

Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS)

## President's Corner



**"...our efforts will ultimately benefit the aquatic resources, and people, of Florida"**

It is the summer of 2011 and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is one of the most popular movies. If you are not familiar with the Harry Potter phenomenon, the story line revolves around a group of student wizards and their teachers battling an increasingly powerful force of evil. Throughout the series of books, the good guys win some skirmishes but the tide slowly turns in favor of the evil forces. While the struggle initially involves only the magical world, the conflict eventually threatens ordinary people. Looked at in the right way, this could be an allegory for lake management in Florida.

I am going to make the possibly dangerous assumption that we lake managers and scientists are the good guys. We find ourselves in an environment of increasing adversity including shrinking budgets, capricious political mandates, deregulation, and a general misunderstanding of what we do and what we are trying to accomplish. Similar to the magical folk in Harry Potter, we sometimes seem to exist in a parallel world unnoticed by ordinary folk. However, if the environmental tide is allowed to change too much ordinary folk will most certainly be affected and will begin to notice.

So how do Harry Potter and his colleagues handle the struggle? They find new and creative ways to stay one step ahead. They maintain communication among themselves and try not get splintered into small, isolated groups. Finally, they remain optimistic about the future and what their efforts can yield.

Lake managers and scientists can adopt the same strategies. Seek new, innovative, and cost-effective strategies. Stay connected with colleagues, attend conferences, and keep current with events that could affect environmental policies and practices. Finally, realize that eventually the tide will turn and our efforts will ultimately benefit the aquatic resources, and people, of Florida--even if they may not realize it.

*Dean Dobberfuhr*