

# LAKE WAVES



An un-named beach on Lake Michigan



Nippersink Creek in Glacial Park

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**Illinois Lake Management Association**

*Lake Waves* April 2019

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## Officers:

President  
Karen Clementi  
kclementi@deuchler.com

Vice President  
Jeff Boeckler  
jeff@northwaterco.com

Treasurer  
Quentin Jordan  
quentin.jordan@cwlp.com

Membership Secretary  
Alana Bartolai  
abartolai2@lakecountyil.gov

Recording Secretary  
Joe Bartletti  
jbartletti@prairieengineers.com

## Directors:

Brian Valleskey  
bvalleskey@manhard.com

Tim Holt  
timh@aquaticcontrol.com

Mark Serio  
mserio@lakethunderbird.us

Ed Lochmayer  
edlinconstruct1@gmail.com

Mary Colwell  
mcolwell5@att.net

Michelle Nicol  
michelle.nicol@cwlp.com

The Illinois Lake Management Association  
is a nonprofit organization whose mission is  
to promote understanding and comprehensive  
management of lake and watershed ecosystems.

Membership is open to all.



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## **For General Inquiries:**

*Administrative Assistant: Richard Hilton*  
*(800) 338-6909 Access Code 01*  
*[wildick@comcast.net](mailto:wildick@comcast.net)*

## Editor's Notes

Hello all you lake lovers out there! Here we are again, eagerly awaiting the coming of Spring and still savoring memories of another fantastic Annual Conference held at the Holiday Inn at Crystal Lake! There were great presentations, excellent attendance, enjoyable entertainment and fun times! It was once again a great time to see old friends, meet new people and learn new things. A special shout out to all those that helped make the Conference a success and thanks to all the Presenters and Exhibitors who helped to enhance the overall Conference experience. A more detailed summary of the Conference along with select photos are provided for your enjoyment and remembrance in this issue of Lake Waves. For all you "Lakers" who were not able to come due to other extenuating circumstances...you really missed it! Next year, the **35th Annual ILMA Conference** will be held in Champaign at the I-Hotel from March 12-14! It will be fantastic having the Annual ILMA return to the home of the Illinois Scientific Surveys (and the Illini of course) for the first time since 1991, so be sure to mark your calendars for this very special event and I'll see you there!

Warmer weather is rapidly approaching and the excitement is mounting for everyone to get outside and enjoy the water. Whatever your favorite lake activity turns out to be, whether it is fishing, boating, water skiing, kayaking, canoeing, SUP paddle boarding, swimming, photographing, camping, hiking or just plain sitting and watching, please do it safely. Also, be sure to visit the new and improved look of the ILMA website at [www.ilma-lakes.org](http://www.ilma-lakes.org) and don't forget to check the [ILMA Facebook page](#) and the Illinois Lakes Blog at <https://illinoislakes.wordpress.com> for new and interesting updates!



Enjoy and protect your Lake!  
Peter Berrini, Lake Waves Editor

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear ILMA Members,

The 34th Annual ILMA Conference in Crystal Lake was completed successfully! On behalf of the board, I wish to thank the members, exhibitors, attendees, and especially the Conference Committee members for their contributions and dedication for another fun and educational conference.

## Conference Acknowledgments

The first thank you goes to the wonderful Crystal Lake conference staff. Although the hotel side was a bit problematic due to the renovations, Lisa and her conference staff continually went above and beyond with their cheerful service and troubleshooting during the entire event to make it successful.

As I sat down to write this message, I realized that the personal acknowledgements were the same from last year, which is a testament to the commitment these individuals show year in and year out to ILMA. A huge thank you to Bryan Cross, Leonard Dane, and Dick Hilton.

Bryan Cross handles the conference programming, making sure all technical devices are up and running, slide shows are ready, and speaker presentations are prepared for moderators. He also dedicated his time and energy to build the awesome new screen that was displayed in the Walnut Room.

Leonard Dane puts in so much work behind the scenes to keep the entire conference organized, especially with the exhibitors and raffle items. He's also a tremendous wealth of ILMA knowledge that helps so much to make sure we continue to improve the conference offerings year after year.

