

From Julie Chambers the President

Throughout North America and beyond, scientists, agencies, and everyday citizens collect data from



lakes. These waterbodies are dynamic systems that are impacted by excess nutrients, sedimentation, algal blooms, seasonality, and much more. The overall need for

credible scientific water monitoring data is fundamental to ensuring the quality of lakes.

Understanding water resources is essential to preserving the quality of life for all residents and supporting the economy. These resources supply water to communities and contribute millions of dollars annually through recreational activities. Providing the public, scientists, and decision-makers with accurate information about the condition of lake resources is vital for effective stewardship and sustainable management. One of the biggest challenges agencies and organizations face is that they cannot monitor every lake as frequently as needed due to limited funding and staffing. These limitations create gaps in the data record that inhibit our understanding of these dynamic waterbodies. Long-term datasets are valuable for identifying trends, setting priorities in sampling programs, and informing policy and decision-making in lake management.

Volunteer monitoring and citizen science play a key role in data collection for lakes and are an important part of environmental stewardship. By measuring water clarity, temperature, oxygen levels, and other parameters, volunteer monitors help build a

continuous record of a lake's health. These efforts from the volunteers help fill in monitoring gaps, creating more continuous datasets across a wider range of waterbodies than agencies could manage alone. Volunteer monitoring is not just about data, it's also about a personal connection to the environment, and many of us have memories of our favorite lake or lakes that make stewardship important to us and part of who we are. With the support of proper training programs and new technologies such as mobile apps and low-cost sensors, more people than ever can contribute to the collection of lake data in a meaningful way. As these programs continue to grow, they not only strengthen our understanding of lake systems but also build a more engaged and informed community of stewards dedicated to protecting them.

Julie Chambers leads the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP) Lake Monitoring section. She has 25 years of experience in statewide water quality management, from program design through data collection, management, reporting, and dissemination of information. Over the last 22 years her program has thrived and is responsible for conducting water quality studies, assessments, and bathymetric surveys on reservoirs across Oklahoma, as well as managing lake and wetland projects funded through federal grants and other contracts. Julie serves on the water quality steering committee for the EPA's National Lake Assessment as well as on several state technical workgroups focused on the assessment of lakes and field protocol development. Julie has been an active member of The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) for 20 years

NALMS STUDENTS: SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE LAKELINE STUDENT CORNER!

As shared at this year's NALMS Symposium, we are looking for student authors who are interested in publishing a piece in the "Student Corner" of *Lakeline*!

Lakeline, a quarterly e-magazine published by the North American Lake Management Society, is a mix of reflection, research, and science communication. Typically, articles are 1-2 pages in length and can include photos of you, your field work, or any related figures. Submissions are accepted Jan 1, April 1, July 1, and Oct 1.

The "Student Corner" is a great place to share results of a research project you have been working on or simply reflect on your life as a student studying lakes and reservoirs. As a magazine, a publication in *Lakeline* can be cited on your CV and may be a refreshing exercise in non-academic writing. If interested, please contact student@nalms.org or lakeline@nalms.org for more information.