

NORTH CAROLINA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



The mission of NCLMS is to promote the understanding, protection, and comprehensive management of lakes, reservoirs, and their watershed systems in North Carolina.

AUTUMN 2008

Newsletter Table of Contents

1. 2009 SELMS Conference Announcement
2. President's Message
3. New NCLMS Display
4. Articles of Interest
5. NCLMS Meeting Minutes
6. NALMS News
7. NCLMS Executive Board
8. NCLMS Contact Information
9. Membership Application

1. SELMS Conference Announcement

18th Annual Southeastern Lake Management Conference

May 5-8, 2009
Hawthorne Inn and Conference Center
Winston-Salem, NC

Conference Title:
"Managing Extremes: Watersheds and Climate Disruption"



As in the past we will have 4 Tracks - Education/Outreach, Technical, Watershed Management, Water Quality. Each session will be 1.5 hours long with 3 speakers. Join us in Winston Salem, May 5-8, 2009 to examine extreme weather and water quality strategies, regional camaraderie, and much more.

Visit www.nclakemanagement.org for details.

2. President's Message

The Volunteer...A National Treasure

Volunteers have been fighting our wars, battling our fires, taking care of our sick, teaching and caring for our children and we rely mostly on our volunteers to monitor our lakes, rivers, marinas and estuaries. These individuals are selfless and have a love for humanity, a love for life and a love for our country. They include Americans of every age, sex, race, nationality, religion, social status political and sexual persuasion...they are America.

In thirty-two states there are over twenty-four thousand individuals that extend their concern for the environment to monitoring our water bodies. Keep in mind that this only represents a fraction of the citizens monitoring our waters, since it does not include states that did not participate in the survey. This number does not include the citizens involved in monitoring other environmental concerns like wildlife.

For example, we just had a large oil spill in the San Francisco Bay last year. You now see on the news reels volunteers working to save the wildlife and organizing a citizen based group to assure accountability so that responsible action is taken. Volunteers work hard to raise the level of environmental awareness in the community.

In my past 17-years involved with lake management I have met many steadfast individuals working to restore and protect our lake resources. One person in particular comes to mind in Florida, Sandy Fisher with Florida's Lake Watch program. She has since retired but her hard work has allowed her to leave a legacy and the program continues to grow today even without her close guidance and watch.

We have a great deal of personnel that work with the governmental agencies, many belong to our organization and they reflect the truest of public servants for they not only work in the field of lake and water management during the day but they VOLUNTEER their valuable time off to protect our North Carolina water bodies. The acts of selfless dedication from all of our volunteers and members of NCLMS know no prejudice, they are united by their disdain for what is happening to our environment and a desire to do something constructive about it. A mere "thank you" is not enough. You all have earned and deserve much more. You deserve my gratitude and respect for your enthusiasm and commitment for what you give to all of us in North Carolina.

We need to keep this momentum of volunteerism going and growing. It takes more than just a few main members to run an organization like NCLMS. Please step up to the task and be recognized for the hard work you do in the background. Help our board help you. Volunteers keep America going. If everyone that is a member of NCLMS brought in only one member, we can continue to grow and bring



in new talent and ideas. Each of us has a talent that we do best and it takes a team to make an organization work. As Uncle Sam stated during the World Wars, "I Want You". We need you in order for NCLMS to grow.

Cary Martin / President NCLMS

3. NCLMS News – 2007 Fall Workshop

The 2007 Fall Workshop and Annual Meeting was held on November 16, 2007 at the Lake Lure Town Hall in Lake Lure, NC. The title of the Workshop was Water Supply and Water Release Issues: Managing droughts and floods in our lakes, streams and watersheds. There were 9 speakers who covered a range of issues. Topics included 2007 Drought in NC by Phil Fragapane of the Division of Water Resources, US Army Corp of Engineers Water Supply and Reservoir Studies by Bill Barron, TVA Integrated Operation of the River System by Chuck Parkins, Managing Drought and Floods: Environmental Considerations by Chris Goudreau of NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Construction of a New Reservoir: A Lifetime of Fun by Butch Sutton of the Cleveland County Sanitary District, and Water Conservation: The Other Water Source by Terry Albrecht, NC Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, to name a few. All presentations were well received and generated good discussions of the impacts of the current drought and past floods to the lakes and reservoirs in North Carolina. The twenty four attendees from all over the

southeast and North Carolina at the workshop were presented with additional information on the effect and management of the drought conditions in the state. A welcome contingent of folks from South Carolina (Lake and Watershed Association of South Carolina members) managed to make it to Lake Lure, despite the weather conditions. The attendees continued their discussions over boxed lunches or took a brisk walk along the beautiful Lake Lure shoreline. The Workshop ended at 2:00 PM with the Annual Meeting convened at 2:15 pm.

