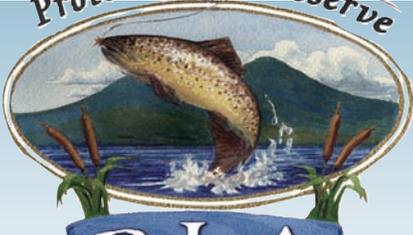


Protect and Preserve



Est. B·L·A 1908

BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

To protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through Preservation, Education and Action.

Summer 2012

SAVE THE DATE

The Belgrade Lakes Association Invites You to Celebrate at our

**104th Annual Meeting
THURSDAY, JULY 26TH**

BELGRADE LAKES GOLF CLUB

Schedule:

5:00-5:30 pm - Registration

5:30-6:30 pm - Welcome

Opening Remarks
and Guest Speaker

Committee Reports

Election of Officers

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Fabulous Buffet Dinner!
Cash Bar

For more information call:
BLA Office (207) 215-5150

**BLA Neighbor Reception
SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH**

MAINE LAKES RESOURCE
CENTER

5:00-8:00 pm

A relaxing night out!
Meet your neighbors,
enjoy a refreshing drink and
hear local musicians.

Last chance to enter our
fabulous raffle!

Raffle drawing to be
held at 7:30 pm!

A Boathouse Floats By

By John Gibbs

While lazily sitting on the dock late one beautiful summer afternoon in a warm soothing breeze and gazing at the soft white clouds that sailed overhead, the water flashed diamonds of light in mesmerizing patterns before my eyes; and, without much struggle, consciousness soon escaped me. ... The tilted image of an old red boathouse slowly floating down the lake moved across the backdrop of my mind. Its classic rustic lines and faded paint seemed to reach out to tell a story of its life that started in the early 1900's. What could it possibly say?

The Old Red Boathouse would sit all alone, winter after winter, waiting for the first sign of summer when eventually its door would open up to the smiling faces of those wonderful people who signaled the beginning of a few months of warmth, noise, cookouts, laughing kids, fishing poles, water skis, parties and, of course, the tickling of bare feet all over its floor boards. Perhaps even a 17 foot Chris Craft graced one of its bays. After a long, cold winter the old wooden craft, wrapped in canvas, would be happy to find its way back into one of those cozy slips and smugly float about - protected by the comforting arms of the boathouse walls, religiously drinking up those first few gallons of lake water through its hull, and ceremoniously leaking them into the bilge until finally the old "woody" had enough to drink and was sealed for the summer. All this could make an old boat house cry: "Ahh, the beginning of summer ... so much to look forward to."

... and those people could not wait to start the season. "Come on, hon, jump in the boat; let's take a spin." The roar of the Chris Craft fills up the boathouse bays ... ahhh, what great vibrations. Listen as we announce our presence to the summer audience along the shores of the lake. We're back again, still prosperous, happy and handsome ... stop by for a drink and a chat, we need to catch up, we'd love to see you again, bring the kids, stay over if you would like, let's go for a ski, it is going to be another great summer, bet we win at cards again, and don't forget who caught the biggest fish last year ... all signaled in the throaty purr from the finest instrument on the lake; no words - all heart... all welcoming.

The tilted second floor windows speak of mid-summer night parties, clinking glasses, tan faces, new jokes, friendships solidified, sport challenges issued for the summer, water skiing accomplishments, the new bean salad recipe, the new sloop, the kids' college achievements, the new baby, the new grandchild, the ill parent, the small medical problem, the new bod once again in shape, the new business, the new job, the new

continued on page 5



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear BLA Members and Friends:

I am writing you for the last time as President of the BLA. I am stepping down the day after my 73rd birthday, or so they tell me! Looking back at the last three years, I cannot help but remember when my term started with the August monthly meeting in Rome at the Duffus Camp which had been built by my grandfather over 110 years ago and who, amazingly, helped found the BLA in 1908. At that meeting, I thought to myself, “Why did those gentlemen start the BLA, and what were their challenges?” Then I thought, “Oh, goodness. Now what? So much to learn. What to do? How to do it? What are other lake associations doing? Can the DEP help? Knowledge is powerful. Action is necessary. Then what? Volunteers are desperately needed to study problems, plan the solutions, make them happen, and dedicate their time to the team or ‘mantra’ of the day. Education is key. Children are key. My head was swirling.”

