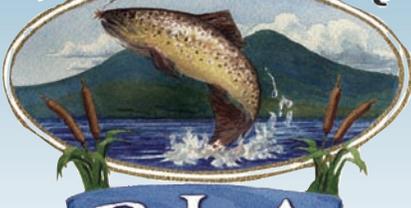


Protect and Preserve



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.*

## SAVE THE DATE

**Belgrade Community Center  
for All Seasons & the  
Belgrade Lakes Association  
Invite You to Celebrate  
the 5th Annual**

### **SUMMER LOBSTER BAKE SATURDAY, AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>**

Where: BELGRADE COMMUNITY  
CENTER FOR ALL SEASONS  
Who: ADULTS ONLY (age 21 and over)  
Tickets: \$60 per person ~OR~  
\$400 for an 8 person table

#### Schedule:

5:00-7:00 pm

Social Hour & Silent Auction

7:00 pm

\$ Fabulous Dinner!

Menu: Lobster, chicken, corn  
on the cob, roll, salad, desert,  
beer & wine!

8:00 pm

Dessert & Live Auction

8:30-11:00 pm

Live Music & Dancing

\$ Dinner Reservations required!  
Tickets on sale June 1 -July 31, 2010  
(Limited Tickets Available)

Proceeds benefit:

Belgrade Community Center for  
All Seasons: Community & Youth  
Recreation Programs  
Belgrade Lakes Association: Lake  
Learning & Protection Programs

For more information, directions  
and tickets call: Jessica Moore  
at 495-3481

#### To our Members,

This is a copy of letter recently written on behalf of the BLA Membership to the Board of Selectman with specific identifying language eliminated.

The Belgrade Lakes Association is a member-driven organization founded in 1908 whose mission is: *"To protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through preservation, education and action."*

The membership consists of local year-round residents, seasonal residents and visitors who appreciate the unique and fragile landscape of this magnificent area. For over 100 years we have worked to preserve this heritage not only for the recreation it provides but also because it is the key to the economic vitality of the region. People are drawn to this area because it offers a respite from the harried life that surrounds us all. It's a place to swim, to boat, to fish. It's a place to watch the sunset and listen to the call of the loons or to watch an osprey feed its offspring. It's a place to raise a family, a lifestyle memorialized by Ernest Thompson's "On Golden Pond" and an environment that each of us must vigorously defend so that it may be there for our children and their children in the same manner that it was there for us.

Developmental stresses on lake water quality are greatly influenced by what happens in the surrounding watershed. Unfiltered runoff from seemingly harmless sources such as dirt driveways, malfunctioning septic tanks or tree and vegetation removal release phosphorus into the water, and phosphorus, the basic ingredient in fertilizer, encourages unwanted algae growth. Unchecked, lakes lose balance. It affects water clarity; oxygen levels decline and the health of our lakes suffers. It affects fishing yield, which directly impacts wildlife which depend upon this food source. There is a direct impact on the recreational fishermen; you have only to look at old photographs of fishing camps that surrounded the lakes a number of years ago with guides proudly displaying their larger and more numerous catch to appreciate the change. The decline, while seemingly slow, has been dramatic. Ultimately, water quality decline can lead to algae blooms such as those found on China Lake and North Pond in past years, rendering the water, at times, virtually uninhabitable, driving property values down and along with it tourism, the major source of income for the local economy. Much is at stake and everything is co-dependent. It is a symbiotic relationship that must first be recognized by the broad population and then defended at all cost. We must be vigilant, monitoring not only our own habits but those of others who share this resource and may not fully comprehend the fragility of this balance.

A recent tree removal incident on one of our lakes has prompted us to respond. Not only is the result unsightly to each and every one of us who share this resource, but it is a violation of the most basic tenets of lakeshore living. By stripping the land of its trees, this property owner has destabilized the shorefront. The last defense for natural filtration has been removed, and the canopy has been eliminated.

While some may respond that a single act of destruction will not tip the balance appreciably, this abuse, were it to go unpunished, would result in the tacit approval that this type of action was acceptable. It is not! It is the sum of many



"Raffle Prize" see more raffle items inside

continued on next page

*continued from page 1*

small insults to the environment that add up to a larger problem that becomes increasingly difficult to address.

