



Our Mission:

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

BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Spring/Summer 2009

Special Water Quality Issue

- Help BLA keep milfoil out of Great Pond and Long Pond
- New and Improved Swimmer's Itch Program
- Watershed Based Plan Underway
- BLA Water Quality Programs
- The LakeSmart Program
- BRCA Conservation Corps needs projects for 2009
- Conclusions from the Ultrasound Field Trial and Gloeotrichia Studies
- Volunteer Gloeotrichia Observation Program
- Volunteer - It's Fun
- A Laker's Dozen
- Member Survey on water quality

President's Corner

Last year we celebrated our Centennial. This year we get back to work. Our 100 year legacy and our future continue to focus on our mission to protect and preserve Great Pond and Long Pond. From the 1952 Lake Code to the 2009 Laker's Dozen (reprinted inside), the BLA develops ways to mediate problems facing our lakes, be they the result of climate change, mother nature or simply bad habits. New problems continually challenge us to design new solutions.

BLA lives — thrives, in fact - on volunteers. Notable names come to mind such as Leon L. Bean, Bradley, Mosher, Parkhill, Fenn, Swan, Stander, Alfond, Eddie Mayer, Roger Shannon, Arthur Stilphen, Sheble, and my dad, Doug McClure. Thanks to them and all the volunteers who have brought us to where we are today. Without your efforts, we could not fully enjoy the Belgrade Lakes as we do today. As we approach another summer, we again look to you, our readers and members, to help us accomplish many tasks on the calendar.

Your help is needed now more than ever. Be a part of the solution and get actively involved with the BLA. Here's how: Join the BLA and encourage family, friends and neighbors to do the same, make a donation, volunteer, purchase tickets to our annual raffle (see page 3) and/or attend a fundraising event. Your help is always welcome, truly appreciated and continues the legacy of all those who have taken care of the lake for the last 100 years.

With your help, the hope to keep our beautiful lakes healthy and clean for future generations can be a reality.



SPECIAL ISSUE

photo by M. Maslak

Water Quality

Do you know that in the last 3 years, the BLA has spent \$ amount to come addressing many water quality issues on both Great Pond and Long Pond. Our agenda for this summer is formidable, as the list of water quality programs on page 3 shows. Water quality is the driving force behind most of what your association does to protect and preserve both lakes, so this spring issue focuses on water quality throughout pages 3-6. All the information here, and more, will soon be available on our website: belgradelakesassociation.com. We encourage you to learn more details about this important subject and the summer's agenda, then do all you can to help our efforts (see page 6). More important, we want to hear from you. Please be sure to complete the mini-survey relating to water quality on page 7. We always welcome your thoughts!

Help BLA keep milfoil out of Great Pond and Long Pond

The discovery of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) in Salmon Lake last August shows how close invasive plants are to Great Pond and Long Pond. BLA has contributed \$0,000 over the last three years toward this effort. BLA will be very busy this summer as we work to prevent milfoil and other invasives from reaching our lakes. As in past years, boat inspectors will be stationed at the public boat launches to check for plant fragments on boats entering the lakes.

BLA will also be organizing a thorough Invasive Plant Patrol in Hatch Cove in Great Pond. The outlet stream from Salmon Lake enters Great Pond here, so this area is at risk of infestation. A preliminary survey last year did not find any plants, but a further survey is necessary because of the large amount of shallow area in Hatch Cove. Invasive Plant Patrols (IPPs) are also planned near the boat launches on Great Pond and Long Pond, where milfoil is most likely to be introduced by entering boats. We urge you to visit this site and watch a fascinating 2 part movie: What's so bad about milfoil? http://www.mainelakes.org/milfoil_songo_locks.htm



continued on page 3

Summer Raffle Better than Ever!

It's that time of the year again, the snow is melting, warm air is occasionally making its presence, the birds are migrating north, and we are announcing our annual raffle. Win a great prize while supporting our effort to protect & preserve Great & Long Ponds.

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

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

Drawing August 15 at the Lobster Bake/Auction at the Center for All Seasons, Belgrade, ME (You don't need to be present to win)

Once again we have some exciting prizes to be won:

1st Prize

14' Polar Kraft boat with a 15hp Yamaha 4 stroke motor and Ez Loader trailer

Donated by Hamlin's Marine - hamlinsmarine.com



2nd Prize

3 sections of Shoremaster docking (attachments not included)

Donated by Hammond Lumber - hammondlumber.com



3rd Prize

2 nights lodging on Belgrade Stream with a full day of guided fishing or sight seeing in the Belgrade Region.

