



BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

Summer 2021



Great Pond...Great Fun!

Photo by Benjamin Beattie

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

WELCOME BACK to the lake! This is music to my ears. We have been hearing this a lot recently as we greet old friends and family after the last 15 months of Covid restrictions. Many folks could not come to Maine last year, and our social activities were severely curtailed. We were unable to have our usual Annual Meeting or conduct our raffle to support BLA's activities. However, our efforts to preserve the quality of our lakes were not deterred. We continued our milfoil work by removing 33,006 gallons of plants and putting down 65,340 square feet of new burlap barriers. Our lakes were heavily used by day boaters, and CBI's were on duty from Memorial Day through Labor Day checking 5,079 boats at the Great Pond ramp and 2,664 at the Long Pond ramp for invasive plants. While LakeSmart visits and YCC activities were limited by the pandemic, we co-funded a new Erosion Control Coordinator with the 7 Lakes Alliance to address the remediation efforts on properties identified in the Great Pond Watershed Survey. We also continued our Loon Conservation Program on both our lakes.



Carol Johnson, BLA President

Last year our technical skills were tested when we produced the Member Update via Zoom in lieu of the Annual Meeting. It was well-received with up to 250 views and provided content that was clear and concise. Our message was also extremely clear - **KEEP THE DIRT OUT OF THE LAKE!** This can be as easy as planting a buffer to help filter the dirt, or a major road reconstruction, and/or installing culverts. The Great Pond Watershed Survey has identified 237 NPS (Nonpoint Source Pollution) sites requiring various levels of remediation. The Long Pond Watershed Survey was conducted last fall, and it listed and identified an additional 223 sites. We have a huge task ahead of us and ask each of you to help. If you have received a letter regarding this issue, please contact the Erosion Control Coordinator at the 7 Lakes Alliance (207-495-6039 or nodirt@7lakesalliance.org). Take stock of your waterfront and make sure you have a buffer in place. Check your septic system regularly and be sure it is "pumped out" every three years if you have a year-round home or every five years if your place is seasonal. Metaphyton is often an indicator of a defective system leeching into the lake. Keep an eye out along your shoreline for invasives, milfoil, and metaphyton.

This year we are going to **celebrate** at our annual meeting which starts at 4PM on August 8th at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Course. Our agenda includes a short business meeting followed of a presentation of our Loon Project by Mr. Lee Attix. We will have an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones while looking out over our beautiful lakes. Another Member Update meeting via Zoom is scheduled for early fall with results from our activities this year. We hope these two events will provide you with a social time as well as current information regarding our endeavors.

We are excited about our plans. We have some big goals ahead of us over the next ten years, but we also have a "lake map" of what needs to be done. By collaborating closely with 7 Lakes Alliance, we will implement programs designed to improve the water clarity in our lakes. Please be part of the team. Stop by the raffle table opposite Day's Store on Saturdays and Sundays or at the Farmers Market on Sundays to say hello. We are grateful to Hamlin's Marine for partnering with BLA again this year and for providing our Grand Prize. Likewise, our thanks go out to all the other donors who continue each year to make our raffle so successful. Together we will achieve our goals.

We are looking forward to seeing you in August if not before - and WELCOME BACK to the lake!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol

THE BLA RAFFLE IS BACK AND IT'S GREAT

By Lynn Matson and Andrew Cook

Despite the pandemic, the BLA Raffle is back this summer and it looks great! We have the most excellent line-up of old and new prizes in the history of the raffle, thanks to our many generous sponsors. The total prize value is over \$30,000!

Alumacraft V16 power boat package Grand Prize

Hamlin's Marine is back this year with the donation of a gorgeous Alumacraft V16 power boat that includes a fine Yamaha F20 motor and a trailer. This package alone has a retail value of \$11,500. Thank you, Hamlin's Marine.

Boat Lift to Lobsters donations:

We have a whole line-up of additional great prizes. **Hammond Lumber Company** is donating a SHOREMASTER 4,000 lb vertical boatlift and three sections of SHOREMASTER dock.

Lynch Landscaping has donated a \$500 gift certificate for their services. Or if your landscaping needs some major trimming, you can win a Poulan Pro 18" chain saw donated by **Lowe's of Augusta**.



Win this Alumacraft V16 power boat package generously donated by Hamlin's Marine.

For a taste of Maine, the **Belgrade**

Lakes Village Farmers Market is donating a \$300 gift basket, and **Day's Store** will outfit you for the perfect picnic with Kerry's finest cooked lobsters, sirloin steaks and fresh sweet corn.

Bonus Raffle Bonanza with \$100 Ticket Purchase

The Bonus Raffle is also better than ever! Buy \$100 of tickets and you can win a Laser Performance Sunfish, the world's most popular sailboat. Or if you want to get some exercise on the water, you can win an O'Brien Vapor 106 Inflatable Stand-Up Paddleboard donated by **Lakepoint Real Estate**.

