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## The President's Report

Greetings,

While it's hard to believe that this will be my last President's Report for SWVA-CAI, I want to thank you all for a great year and encourage you to get more involved in the Chapter this upcoming year. I'm excited for all that the Chapter has in store for 2022, including many fantastic events!

Starting with our first Board Membership Leadership Training event scheduled for February 18, 2022 and our first Coffee Talk scheduled for April 29, 2022. Both events have the option to attend virtually and information on how to register can be found in this newsletter.

I want to thank all who attended the Chapter's recent Business Summit & Annual Luncheon held at Hunting Hills Country Club in Roanoke VA on December 10, 2021 as well as our Chapter's Executive Director, Kim Farrell, for executing a fantastic event. I also want to send a special thank you to our business partner sponsors for the event, including Truist Association Services, Chadwick, Washington, Moriarty, Elmore & Bunn, P.C., DMA Reserves, Gibson & Associates, Miller Dodson Capital Reserve Consultants, One Earth, Townside Property Management, and US Lawns. It was great to see and interact (in person!) with all who attended.

Additionally, I want to thank the Chapter's outgoing Director, Chrissy Greene, CMCA, AMS, PCAM, for her many years of service and welcome Holly Snead, PCAM, CMCA, AMS to the Board! As well as congratulate Ginny Peebles, CMCA, AMS, on her appointment by the Board of Directors as its President-Elect (to serve as President in 2023). It has been a great year and, while I have enjoyed my time as President of SWVA-CAI, I am excited to turn over leadership of the Chapter to its new President, Kelly Drinkard, CMCA, AMS, for what I am sure will be a great year.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I wish you a safe and joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year! Additionally, I want to encourage you to reach out to the Chapter. We want to hear from you if you have any ideas for future events, ways for members to connect, information to benefit our industry, or you are interested in getting more involved in the Chapter. Please drop us a line and share your thoughts by emailing us at [caiswva@yahoo.com](mailto:caiswva@yahoo.com) and check out our website at <http://www.caiswva.com/> to keep up to date on Chapter news and events.

Best Regards,

**Michael Sottolano, Esq.**

SWVA-CAI, President

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# Community Matters



### March 2022 Newsletter

The deadline for submission of advertising, articles, announcements, or other newsletter content for the March 2022 newsletter is February 15, 2022. Additional information on the Newsletter Content Policy on Pages 10 and 11.

***Our Business Summit & Annual Meeting was a success!!  
Thank you to everyone that came out & celebrated with us!***



**Congratulations to our award winners!!**

**Business Partner of the Year Award  
Gibson & Associates, LLC**

**Rising Star Award  
Ginny Peeples**

**Chapter Award  
Tanya Cannaday**



**President's Award  
Kelly Drinkard**



**Above and Beyond Award  
Treena Gibson**



**Thank you to our sponsors without you the event would not be possible!!**



# Upcoming Events...

## Board Member Leadership Training

**February 18, 2022**  
**Virtual & In Person**  
 More information to come!



**April 29, 2022**  
 Virtual Coffee Talk  
 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
 2 CE, Online via Zoom.  
 \$25 Member / \$35 Non-Member  
**RSVP Required**