Donated by Mike Guarino of Maine Wilderness Tours mainewildernesstours.com



Bonus Raffle

We are also excited to announce our first ever bonus raffle. Any individual purchasing 4 books (\$100) of annual raffle tickets will automatically be entered into the bonus raffle.

Prizes include:

- A \$500 Gift Certificate to Hamlin's Marine.
Donated by Qualis Automotive & VIP Part, Tires and Service qualisauto.com - vipauto.com
- L.L. Bean Streamlight Fly Rod Outfit, Flies and a fly fishing class
Donated by L. L. Bean - llbean.com

Enter today to win one of these exciting prizes, while helping to protect and preserve Great & Long Ponds!

For more information visit: belgradelakesassociation.com

New and Improved Swimmer's Itch Program

You will see a different Swimmer's Itch crew on Great Pond this spring and summer. We're continuing our program to relocate mergansers, which serve as hosts for the parasite that causes swimmer's itch. We have contracted with the USDA's wildlife biologist experts who will be able to take our program to a professional level.

Our BLA-trained crews have done

a great job over the years, and finding this new resource will streamline the program and help assure its continued success. **But we still need your help!** We still need merganser sightings to be reported, along with any other information you can provide about their whereabouts and movement around the lake. Call the BLA (207-512-5150) with any information you think will be useful to our efforts to eradicate swimmer's itch from our lake!



Common Merganser

COMMUNITY, COLLABORATION & CELEBRATION

Don't Miss the Action! Here's What's Happening This Summer at the BLA!

SUMMER CALENDAR

MAY-AUG 15TH

Annual Raffle/Ticket Sales in the Village

-Drawing takes place at Lobster Bake/Auction August 15th.

JULY

Lakes Appreciation Month - BLA celebrates with sailboat races, kayak trips, t-shirt painting, and many more Lake Days activities.

For all the latest details and events, go to belgradelakesassociation.com.

JULY 4

Floats in Boat and Car Parades in Belgrade Lakes

JULY 18

Ice Cream Boat on Great Pond

JULY 26, 11am

101st Annual Meeting at Center for All Seasons

AUGUST 8

Ice Cream Boat on Great Pond

AUGUST 15

Summer Lobster Bake/Auction at the Center for All Seasons. Tickets for the Lobster Bake go on sale in May and are \$60 a head or \$400 for an 8 person table. For more information and tickets call: Jessica Moore at 495-3481.

AUGUST 19

BRCA Golf Tourney at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club to benefit the Lake Trust, which supports the Conservation Corps, Milfoil Prevention and other important water quality programs of the Belgrade Lakes. For more information call Mary Kerwood at 495- 6039.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

To sign up, contact Alan Charles, BLA Volunteer Coordinator, at BLA office 512-5150.



Order your BLA Centennial Edition Coffee Mug by calling: 207 512-5150. Only \$12 each or 4 for \$40

Watershed Based Plan Underway

BLA is working with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a Watershed Based Plan (WBP), which will identify specific measures to address phosphorous sources in Long Pond and Great Pond. The BLA has contributed \$6,000 toward this effort. The WBP, scheduled for completion in May, 2009, will describe actions needed in the watershed over the next 10 years to improve water quality, including non point source remediation projects; land use planning; community outreach; and improved water quality ordinance enforcement. The WBP will provide the basis for a series of Clean Water Act grants to reduce sources of phosphorous pollution in both lakes.

Some of the actions already underway include:

Community Forum a Big Success

As one of the initial steps of the Watershed Based Plan, a Community Forum was held on February 4th at Union Church in Belgrade Village. Approximately 60 residents, business owners and municipal officials primarily from Belgrade, Rome and Mount Vernon gathered to learn about the Watershed Based Plan and to discuss ideas and concrete proposals for actions. Workgroups developed recommendations for actions related to best management practices for roads, septic systems, ordinance and code enforcement, erosion controls, and monitoring approaches. The forum was an unqualified success, a clear sign that many local people care deeply about the lakes.