On behalf of the Belgrade Lakes Association and our 600 members who work so hard to support a sustainable relationship with our lake and watershed, we urge the Selectmen to address this violation for the serious nature that it represents. It has long been acknowledged that the nominal penalty that may result for development infractions in the past was simply viewed as the “cost of obtaining a view” and factored in to the total cost of the project. We should no longer support this option by turning our back. Due to the severity of this particular case we would encourage the Selectmen and the DEP to levy a fine in an amount that would set an example that bad development and or land abuse is unacceptable and that we mean business. Included in this penalty should be any others who took part in perpetrating this violation so that we can eliminate the finger pointing and shifting of blame. Developers and landscape business owners need to know that lakeshore development has strict guidelines that are non-negotiable. In their defense, most local workers that we know are highly sensitive to this issue and are some of the strongest proponents of preserving the landscape as well as being our best and first line of defense against irresponsible requests. In addition to addressing this particular issue, we would encourage the Selectmen of all towns surrounding all of the Belgrade Lakes to put in place a framework that sets up enforceable standards as well as penalties for future infringements at a level that will eliminate abuse and make the option not only uneconomic but publically unacceptable.

It is unfortunate that everyone who purchases or owns a property in the watershed does not have the same level of sensitivity to these issues. Some of this is simply due to ignorance but much is premeditated. It is something that we, the BLA, have been working on tirelessly for decades. Sustainability is an idea whose time has come, and one that is imperative if we are to win the battle of loving our lakes to death.

Dear Members:

The fall and winter months have been busy for BLA, and some of the work and plans by a host of volunteers are described in this newsletter. Ice went out early, a sign to amp up the energy for events this summer. Please check out our efforts; but if the newsletter is not handy later on, do check the website [www.blamaine.com](http://www.blamaine.com) for recent information and our 2010 calendar.

Become involved. Try to be here for the exciting activities on July 4th, AQUAFEST on July 9th and 10th, the BLA annual meeting on July 25th, the Summer Lobster Bake on August 14th, and more. BLA is continuing the wonderful LakeSmart Award program for homeowners who want to landscape in lake-friendly ways. To encourage you to participate, we're giving all who ask for an evaluation a certificate worth \$100 for buffer plants at local nurseries. Call us at 512-5150 to find out more! Then, too, there are interesting and active volunteer opportunities, such as helping us survey the lakes for invasive plants, inspecting boats for milfoil, or helping us to raise money by selling raffle tickets in the Village. It's all fun. You'll learn a great deal and meet some amazing, passionate, and pro-active members and friends of the BLA.

Another topic of interest (and confusion) is fund raising. Many activities for protecting the lakes are important and cost little or nothing except for your energy and time to be educated and complete the projects. Some have expenses. Just to be clear, BLA does the following to help raise the necessary funds to run the Association and its water quality programs:

- 1. Jan/Feb: collect dues every year**
- 2. Mar/Apr: dues reminder**
- 3. May - July: Raffle**
- 4. Aug: Lobster Bake**
- 5. Sept/Oct: Annual Appeal**

In addition, BLA has been joined by BRCA and Colby College to raise money for the campaign known as the Docks to Doorways (D2D). Some highlights follow from the BLA perspective, and you will find out more over the next several months.. Yes, we do plan to open docks again on the Mill Stream for access to Belgrade Lakes from Great Pond, but we also have designs for building a Resource Center on an empty lot in the middle of the village. We wish to have local, regional and state-wide lake protection groups housed together in this one location to run projects that restore lake waters to their former pristine quality.

There are also proposals to renovate the boathouse for the popular, historic Mailboat; to rejuvenate the town with public green spaces; and to develop outdoor space for the Farmers' Market, community activities, and concerts. The Resource Center is key to the success of these initiatives. It will provide information and resources to educate and encourage practical conservation practices with exhibits and demonstration projects both inside and out. The project has had great support from the community. Contact Campaign Manager Loren Wright for more information at 207-504-2185 or [lorenwright513@gmail.com](mailto:lorenwright513@gmail.com).

I hope to see each and every one of you this summer or fall, perhaps at the raffle table on the weekends in the village? Also, I'd love it if you would consider emailing me with your “lifetime memories” of the lakes before they are lost or forgotten. [ppbeatie@roadrunner.com](mailto:ppbeatie@roadrunner.com)

With thanks to you for your support of the Belgrade Lakes Association,  
Polly Parkhill Beatie

Long Pond and Great Pond: “Where memories last a lifetime...”