4. New NCLMS Display

NCLMS is pleased to announce that it has prepared new panels for its table top display. The image used to create the panels is shown below. The new panels will be on display at the Southeastern Lake Conference being held on May 6, 7 and 8, 2008 in Greensboro, NC.





NCLMS

NORTH CAROLINA LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:
Newsletters
Conference Discounts
Voting Privileges
Email Updates

Make a difference - JOIN TODAY!

MISSION:
Promote the understanding, protection, and comprehensive management of lakes, reservoirs, and their watershed systems in North Carolina.

NCLMS FACTS:
Formed in 1994
Not for profit organization
Affiliate of NALMS

Visit our website! www.nclakemanagement.org

5. Articles of Interest

Bad Lakes Gone Good

By Cary Martin

What causes a formerly pristine lake, teeming with fish, to go “bad?” It seems not so long ago that these beautiful bodies of water were “good.”

Years ago, when the lake was “good,” there weren’t so many shallow areas and the water was clear enough to see your feet when swimming. As lakes age, siltation occurs and decaying plant matter builds up. The bottom of the lake becomes a mucky, smelly mess. This process takes years, spurred by natural production of plants utilizing energy from sunlight mixing with air and water through a vehicle called “photosynthesis.” Over time, this accumulation of organic matter on the lake bottom is the primary cause of a lake going “bad.”

“Bad” water leads to trouble...like fish kills.

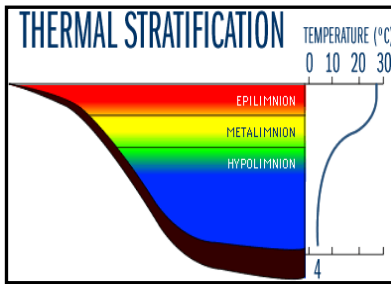
Ironically, as organic matter builds up, the problem is compounded. More organic matter feeds more plants which creates more organic matter. It’s a vicious, normal, natural cycle.

Another watery irony revolves around mankind’s need for speed. Faster cars, faster airplanes and faster food leads to faster eutrophication (aging) of ponds and lakes. Effluent discharge from cities and towns flushes downstream, into lakes. Storm water rolls off pavement and rooftops, snatching whatever it can to deposit into our lakes and ponds. Lawn fertilizers, grass clippings, tree leaves and septic tank lateral lines percolating through soils share their goodies. These point sources increase biological productivity, especially algae and aquatic weeds. Mother Nature has many rules. One of those? When any kind of nutrient comes into water, it won’t just sit. It will grow something, somehow, some time.

As this buildup occurs, water works to compost dead organic matter. Increased demand on dissolved oxygen content is a consequence of this process. It happens two ways. Dead organic matter decomposes, sucking oxygen from the water. Living plants produce oxygen during the day and take it



up at night. Oxygen problems occur when consumption exceeds the amount of oxygen produced through photosynthesis and diffusion from the air.



To compound the issues, pond water responds in a most natural of ways as greenery grows. Water stratifies. Thermal stratification adds to an already growing problem. Dense algae blooms accumulate near the surface to absorb sunlight. But, this dense living microscopic mass hordes sunlight, effectively shading the lower depths. The result is most of the oxygen produced is now located near the surface. This process leaves a larger volume of water underneath that fertile two to four foot layer. Deeper water is deficient of oxygen. As the sun warms top layers, the shady area underneath remains cool. Since warmer water is less

dense, it floats on top of cooler water. At some point, there is a well defined temperature separation called the “thermocline.” Oxygenated water from the surface can’t push through the thermocline. Water below the thermocline begins to process its organic build up without oxygen. The result is a build up of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide gases along with some metals and minerals.

