



May 11, 2021

## 2021 STOP MILFOIL Annual Appeal

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After a relatively mild winter in Central Maine and the early arrival of Spring, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our summer friends back at the lake. On behalf of the Belgrade Lakes Association Board of Directors, I hope that you and your family have stayed well, despite the unusual circumstances we've been faced with. We know many of you weren't able to get here last summer, and we look forward to seeing you back at the lake!

While many things around us seem to be on pause, invasive milfoil has persisted; it continues to pose a threat to our lakes. In the decade that the BLA has been dedicated to fighting milfoil, we were fortunate that our partnerships enabled us to continue that fight despite the limitations of the virus. Last year, we were productive in removing milfoil; the virus didn't slow us down! However, despite a lot of folks not spending time at the lake and unfortunate economic times for many, the need to manage the threat of milfoil remains, as do the associated expenses. If you have been able, we genuinely appreciate the support you have provided in our efforts to keep milfoil from spreading.

### **Invasive Milfoil Threat:**

Last summer, we removed 32,846 gallons of invasive milfoil from Great Meadow Stream and Great Pond—this was more than 4,000 gallons more than the year before!

Our plan for 2021 is aggressive. New England Milfoil is under contract to be back for four weeks, and we plan to put two 7 Lakes Alliance crews on the lake, removing plants and searching for new outbreaks. The doubled efforts by our local milfoil will provide expanded coverage at a comparable cost. The teams will also continue to put down permanent burlap barriers on the lake bottom to slow the milfoil growth. This technique has been successful on Messalonskee in years prior and proved productive on Great Pond in 2020.

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## Your Help Still Needed

In 2020, the BLA invested \$127,234 in the STOP MILFOIL program, yet we collected only \$75,315 in STOP MILFOIL donations. That means we operated at a shortfall; we are working hard to close this gap. Our programs are made possible through the generous support of people like you!

This summer, we again plan to invest nearly \$130,000 in our milfoil program to maintain our aggressive plan of pulling plants, laying down burlap/benthic barriers, and searching for locations of potential spread. Your generous donations make this happen—you can help protect our lakes.

Please consider making a contribution to the 2021 STOP MILFOIL Annual Appeal. Your financial support has helped us successfully control this milfoil infestation for the last decade, and your continued support will help us close this funding gap and maintain our strong control efforts.

Please make your check payable to “BLA – STOP MILFOIL” and mail it in the enclosed envelope, or make a donation online at [www.belgradelakesassociation.org](http://www.belgradelakesassociation.org).

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. Every dollar you donate goes into a dedicated STOP MILFOIL account to be used only to fight milfoil on Great Pond and keep it from spreading into Long Pond. We look forward to seeing you back at the lake!

With great appreciation,



Richard LaBelle  
STOP MILFOIL Task Force Chair  
*and Your BLA Board of Directors*

George Atkinson  
John Atkinson  
Polly Beatie  
Andy Cook  
Pat Donahue  
Paul Feinberg

Liz Fontaine  
Kirt Furbush  
Stephanie Gardner  
Dick Greenan  
Joy Intriago  
Carol Johnson  
Richard LaBelle

Bert Languet  
Gail Rizzo  
Jack Schultz  
Maggie Shannon  
Bill Shontell  
Steve Smith  
Alex Wall



# INVASIVE MILFOIL... ...STILL A REAL THREAT



*This battle is not over. Large quantities of invasive milfoil were removed from Great Meadow Stream last year. There remains much more work to do.*