Without Dick Hilton, the ILMA conference would not happen. His hard work shows every year in organizing our board and membership packets, name badges, front desk registrations, and ongoing trouble shooting. The board cannot express enough gratitude for all the dedication and service these three provide. A last-but-certainly-not-least thank you goes to Randy Stowe from

Wonder Lake. He has been offering treasurer services behind the scenes to ILMA for many years and this continuity is most helpful to coordinating the ILMA financials.

## Board Changes

It is always bittersweet as former board members complete their terms and new board members begin theirs. We thank the outgoing board members – Peter Berrini, Keith Gray, and Tim Gardner for their service to ILMA. We welcome Mark Serio from Lake Thunderbird Association, Tim Holt from Aquatic Control, and Quentin Jordan from Springfield City, Water, Light, and Power. as incoming board members. A full list of Officers and Directors can be found on the ILMA website: [www.ilma-lakes.org/officers](http://www.ilma-lakes.org/officers)

## Upcoming Events

An Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop will be held in Summer 2019. Watch your emails for more information! We are actively working on Points of Discussion (“PODs”) and other educational offerings throughout 2019 and early 2020 to maximize the benefits that ILMA offers. Do you have ideas or would like to host an event? Please contact the board to discuss further.

For the 2020 Conference, we will be at the iHotel in Champaign. The conference committee is already planning the format and speakers. We have some neat educational ideas, including a “Back to Basics” session that is tailor-made for those members new into the industry. Back by popular demand, we are planning sessions on dredging, plant management, aquatic life, and the HOA Splash Session.

In closing, we urge membership to continue to share your thoughts and suggestions about your needs from ILMA as we continue to serve the ILMA community. Thank you for all that you do to keep ILMA vibrant and productive.

Sincerely,  
Karen K. Clementi  
ILMA President



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# Georgia Cube Fish Attractors Evolve and go Nationwide

by Robert Montgomery, Bassmaster, November, 2018

Georgia cubes as fish attractors aren't just for Georgia fisheries anymore. And many of them aren't exactly cubes either. As developed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the original cube was 3-feet square, with a PVC frame and about 50 feet of corrugated drain pipe, either wrapped around and through the frame or cut into several pieces and attached to the inside for density. Longer lasting than wood, as well as lighter and easier to transport, cubes were an innovative alternative to cribs made out of logs. Often, they were anchored with gravel placed in the PVC or tied together and attached to cinder blocks or other weights.

Cribs and then cubes follow a growing trend of actually constructing habitat, often using manmade products, instead of relying solely on Christmas-tree brushpiles and sunken timber. "Cost effective, easy to place and proven in other states, the new structures not only last more than three times longer than natural brush piles, but also have been shown to hold as many fish as the natural counterpart without affecting water quality," reported the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). "We are entering our fourth year of using these cubes," said David Breth, who coordinates KDWPT's fisheries habitat program. "We intend to build both standard cubes and modified structures. These modifications range from taller structures or stacking to using less drain pipe and allowing more open areas for larger predators." In three years, Kansas has placed nearly 2,500 Georgia cubes and variations, he added. "A few of our fisheries biologists have modified the cubes before placing in the water by adding additional drain pipe to add bulk to the cube. One biologist added pool noodles to create a taller profile."

Pennsylvania, Indiana, Arizona and Illinois are few of the other states making cubes and their variations. Recently, some of the most innovative second-generation cubes have been constructed for Illinois' Lake Shelbyville. As of August, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and volunteers from the Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance had teamed up to make 313 cubes, as well as 40 "artificial stumps." "Fishermen have told us to stop making Georgia cubes because fish like Shelbyville cubes better," said IDNR's Mike Mounce. Changes started with adding a 20-inch frame to the bottom of the cubes to raise them off the lake floor, the biologist explained. Workers also placed snow fence on the bottom of the cubes, to discourage settling into the mud and silt. Mounce said that denser quartz gravel was added to the PVC for weight, while 5-inch tile and bricks also have been tried. "We have a lot of current, and we want to make sure that they're not knocked over."