Road Best Management Practice (BMP) Workshop Scheduled

A road best management practice (BMP) workshop has been tentatively scheduled for June 9th. Contact BRCA for details. Target audience is road association officials, contractors, and municipal officials.

Grant Money Available for Phosphorous Reduction Projects

The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance has grant money available to work in the Long Pond watershed in 2009. This is a cost-share grant, and funds are available for a wide variety of projects to protect and improve water quality by controlling erosion and reducing phosphorous runoff. Eligible projects include work on roads, driveways, ditches and culverts, buffer plantings, and other erosion-control projects. For more information, contact Peter Kallin at the BRCA office: (207) 495-6039 or via email at brca@gwi.net.

BLA Water Quality Programs

BLA continues to both lead and support a range of efforts to preserve and protect the water quality of Great Pond, Long Pond, and the Belgrade Lakes watershed. This year our water quality budget is approximately \$45,000.

Our programs address key water quality issues including:

- **Gloeotrichia Projects** — In Summer 2008, BLA completed a range of continuing and new activities to evaluate the occurrence, causes, and solutions for blooms of gloeotrichia and other cyanobacteria in Great Pond and Long Pond
- **Lake Smart Program** — BLA works with DEP on this program to evaluate water quality impacts from properties, recommend improvements to **reduce runoff and phosphorous inputs to the lake**, and reward property owners for participation.
- **Conservation Corps** — BLA supports this BRCA program which provides free labor to property owners for property improvements to reduce stormwater runoff and erosion, which reduces the amount of phosphorus and other pollutants entering into the lakes.
- **Invasive Plant Patrols** — Each year trained BLA volunteers conduct surveys for **invasive plant species** near the public boat launches on Great and Long Ponds and in the Belgrade Stream.
- **Courtesy Boat Inspections for Invasive Milfoil** — BLA provides paid and volunteer staff to perform daily boat inspections for **milfoil** at the public launches on Great and Long Ponds.



This map shows the integral relationship between the lakes and land within the Belgrade Watershed. We're all in it and must work together!

- **Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program** — BLA supports this state-sponsored program to collect lake water quality information from May through September.
- **Swimmer's Itch Program** — BLA leads a program to inoculate and relocate mergansers, which serve as hosts for the **swimmer's itch** parasite.
- **Watershed Based Plan** — BLA is working with BRCA and DEP to develop the Watershed Based Plan (WBP), which will identify specific measures to address **phosphorous sources** in Long Pond and Great Pond (see adjacent details).



A loon nest. See back page for details

continued from page 1— Help BLA keep milfoil...

BLA needs your help in our work to fight milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants. Here are some ways you can help keep invasives out of Great Pond and Long Pond:

- **Become a Courtesy Boat Inspector.** Prevention remains the best defense against milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants, but our paid CBIs can't be on duty all the time. Volunteers are needed to extend coverage and to assist during times of high boat traffic. The **Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance will be conducting CBI training this spring and summer (BRCA).**
- **Participate in an Invasive Plant Patrol.** Early detection of invasive plants is vital to a rapid and effective response. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) will be conducting IPP training in the Belgrade Lakes area this spring.
- **Get trained.** Even if you're not sure if you'll be able to volunteer, consider attending one of the training events. A community of informed residents is vital to preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants. We need your help to protect the Belgrade Lakes from milfoil and other invasive plants. Please contact BLA to learn more about how to volunteer. For training details and dates, please contact: 512-5150 or email us at bla_org@roadrunner.com.

Save the Date

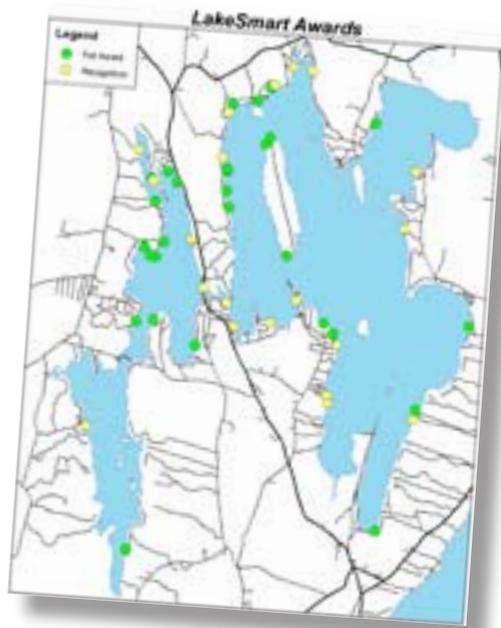
**BLA Annual Meeting: Sunday, July 26th, 11am
Center for all Seasons in Belgrade Lakes**

