

What a beautiful blue world

As I begin researching this report in July, the reassuring voice of ABC news anchor Charles Gibson seeps into my office from an adjoining room. He's recounting that exactly 40 years ago, Neil Armstrong became the first human to step onto the moon.

Oh, what Armstrong saw as he looked from that barren, rock-strewn landscape into the vastness above him: a huge blue sphere streaked with wisps of white, four times larger than the silvery orb that dominates our skies at night. Like the handful of astronauts and cosmonauts preceding him into space, he marveled at Earth's beauty, a sight so unlike any other in the inky sea of the universe peppered with innumerable tiny points of light.

The beauty of Earth — indeed, the miracle of life — is the gift of its most precious resource: water.

On the following pages, and in the October and November issues of *Landscape Management*, you'll read about vital water issues. You'll develop a better understanding of how our industry fits into the picture of fresh water's availability and its conservation, globally and regionally. You'll also learn about emerging ideas, technologies and partnerships to guide your business and the Green Industry wisely in terms of intelligent water use now and in the future.

Our sincere thanks to Rain Bird for making these reports possible. — Ron Hall

WATER

at a crossroads



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