



Water Rich New York

This issue of *Clear Waters* is dedicated to the abundant water resources of New York State – specifically our lakes, rivers and streams. Many other areas of the country and world are not blessed with the rich water resources that we very often take for granted. Recently, I met with a colleague from Australia who was very impressed with our lush vegetation and many varied surface waters. Australia has a very dry climate and has been experiencing a severe drought for many years, as have

many areas throughout the US. I was visually reminded of how water rich we are here during a recent flight back from Baltimore. As the flight was approaching Syracuse with the sun just beginning to set, I could see the Finger Lakes stretched out to the west. It was a beautiful sight!

New York State's list of water resources is impressive. In addition to the Finger Lakes, we have Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake Champlain, Niagara River, St. Lawrence River, Hudson River, Delaware River and the Susquehanna River, to name only a few. In total, the state boasts more than 7,800 freshwater lakes, ponds and reservoirs, and over 70,000 miles of rivers and streams!

My connection to the waters of New York is both professional and personal. I enjoy fly fishing for trout. Some of the best trout and steelhead streams are located in this state, including the West Branch of the Delaware River, the Ausable River, the Beaverkill, West Canada Creek and tributaries of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, to name just some. I have been fortunate enough to fish each of these streams, enjoying many memorable days on their waters.

In addition to fishing, our lakes, rivers and streams are used for water supply, recreation/tourism, power generation, fishing, transportation, agriculture and manufacturing. I believe that our rich water resources will be a key to the future prosperity of New York State. For all of these reasons, we need to manage and protect our water bodies for ourselves and future generations to come.

This issue of *Clear Waters* features the topics associated with the environmental management of these water bodies. Topics such as controlling phosphorus and Eurasian watermilfoil, and onsite wastewater treatment systems are covered. The role of lake associations and water management initiatives are also described. I am sure you'll find these articles very interesting and informative and I thank each of the contributing authors for their participation.

Update on NYWEA Activities

Business Plan: The Executive Committee recently completed the revised 2009-2011 Business Plan. The Business Plan was approved at the May 31, 2009 board meeting held at The Hotel Thayer. The plan updates key membership and financial data and establishes a plan for funding the Strategic Plan. This information is also used in the development and approval of our annual budget, which was approved at the same board meeting. The Business Plan shows that NYWEA is a very strong and vital organization – its membership continues to increase along with meeting attendance and revenue. The increased revenue will be used in part to fund the key initiatives of the Strategic

Plan, which are: Branding, Member Education and Low Cost Training, Public Outreach, and Regulatory and Legislative Participation. We are asking each of our chapters, committees and task forces to assist in completion of detailed action items for these initiatives, and to establish further goals and actions in support of this plan.

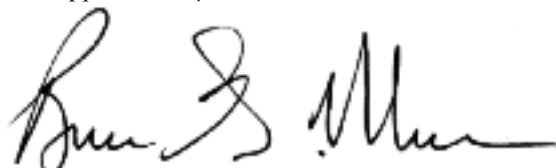
Committee Guidelines: The Executive Committee, led by Rich Lyons, has been active in preparing revisions to the Committee Guidelines for the Association. Member participation is the life blood of our organization and specifically committees and, as such, revisions are being made to maximize the participation and effectiveness of our committees. NYWEA has over 22 committees/task forces and we need a broad reach of our membership to participate. If you are interested in committee participation, please visit our website (www.nywea.org), or contact NYWEA Executive Director, Patricia Cerro-Reehil at 315-422-7811 or pcr@nywea.org.

WWTP Operator Recertification: NYWEA's program to develop wastewater treatment plant operator recertification training is ongoing with Chair Ken Skibinski, and Co-Chairs Bill Grandner and Bob Wither busy meeting with fellow members on this task force. The group has been working to develop its list of trainers and future training topics. A survey was prepared and is soon to be distributed to wastewater operators and NYWEA members across the state. The survey's purpose is to prioritize training needs on topics statewide. Once the topics are determined, the task force will match them with its list of trainers and begin development of the enhanced wastewater treatment plant operator recertification training program. The majority of this training has been provided by NYSDEC in the past. However, due to staff/budget reductions and changing priorities, NYSDEC will not be providing the same level of training in the future. Therefore, NYWEA and NYSDEC are working together to provide continued training for WWTP operator recertification. Importantly to NYWEA, this also provides added benefit to its current and many potential new members. It is estimated that there are over 3,100 licensed operators in New York State.

I would like to thank Ken, Bill, Bob, NYSDEC and all the members of the Task Force for their hard work and dedication to this program. Those with experience in wastewater treatment plant operation and maintenance who would like to assist in this effort, please contact Ken Skibinski (kskibinski@aol.com), Bill Grandner (wgrandner@dep.nyc.gov) or Bob Wither (rewither@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

Remember Award Nominations!

Now is the time to submit award nominations to NYWEA. The majority of our awards are presented at the Annual Meeting to be held on January 31 in New York City. We have numerous WEF and NYWEA award categories which are described in the "Online Award Submission Process" link posted on www.nywea.org. The application is greatly streamlined and simplified through this new online process. I'm sure you know of several candidates who deserve awards. It will not happen unless you make the effort!



Bruce G. Munn, PE