Want some fun off the water? Win four rounds of golf with cart at **Belgrade Lakes Golf Club** generously donated by Gail and Frank Rizzo. Follow up your round by winning dinner for four at the **Village Inn** donated by owners Kate and Heather.

Tickets Sales are available at our Raffle tables, at the Belgrade Lakes Post Office (weekends from 9 to 1), and the Farmers Market when it's open.

Please stop by our desks to make your purchase so we can verify your age (by rule of the State Gambling Commission).

Everyone is a Winner!

Remember, everyone who buys a raffle ticket is a winner because 100% of the ticket proceeds goes directly to help fund critical work like STOP MILFOIL, our Courtesy Boat Inspectors, LakeSmart, the Youth Conservation Corps, the Loon Project, and water quality monitoring and research. It's all part of the BLA's mission "to protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through conservation, education and action."

The success of this year's raffle will depend on you! 30% of our total annual unrestricted BLA revenue comes from raffle tickets. We need those funds to keep our programs going. Please help us by buying raffle tickets this year. Your support is greatly appreciated. Just remember, we are all winners when we have clean beautiful lakes to see and enjoy. Thank You!



Enter the Bonus Raffle and you can win this Laser Performance Sunfish, the world's most popular sailboat.

HAMLIN'S MARINE RETURNS TO BLA RAFFLE

By Lynn Matson

Hamlin's Marine is back as the premier sponsor of the BLA Raffle. This year Hamlin's is donating a magnificent Alumacraft V16 with floor, Yamaha F20, and trailer. Total value of this grand prize package is \$11,500. Thank you, Hamlin's Marine!

The Hamlin's Story

It all started when Dave and Chris Hamlin purchased a small marine dealership in Fairfield, Maine in 1984. They quickly outgrew that space and moved the business to the present West River Road location in Waterville. Daughter Katie grew up in the business washing boats, cleaning bathrooms, and helping her mom with the finances. In 2004, she married Dan Higgins. At Dave's invitation, Dan left his pharmaceutical sales position and joined the Hamlin's sales staff.

At Dan and Katie's urging, Dave purchased Turtle Head Marine on the Penobscot River in Hampden, Maine, in 2006 as an answer to their need for more boat storage space. Dave and Katie ran the Hampden operation and became financial partners by refinancing a three-unit apartment building they owned in Waterville. After a slow start the business exploded, and by 2015 it was generating the same volume as the Waterville location.

By the spring of 2016, Dave and Chris were ready to enjoy retirement. Dan and Katie purchased the business and now run both operations. They would like you to know that in addition to an Alumacraft V16, Hamlin's can put you in a Bennington Pontoon Boat, Polar Kraft, Stingray, Mastercraft, Chris-Craft, Scout, Scarab, or Puffin Dinghy



Here's part of the total Hamlin's team. Katie Higgins is second from the left and Dan Higgins is third from the right.

which they manufacture. Hamlin's is also the largest Yamaha dealer in the Northeast. Their full service dealership offers indoor boat storage, pick up and delivery, fiberglass repair, a canvas and upholstery shop as well as certified marine technicians.

Dan Higgins said that Hamlin's is proud to support the BLA because its work directly impacts their friends, family and customers. "Belgrade Village is so unique and special with the ability to boat to town and shop at local stores," said Dan. "We know family roots grow deep in Belgrade, and we see multiple generations of families walk through our doors every season."

The BLA is so appreciative of Hamlin's Marine donation to our 2021 BLA raffle. Thank You, Dan and Katie Higgins! As a way of showing our appreciation, please patronize them for all your boating needs. And buy our raffle tickets!

CHANGE COLOR IN A CAMPFIRE		
Add Borax for GREEN Flames	Water Softener Salt for PURPLE Flames	Table Salt for Deeper ORANGE Flames
		
Epsom Salt for WHITE Flames	Add Flour for More Flareups	Add Sugar for Sparks
		

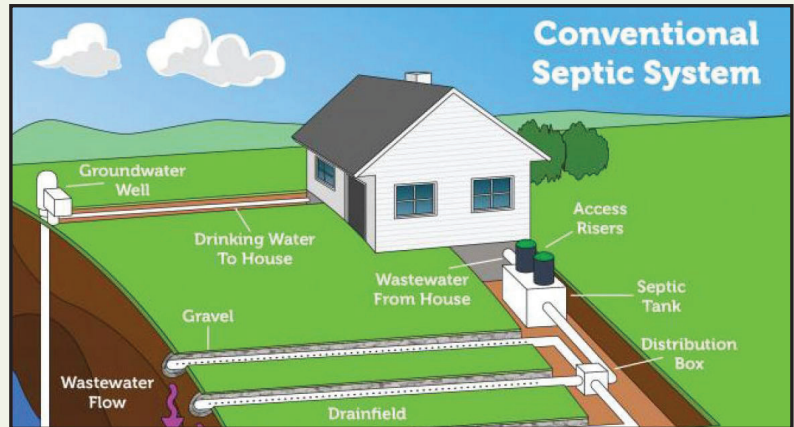
Add some pizzazz to your next campfire.