Right now, the standard Shelbyville cube is 60 inches tall and 45 inches wide, with spacers underneath. Additionally, 92 feet of corrugated pipe is being used, instead of the standard 50. "We're talking about building double tall structures," Mounce added. "And the more complex, the better." David Ewald a habitat innovator himself, agrees regarding the importance of complexity. "For years we were told plastic didn't work, but we had already proven otherwise with our own products," said the owner of Fishiding, which offers a variety of fish habitats made with recycled products. "Variety, complexity and density is finally getting the attention it deserves, but can only be achieved with the same variety in the material types selected. More variety in material types will retain the most variety in aquatic life. Some plastic types and chemical mixtures grow aquatic life better than others, but this continues to be overlooked by many."

Mounce's observations have been, though, that fish start hanging out at the cubes even before the plastic begins to "naturalize" with algae and microorganisms. "The old idea the fish won't use PVC structures until algae is on them is nonsense," he said. "Two days after we put in those cubes in August, we saw fish above, below, and around them." Additionally, fish seem to like the "artificial stumps," with corrugated culvert as trunks and pipe extending out of them like tentacles. Holes are cut in the trunks for fish to move in and out of. "They're based on the idea that old stumps have exposed roots because sediment has been washed away from them," Mounce explained. "They're attractive to bass and crappie."

What's the future for cubes and fish attractors in general? "Scaling up the sizes, heights, weights and complexities of habitat installations are where we are headed next," Ewald said. "Units that are picked up by hand and tossed overboard will become replaced by larger and more diverse complexes of cover for fish of all sizes to take refuge within, each of which, once installed, is too big and heavy to be moved by fishermen, current, or storm events."



# The 34th Annual ILMA Conference was a Great One!

by Peter Berrini

The 2019 Illinois Lake Management Association (ILMA) Annual Conference was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Crystal Lake on March 14th and 15th. The conference featured an excellent variety of speakers and topics from all areas of Illinois and the Midwest, and a total of 157 people were in attendance.

The keynote session featured Dr. Gerould Wilhelm of the Conservation Research Institute, whose presentation was entitled “The Ecology and Culture of Water”. Dr. Wilhelm’s career has included 22 years as a researcher at the Morton Arboretum and 22 years as the owner of the Conservation Design Forum. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Conservation Research Institute (CRI). The CRI is a private, 501(c)(3) organization established in 1997 and is dedicated to the promotion of planning, design, installation restoration, and long-term management of sustainable ecological systems and natural environments through applied research, education, and outreach. Dr. Wilhelm is a renowned botanist and is the ‘Wilhelm’ in the duo of Swink & Wilhelm (a reference for any amateur or professional botanists working in the Chicagoland area). His talk focused on the influence of water within our landscape, how it has the power to physically shape our environment as the perception of our living spaces. The presentation was excellent, extremely well attended and included a book signing after the presentation.

Many other excellent presentations included topics related to Algae, Nutrients, Environmental Education, Watershed Management, Invasive Species, Developing and Sustaining Homeowners Associations, Dredging, Fish Habitat, and Climate Change. Representative photos are provided below.

A total of four student scholarships were presented at this year’s Conference. The ILMA Kolsto \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Claire Snyder, who is a Graduate student at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, The ILM Environments Scholarship was split into two \$500 awards, one to Taylor Berkshire and one to Emmett Spooner who was not able to attend the Conference. Taylor is a Graduate Student at the University of Illinois-Champaign and Emmett is a Graduate Student at Illinois State University. The \$500 Robert Esser Student Achievement Scholarship was awarded to Gregg Miller who is a graduate student at the University of Illinois-Springfield. The annual Secchi disk auction and conference bucket raffles go to support the annual scholarship funds.



*ILMA President Karen Clementi delivering opening remarks*



*ILMA Kolsto Scholarship winner Claire Snyder*



*ILM Environments Scholarship winner Taylor Berkshire*



*Robert Esser Scholarship winner Gregg Miller*

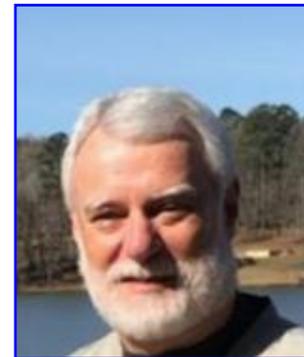
(The 34th Annual ILMA Conference continued...)