# Save the Date

Annual Membership Meeting  
Belgrade Center for all Seasons  
July 25th, 9-11am

## Membership isn't just about numbers.

The table below shows that after only a few months into our membership renewal campaign for 2010, 63% (398) of last year's members have renewed. Not only that, 93 of you who had been members, during the years of 2005 through 2008 but let your membership lapse, have come back! And, 40 of you, who had never been members but were on our list of potential members, decided to join for the first time. We are well on our way of reaching last year's membership total and beyond.

TOTAL	RENEWALS from 2009	NEW in 2010	RETURNEES from 2005-2008	TOTAL as of 05.31.10
634	398	40	93	531

Beyond numbers, however, are the values the BLA organization places on your membership. Your membership tells us that you care about the future of the lakes and that keeps us going. Whether or not you visit our lakes often or seldom, own shorefront property or pay rent, own a business that depends on visitors or simply reside in the watershed, you are part of a growing community of people who have a better understanding of the lakes' needs and share the expectation that how we act today will preserve tomorrow.

To fulfill that hope, we place trust in you that you are willing to learn about lake water quality, as we all must, in terms of how to make a difference through changes in our daily lives. That's why our website and this newsletter are filled with information about how you can volunteer your time, read relevant articles, support fundraisers, and come to our outreach events. And please visit us at 171 Main Street, ground floor, in Belgrade Lakes, next to the post office.

Last, but not least, thank you so much for your support. We couldn't continue without you. Every time we read a comment accompanying a check that says, "Keep up the good work," or, "Thanks for all you do," we are reminded that membership is more than just numbers.

BLA membership committee

## JUNE 30TH EVENT

The Belgrade Lakes Association presents the first in a series of summer nature programs:

### *Maine Wildflowers—from the Usual to the Unusual—with some Surprises*

See the diversity and beauty of wild flowers in our area through a presentation by G. Marianne Heinrich-Perry.

**Wednesday, June 30, 2010**

**Union Church, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes**

**7-9 pm**

**Free and open to all**

Come learn about the natural beauty of the Belgrade Lakes region by joining us for any or all in our series, as advertised in *Summertime in the Belgrades* and at [www.blamaine.com](http://www.blamaine.com).

**For more information call: 207-512-5150**

Organized by the BLA Membership Committee.



## JULY 21ST EVENT

The Belgrade Lakes Association presents the 2nd in a series of summer nature programs:

### *Common Loons of Great Pond and Long Pond*

Lee Attix, of the BioDiversity Research Institute, has been casually monitoring loon activity on our Ponds for over a decade. Find out what he knows, and how volunteers can help assure these wonderful birds will thrive in the Belgrades.

**Wednesday, July 21, 2010**

**Union Church, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes**

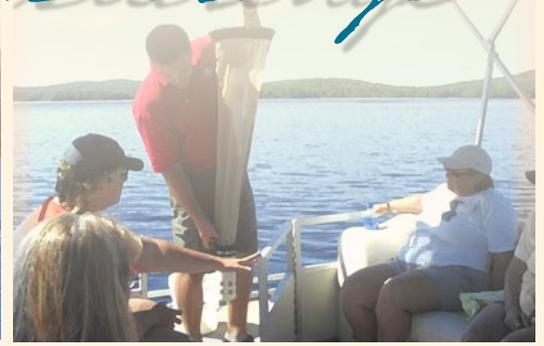
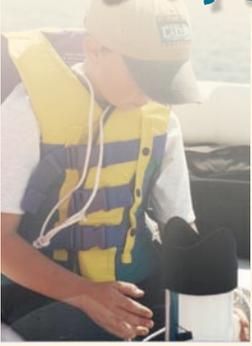
**7-9 pm • Free and open to all**

For information on future programs, visit our website: [www.blamaine.com](http://www.blamaine.com), or call: 207-512-5150.

