



There are no words to express the sadness felt by this organization over the sudden loss of Mark Koester's wife, Michelle. Thanks to Peter Radosta, the NYWEA Board and our Scholarship Committee for working so quickly and appropriately to establish the Michelle Koester Memorial Scholarship. Your contributions will help honor Michelle's memory while providing financial help to aspiring young students.

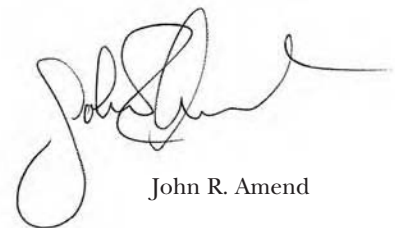
Those of us who know Mark understand his commitment to this organization, his love of family, and his dedication to his friends. We at NYWEA owe a special thanks to Mark for the energy, leadership, and financial support that he, his company, and his co-workers have contributed to us for these many years. There can be no NYWEA without special people like Mark, who give more than they take every day.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of my NYWEA friends who helped make our spring meeting in Grand Island a great success. If you like blues, barbecue, the power and beauty of Niagara Falls, and great weather, Buffalo was the place to be in June. A special thanks goes to Dave Barnes, Kathy Metzger, the Western Chapter Board, and the Program Committee for all the help in planning and pulling off this impressive event.

This fall will bring more organizational changes to NYWEA. As a followup to our spring initiative where we added an operator's position on the NYWEA Board of Directors, we are moving forward with another bylaw change that will allow us to add a young professional to the board. This added diversity will bring a fresh perspective and help us represent and attract younger members who are the future of this historic organization. Many thanks to Janice Jijina who spearheaded this idea and helped us make it a reality.

For the last 30 or more years, much of the wastewater treatment focus in the United States has been on large, centralized systems. Billions of dollars have been invested in municipal conveyance systems and treatment facilities to properly manage the wastewater generated by urban communities. Billions more will need to be invested in coming years to comply with wet weather and nutrient regulations, and to provide the improvements and maintenance upgrades necessary to protect the public investment in these now-aging facilities.

With all of this investment in large, public, centralized facilities, it is easy to overlook the contribution of decentralized treatment systems and water quality management programs. These systems and programs play an equally important role in protecting the water environment of the Empire State. This issue of *Clearwaters* focuses on the important role of decentralized wastewater treatment and management systems and gives us a glimpse into this unique aspect of environmental protection.



John R. Amend

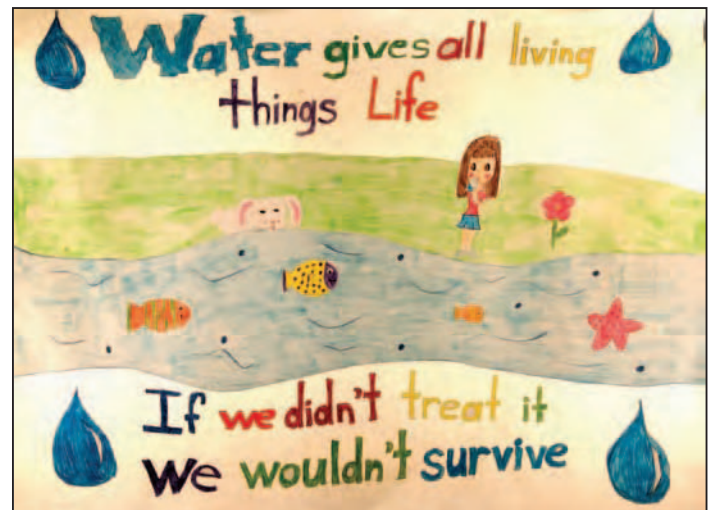
"The Importance of Wastewater Treatment"—Third Annual Poster Contest Winners Announced

This contest is cosponsored by NYSDEC and NYWEA.

This year, 154 posters were received, the winners shown below were selected at the NYWEA Spring Meeting.



High School Winner
Kate Vanderpool, West Genesee High School



Middle School Winner
Angela DeVito, Valley Stream North Middle School