



May 2026

Dear Neighbor and Friend of Great Pond and Long Pond,

Spring is here! The ice is out, the loons are back, and docks are going in! Before you know it, you'll be out on the water, sharing summer days with family and friends, just like you do every year. We can't wait to see you.

But here's something worth knowing as you get ready for the season: every single dollar you give to the BLA helps to keep Great Pond and Long Pond clean, clear, and healthy. And the BLA runs entirely on member support. That means it runs on neighbors like you.

Now is the perfect time to join or renew your membership for 2026. The BLA has been the steward of these two special lakes since 1908, proudly the oldest lake association in Maine, and your membership is what makes that work possible.

Here are important ways your membership dollars support our lakes:

- They fund Courtesy Boat Inspectors at both boat landings from Memorial Day through mid-October, keeping invasive plants from hitching a ride in on someone's trailer and taking hold in our ponds.
- They support the LakeSmart program, which helps property owners (maybe even you) create lake-friendly shorelines that filter runoff before it reaches the water.
- They pay for water quality monitoring that tracks clarity, phosphorus levels, and other key indicators season after season.
- They back shoreline restoration, community education, and partnerships that protect the watershed we all share.

Phosphorus and sediment are the two biggest threats to our lakes. Excess phosphorus fuels algae blooms that cloud the water and harm fish and wildlife. Sediment from erosion covers spawning grounds and carries more pollutants into the ponds. The BLA's work — your membership's work — fights both, every year.

We'd love to see you in person, too. Join us at our **Members Only Reception on Saturday, May 23rd at The Village Inn from 2–4 p.m.** It's a wonderful chance to catch up with old friends, meet some new ones, and yes, renew your membership right there if you'd like.

While you're thinking about the lake this spring, a few things you can do:

- Renew your membership, or join for the first time!
- Invite a neighbor, family member, or friend who loves the lake to join alongside you.
- Check your shoreline buffer and make sure it's doing its job.
- Get your septic system inspected and pumped if it's due.

Memberships start at just \$25, and the average gift is \$100. All contributions are fully tax-deductible; we're a registered 501(c)(3), and may qualify for employer matching funds. You can join or renew online at www.belgradelakesassociation.org/Memberships, or return the enclosed form with your check.

Every member matters. Every dollar stays local. And every summer you spend on these lakes is made a little better because neighbors came together to protect them.

See you on the water,

Stephanie Gardner
Membership Co-chair
Belgrade Lakes Association

Carol Johnson
Membership Co-chair