The LakeSmart Program

Lake Friendly Landscaping for Healthy Lakes

The LakeSmart program was started by Maine DEP in 2003 as a way to encourage shorefront property owners to use lake-friendly practices at their home or camp. The entire property — driveway, structures, septic system, lawn, buffer, and shorefront — is evaluated, and properties that score well in all areas receive a LakeSmart award and the sign as shown below. Just as important, the evaluation includes recommendations to help homeowners make their property more lake-friendly. A primary benefit of these lake-friendly practices is to reduce erosion and runoff to the lake, which in turn reduces phosphorous inputs to the lake.

LakeSmart came to the Belgrade Lakes Association in 2005. To date, 32 residents of Great Pond and Long Pond have received LakeSmart awards, and 24 more have received recognition in one or more categories (visit the BLA website at belgradelakesassociation.com for the full list). In 2009, BLA will be participating in a new pilot program — LakeSmart evaluations will be conducted by volunteers from around the lakes. Volunteers evaluators are needed for this program (training is provided). And as always, BLA members are encouraged to have their properties evaluated.



LakeSmart FAQs

How do I participate? Contact BLA to schedule a free evaluation.

Why should I have my property evaluated? To protect your lake! The LakeSmart process will give you ideas and technical assistance to make your property more lake-friendly in addition to recognizing the work you have already done. If you qualify for the LakeSmart award, your property will serve as an example for other lakefront residents and encourage them to take action. We think every homeowner concerned about protecting their lake should have a LakeSmart evaluation.

How is the evaluation scored? Properties are scored in four categories: driveway and parking area, structures and septic system, lawn, recreation areas, and paths, and shorefront and buffer area. Properties scoring over 67% in all four categories receive the LakeSmart award. There is also a bonus recognition category for undeveloped land.



I don't think I'll get the award. Should I still have an evaluation? Absolutely! Even if you don't qualify for the full award, the evaluation will give you ideas on how to help protect your lake (and how to qualify for the full award, if that's your goal). Besides, you might be wrong!

Is there any obligation? No. The LakeSmart evaluation is simply an opportunity to learn how lake-friendly your property is and get ideas on how you can help protect your lake. You don't have to follow any of the recommendations (but we hope you will), and

LakeSmart evaluations will not result in any enforcement action from DEP.

How else can I help? Contact BLA to become a volunteer LakeSmart evaluator. DEP will provide training. And yes, you can volunteer even if you don't have a LakeSmart award.



LakeSmart property on Great Pond

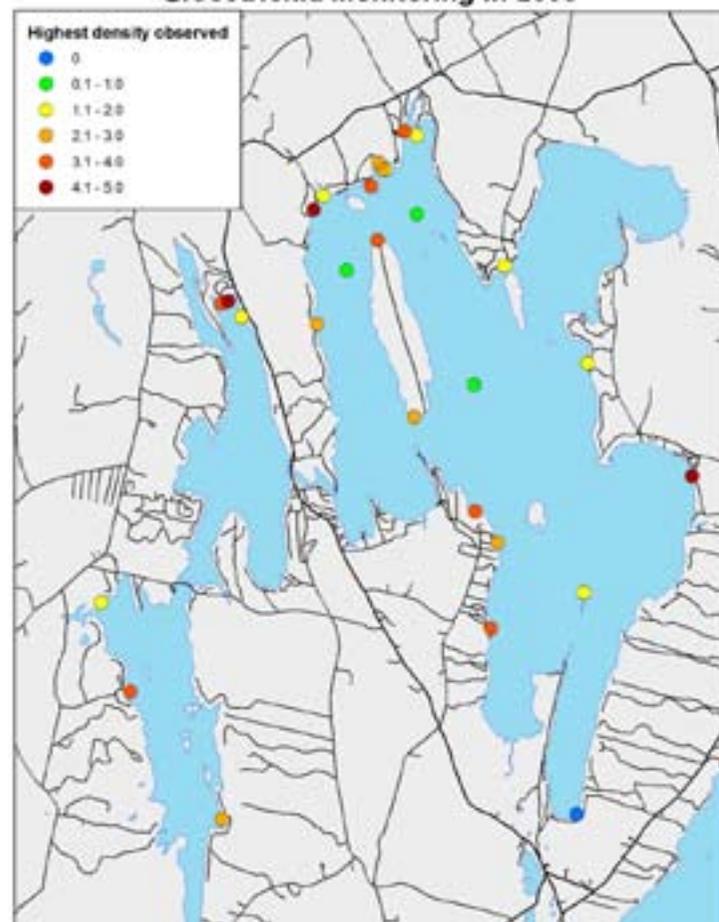
Volunteer Gloeotrichia Observation Program