The Frank Loftus, Lake Guardian, and Dick Hilton Watershed Awards were presented at the annual banquet. The Frank Loftus Award was presented to Don Wilson, a volunteer from Lake County. The recipient of the Lake Guardian Award was presented to Mike Adam of Lake County Health Dept., Lakes Unit and the Dick Hilton Watershed Award was presented to Cindy Skrukruud of the Sierra Club Illinois Chapter. See write-ups and photos below:

**Don Wilson: Recipient of the Frank Loftus Award**

Don Wilson is an exemplary lake steward in Lake County. He has a true passion to improve natural resources for all to enjoy. Since 2012, he has been participating in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program at the Advanced Tier 2 level. What is even more impressive is that he has been monitoring multiple lakes at this level each year and these include lakes he does not even live on. He is truly passionate about understanding the ecology of watersheds and landscapes and goes above and beyond in his volunteer duties.

During his time as a VLMP, Don has discovered zebra mussels at lakes that previously were not listed and has even recruited multiple other volunteers to join the program! It is no doubt that Don's enthusiasm and knowledge is what draws people in. Don always engages with fishermen, residents, and others at the boat launches about what he is doing on the lake and in turns educates a whole range of people - sparking their interest in lake stewardship as well.



*Don Wilson was presented the Frank Loftus Award, but could not attend the Conference. In the top photo, Don is collecting water quality data for the VLMP*



(The 34th Annual ILMA Conference continued...)

Since his retirement from Abbot, he has been an active volunteer in Lake County. Here are some of his natural resource volunteer commitments across the county:

- Co-Steward - Almond Marsh (LCFPD)
- Steward – Illinois Beach State Park (IDNR)
- Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern Monitor - IBSP
- Eastern White Fringed Prairie Orchid Monitor - IBSP
- Dragonfly/Damselfly Monitor
- Illinois River Watch Monitor
- Lake County Audubon Board Member
- Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group & Board Member
- Conserve Lake County Land Use Committee Member



**Mike Adam: Recipient of the Lake Guardian Award**

Each year the Illinois Lake Guardian Award is presented *in recognition of exceptional effort to enhance and preserve the quality of Illinois lakes*. The person receiving the 2019 award is Mike Adam, who has been associated with ILMA and Illinois lakes for many years. He has spent over 20 years monitoring the surface waters of Lake County and has advised nearly every lake and watershed within the County with management recommendations of some sort. He has mentored many employees that have gone on to continue spreading the knowledge gained from him. He is still a "go to" person for many people when questions about water quality, mosquitoes, ticks, beaches, algae, aquatic plants, erosion, you name it...he is always there with knowledge and expertise. He is a past ILMA Board member that served two terms and was also ILMA president for 2 years. He has and continues to contribute to ILMA by serving on various committees and encouraging his staff to be active ILMA members as well. Congratulations to Mike Adam for being awarded ILMA's 2019 Illinois Lake Guardian Award.



*Mike Adam (top and center) receiving the Lake Guardian Award*

**Cindy Skrukud: Recipient of Dick Hilton Watershed Award**

Cindy Skrukud, Clean Water Program Director for the Sierra Club Illinois Chapter works with Sierra Club members, citizens, public officials and business leaders throughout Illinois to advocate for sustainable development/redevelopment, improved wastewater treatment, industrial pollution prevention, protection of natural and agricultural lands, and river restoration to better protect the water quality of our state's lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Cindy has served as the Chair of the Fox River Study Group since the group's inception in 2001. The mission of the Fox River Study Group is to bring together a diverse coalition of stakeholders to work together to preserve and/or enhance water quality in the Fox River watershed. She has personally conducted the monthly sampling at the northern end of the watershed since 2002, applied for and obtained many grants, and coordinates all group activities. Most importantly, she sets the tone to establish cooperative, effective improvements to the Fox River



*Cindy Skrukud (right) receiving the Dick Hilton Watershed Award*

(The 34th Annual ILMA Conference continued...)