Okay, so what does this have to do with you? Plenty. This is life under water in your pond, my pond...everyone’s pond. To understand how to best manage your water, you should know how things work so you can develop a thoughtful strategy to counter the processes which go against your pond goals.

Oxygen in ponds comes from two sources: photosynthesis and diffusion from air. The amount of oxygen in pond water can vary considerably from pond to pond and from hour to hour in each pond. However, oxygen concentrations are typically lowest at dawn and highest during late afternoon. The amount of oxygen a pond can hold is dependent on atmospheric pressure, salinity and temperature.

The amount of oxygen fish need compared to humans is substantially different. We breathe air with almost 21% oxygen content. Fish breathe water with an oxygen content of 0.0008 or 8 parts per million, also expressed as milligrams per liter. This is equal to one person in a Super Bowl stadium, a pinch of sugar in a 5-gallon bucket or 1 drop of food coloring in 1-gallon of water.

So, how in the world can a pond NOT keep enough oxygen to keep fish alive forever and ever? Water has its limits. It juggles lots of processes.

Chemical transformations and interactions are where the actual magic takes place. Start with nitrogen transformation. Of many combined forms of nitrogen under water, the most important are ammonia and nitrate. Both can be assimilated to produce amino acids to be used by the algae and weeds. After all, nitrogen is a nutrient for plants. Stir in some phosphorous and we have the makings of a natural soup that all plants love.

Decomposition of organic matter results in release and accumulation of ammonia. Under aerobic (with oxygen) conditions, ammonia is oxidized in a two step process called nitrification (Phase I to nitrite; Phase II to nitrate). Under anaerobic (without oxygen) conditions, nitrification of ammonia to nitrate does not occur, and ammonia accumulates at the bottom of the pond. Enhancing nitrification of ammonia to nitrate and subsequent use of nitrate in denitrification can stabilize and reduce internal phosphorus loading, which feeds algae and plants.

Here’s how all this science ties together.

Oxygen loss is directly related to eutrophication, or the level of aging of a pond. Add sediment phosphorous release which feeds algae and weeds and the potential of a fish kill quickly becomes reality.

Aeration relieves those natural symptoms by increasing the rate of dissolved oxygen input (increasing the aerobic respiratory capacity). Aeration affects almost all aspects of the lake: nutrient cycling, heat distribution, bacteria, phytoplankton and fish.

Aeration allows the pond to breathe.

To speed up aerobic digestion and ensure achievement of aerobic benefits, pond owners can choose mechanical aeration. Today’s market has a number of different products: Surface aerators, floating fountains, horizontal circulators, or lake bed aeration.



Surface aerators are floating units with a pump mounted beneath the float. They are efficient as to keep a constant oxygen supply on pond's surface. Some units have the ability to pull from below the thermocline by using a draft tube. Typical surface aerator sizing is 2 hp/acre.



are floating mounted units with a pump beneath the float. They are efficient as to keep a constant oxygen supply on pond's surface. Some units have the ability to pull from below the thermocline by using a draft tube. Typical surface aerator sizing is 2 hp/acre.

Lake bed aeration is a method of compressing atmospheric air and pumping it to the lake bottom, allowing it to flow through a series of diffusers, creating micron-sized bubbles to act as an airlift. The misconception is that oxygen is transferred to water through the bubble surface. Actually, less than 5% of oxygen is transferred that way. As bubbles rise they expand. Cascading bubbles entrain cold dense water below the thermocline and lift it to the surface, allowing gasses like hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide to escape into the atmosphere, where they belong. At the same time, oxygen is absorbed and eventually circulated throughout the water column. The bottom of the pond becomes aerobic and metals such as iron are precipitated while

phosphates are again rendered unavailable. Unlike surface units, lake bed aeration uses an unconfined airlift technique; the amount of energy required is reduced to circulate the entire volume of the lake or pond. In this case we choose system size by turnover or circulation rate of a minimum of 0.75 times per day. That means we engineer the system to turnover the entire volume 0.75 times per day. In larger lakes, 20-acres plus, that rate is reduced to one turnover in 4-days. This is because larger lakes have greater surface area for still-water surface aeration.