## 2022 Committees

### Communication Committee:

Recruiting

### Legislative Action Committee (LAC):

Jerry Wright,  
Chairman

### Social

### Committee:

Recruiting

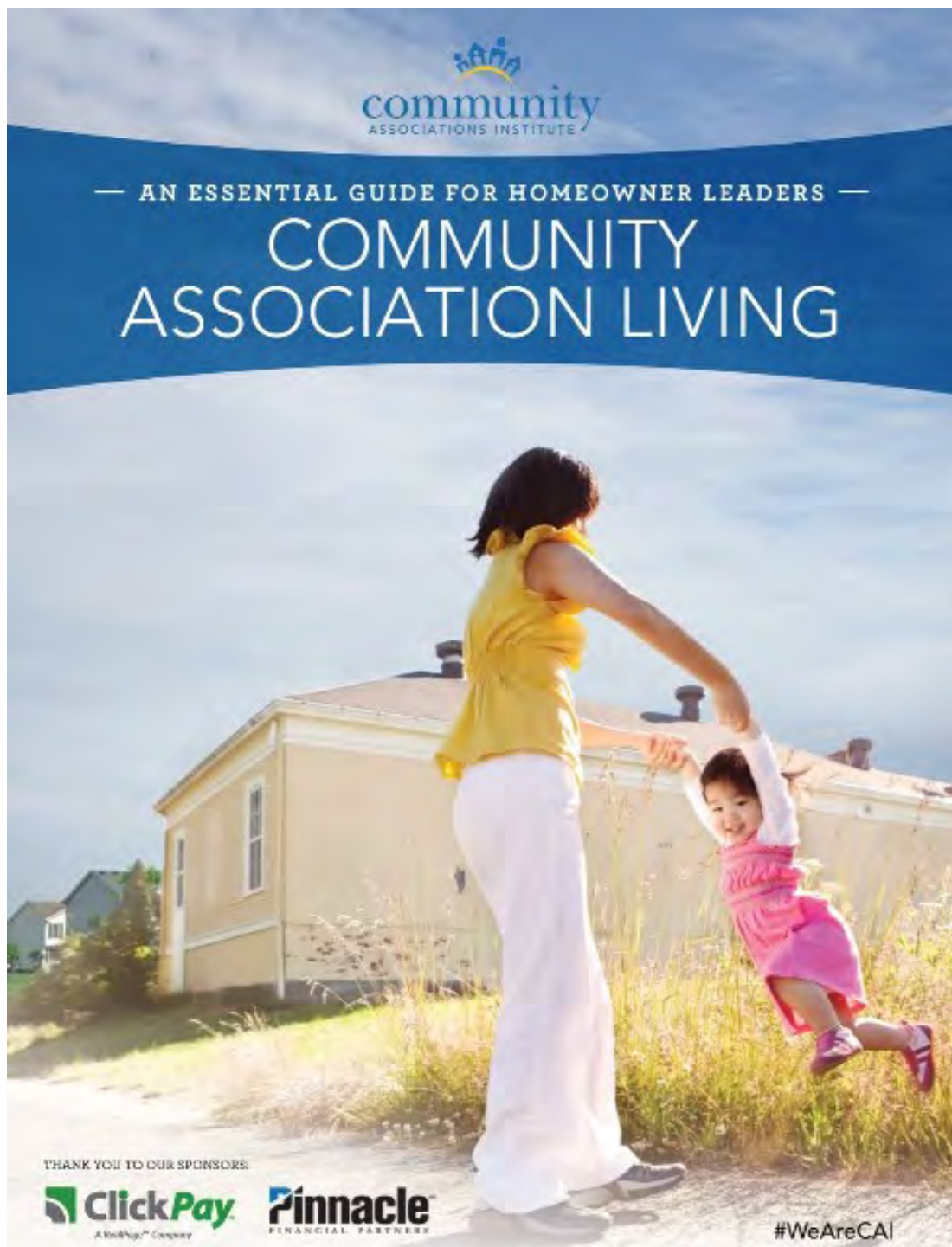
### Membership

### Committee:

John Byers,  
Chairman

\* Contact [caiswva@yahoo.com](mailto:caiswva@yahoo.com) if interested in getting involved with the Communication Committee or if you'd like to join any other committee.

Community Association Living:  
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### 3 Common Lake & Pond Management Misconceptions

*Written by Trent Nelson, Aquatic Specialist at SOLitude Lake Management*

As an Aquatic Specialist with more than a decade of experience, I've assisted hundreds of property managers with their lake and stormwater pond management needs over the years. Despite the diverse types of lakes and ponds they oversee, I've noticed that many clients have the same set of concerns or misconceptions about their waterbodies. These often come to light as we work together to design a freshwater management program. Let's take an in-depth look at some of these common assumptions.



#### 1. Lakes and ponds are permanent fixtures in the landscape

While lakes and ponds can be long-lasting features in our communities, they are not permanent. They fill with sediment that erodes from the shoreline or flows in during rainstorms. Weed growth and decomposition may lead to the development of muck. And trash, tree branches, and other pollutants can build up over time.

The aging of a lake or pond is a natural phenomenon, but can be highly accelerated through human activity and industry, reducing a waterbody's life by decades. If left unmanaged over the years, your waterbody could eventually fill up until it becomes a marsh or puddle. This is a process called lake and pond succession.