My father, too, served the BLA for decades. However, I wasn't paying attention to the lake “particulars” until I moved to Maine permanently in 2001, the day after 9/11. I noticed that I should no longer drink the lake water, and I saw green scum foul the lake's surface periodically. Some friends got a rash from swimming in my cove. Trees were mercilessly being cut down along the shore to make way for endless building and rebuilding. Grassy lawns depleted the treelined and buffered shores. Loons were dying from lead poisoning. Careless littering hurt many birds, and the white perch began disappearing.

However, our association is lucky to be surrounded by vibrant communities; we are strong thanks to our supporters. Note: it is not just dollars we need. We must have people, too, who care for the lakes, commit themselves to their preservation, and understand their tremendous value towards maintaining a thriving community. What would Belgrade be without its lakes?

The BLA office is now in the MLRC, a dream building created out of the BLA's Docks to Doorways campaign. It houses three environmental groups and allows us to share ideas and costs while fostering activities in its lovely auditorium and outdoor space. BLA made this project happen, and together with our partners who joined us, we are all making a difference in our town, the lakes, and the watersheds.

Thank goodness that today our BLA board, due to its perseverance, wisdom, expertise, and long range planning, has become simply “the greatest” in our history. Each member is determined and working overtime to halt the deterioration of our lakes driven by the bad, bad, bad (Phrank) phosphorus and invasive plants. The committees are extremely creative and successful, and their ideas have become the models for other associations that are just beginning. I have been privileged beyond belief to be a part of this organization that quietly accomplishes its goals. Unfortunately, the lakes have changed, but I hoping my cousin, E.B.White, is proud of our effort to return these treasures to their former glory.

What are we doing? We are using every resource we can find to stop milfoil and gloeotrichia by supporting, for example, the CBI program and LakeSmart project. We raise money for watershed matters, help pay for BLA and BRCA operational budgets, develop educational opportunities, speak for legislation when asked, and help support the MLRC mission to make conservation a tradition.

As BLA has become stronger, so have the challenges. I deeply appreciate the loyal support and understanding of our members; and beyond question, as you can ascertain, we need you! My 5th generation family and all future generations will need the BLA and you! Many people from the past and future are watching and counting on us to carry out the fine traditions and good work of the BLA in Belgradewhere memories last a lifetime.

Cheers! -Polly Parkhill Beatie



Are YOU LakeSmart, yet?

See Page 8 to find out!

MEET YOUR NEW MILFOIL DIRECTOR, TONI PIED

Toni Pied is already hard at work in her new role as BRCA Milfoil Program Director, and she comes well equipped to do the job. Toni is a graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington where she studied Environmental Science and Biology. Prior to joining the BRCA staff in April, Toni spent 6 years with the Maine Natural Areas Program as an Assistant Ecologist and GIS specialist. Most recently she served as the “Mil-foiler” program director with the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, a sister lake association that has over 7,000 members.



New BRCA Milfoil Program
Coordinator, Toni Pied

“I feel so grateful to have the opportunity to use the skills I have acquired to help improve and protect the same lakes and forests that my children, and many others, will fondly remember many years from now,” said Toni. “There is no question that the experiences I have had in Maine’s natural environment have led me to where I am today,” she added.

Toni grew up in Mansfield, Massachusetts but spent a lot of time in Maine which led to her decision to go to school and raise her family here. Toni lives in Gardiner with her husband, David, and their two energetic boys, Samuel, age 5, and Sawyer, age 2. As a family they love to hike and kayak, and Toni also enjoys working in her garden.

Please stop by the BRCA office in the Maine Lakes Resource Center and meet Toni. Better yet, volunteer to work with Toni this summer as a milfoil volunteer.

You can reach her by phone at her office (207) 495-6039 or on her cell at (207) 215-2685 or email her at brcamf@belgradelakes.org.

Letters of E.B. White

This continues the series of letters from the writings of E.B. White

To Stanley Hart White, 1936:

I returned to Belgrade. Things haven't changed much ... The lake hangs clear and still at dawn, and the sound of a cowbell comes softly from a faraway woodlot. In the shallows along shore the pebbles and driftwood show clear and smooth on the bottom, and black water bugs dart, spreading a wake and a shadow. A fish rises quickly in the lily pads with a little plop, and a broad ring widens to eternity ... Things don't change much. Meadow stream has a beginning in the pickerel weeds. If you push along quietly, a blue heron will rise with a heavy squawk and a flap ... You buy a drink of Birch Beer at Bean's tackle store. Big bass swim lazily in the deep water at the end of the wharf, well fed ... Yes, sir, I returned to Belgrade, and things don't change much, I thought somebody ought to know.