FLUSH IT BUT DON'T FORGET IT!

By Paul Feinberg

As we open our summer camps for yet another summer, we should add to our checklists, along with perhaps getting our water tested and making sure the lawn mower starts, to maintain our septic systems. There are two things a landowner must do periodically:

1. Every 3 years for year-round use and every 5 years for seasonal use, have the septic tank pumped out and checked by the pumper. This cost is usually less than \$200; and
2. Have your leach field inspected to determine if it is functioning properly. In certain soil sensitive areas where there is mostly gravel and coarse sand, the leach field can short-circuit because a bio mat may not form, and then the effluent may directly enter the lake. This will be the subject of a future webinar to be sponsored by the BLA!



A Typical Septic layout

Checking out your septic system is something that goes along with owning property in rural Maine. It can be quite expensive to replace a system, so it makes good sense to perform these inspections. It is preventive maintenance. Small repairs for the baffles in the septic tank, or pulling out roots, or removing saplings before they become mature trees, will save a major future expense.

Of course, the primary concern with a failed or poorly functioning septic system is the “UGH” factor of human excrement in front of your lake front property where we all swim and recreate. Such an occurrence can be toxic and make our loved ones sick. For sure, we do not want any of our visiting grandchildren to end up with E. coli or salmonella poisoning. This is why the regulations of septic systems in Maine is not the province of the Department of Environmental Protection but is rather in the Department of Health and Human Services.

The microbes that are decomposing the organic matter form a biomat. The biomat causes some clogging in the soil, and it treats the wastewater. 80-90% of the wastewater renovation is performed by the biomat. If you live in an area with coarse soils, you have to be particularly concerned that you have a biomat to clean the wastewater.

I live on an esker on Snake Point in North Belgrade where there are sensitive soils as evidenced by the many gravel pits we have nearby. Fortunately, after an inspection by David Rocque, the now-retired head soil scientist formerly with the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry, who used an auger to test the soils, we determined that we had an active biomat. I was also concerned about some large roots that had grown into the leach field and whether it was necessary to cut down the 100 foot white pine tree. I learned that white pine roots are quite shallow, and we could keep the tree; but if the roots were from a more deep-rooted tree, we would likely have had to have the roots and/or tree removed in some manner.

Of course, a failed septic system also impacts lake water quality. The BLA will soon be providing more information on its web site about upcoming webinars and other educational workshops to inform all shoreland homeowners of the need for inspections. Also, there is a rebate program where the BLA shall reimburse the homeowner 10% of the cost of these inspections and certifications (see p. 11).



A sample of biomat material

BLA AND 7 LAKES ALLIANCE



By Lynn Matson, Co-Chair of 7 Lakes Alliance Board of Directors and Immediate Past President of the Belgrade Lakes Association



There is still a lot of confusion in our community about the BLA and 7 Lakes Alliance. What do they do? How are they different? Which one should I support? These are questions I hear quite often.

Let me try to clear the air and in the process present the case that there are good reasons to support both the BLA and the 7 Lakes Alliance.

First, please understand one overarching fact. Both organizations are working hard to accomplish the same basic goal. We want to protect the beautiful land and waters of the Belgrade region that we all love and cherish so that they will always be here for our enjoyment and for our kids and grandkids in the years ahead.

Second, you should know that the BLA and the 7 Lakes Alliance have a really good collaborative working relationship, and the 7 Lakes is extremely appreciative of the funding and support provided by the BLA. Thank you, BLA.

Belgrade Lakes Association

Now let's talk about the two organizations, what they do and how they are different. Let's start with the Belgrade Lakes Association. Founded in 1908, the BLA is the oldest lake association in Maine. (You have an awful lot to be proud of.) Its mission is to "Protect and Improve the Watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through Preservation, Education and Action." Its focus is on two lakes, Great Pond and Long Pond. It has no staff other than a part-time bookkeeper. It has a very hard working board of directors which, along with many volunteers, conducts all its business and activities. It has approximately 600 members.

The BLA's primary functions are to preserve and protect the water quality of Great Pond and Long Pond through fund raising (membership dues, the BLA raffle and appeals), communications to its members and the community, education, water quality monitoring, and important projects like the Great Pond and Long Pond watershed surveys and the Loon Preservation project. Historically, key water quality programs on Great Pond and Long Pond have been largely funded by the BLA. These include milfoil removal and control, courtesy boat inspections, LakeSmart, and the Youth Conservation Corps. In 2020, approximately \$195,000, or nearly 70% of the BLA's total spending, went directly to the 7 Lakes Alliance to fund work on Great Pond and Long Pond. The 7 Lakes Alliance fully recognizes and greatly appreciates this critically important funding from the BLA. Thank you BLA!