The best way to prevent this inevitable decline is through proactive, ongoing management aimed at reducing erosion, nutrient pollution, muck development, and nuisance aquatic vegetation. These benefits are two-fold. In addition to prolonging the depth and overall lifespan of your lake or pond, you'll also help prevent problems like algae, toxic cyanobacteria growth, bad odors, murkiness, invasive species infestations, fish kills, and more.



#### 2. Herbicides pose a danger to non-targeted plants and animals

The most eco-friendly and long-lasting lake and pond management programs lean on holistic, natural solutions, but sometimes herbicides and algaecides are necessary to set your waterbody up for success. Herbicides tend to be a point of concern for property owners, but I've found that once they better understand the strict scientific processes surrounding the use of herbicides, their fears are alleviated.

Herbicides used in the lake management industry are designed to exclusively target specific weed and algae species without impacting desirable plants and animals. They do so by interfering with the unique growth mechanisms identified in nuisance species that are not found in beneficial ones. Likewise, the concurrent use of eco-friendly compounds called surfactants helps confine herbicides and algaecides to the affected area without migrating elsewhere. Historically, herbicides have been applied by licensed professional ground crews, but new industry technologies like drones are making it possible to remotely apply products with more accuracy and efficiency, particularly in areas that are hard to reach or unsafe to navigate by foot.



All herbicides must be evaluated and registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition to collaborating with scientific authorities throughout the US, the EPA also carries out bilateral cooperative programs with the World Health Organization (WHO) and many other countries around the world. Once approved, all herbicides are subject to compliance monitoring and periodic reevaluation processes to ensure lasting safety and success.

### 3. All freshwater management programs are the same

It's not uncommon for a property manager to assume that the solutions used on a friend or colleague's lake or pond will work on theirs. Unfortunately, there's no one-size-fits-all approach to lake and pond problems because no two aquatic ecosystems are the same.

Your waterbody's unique makeup and the way it responds to different treatments can be dictated by many factors, including water use, location, surroundings, plant and animal presence, pollution, and weather - just to name a few. Likewise, every stakeholder has different goals and budget requirements. That's why freshwater management programs are most effective when customized for your unique aquatic environment.

Typically, the program design process begins by establishing a baseline of your waterbody through a visual survey of the property and comprehensive water quality testing. Your Aquatic Specialist should work with you to identify the challenges your aquatic ecosystem is facing and determine the best course of action based on your needs and limitations. And because all of these factors can change over time, these conversations should continue on a regular basis.

The management of lakes and ponds is truly a science and should be treated as such. When considering a management program, look for a freshwater management firm that prioritizes getting to know you and your aquatic ecosystem before implementing any services. Seek out an Aquatic Specialist who is educated about the responsible use of herbicides and is capable of sharing that knowledge with you in a clear manner. Our lakes and ponds are valued features that our communities rely on every day. If you oversee the management of these water resources, make sure you're investing in both the present and its future.



*Trent Nelson is an Aquatic Specialist at SOLitude Lake Management, the nation's leading freshwater management firm specializing in the management of lakes, stormwater ponds, wetlands, and fisheries. Learn more about this topic at [www.solitudelakemanagement.com/knowledge](http://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/knowledge).*





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## Newsletter Content Policy

All submissions of announcements for publication in the SWVA CAI Chapter *Community Matters* newsletter are subject to the following guidelines:

- All subject matter must be related to industry related news such as education, certification, promotions, employment changes, Chapter related news, other important or unusual event news, member related news or similar.
- Announcements are only accepted by CAI affiliated community association volunteer leaders, managers, business partners and other industry related sources.
- Each announcement should not exceed 60 words.
- Announcements are to be submitted by the deadlines set for article submissions.
- Anonymous, second-hand or forwarded announcements will not be published.
- Publications are subject to space availability.
- SWVA CAI reserves the right to edit announcements.
- Announcements of activities must be within the past 3 months in order to be published.
- The views of authors expressed in articles appearing in the SWVA CAI *Community Matters* newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of CAI.
- CAI assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions of the contributors to this publication.
- The publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional services.
- An acceptance of advertising does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered.
- We reserve the right to reject any advertising copy.
- Submissions of articles and announcements are welcomed with the understanding that such material is subject to editing for content and for space limitations.
- References to a website, email addresses, telephone numbers, and similar may only be included in advertisements.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	1/3 Page Square	5"	5"	\$100.00	\$125.00
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