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Small Impoundment Management in North America.


Freshwater ponds, especially human-made impoundments, are an abundant and valuable natural resource throughout North America. Ponds serve important ecological, economic, and cultural roles—from stormwater capture and nutrient retention to serving as a community fishing and swimming hole. Sport fishing is often the primary management goal of many ponds—so much so that “pond management” typically means “fish management.” Published by the American Fisheries Society, this work has a primary audience of fisheries managers. Although the book’s title refers to the entire continent of North America, the volume focuses on the southeast United States, where largemouth bass and bluegill serve as the archetypal predator-prey fish combination. Much of the book focuses on these two species.

This volume serves as a “user’s manual” for a pond and is organized into five sections, beginning with a brief history of freshwater fish management (Chapter 1). The book then thoroughly covers the basics of how a lake and its fish-based food chain work (Chapters 2–8), encompassing much of the material of undergraduate ecology, limnology, and fisheries courses. Like any good user’s manual, it also includes steps for troubleshooting common problems, including fish kills (Chapter 10) and nuisance aquatic vegetation (Chapter 11). The volume also contains new and interesting opportunities that demonstrate the range of possible uses for ponds—e.g., fee fishing (Chapter 13), community ponds (Chapter 14), and wildlife conservation (Chapter 16). Unfortunately, the volume lacks an analysis of how climate change will affect the management of small impoundments in the future.

Although much of the information may be familiar to well-seasoned pond managers, this book offers a single source of clear and concise information that spans sediment characteristics and water chemistry to producing trophy largemouth bass and the problems that may arise in between. This volume will be an excellent resource for fisheries managers and professionals, as well as private pond owners for developing unique management plans. Although it has a focus on the southeastern U.S., it would still be relevant outside this region.

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Biodiversity in Agriculture: Domestication, Evolution, and Sustainability.


Jack Harlan (1917–1998) is widely acclaimed for his multidisciplinary contributions toward elucidating the domestication, evolution, and conservation of crop plants. Inspired by Harlan’s enduring legacy, this symposium volume sets out to provide an update on these themes. More ambitiously, the book attempts to update our knowledge on the processes shaping agricultural biodiversity broadly, in both plants and animals. Chapters are contributed