Results of Volunteer Gloeotrichia Observation Program

- BLA continued the Volunteer Gloeotrichia Observation program, started in 2005.
- In 2008, volunteers recorded over 500 observations of gloeotrichia density from 27 locations in Great Pond and Long Pond over a 3-month period
- The results of the volunteer Gloeotrichia observation program from the years 2005, 2006, and 2008 have been entered into a database.
- The database allows us to plot observation data on maps and charts, to evaluate trends in the location, severity, and duration of Gloeotrichia blooms during the summer, and to compare trends from year to year.
- The program will be continued in Summer 2009 with a goal to increase the number of observation stations.
- The observation procedure will be modified to improve comparability between observers.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours to this effort and Great Pond resident Sarah Melvin for all her microscopic observations and photos of Gloeotrichia.

Gloeotrichia Monitoring in 2008



Map of Great Pond and Long Pond showing the Maximum Density of Gloeotrichia Reported during June through August, 2008 at Individual Volunteer Observation Stations

(Map Prepared by Jason Bulay, BRCA)

Conclusions from the Ultrasound Field Trial and Gloeotrichia Studies

The Belgrade Lakes Association, as part of its overall effort to protect and improve the water quality of Great Pond and Long Pond, has been evaluating the occurrence of cyanobacteria blooms, particularly one species called *Gloeotrichia echinulata*. We have worked closely with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), Colby College and other organizations to better understand the problem and potential solutions. Over the last three years, BLA has contributed \$00000 towards *Gloeotrichia* studies.

We now understand that the primary cause of cyanobacteria blooms is an excess amount of phosphorous in the lake, which comes from multiple, natural, and manmade sources. These sources include runoff and erosion along the shoreline, use of phosphorous fertilizers, and improperly-functioning septic systems. Phosphorous has been pushed to excess levels in the lakes by development and land use practices along the shoreline.

As part of our evaluation process, BLA has reviewed a number of potential techniques that could be used to reduce *Gloeotrichia* blooms. These techniques can be divided into two broad categories: 1) in-lake treatments to directly address the *Gloeotrichia* blooms, and 2) reduction of the sources of excess phosphorous entering the lakes, a primary cause of the blooms.

Many of the in-lake mitigation methods reviewed were determined to be unfeasible based on cost, negative impacts to the lake, or prohibition by state and local agencies. Several methods were retained for further consideration as potentially feasible. Based on interest from members and local residents, BLA did conduct an in-lake field trial of one of these in-lake treatment methods, using ultrasound technology,

during the summer of 2008. A complete report on the results of the ultrasound field trial will be available on BLA website in or around May, 2009.

BLA has reached the following conclusions:

- BLA will not continue field trials of ultrasound treatments, and will focus our resources on solutions to the primary lake-wide and watershed-wide problem, which is excess phosphorous.
- Solutions to the lakewide phosphorous problem will include reduction of phosphorous sources through the expansion of existing programs such as LakeSmart and the Conservation Corps, and new programs such as the Watershed Based Plan, which will provide specific actions to reduce phosphorous sources.
- DEP evaluation of the unintended, non-target effects of the 2008 ultrasound trial on other lake organisms did not indicate any observable effects. In its report, the DEP has indicated that some long-term effects would be expected, and does not specifically endorse the use of ultrasound in Great and Long Ponds, or in Maine lakes in general.
- Visual and microscopic observations by Great Pond Resident and BLA Water Quality Committee member Sarah Melvin, did indicate that ultrasound can be effective in causing an increased degradation and destruction of *Gloeotrichia* in the localized area of treatment. In addition, Sarah's observations did not indicate that there were any observed, detrimental effects to other non-targeted lake organisms.
- There are currently no permit requirements or other legal restrictions on the use of ultrasound devices by private property owners.