Your pond and its fish depend on oxygen for life. Just like you and I, if oxygen supply is cut off for even 15 minutes, fish die. It does not matter how high the level was earlier in the day, you must be concerned with extremes as well as the chronic low levels that may not necessarily kill the fish, but definitely stresses them. As low oxygen conditions continue, buildup of harmful gasses continues, thermal stratification will grow and the potential of a deadly mixing that results in a fish kill increases.

In a fertile green water pond, algae will typically draw more oxygen at night than will the fish. A heavy accumulation of sediment can also draw more oxygen than fish.

Here are some actual numbers:

- Ten pounds of fish will consume about 0.003 pounds of oxygen per hour.
- Five thousand gallons of "green water" (phytoplankton equivalent of 100 mg/l of chlorophyll "A" and 2,000 zoo plankton per liter) with the equivalent of 20 mg/l Biological Oxygen Demand will consume about 0.8 pounds of oxygen per hour.
- Sediment oxygen demand for a mucky pond is 0.006 pounds per square yard.
- Doing no mechanical aeration and relying on the wind, still water rate from the atmosphere at night is about 0.00002 pounds per square yard per hour.

In summary, if left alone your pond's goal is to become a grassy meadow. Who wants to mow more grass in summer? You have the ability to slow down that process and in some cases even



reverse it. The simple aeration system, be it a surface unit or lake bed system, is the life support for your pond.

If your pond has gone “bad,” aeration may be the best ticket to turn it back into the one you remember as “good.”

6. NCLMS Meeting Minutes

NCLMS BOARD MEETING June 13, 2008

Title:	NCLMS Board Meeting Minutes
Date:	June 13, 2008
Time:	10:30 AM
Place:	Winston-Salem, NC / Conference Call
Moderator:	Cary Martin, President
In Attendance:	Cary Martin – President Carol Adams– President-elect Jef Morgan – Past-president Barbara Wiggins – Treasurer Dianne Reid – Secretary Dave Buetow -
Minutes submitted by:	Dianne Reid
Minutes approved on:	
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the last meeting - • Financial Report – Barbara Wiggins • Chicago-Jef • Newsletter – Brad Fairley <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next publish date? 2. Content? • Website –Cary Martin • Membership – All...anything new? • SELMC 09 – All (Jeff & Dave to take over) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dates 1. Location 2. Boards 3. Contracts 5. Travel Funding For Board Members? 6. Should we consider “Google Check Out” for registrations? 7. Conference Sponsors • 319 Grant – All • Other Business - All

#	DECISIONS
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#	DECISIONS
1.	Approved minutes of last meeting
2.	Annual Meeting & Workshop – September 8-12.

SE 09 Planning Meeting Notes

Name: Managing Extremes

Tentative Date: May 3-9 (6-9)

Tuesday = Workshops; Wednesday start at Noon; Friday provide box lunch end at noon

Locations: Winston-Salem - Hawthorne Inn

Contract discussion – 70 rooms on hold, workshop pre-conference 2 meeting rooms one for 30 and one for 20

Chairs: Jef Morgan & Dave Buetow

Committees:

Publicity (community calendars, list serves, websites, newspapers, etc.) –

Logistics (location, menus, rooms, etc): Carol & Cary

Silent Auction:

Activities:

Exhibitors: Cary

Program: Dianne & Brad

Sponsors: Barbara (Dianne assisting)

Workshops

Lake Organizational Support – all day

Stormwater

Stream Restoration (one happening Fall 2008)

Restoration Watershed Planning

Water Supply

Spring Workshop Planning Session Notes

Stormwater & Your Lake “How S---- is Your Lake?”

