November 2026

Dear Members and Friends,

For generations, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) has worked to protect the health, beauty, and vitality of Great Pond and Long Pond. But what makes the BLA special isn't simply its history or the programs it supports… ***it's you!*** Our members *are* the Belgrade Lakes Association. Your commitment and shared appreciation for these extraordinary lakes make everything we accomplish possible. Together, we are ensuring that future generations inherit lakes as beautiful as those we enjoy today.

Our Courtesy Boat Inspection and invasive aquatic plant management programs are among our most important defenses against threats to Great Pond and Long Pond. Both are funded entirely by the BLA through the generosity of members like you. These programs have demonstrated tremendous success, but their costs continue to rise. Protecting our lakes requires an ongoing investment, and your support makes that possible. While we work with many partners in our efforts, the BLA's mission is dedicated specifically to protecting Great Pond and Long Pond. Your contributions directly to the BLA sustain the programs and responsibilities we undertake on behalf of these two lakes.

This year, the BLA made an extraordinary commitment to the future of our watershed, pledging $500,000 toward the acquisition of Camp Bomazeen: $300,000 up front and $50,000 annually for the next four years. The BLA's contributions to the Camp Bomazeen project represent nearly half of our available reserves. We recognized the importance of acting when the opportunity was before us, and it is a commitment of which we can all be proud. Honoring it, however, required us to draw upon the financial resources that have historically allowed the BLA to respond quickly when unexpected challenges or conservation opportunities arise. Now, we must work together to rebuild those resources.

Restoring these funds will help ensure that the BLA remains financially prepared to respond to a new invasive species, an emerging water quality concern, or another opportunity to protect critical watershed lands. ***Together, we can ensure the BLA is ready to act when it matters most***.

**That is why I am asking you to make a meaningful gift to the Belgrade Lakes Association's 2026 Annual Appeal. Your contribution will help sustain our lake-protection work and strengthen our capacity to respond to future exigencies. If you are able to increase your gift this year, it would make a particularly important difference.**

Thanks to our members, the BLA has been blessed with financial resources which have provided our remarkable history of protecting our lakes, but our greatest strength has always been the people who believe in its mission. We are a community of people who understand that healthy lakes don't happen by accident, and that protecting them requires vigilance, commitment, and generosity.

You make it possible. Because of you, our lakes have a prospect of a stronger future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued membership and dedication to Long Pond and Great Pond. Thank you for being a part of our community, and thank you for joining me in supporting this year's Annual Appeal, helping to ensure the Belgrade Lakes Association is ready for whatever comes next.

With gratitude,

Richard

Richard LaBelle
President, Belgrade Lakes Association

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## Help Protect What Comes Next

**Please make your 2026 Annual Appeal gift today.**

Give Online:
Visit the BLA at www.belgradelakesassociation.org to make your contribution, or scan the QR code below.

Give by mail:
Belgrade Lakes Association
PO Box 551
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918