- Lake residents who have concentrated *Gloeotrichia* blooms in a localized area such as a cove may achieve some reduction in blooms in the area of treatment through the use of ultrasound.. This may result in improvements that would increase their enjoyment of the water in their areas.
- Residents interested in using ultrasound technology can go to BLA website to find a list of vendors and additional information on the use of ultrasound.
- If lake residents choose to use ultrasound devices, please let us know. BLA will continue to monitor the affects of privately operated ultrasound machines and will report our findings to the membership.
- BLA will also continue to monitor lake conditions through the Volunteer Observation Program and will continue to investigate and explore other possible solutions.
- **The most important steps that we can take to address cyanobacteria blooms are to reduce the sources of phosphorous entering the lakes.** BLA will continue working with the BRCA, DEP, and others to achieve phosphorous reductions. Residents of the lake can take steps by participating in LakeSmart and by following responsible land use practices as outlined in "A Laker's Dozen," available on page 7.

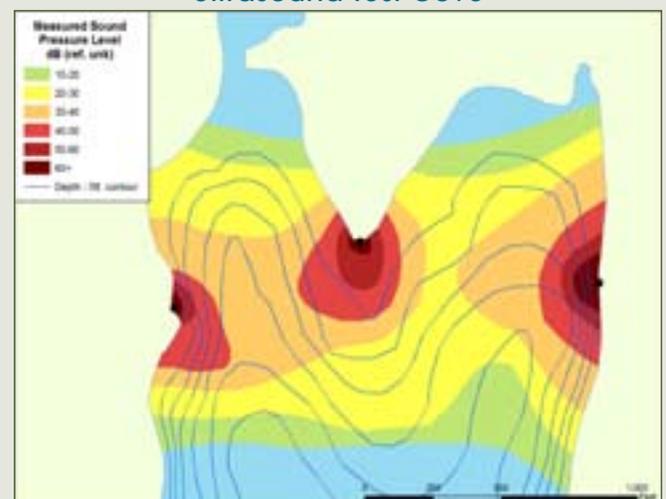


Microscopic Photograph of Healthy *Gloeotrichia* Colony (by Sarah Melvin)

Microscopic Photograph of degraded *Gloeotrichia* colony. (by Sarah Melvin)



Ultrasound Test Cove



Test Cove Map with Plot of Measured Sound Levels in Decibels (dB) in Vicinity of Three Ultrasound Devices. The results indicate an expected range of effect (>30 dB above ambient sound levels) at a distance of 200 to 400 feet from the devices. (Map prepared by Peter Kallin)

BRCA Conservation Corps needs projects for 2009

The BRCA Conservation Corps had a very successful year in 2008, completing 55 projects over the course of the summer. With your help, 2009 will be just as successful — the Conservation Corps relies on residents of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed to provide project sites. BLA contributed \$0,000 over the last three years to support Conservation Corps project. All the work that has been done can be attributed to the hundreds of people who decided to take action to make their property more lake-friendly, and we thank them and hope that many more will do the same this year.

Over two dozen homeowners have already come forward with potential projects for this summer, but that is only a fraction of the number it will take to repeat last year's success. BRCA has cost share funds available to help with projects on Long Pond, but all BLA members are encouraged to contact the Conservation Corps for a free site visit.

Projects the Conservation Corps can help with include **shoreline stabilization**, **buffer gardens**, runoff diversion or **infiltration**, rain gardens, bare soil stabilization, and other **erosion control** techniques. These are all important measures to reduce erosion and runoff to the lake, which in turn reduces the inputs of phosphorous and other pollutants to the lake.