## 2021 STOP MILFOIL Annual Appeal



# Removal work continued in 2020, despite virus setbacks



*Getting a burlap barrier ready to be laid over milfoil to prevent growth*

- Invasive milfoil continues to be a concern in our lakes. In 2020, we removed a total of 32,846 gallons—that is another increase over previous year. The efforts are primarily based in Great Meadow Stream on the north end of Great Pond. But can you believe it—in such a difficult year, we were still able to remove even more milfoil from our lake?!
- We have continued our cooperative effort with New England Milfoil and 7 Lakes Alliance. New England Milfoil worked in our lakes for a total of 7 weeks last year, while the 7 Lakes Alliance supported a full-time crew operating nearly every week from Monday to Thursday.
- Teams continue to monitor sensitive areas of Great Pond and Long Pond for milfoil; the Adopt-a-Shoreline program is an important part of this monitoring.
- Benthic barriers or mats (a safe, dark fabric material that blocks sunlight on the lake bottom to inhibit the growth of milfoil) were first used in 2020 and we found them to be successful. Teams will continue to utilize these mats as a defense against invasive aquatic plants.
- Milfoil is a threat to lake recreation and also property values. We must remain steady in our efforts to remove milfoil and do all we can to keep it from spreading.
- Courtesy Boat Inspectors are staffed at our boat ramps from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, 7 days a week, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. In 2020, 5,079 boats were observed at the Great Pond launch, while 2,664 inspections were completed on boats launched into Long Pond. These figures represent nearly 2/3 of all boats being launched into the entire Belgrade Lakes chain. There were no invasive plants found, but 90 native plants were removed from boats and/or trailers.
- Adopt-a-Shoreline volunteers have increased the coverage to about 71% of our lakeshore on Great Pond and Long Pond. In 2020, 72 volunteers donated 556 hours of time in monitoring our shoreline, looking for invasive plants like milfoil. If you're interested in joining this effort, let us know!