LOCAL FOCUS - WORLDWIDE SCOPE

by Kathi Wall, Executive Director, Maine Lakes Resource Center

Going away is good. Coming home is even better. In March I was cruising the Rhine River along the French – German border, home of my ancestors. Today I am looking out my Belgrade Lakes office window at Long Pond in the Belgrade Lakes and wondering how long it will be before the Rhine gets here.

As you know, everything is connected; as water runs from the mountains in the form of snow melt, it runs over the lands to the streams and rivers, creating larger and larger waterways until it reaches the bays and harbors leading to the oceans. It may slow periodically to rest in lakes before continuing its journey to the sea, but water is never still. Water continues to be in constant motion in the oceans. After it nourishes life all along its amazing journey, the fluid then rises to the skies where it moves and is blown around in the form of clouds to far distant places until conditions are right for the moisture to be released in the form of rain, sleet, or snow.

Whatever happens on one part of this planet affects us all. One of the very best examples is what happens as winds and clouds move moisture from the industrial smokestacks of the Midwest to the Northeast where it acidifies lakes and eventually destroys the natural flora that helps control oxygen content for fish and amphibians.

Without water there is nothing. It was the original marriage of Oxygen and Hydrogen that changed the Earth forever. Water made it possible to create single-celled plants and animals, and, as they say, the rest is history. Stop and think for a moment how it happens that one unseen molecule called H₂O could support enough life to allow the development of animals such as the dinosaurs. While you're thinking about that, consider how close we are to destroying that very lifeblood of the planet, starting right here in the Belgrades.

I want to clarify my opening statement regarding “the Rhine getting here.” I recently returned from being on the Rhine River for an 8 day cruise. This was a trip anticipated ever since I knew my great-grandmother emigrated with her parents from the Alsace region along the French-German Rhine. We had spent weeks looking at vacation materials showing the castles and cathedrals that we would



see along the river – a feast for the eyes.

The reality of what we encountered was different. The magnificent river was brown water, congested by enormous diesel-powered barges laden with raw chemicals for the factories that now line the banks of the Rhine. There were paper mills along the river – we Mainers know about those and how they heat up river waters. It was noisy day and night; and when those magnificent ancient castles came into view overlooking the river, they had to be seen through the constant lens of smog and haze that hung low to the hills.

I think there was one other, less obvious factor that disturbed me as well. Our fellow passengers were from as close as Boston and as far away as Perth, Australia. I seemed to be the only one who commented about the hazy air, brown river, and constant noise pollution. When I mentioned it to tablemates over some select Rhine wines one evening, I heard, “Oh, yes, we have that, too.” The Rhine has already reached those locations. We cannot allow it to reach Maine ... we have work to do.

When we returned home, my husband went to the family archives and found slides of his parents' European vacation in the early 1950's when they drove down the roadways next to the Rhine River. What we discovered were clear skies with white puffy clouds, shorter riverboats being propelled by people and small engines carrying smaller bundles of goods up and down the river. There were even tents along the river where vacationers relaxed and fished. That was barely more than 50 years ago - a small blip in the timeline of human history on this planet.

So, if I went looking for lessons from my great grandmother, I think I found the major one That if this world is to be available for our great grandchildren, we had better get to work saving it. We need to get up every morning and do something – plant a blueberry bush – fertilize your lawn a little less - recycle your garbage – make a contribution to an organization that is preserving what we have. If every person did one small thing everyday, the work would soon be done ... and the Rhine would never reach our state.



EYES ON THE WATER

Join us and learn how to identify the plant –**Variable milfoil** – that threatens Great Pond and the rest of the Belgrade lakes. You'll get your own handy set of plant identification cards to keep and all the info you need to protect your shore and your lakeside property's value. EYES will be offered at the following times and places:

- June 30, 8-11:00 am – East Pond Boat Launch
- July 8, 8-11:00 am – Camp Runoia, Great Pond
- July 15, 8-11:00 am – Bear Spring Camps, Great Pond
- July 21, 8-11:00 am – 76 Pine Beach Road, Great Pond
- Aug 4, 8-11:00 am – Long Pond Boat Ramp
- Aug 11, 8-11:00 am – Spaulding Point Boat Ramp, Salmon Lake



Coffee and Doughnuts available from 7:30 am

What to Bring: Canoe or kayak and a personal flotation device (PFD)

Children are welcome to attend EYES ON THE WATER, but please be aware that we can't be responsible for their safety during workshop, part of which takes place on the water.