Program organized by the BLA Membership Committee  
Loon photo by Nina Schoch, BioDiversity Research Institute



# Melinda Ann Sailings



## A Great Opportunity!

On July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> the Belgrade Lakes Association has invited the good ship Melinda Ann to visit Great and Long ponds. The Melinda Ann is a 30 foot floating classroom and the flagship of the respected Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute (MLCI) lake learning program. This safe and stable customized pontoon boat sports a variety of equipment for exploring the workings of our lakes and getting a deeper appreciation of these precious, fragile freshwater gems.

## Come Aboard!

There will be 3 sailings each day. July 17<sup>th</sup> the boat will be departing from the Great Pond Boat Landing on Sahagian Road at 9:00 and 10:40 am and 12:30 pm. July 18<sup>th</sup> the boat will be departing from Day's Store docks at 9:00 and 10:40 am and 12:30 pm.

## Reserve now

The Melinda Ann can take 10 to 12 passengers at a time, and she'll sail rain or shine. To take advantage of this splendid free excursion for kids of all ages, please call to reserve the spaces you need.

## July 17th and 18th

Captain Phil Mulville

*Join his floating lake explorer!*



## Antique Wooden Boat Show and Dinner

*On Golden Pond with Author Ernest Thompson*

**July 9, 2010**

**5:30 to 9:00 pm**

The Village Inn, Belgrade Lakes

Tickets: \$100 per person

Turn the clock back 70 years and join us for a night of living history and fine dining on the real Golden Pond!

*Space is limited; reserve now*

by calling 207-495-6039 or [brca@gwi.net](mailto:brca@gwi.net)

### ❁ SPECIAL AUCTION ITEMS ❁

Tour the real Golden Pond in a classic antique wooden boat

Limited edition 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster  
of the movie *On Golden Pond*

Spend a weekend in an historic camp on Golden Pond

Take a writing or acting workshop with Ernest Thompson  
on his New Hampshire farm

## AUDUBON LOON COUNT



The annual  
**Audubon Loon Count**  
will take place  
on both lakes July 17th  
from 7:30 am to 9:00 am.

For Great Pond:  
If you would like to participate,  
call or email Joan Witkin at  
(914) 238-3461 or  
[jww3@columbia.edu](mailto:jww3@columbia.edu)

For Long Pond:  
Contact Tim Comeford at 495-8836  
or [tcomeford@myfairpoint.net](mailto:tcomeford@myfairpoint.net)

# Keep Maine Beautiful

Why? Who? What? When? Where? and How?

We recycle in the beautiful Belgrade Lakes Region and the Belgrade Lakes Association is asking for all the summer residents to do the same. So let us answer all the questions you may have.

## Why recycle?

We could list thousands of factual reasons for recycling, but in order to save paper here are just a few. **It is the right thing to do.** Let's face it, there is a finite amount of land space for solid waste and we are running out. Americans represent only 5 percent of the world's population, but generate 30 percent of the world's garbage, (EPA 2000).

Many of the items placed in the trash-landfill will **leach dangerous chemicals** into our ground water systems and can take thousands of years to break down. About 86 percent of US landfills are currently leaking toxic materials into lakes, streams and aquifers, (EPA 2003).

**Recycling saves overall energy.** Did you know that making paper from recycled content rather than virgin fiber creates 74 percent less air pollution and 35 percent less water pollution? Or that you could make 20 aluminum cans with the energy it takes to make one new aluminum can from bauxite ore?

**Recycling saves the taxpayer money \$\$.** In 2007 Belgrade recycled over 500 tons of paper, glass, metal, plastic, wood and other products avoiding over \$44,000 in disposal cost.

## Who can recycle?

\*Everyone can in the Belgrade Lakes Region. Yes, this includes residents from other nearby towns like Rome. All locals, tourists, summer residents, businesses, fisherman, young and old...we all can recycle in Belgrade.

## What can we recycle?

The Belgrade Transfer Station accepts loose mixed paper, flattened cardboard, magazines, newspapers, tin cans, unbroken glass, plastics 1-7 (no Styrofoam), aluminum cans and empty redeemable beverage containers. E — waste accepted for a fee.