9 AM Welcome – Cary Martin

9:15 Regulations

State



Municipal

10 – 10:30 Coffee & Refreshments & Networking

10:30-11:30 Overview of Stormwater Water Quality Issues related to lakes

Fecal, sediment, nutrients, quantity, aesthetics

11:30-1 Lunch provided

1:00- 3:00 Lakes

Pond Management - Foster

Aeration – Cary

Watersheds

Stormwater BMPs – Bill Hunt

Ordinances – Carol, Brad, COG

NCLMS BOARD MEETING

March 14, 2008

Title:	NCLMS Board Meeting Minutes
Date:	March 14, 2008
Time:	10:30 AM
Place:	Winston-Salem, NC
Moderator:	Cary Martin, President
In Attendance:	Cary Martin – President Carol Adams– President-elect Jef Morgan – Past-president Barbara Wiggins – Treasurer Dianne Reid – Secretary Dave Buetow
Minutes submitted by:	Dianne Reid
Minutes approved on:	
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minutes from last meeting –Directors Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes from August 2007 ○ Financial Report – Barbara ○ NALMS – All <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Travel Funding – All (Canada Next Year) ○ Chicago –All <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who will attend for NCLMS? ○ Newsletter – Brad Fairley <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bi-annual? 2. Next publish date? 3. Content ○ Website – Cary Martin



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Display – Brad Fairley ○ Membership – All ○ Spring Meeting – All (Topic & Location) ○ SELMC 09 – All (Jef & Dave to take over) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dates 2. Location 3. Boards 4. Contracts 5. Travel Funding for Board Members? 6. Should we consider “Google Check Out” for registrations? 7. Conference Sponsors ○ 319 Grant – All ○ Other Business - All
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#	DECISIONS
1.	Approved minutes: August & November Board & Annual Meetings
2.	Proposed Budget: Taking our conference budget. Approved as revised
3.	Chicago: Jef Morgan attending using Carol’s Prize – will be our Affiliate rep 4/29-5/2
4.	NALMS: Lake Louis Nov 11-14; agreed to send 1 or 2 people to meeting
5.	Newsletter: Bi-annual. Cary providing Brad the President’s message
6.	Website: Contracting w/ Joe Peck Advantage-NC.biz . Designing to resemble FL’s website. Cary managing
7.	Display: setting up w/ blank space for announcements
8.	Mailing Membership Renewals
9.	Workshop: May 22nd Thursday w/ back up of 5/29 – Tentative Agenda at end of these notes
10.	Strategic Planning: Agreed that we need
11.	Closed meeting @ 2:15 PM

#	Action Item	Owner	Status	Due Date	Comments
1.	Budget Update	Barbara			She sent one in April
2.	Newsletter	Brad		2 weeks	
3.	Website contract	Cary		April 14th	



4.	President's message for newsletter	Cary		1 week	
5.	Display finalized	Brad		May 1 st	
6.	Verifying Paid memberships for 2008	Barbara		Today	
7.	Mail Renewals	Dianne		2 weeks	
8.	Lake Lure Write-up	Barbara		1 week	For newsletter & website
9.	Lake Lure Photos	Carol		1 week	For newsletter & website
10.	Minutes approved & then share with Foster	Dianne		2 weeks	
11.	Trifold Date updated & print 50 copies	Dianne & Brad		May 1	
12.	Spring workshop contacting Foster	Cary		May 8	

SE 09 Planning Meeting Notes

Name: Managing Extremes

Tentative Date: May 3-9 (6-9)

Tuesday = Workshops; Wednesday start at Noon; Friday provide box lunch end at noon

Potential Locations: Wilmington Negotiating prices

Pinehurst – Aberdeen Hampton Inn

Winston-Salem - Hawthorne Inn

Chairs: Jef Morgan & Dave Buetow

Committees:

Publicity (community calendars, list serves, websites, newspapers, etc.) –

Logistics (location, menus, rooms, etc): Carol & Cary

Silent Auction:

Activities:

Exhibitors: Cary

Program: Dianne & Brad



Sponsors: Barbara (Dianne assisting)

Workshops

Lake Organizational Support – all day

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11:30-1 Lunch provided

1:00- 3:00 Lakes

Pond Management - Foster

Aeration – Cary

Watersheds

Stormwater BMPs – Bill Hunt

Ordinances – Carol, Brad, COG

NCLMS BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2007

Attending: Jef Morgan, Cary Martin, Barbara Wiggins, Carol Adams
Cary noted that John Tolar, Brad Fairley, Dianne Reid could not attend meeting.