EYES is a free workshop but remember you must reserve your place ahead of time by calling Toni Pied at 207-215-2685!



Milfoil to Milsoil

Ever wonder what happens to the milfoil that's being pulled out of Great Meadow Stream and North Bay? It's being made into Milsoil right here in Belgrade Lakes Village.

Jon Dyer, owner of Black Gold Vermiculture & Research, feeds the milfoil to thousands of red wiggler worms in the basement of his home on Main Street. What comes out the other end of the process is a humus-like material that nurseries and gardeners love. Why ... because it's five times richer in available nitrogen, seven times richer in phosphates, and eleven times richer in potassium than the upper six inches of our soil.

You can buy 25 lb. bags of Milsoil right at the Maine Lakes Resource Center. Pick up a STOP MILFOIL T-shirt at the same time. All proceeds go to the STOP MILFOIL Capital Campaign.



A Boathouse Floats By (continued from page 1)

wedding plans, the new book, pride for the country, the taxes we hate, the money we love, our favorite baseball team, the students, the boss, the workers, the stock market, and the hopes for continued prosperity - all discussed in a noisy buzz within the accommodating walls of the red boathouse's second floor - same topics over several decades, I'm guessing, but perhaps with different players as the years rolled by.

... and what about those romantic evening sunset cruises? The owners making it back into the safety of the boathouse, yet the camp just too far away for those moments of passion - all steeped into the beams of the old red boathouse. In the 1930's the Chris Craft could have gone away after the Crash, but surely another would be back by the 40's or 50's under new ownership and new money. "What kind of boat will you bring me in the next century?"

Maybe the old red boathouse floated away when the new boat did not fit, too wide for its bays built for a sleeker era; the thin curvy art deco design of the early 1900's replaced by a fatter angular military influence after WWII. Good thing because the pant sizes of the 21st century also seemed to increase in width as well; but, still, too bad for the boathouse. "Give me an old wooden boat any day, and take that big new fiber glass boat and ... ahem, well, after all, I am an early 1900's boathouse, and I think I have made my point quite clearly ..."

As the sun set over the Mountain, the smoky veil of dusk blurred the visible edges of the old boathouse. Light winds gracefully pushed it further along into a hazy blackness - an icon of the lake seeking its destiny.

The families, the kids, the friends, the triumphs, the failures, the births, the deaths, the tears, the laughter, the songs, the happiness, the love, the endless summer days, the starlit nights, the haunting cry of the loon and the smiles - all behind it now. Decades of memories absorbed in its wooden framework; secrets to be taken with it to the bottom of the lake. Oh, ... if only the old boathouse could talk ...

BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RAFFLE

Win a Great Prize while supporting our effort to protect and preserve Great Pond & Long Pond

Tickets: \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Buy \$100 in tickets and be automatically entered into the Bonus Raffle!
Drawing August 18th at the Maine Lakes Resource Center in Belgrade Village.
(You don't need to be present to win)



Grand Prize:

Godfrey 18' Sweetwater
Sunrise 186 C3 Pontoon Boat,
EZ Loader Trailer,
Yamaha 20hp Motor.
Retail Value at \$16,375
Donated by Hamlin's Marine



Second Prize:

Three Sections of a
Shoremaster Dock
Valued at over \$2,300
*Donated by
Hammond Lumber Company*



Third Prize:

Two Nights Lodging on the
Belgrade Stream with a full day
Guided Fishing or Sightseeing
in Belgrade Lakes Region.
Valued at over \$600
*Donated by Mike Guarino
of Maine Wilderness Tours*

Bonus Raffle

Automatically be entered into the bonus raffle to win one of three great prizes by purchasing \$100 in tickets (tickets must be purchased at the same time and in one name to be eligible)

4 rounds of Golf with cart at Belgrade Lakes Golf Course (Retail value \$600)
Donated by Gail Rizzo and Pat Donahue of Lakepoint Real Estate

Village Inn- Dinner for 4 (Retail Value \$200)
Donated by the Village Inn, Belgrade Lakes

\$250 Visa Gift Card (anonymous)

Visit our Sponsor's at: gailrizzo@belgradelakepoint.com • pldcamp@msn.com • www.villageinnducks.com
www.hamlinsmarine.com • www.mainewildernesstours.com • www.hammondlumber.com

The Bad Guy: a.k.a. Phrank Phosphorous

There's been a sighting of a thug that lurks in the lovely lapping waters of some Maine lakes. This critter hides in the depths and gorges on the tan-colored rainwater that runs so merrily down camp roads and the outflow from bad septic systems until strong enough to make the algae bloom, leach oxygen from the depths so coldwater fish have no midsummer refuge, turn lakes murky, or green and smelly, and absolutely ruin swimming.