## Where and when?

At the Belgrade Transfer Station and Recycling Center located on the Dunn Road. Hours of operation are:

Wednesdays: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturdays: 7:00 am to 3:00 pm

## How?

This is the easy part. Separate your recyclables from your trash at home, put them in your car and drive through the recycling center and drop them off. \*If you cannot make it to the Belgrade Recycling Center simply mark them as recyclables and the following Commercial Trash Haulers will take care of them along with your trash for a small fee:

Gene Burgess . . . . . 495-2315

Bruce Galouch . . . . . 495-3660

Frank Trask . . . . . 622-9570

Ed Cleary . . . . . 923-3622

Roger Barter . . . . . 426-9154

\*Belgrade Transfer Station will not take trash from other towns, but they will accept the recycling from other towns.

Lets join together to celebrate and enjoy the beautiful Belgrade Lakes Region and *Keep Maine Beautiful*

**...it is the right thing to do!**

# BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RAFFLE

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

Tickets: \$5 each or 6 for \$25

Buy \$100 in tickets and be automatically entered into the Bonus Raffle!

Drawing August 14 at the Center for All Seasons/Annual Lobster Bake, Belgrade, ME  
(You don't need to be present to win)

For more information email: [gailrizzo@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:gailrizzo@belgradelakepoint.com) or [pldcamp@msn.com](mailto:pldcamp@msn.com)

## Grand Prize:

Godfrey 15' Sweetwater 1570 Pontoon Boat,  
EZ Loader EZP 1850 Trailer, Yamaha F20PLR Motor.  
Retail Value at \$18,037- *Donated by Hamlin's Marine*



## Second Prize:

Three Sections of a Shoremaster Dock  
Valued at over \$2,000- *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 \$500- *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)

### Prizes:

- A. 4 rounds of Golf with cart at Belgrade Lakes Golf Course (Retail value \$560)  
Donated by Gail Rizzo and Pat Donahue of Lakepoint Real Estate
- B. \$250 Visa Gift Card (anonymous)
- C. LL Bean Outdoor Discovery School- Fly Fishing Essentials (Retail Value \$99)  
Donated by LL Bean

**Visit our Sponsor's at:**

# Preserving the Water Quality of our Lakes

Mark Heuberger

## Water Quality Programs form the heart of BLA's mission to protect and preserve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond.

BLA's Water Quality programs for 2010 continue to focus on efforts to preserve our lakes and protect them from key threats — invasive plants such as milfoil and phosphorous pollution from soil erosion, storm water runoff, septic systems, and fertilizers. At the same time, we continue our long term monitoring programs to measure changes in water quality and to identify and prevent new threats to the lakes. In addition, this summer we are initiating a new effort to update the Watershed Survey of Long Pond and Great Pond, last completed in 2000, to identify and prioritize pollution sources (aka "Hot Spots") that we can target for action.

### Monitoring of Lake Water Quality

- BLA volunteers conduct biweekly sampling for water clarity, temperature, oxygen, and phosphorous as part of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. This data is supplemented by data from organizations such as Maine DEP and Colby College to track long-term trends in water quality.
- Continuous temperature recorders have been installed in Long Pond and Great Pond to monitor long-term trends in water temperature.
- Volunteers at locations throughout Long Pond and Great Pond record observations of Gloeotrichia blooms to track changes in location, duration, and severity of blooms.
- BLA sponsors periodic surveys for invasive plants in Long Pond and Great Pond

### Protection against Invasive Plants

Detection of Milfoil in Salmon Lake, and several "near-misses" prevented by inspections at Great Pond emphasize that this threat is real and immediate.

- BLA funds Courtesy Boat inspections at public boat ramps on Great Pond and Long Pond to help prevent the introduction of invasive plants such as milfoil.
- Volunteers from BLA work with Maine DEP and other organizations to conduct diving surveys (aka, Invasive Plant Patrols) for invasive plants at vulnerable locations in the lakes throughout the summer.

### Identification and Reduction of Pollution Sources

- One of BLA's most important programs to reduce pollution sources is the **LakeSmart Program**, a Maine DEP-sponsored program to recognize and reward lake-friendly properties.

The LakeSmart program assists property owners in making their properties more lake-friendly through use of erosion control measures and other best management practices. To date, more than 70 properties on Long Pond and Great Pond have participated. Our goal is to get all shorefront properties to be "LakeSmart" properties.