If you're thinking about having the Conservation Corps work on your property,

here are some things to keep in mind:

- **Labor is free.** If the Conservation Corps works on your property, you will be responsible only for the cost of the materials used; the labor is paid for by BRCA and your donations to the Conservation Corps.
- There is **no obligation.** The purpose of the initial site visit is to discuss ways to make your property more lake-friendly, and you can choose to act on all, some, or none of the recommendations. You can also implement our recommendations yourself, or with the help of a professional landscaper or contractor.
- If you're not sure you have a problem, you can still have a site visit. There may be small improvements you can make to avoid future problems. If your property is already lake-friendly, you might also consider applying for a **LakeSmart award** — additional recognition for protecting your lake.
- **Get in early.** Although the Conservation Corps Director won't begin visiting sites until May, the summer's schedule is usually nearly full by the end of June. That may seem like a long way off, but the sooner you contact the Conservation Corps, the more likely it

is that they will be able to work on your project this summer.

For more information, or to set up a site visit, contact the BRCA office:
(207) 495-6039



Vegetation at the shoreline helps prevent runoff into the lake.

Volunteer - It's Fun

For those who have not yet experienced a BLA volunteer opportunity, you might think that these activities are quite time consuming and/or require some expertise. This is not the case for many of our ongoing programs such as CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspection), IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol), and Raffle Ticket Sales. Each of these activities take no more than 2-3 hours per week. Volunteers often work in teams and schedules are very flexible.

CBI requires only a minimum of straight forward training. It includes general familiarity with invasive plants but absolute identification of plants during inspection of boats and trailers is not required as samples are submitted to BRCA for confirmation. Inspectors can use periods of slow boat traffic as they choose to read, or just enjoy being on the water's edge. You also will get to meet people by assisting in launchings and dockings.

Although plant identification is helpful for IPP, it is not required to be on the team. Canoe paddlers are needed to position inspectors and kayakers are needed to spot divers.

Raffle tickets for marine prizes are sold on weekend days in the BLA office parking lot across from Days Store. This is another great way to meet neighbors and visitors. On a sunny day with the Farmers Market open, it's a bustling little burg. With almost constant traffic, and many out-of-state plates, one gets the feeling that the world has come to you so they too can enjoy the beautiful lakes that are our fortune.

Volunteer Opportunities with BLA include:

- Be a Courtesy Boat Inspector
- Join a BLA committee
- Participate in Invasive Plant Patrols
- Be a Volunteer Gloeotrichia Observer
- Help spot Mergansers for the Swimmer's Itch Program
- Become trained to be a LakeSmart Evaluator
- Sell BLA Raffle Tickets
- And MORE!!

Become a volunteer and experience the fun and satisfaction of contributing a small amount of time to a cause that works to protect our lakes. You can sign up on-line or find out more at belgradelakesassociation.com or call Alan Charles, Volunteer Coordinator, at 441-7055.

Limited Edition Map

Limited Edition Map celebrating the BLA Centennial is available for a \$1,000 donation to support the important works of your association. Called "A fisheye view of Great and Long Pond" is by renowned artist and calligrapher Pier Gustafson of Boston. This work, suitable for framing, is sure to become a family heirloom for all.



Volunteer today!

BLA Membership Committee reminds you that your dues help support the following:

Water Quality improvement

Buffer Strip education

BLA website

LakeSmart Program and awards

Lake preservation

Swimmer's Itch program

Education and Outreach programs

Ice Cream boat

Annual Lakes Day

Newsletter

Join today!

A Laker's Dozen

13 Ways You Can Help the Lake

1. Always check boat, trailer and equipment for plant fragments before launch and after take-out.
2. Respect Shoreland Zone Regulations. Before making any change on your land, check with your town to see what's permitted and what's not in the shoreland: 250' of the lake and 75' of streams.
3. Control storm water run-off from buildings, paths, driveways and road. Check your property on a rainy day and fix run-off sites by planting vegetation or constructing swales to direct water flow away from the lake.
4. Cultivate a wooded buffer. Trees, shrubs and grasses slow the flow and filter soil and pollutants from rainwater before they end up in the lake.
5. Limit lawn size, mow less often, and don't rake duff within 75 feet of shore.
6. Limit fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use. Long lasting residues in these chemicals can turn lakes green and harm aquatic life.
7. Don't stress the septic system. Inspect the system yearly. Pump the tank regularly. Systems 20 years and older should be inspected by a specialist. Use phosphorus-free cleaners, and detergents. Stagger laundry loads. Minimize water use. Don't put grease or toxics down the drain.
8. Construct docks and floats with lake-friendly materials. Choose cedar, cypress, plastic, or aluminum over wood that's pressure-treated with arsenic.
9. Dogs, humans and boats should never be washed in the lake!
10. Observe headway speed within 200 feet of shore. Boating in shallow water disturbs fish habitat and stirs up sediment.
11. When you replace a boat motor, choose a clean 4-stroke engine.
12. Preserve wildlife habitat on land and underwater. Lake shallows and shorelands are home to many native species and nurseries for young.
13. Support your local lake association and Maine COLA.