Current Board member and President Karen Clementi was re-elected to serve as this year's ILMA Board President. Current Board member Jeff Boeckler was elected Vice President. New Board member Quentin Jordan was elected to be the ILMA Treasurer, and current Board members Joe Bartletti and Alana Bartolai were elected to remain as Recording Secretary and Membership Secretary respectively. Newly elected Board Members include Mark Serio from Lake Thunderbird Association, Tim Holt from Aquatic Control, and Quentin Jordan from Springfield City, Water, Light, and Power. Many thanks to outgoing Board Members Peter Berrini, Tim Gardner and Keith Gray for their service!

The annual bucket raffle conducted to raise funds for student scholarships was a huge success once again! Thank to everyone who generously participated!



(more scenes from the 34th Annual ILMA Conference...)



(more scenes from the 34th Annual ILMA Conference...)



## Annual Photo Contest Winners



**Congratulations to our 2019 Photo Contest winners! Be sure to enter your favorite lake photo at next year's Conference. The winning photo gets printed on the cover of our Annual Conference Program!**

# A special thanks to the Exhibitors and Sponsors who helped make the 2019 Annual ILMA Conference a great success!



**Exhibitors:**

Clarke Aquatic Services  
 Pizzo & Associates, LTD  
 Applied Biochemists  
 Integrated Lakes Management  
 Rollins Aquatic Solutions  
 American Shoreline Inc.  
 In-Situ, Inc.  
 Cygnet Enterprises  
 AQUA DOC Lake & Pond Management  
 Marine Biochemists  
 ENCAP, Inc.  
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 Bluestem Ecological Services  
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 Aquatic Control Inc.  
 HAB Aquatic Solutions  
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 Brandt Aquatics  
 Clarke Aquatic Services  
 Nutrien Solutions  
 Superior Seawalls, Docks & Dredging  
 McCloud Aquatics  
 Marine Biochemists  
 Bluestem Ecological Services



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**July 2019: Lakes Appreciation Month and “Secchi Dip-In”, North American Lake Management Society**

**Summer 2019 - Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop, more info to come via email**

**October 29 - November 2, 2019, NALMS Conference in Burlington, VT**

**March 12-14, 2020; 35th Annual ILMA Conference, Champaign, IL**

**ILMA Pods and Workshops to be Announced via email**

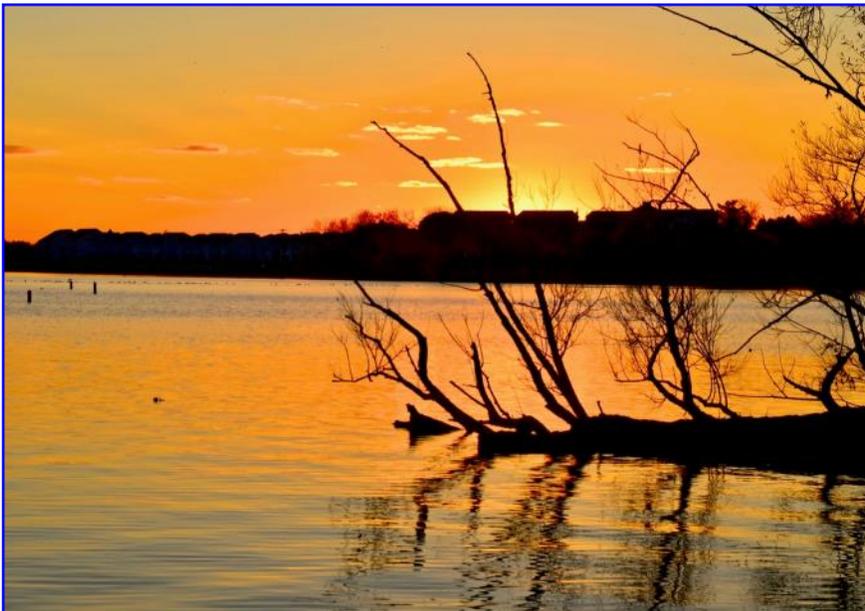


Mark your calendars!



## 35th Annual ILMA Conference

I - Hotel & Conference Center  
Champaign, Illinois



Illinois Lake Management Association  
PO Box 20655  
Springfield, IL 62708  
[www.ilma-lakes.org](http://www.ilma-lakes.org)