For more information on Phrank visit the BLA website at blamaine.org

Hands in the Water: Milfoil Removal Update

New England Milfoil, with Cliff Cabral at the helm, had three divers in the water their first week on the job site. They have been working primarily on the infestation areas in North Bay and in the mouth of Great Meadow stream where it enters the bay. They have used their DASH boat, done hand pulling and also surveyed North Bay for additional new patches.

They surveyed the area and removed about 1,200 gallons of milfoil. The very good news is they did not discover any new outbreaks of milfoil in North Bay. They returned the last week of May to continue their work.

As of June 1st, 3570 gallons of milfoil have been removed, more than in 2010 and 2011 combined! Join Cliff (see photo to the right) and become involved by somehow putting your hands in the water!



A THANK YOU FROM PETER KALLIN

Dear Polly - I would like to thank you, the BLA Board, and the rest of the Belgrade Lakes Association for your strong support over the past five years that I have been the Executive Director of the BRCA. During that time, the BLA/BRCA team has accomplished a great deal to protect and preserve the Belgrade Lakes, including approved Watershed Management Plans for Long Pond and Great Pond, numerous watershed management grants that have improved water quality, expanded CBI and milfoil programs, record-setting Youth Conservation Corps years three years in a row, new lands added to the Kennebec Highlands and our Mountain Preserve, expanded interactions with Colby College, and a beautiful new Maine Lakes Resource Center in Belgrade Lakes. I would especially like to thank those BLA members who contributed to the Cabela's gift card I received as a retirement present. It has already been put to good use and is helping me to enjoy my retirement daily. I have truly enjoyed my time as BRCA Executive Director and getting to know so many fellow BLA members in the process.



Charlie Baeder, Left, with Pete Kallin, in the BRCA offices.

Linda and I now look forward to having more time to enjoy the special place that we live in. Hope to see everyone on the lakes or enjoying the trails.

Best regards,
Pete Kallin
BRCA Executive Director Emeritus

NOTE: The Belgrade Lakes Association welcomes the new Executive Director for BRCA and our amazing friend Charlie Baeder. We look forward to having him as a collaborator in the effort to protect and preserve our lakes and watershed.

OLD MARINA RAZED BY MILL STREAM

The Belgrade Lakes Association launched the project to renovate the old marina in 2009 with its "Docks to Doorways" fundraising campaign.

In February of this year, a section of the old marina on Mill Stream in Belgrade Lakes Village came crashing down. With this part of the building gone, the view of the stream provides an openness, brightness and refreshing view.

Under the campaign, the marina building and two vacant lots down the street were purchased for \$400,000. The Maine Lakes Resource Center was then built, and now its staff will put together a landscaping plan for the post office property this summer. In the meantime, the exposed ground will be covered in mulch. Grassy space and a rain garden is planned for the area which accesses the public boat docks.





BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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Bill Witkin



Are YOU LakeSmart, yet?

Suddenly, everyone wants to be LakeSmart! People know now that LakeSmart's distinctive blue and white sign marks properties that protect the lake. When they see one, they ask, "How can I get one of those?"

The answer is simple ...Call Michael Bernstein, BLA's Assistant LakeSmart Coordinator, and ask for a visit from one of our trained volunteers. We'll take care of the rest.

On the day of your visit, a trained BLA volunteer will screen your property and then invite you to walk it with her. She will point out how you can keep rainwater runoff from getting into the lake and suggest ways to address it. Whether you decide to continue on by making lake friendly improvements is up to you. If you do want to upgrade your property, we have clear directions for Do It Yourselfers, but we can also hook you up with the Youth Conservation Corps. The corps provides free labor for any shore front property owner who wants to improve his property's lake IQ.

This year, as in 2011, Colby College interns are joining our BLA volunteers to expand BLA's ability to meet you and evaluate your property's lake friendliness. We are eager to have you help us create a better future for Great Pond & Long Pond.

**All you have to do is call Michael at 207-465-7918
or write him at mainecrafter@gmail.com**