- Minutes of the last meeting - Directors Meeting
- Financial Report – Barbara Wiggins
- Lake Lure Workshop Evaluation – All
- NALMS Review – Barbara Wiggins, Jef Morgan, Dianne Reid
 1. Travel Funding – All (Canada Next Year)
- Newsletter – Brad Fairley



- Website – Dianne Reid, Cary Martin
- Display – Brad Fairley
- Membership – All
 1. Increased?
 2. Cut off date for current year
- Spring Meeting – All (Topic and Location)
- SELMC 09 – All
 1. Location
 2. Boards
 3. Contracts
 4. Travel Funding For Board Members?
- 319 Grant – All
- Other Business - All

Meeting called to order by Jef Morgan at 19:17.

Minutes of Last Board Meeting: The meeting notes from the August Board meeting were not located. The approval of the Minutes from the last Board meeting tabled until next scheduled board meeting. Carol first, Cary seconded. None opposed.

Treasure Report – Group Memberships will be discussed at annual meeting and voted upon.

1. Cost and re-evaluation
2. Increase Individual Membership from \$20 to \$30
3. Increase Group Membership from \$100 to \$135
4. Keep Student Cost Same

Current budget year, NCLMS is doing well and the next year will be setting up for SE09.

A small concern from the Treasurer, applying for grants with the balance of \$26,000 in the bank does not look good.

The 319 grant should not be affected by the balance though, Barb will look into this.

NCLMS may be able to receive the 319 grant for the workshop travel show that we would like to put together on disc.

Financial Report: Accepted by all in attendance.

Lake Lure Workshop: A small concern about some walk- ins with the number of lunches available. Last minuet concerns are the biggest worries. We have 21 registered.

There are other groups around the State that wanted to have this topic at future workshops. Maybe NCLMS could ask some of the speakers to present in our Spring Workshop.

NALMS Review:

Jef- Affiliate meeting, the feeling from the attendees was that there was a need one to have an affiliate board, but not sure how it will operate, how affective it can or will be but no one wanted to miss the opportunity to make it happen. Steve Lundt is the spear head for this organization and is willing to keep the momentum going and act as current Board president.



One of the questions raised was who was going to be an affiliate member for each organization. Jef & Cary both in agreement that it should be up to the affiliate themselves. Jef stated that he would be willing to be the affiliate rep for NCLMS until unable to continue or if NCLMS elects to make a change. This will ensure continuity while this opportunity is building itself.

One of the Board members felt that the affiliate will have too much control or too much region. She also stated that NALMS is nothing without affiliates. If NALMS is going to pass along the national picture, they have to get that picture from groups like NCLMS.

It was reported that the idea is for the individual states to help NALMS get their own members to join. Being involved is critical for us being heard.

Right now NALMS is only offering their affiliates the help for regional shows and provides a resource and a connection for national support.

Travel Funding – April, June, November are the months of NALMS meetings. Budget for up to 2-people for each symposium...Treasurer will increase the budget to \$6,000 to cover. If a company or a government pays for it, we will keep the money in the bank.

Newsletter – No report...Brad is unable to attend. It was requested for all that can to bring cameras for photos of Lake Lure workshop.

Items to be added to next newsletter-

1. Workshop review
2. Incoming president's message
3. Other articles
4. NCLMS calendar
5. Notes from annual meeting

Web Site – Dianne has passed on the pass word and user name to Cary to have Colby Martin start increasing the capacity for us to add workshop talks and newsletters. All attended took a brief look at NCLMS web page and compared it to FLMS. We decided to have all board members look at some examples and get back with Cary or forward the pages they liked to Cary and explain what they liked. Colby will take the best of each idea and combine that into our new look. We need to have those in by Dec 1st.

319 Grant- Barb will look it over and get back with us.

Membership – Cut off date?

It was decided by all Board members in attendance that it should be flexible depending on time of year. Jan 1 to Dec 31.

Do we have a pro-rate for partial year?...The answer was no, but for a \$100 membership dues NCLMS should have a pro-rated date.

Should NCLMS increase the membership dues by \$5?

The Treasurer reports that we are running a negative budget for memberships. Will an increase to \$25 for individual and \$125 for Groups may be the solution to this.



Concerns by all in attendance, there is a need to adjust the by-laws may be required to complete these changes. A copy of the By-laws was read and they did not require any amendment to change the fees. A vote at the annual meeting is all that is required.