- **"Hot Spot" Surveys.** This summer BLA, working together with BRCA, is initiating a new effort to update the Watershed Survey of Long Pond and Great Pond, last completed in 2000, to identify and prioritize pollution sources ("Hot Spots"). Volunteers will systematically survey the lakes to identify the current status of previously identified sources, identify new sources, and enter this information into a database to assist in prioritizing mitigation projects in the future. In addition, the program may include sampling of several streams for turbidity analysis to identify streams that may be impacted by upstream sources.

### Prevention of Swimmer's Itch

- BLA leads a program to trap and relocate mergansers, the duck which serves as hosts for the swimmer's itch parasite. New for this summer, we have installed nesting boxes at locations around the lake to assist in capturing mergansers.

### How Can You Help Preserve and Protect our Lakes?

It's in the best interest of everyone who lives, works, and plays around our lakes to help protect and preserve them. You can help by:

- **Request a LakeSmart Evaluation**
- **Maintain a natural plant buffer along your shorefront to reduce soil run-off into the lake.** Trees, shrubs, and grasses slow the flow of stormwater and filter soil and pollutants from rainwater before they end up in the lake
- **Control storm water run-off from buildings, paths, driveways and road.**
- **Inspect and Maintain your septic system.** Improperly maintained septic systems are a significant source of pollution to our lakes.
- **Eliminate the use of phosphorous fertilizers and other phosphorous products.**
- **Volunteer to help with BLA's Water Quality Programs.** Most of our efforts are done by volunteers and we need your help. Examples of volunteer opportunities are:
  - Be a Courtesy Boat Inspector
  - Participate in Invasive Plant Patrols
  - Be a Gloeotrichia Observer
  - Help spot Mergansers for the Swimmer's Itch Program
  - Conduct "Hot Spot Surveys"

Please contact BLA via phone, email, or website to request more information.

**Please visit the Water Quality link on the BLA Website for more and new information.**



## BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

171 Main Street  
P.O. Box 551  
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

PHONE:

207.512.5150

EMAIL:

[bla\\_org@roadrunner.com](mailto:bla_org@roadrunner.com)

WEB:

[belgradelakesassociation.com](http://belgradelakesassociation.com)

### BLA Board of Directors

Polly Parkhill Beatie  
President

Gail Rizzo  
Vice President

Dick Greenan  
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Maureen Maslak  
Secretary

Alan Charles

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Barb Ford

Charles Grover

Mark Heuberger

Susan Littlefield

Peter McManus

Phil Mulville

Jack Schultz

Maggie Shannon

Paul Stewart

Bill Witkin

## Becoming LakeSmart for the Lake's Sake

### BLA Water Quality Committee

Please call the BLA to schedule a LakeSmart appointment this summer. If you do, you'll be glad you did! One of our trained LakeSmart volunteers will visit your lakeside home and explain how good landscaping protects water quality. He or she will also evaluate your property for its ability to stop stormwater before it can run off into the lake. The LakeSmart appointment takes about an hour and comes with benefits for you and for the lake. Immediately, you'll get gardening information and have the satisfaction of knowing you're caring for the lake in exchange for your time.

If your property is really lake-friendly already, you'll be given the coveted LakeSmart Award. This is a lakeside sign you can proudly display and which will discretely tell lake neighbors that it's a good thing to live lightly on the land for the lake's sake. Your quiet contribution to public awareness will help us achieve our goal of a clear and healthy lake.

Most properties probably aren't LakeSmart to begin with, but that's not a reason not to call. In fact, it's a good reason call right away for a LakeSmart date because the volunteer who visits you will have good information that can help you decide what you want to do with all that free labor from the Conservation Corps. But that's not all. Another reason to line up for LakeSmart is BLA's new homeowner incentive.

#### **A Homeowner Incentive, you say?**

Yes. It's new and it's valuable, too. It's Greenbucks. Every homeowner who has a LakeSmart property evaluation in 2010 and who then plans to plant a buffer (to stop stormwater runoff) will get a Greenbucks certificate. Your Greenbuck can be redeemed for \$100 worth of native or native-friendly buffer plants at one of these cooperating nurseries: Native Notions, Longfellow's Greenhouses, and D.R. Struck.

**Call today:** Susan Littlefield is the BLA LakeSmart Coordinator and Scheduler. You can reach her at 207-515-5150 or [bla\\_org@roadrunner.com](mailto:bla_org@roadrunner.com)