

From
Amy P. Smagula

the Editor

Happy summer!

This issue of *LakeLine* explores alternative methods of species



identification in aquatic systems. Environmental DNA, or eDNA, has proven to be a useful tool in cataloguing which species are present in a waterbody, confirming the

identification of a species, and gaining a better understanding of species diversity within a family of plants, and much more.

Alison Watts with the University of New Hampshire discusses the use of eDNA in identifying the presence or absence of various aquatic organisms in aquatic systems. This work has aided managers in determining if a target species is present in a system, and it has served as an early detection tool as well as a bit of peace of mind in some cases.

Ryan A. Thum, Gregory M. Chorak, Del Hannay, Zachary J. Kuzniar, and Ashley L. Wolfe at Montana State University contributed an article about the DNA barcoding work they do for aquatic plant identification.

Nic Tippery with University of Wisconsin, Whitewater shares some of his work with eDNA and barcoding. While some of his work has some crossover with that described in the Thum et al. article, Nic describes some of the work with plant identification using DNA barcodes that has opened up new avenues for understanding aquatic plant diversity, as well as some verifying discoveries of hybrid invasives, documenting newly arrived aquatic plants in North America, identifying distinct subspecies of plants, and identification of a previously overlooked species.

In this issue we also see the first of three articles in a new column called "Meteorology, Climatology and Lakes." In this column, **Rick Sherma** with Penn State Extension and Wayne Conservation District in Pennsylvania will be examining the influence of weather on lake water quality.

For our "Lakespert" column, we welcome a guest Lakespert **Ashley Bruhn**, a Water Quality Scientist- Denver, Colorado, and a colleague of our regular Lakespert (Steve Lundt) contributed the enclosed Lakespert article. Ashley shares her experience with the use of eDNA in fisheries studies in Colorado, and the utility of this technique in identifying species expected to be present, as well as some unexpected species.

Also in this issue, we hear from NALMS President Julie Chambers, as well

as our NALMS Executive Director, Philip Forsberg, who prepared a conference preview for the NALMS 2026 Annual Symposium, to be held in Kelowna, British Columbia, from November 3-6, 2026. To learn more about the conference, find the layout in this issue, or visit <https://www.nalms.org/nalms2026/>.

Lastly, while you are out and about visiting lakes this summer, please remember to snap some photos, and submit your best shot to the NALMS 2026 Photo Contest. Details on the contest are also included in this issue.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Have a great summer!

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