SE09 –

Location – Carol looking into Pinehurst for the location of the SE09

Theme and title needs to be developed. Jef said that he will be organizing a meeting for the SE09 Board after the first of the year. This meeting to be held in Winston Salem.

20:00 *Barbara had to leave meeting. 20:30 Only new items left on agenda. Jef moved to close meeting and Carol second. Meeting closed at 20:35.*

6. NALMS News

President's Message

It is all a matter of perspective.

The fish pictured here weighed about twice as much as a Minnesota northern pike of the same length. Walleye, the Minnesota state fish, were so plentiful, at one point I caught over 20 in a 40-minute period with a bare jig hook. I no longer fish in Minnesota – although many people do and they have a wonderful experience – but I cannot replicate my Canadian experience. I spent two weeks ‘in the bush’ and thoroughly enjoyed myself and was completely relaxed. Part of my experience was the company – two of my father’s high school buddies who have kept up the fishing tradition 18 years after my father died. Part of it was the environment – in the boonies with no phones or any other communication - we were alone for 12 days on this remote lake. Believe it or not, I did see a small algae bloom in one of the back bays, but we also enjoyed three bald eagle families fishing with us.

What got me thinking was – why were these fish so big and plentiful when my experience in Minnesota lakes was the opposite, and Minnesota lakes are highly managed (stocking, slot limits, etc.)? I don’t think it was the remoteness. The lake was regulated by a First Nations tribe, and we could only use single, barbless hooks with no live bait; we were required to catch and release everything but shore lunch; and they regulated the number of anglers. Sometimes “management” is not doing things.

Here is the point I want to make – lakes can be managed in this way, if we are willing to set aside the idea that all lakes can be all things for all people. When lakes are managed for a single purpose, like trophy northern pike, they will not support all other recreational objectives. This area of Canada (sorry, a secret) has the luxury of thousands of lakes in an unpopulated area, so this approach works. Most other places do not enjoy those luxuries of course. That does not mean lake managers do not confront these





issues and conflicts. Too often we try to squeeze multiple conflicting or competing objectives into our management approaches. To overcome this, lakes must be viewed in a larger policy context. For example, should some lakes be set aside for single purposes, meaning restricting or prohibiting other uses or values? If so, how is this reconciled in lake-poor regions? Challenging questions, but the flip side is lakes being managed for multiple uses and values, which often leads to more uses, but of diminished quality.

Dick Osgood

Dick Osgood
NALMS President

What is Lakes Appreciation Month?

The surface area and number of lakes in North America far exceed those of any other continent. Yet, lakes are our nations most under appreciated natural resources. The public uses lakes for a variety of purposes: water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural use; recreation including boating, swimming, and fishing; flood control; and aesthetic enjoyment. However, lakes are often considered as "free" resources by lake users and this can result in abuse and neglect.

To draw attention to the value and importance of lakes and reservoirs, NALMS sponsors an annual **Lakes Appreciation Month**. This is a true North American event. As such, it is intended to be celebrated throughout the United States and Canada.

The celebration typically coincides with Independence Day (July 4) in the U.S. and with Canada Day (July 1) in Canada. Both of these holidays provide people with the opportunity to get out and enjoy lakes. In 2003, Lakes Appreciation Week was expanded to a full month in conjunction with the [US EPA's Year of Clean Water Celebration](#), a year-long event commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the [Clean Water Act](#). Each month of the celebration focused on a specific water topic and EPA chose July 2003 to focus on lakes.

Lakes Appreciation Month also overlaps with [The Great American Secchi Dip-In](#). The Dip-In is sponsored by NALMS and the US Environmental Protection Agency and organizes citizen volunteers in existing volunteer lake monitoring programs to measure water transparency with a simple device called a Secchi disk. Collected data are compiled and analyzed at Kent State University. Regional lake transparency trends are reported in a color map.

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- [Some Ideas for Celebrating Lakes Appreciation Month](#)
 - [How do I get the media to cover Lakes Appreciation Month?](#)
 - [Getting a statewide proclamation for Lakes Appreciation Month](#)
 - [Interesting Lake Facts](#)

For more information on NALMS, readers are encouraged to visit the NALMS website www.nalms.org

North Carolina Lake Management Society
PO Box 31611
Raleigh, North Carolina 27622-1611

2007 Membership Application