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HELP WANTED

INSURE THE FUTURE OF YOUR LAKES
JOIN THE BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Name _____
Address _____
City, State _____
Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Level of membership:
 \$500 \$250 \$150 \$25
 \$10 Other _____
 Gift Membership for _____

Please tear off and mail to:
Belgrade Lakes Association
PO Box 5211, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04910



Tel: 207 512 5150

Join online at belgradelakesassociation.com

Member Survey on water quality

Please let us know your priorities for water quality by numbering each initiative from **1** to **5**, with **1** being the **MOST IMPORTANT** to you, and **5** **THE LEAST IMPORTANT** to you. See additional descriptions of these programs elsewhere on Pages 3.

Circle your priorities

- Education** for property owners and boat users on what they can do to improve water quality. 1 2 3 4 5
- Lakesmart program** - evaluates lakeshore properties and identifies recommended improvements to reduce impacts to water quality - also provides recognition for property owners with lake-friendly practices. 1 2 3 4 5
- Phosphorus abatement** - actions to reduce phosphorous inputs to the lakes from camp roads, shoreline erosion, septic systems, and other sources. 1 2 3 4 5
- In-Lake Treatment Methods** - efforts to reduce the occurrence of gloeotrichia and other cyanobacteria blooms. 1 2 3 4 5
- Milfoil abatement** - efforts to identify and remove invasive milfoil from the lakes. 1 2 3 4 5
- Boat inspection at ramps** - inspections to prevent invasive plants from entering lakes. 1 2 3 4 5
- Improved road management** - to reduce runoff, erosion, and phosphorous inputs to the lake from roads. 1 2 3 4 5
- Conservation Corps** - helps property owners complete land management projects to protect shorefront and lake 1 2 3 4 5
- Swimmer's Itch program** - removes mergansers, which host the swimmer's itch parasite, from the lake 1 2 3 4 5
- Water Quality Monitoring** - monitoring and reporting on trends and changes in lake water quality. 1 2 3 4 5

Is there something related to water quality you would like us to be doing or not doing?

Clip and send this survey to BLA, using address on back cover.

FAQ's from the BLA

Q Do You Know...

A Loons usually come back year after year to make use of man-made nesting sites like the one pictured here due to the increase in shoreline development and loss of natural habitat. Due to a BRCA and BLA collaborative effort, this man made loon nest awaits its first loon inhabitants. Eventually, nesting loons should be very comfortable (and productive!) this summer! Because of the loons' nest having to be at the water's edge, wake from boats and personal watercraft can wash eggs out of their nest. Please be considerate of nesting loons by reducing your boat wake whenever possible.



Q Do You Know...

A This summer BLA plans to spend \$24,000 of member contributions to support invasive-plant boat inspections at public landings on Great and Long ponds, erosion control projects on shorefront properties on both lakes, and a program to control the parasite that causes swimmers' itch (also known as duck itch) found on Great Pond. To find out more about these programs---formally known as Courtesy Boat Inspections, Conservation Corps, and Swimmers' Itch Program, respectively---visit our web site belgradelakesassociation.org.

Q Do You Know...

A BLA purchased The Mountain (225 acres) and gifted the property to the BRCA by contributing \$00000 figure to come, and manages an endowment fund which makes annual contributions toward maintenance of The Mountain. The BLA also works with the local land trust, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), to help secure other parcels of land, including the 6000 acre Kennebec Highlands.

BLA Postcard

A postcard of the centennial map, with the BLA commemorative cancellation stamp shown here, is available for \$1 by contacting the BLA office. Buy while they last...limited supply remains.



online, all the time @ belgradelakesassociation.com



BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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