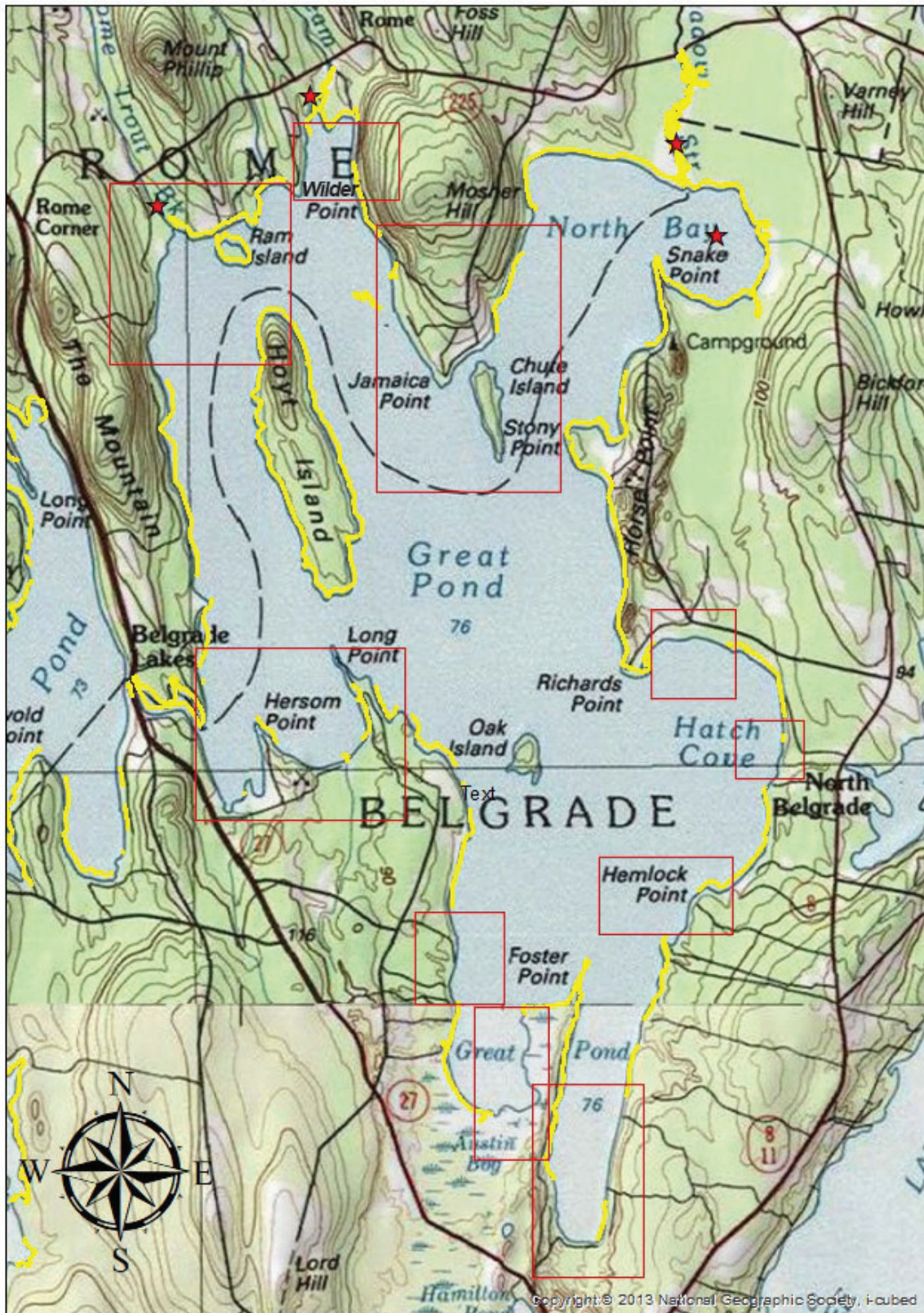
## 2020 STOP MILFOIL Action Plan

- Maine-based New England Milfoil has been contracted to help remove milfoil in 2021. We are scheduled to have them for 4 weeks this fall.
- 7 Lakes Alliance has added a second milfoil removal crew, which will enable removal 7 days per week. One team will work Monday through Thursday; the second will work Thursday through Sunday.
- Both teams use hand-pulling and diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH) in order to remove milfoil.
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W) have authorized the extension of a surface restriction in Great Meadow Stream. This prohibits motorized watercraft from entering the area marked with restriction buoys, helping to protect the safety of the milfoil divers while also minimizing the impact of propellers on milfoil plants (milfoils regrow from plant fragments, so propeller activity is especially counterproductive to the cause).
- Last year, though the virus presented obstacles, teams still went to the lakes to remove milfoil and monitor water quality. Your generosity provided for \$75,315 in donations to support milfoil removal in our two beautiful lakes. However, the BLA spend \$127,234 on milfoil removal programs, meaning that we had a shortfall of \$51,919. We strive be conservative in our fiscal plan, but we must remain effective. We must keep steady in our efforts to remove milfoil and prevent its spread.



*Diver-Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) boat and crew at work in North Bay.*





### Adopt-a-Shoreline 2020

- ★ variable milfoil areas
- Adopted Shorelines
- Areas that need adopting!

This map was created by Sharon Mann  
Milfoil Remediation Manager  
7 Lakes Alliance in partnership with  
Belgrade Lakes Association  
Fall 2020

Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers have signed up to survey 71% of the shoreline for new invasive milfoil outbreaks.



# What You Can Do To Help

Invasive milfoil is a critical threat to our whole community. It not only degrades the quality and appeal of our lakes, but can also reduce property values and hurt our local businesses and economy. If you love our lakes and want to see them in a beautiful, clean, natural state, here's what you can do to help:

- **Learn** – Become familiar with invasive milfoil and learn to identify it. Be on the lookout for it when you are on the water. Visit the Maine Lakes Resource Center in Belgrade Lakes Village (178 Main Street) to see live samples of invasive milfoil and also get updates on the work being done around the lakes to remove it.
- **Inspect** – Check all watercraft, trailers, mooring lines, anchors, oars, and paddles for plant fragments. Also, look for plants on fishing lures and nets, as well as hunting decoys, duck boats, waders, and blinds. Prevention is still the best way to keep new infestations from getting started and to stop milfoil from jumping from lake to lake.
- **Sign Up** – Become an Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteer and patrol your shoreline for new outbreaks. Call (207) 495-6039 for details and/or to sign up!
- **Give** – Make a donation to the 2021 STOP MILFOIL Annual Appeal by sending a check made out to BLA- STOP MILFOIL in the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.belgradelakesassociation.org](http://www.belgradelakesassociation.org). Every dollar donated goes into a special milfoil account that will be used only for fighting invasive milfoil on Great Pond, and to keep it from spreading into Long Pond. Thank you!

This is a battle that we are winning; we are over a decade strong and still going. We have kept milfoil from spreading all around Great Pond and getting into Long Pond. This fight is not over. If we ease up, we risk losing our lakes to this threat; we've got to keep it up!

*Thank you for your vigilance and your very generous donations. With your continued support, this is a battle we can keep on winning!*



*Searching for milfoil with the Aquascope.*



*Milfoil trembles at the sight of this crew!*



*Thank you for helping save our lakes and their futures in the Belgrades.*

