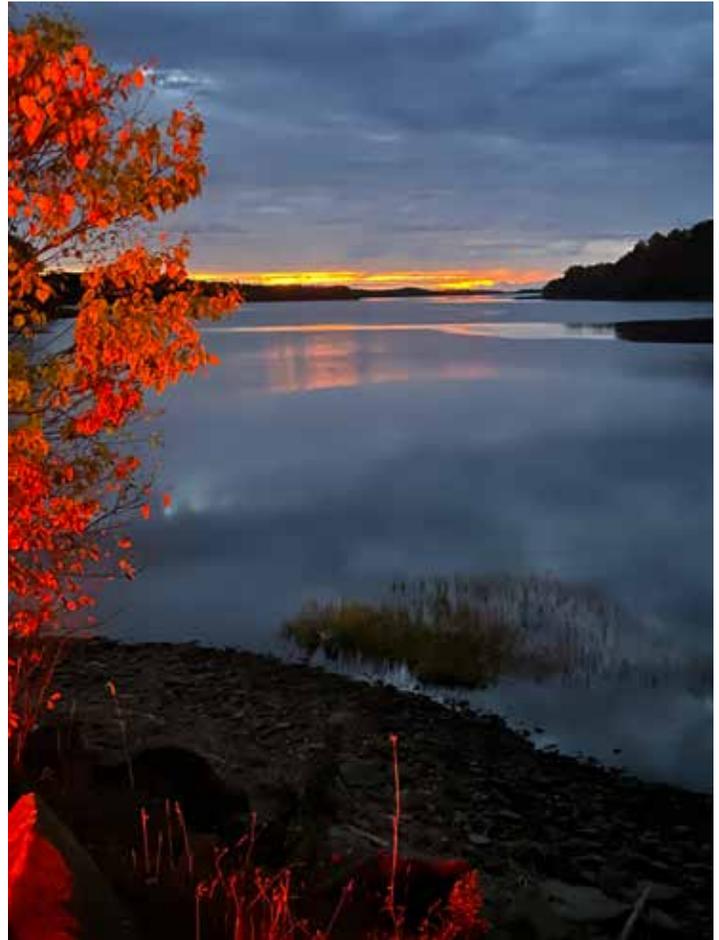
Photo by: Kirsten Letendre

Editor's Choice (voted on by the *LakeLine* Editor and

LakeLine Production Editor):

Mabou Harbor, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

Photo by: David Pronchick



Founded in 1980, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) is a member-driven nonprofit organization focused on the management and protection of lakes and reservoirs. Welcoming anyone with an interest in lakes, NALMS strives to forge partnerships among citizens, scientists, and professionals to achieve this mission.