7 Lakes Alliance

By comparison, the 7 Lakes Alliance is a land trust, nationally accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Its mission is to "Conserve the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes Region for All." The 7 Lakes Alliance has 7 full time staff members and approximately 50 summer staff members. Its mission encompasses the entire Belgrade Lakes watershed made up of the 7 lakes and the surrounding land. It performs many functions including land acquisition and stewardship, conservation easement compliance, erosion control and remediation, invasive plant removal and prevention, educational programming, communications, and fundraising. The 7 Lakes Alliance actually hires and manages the STOP MILFOIL crew, the Courtesy Boat Inspectors, Youth Conservation Corps, and trail maintenance crews. It also coordinates the LakeSmart program and operates it on Great Pond and Long Pond. Funds come from federal, state and local government agencies, foundations, grants, private donations, and the lake associations. The 7 Lakes Alliance works closely with many partners including the lake associations, Colby College, Maine state agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection, our local municipalities, outside contractors like New England Milfoil, and industry experts.

As noted, the 7 Lakes Alliance is a certified land trust. This is a critical part of its mission because retaining undeveloped land around our lakes and streams is vital to high water quality. The forested land absorbs rainfall and filters out nutrients, like phosphorus by preventing them from flowing into our lakes and



BLA AND 7 LAKES ALLIANCE (continued)

feeding the algae. In its role as an accredited land trust the 7 Lakes Alliance (and its predecessor, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance) helped conserve over 14,000 acres. The 7 Lakes Alliance has plans to acquire significant additional high priority land parcels to further protect our water quality and provide more recreational opportunities.

Here's another key point. The 7 Lakes Alliance completely supports all the lake associations, including the BLA. We want them to be strong and active with large engaged memberships. The associations play a vital role, especially in communicating and educating their members, on becoming better lake stewards.

Working Together

The real question is how we operate given our common missions. The key is cooperating and collaborating. It's really all about working together. And that's just what is happening. For example, for 10 years the BLA has worked seamlessly with the BRCA, now the 7 Lakes Alliance, controlling the invasive milfoil infestation in Great Meadow Stream and keeping it from spreading into the rest of the lake and into Long Pond. It was the BLA that first initiated the STOP MILFOIL program in 2011. Since that time the BLA has raised over \$1.3 million in milfoil funding and handled much of the communications. The 7 Lakes Alliance hires the milfoil crew every year and does the actual plant removal and survey work. It's a great partnership.

Another good example of this cooperation between the 7 Lakes Alliance and the lake associations occurred on East Pond. The East Pond Lake Association did a terrific job of raising over a million dollars to do an alum treatment on their lake in 2018 and then worked hand in hand with the 7 Lakes Alliance and Colby College to hire the contractor, perform the actual treatment, and track the results.

Your Support

So that leaves the question of where to make your donation. How about this ... donate to either organization or both if you can. **The real key is that you donate.** Your financial support is really needed to help fund the vitally important work of protecting our lands and waters. That's what we're all working to accomplish. That's what really counts. Here are a couple of other thoughts. As noted, the 7 Lakes Alliance covers the whole Belgrade Lakes watershed, all seven lakes. So unrestricted donations made to the 7 Lakes Alliance can be used for projects or land acquisition anywhere in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. But you always have this option. You can earmark your 7 Lakes donation to be restricted and used only for work on Great Pond or Long Pond or for land acquisition in the Great Pond or Long Pond watershed.

Also, keep in mind the fact that all our lakes are connected. We are one big watershed. What happens in one lake affects the others. Four of the lakes in the Belgrade watershed are upstream of Great Pond and Long Pond. Changes to the water quality of Salmon, McGrath, East and North Pond can help or hurt the water quality in Great Pond and Long Pond. That was never more apparent than last summer when the huge algae bloom on North Pond worked its way down Great Meadow Stream and into North Bay. Remember, too, that Great Pond and Long Pond clearly benefit from all the scientific monitoring, water quality analysis, toxicity testing, erosion control work, watershed surveys, and land acquisition done by the 7 Lakes Alliance and its partners throughout the whole watershed.

Thank You!

On behalf of the 7 Lakes Alliance, I want to thank the BLA and all its members for your generous financial support. You are making a difference. And thank you for being good lake stewards. We all need to do our part.

Here are some lake friendly best management practices that will help ensure clean waters in all our lakes for years to come:

- Create a good 15-20' wide multi-layered buffer along your shoreline or stream edge.
Trees, bushes, low shrubs, ground cover, duff.
- Stop any erosion on your property ... "Keep the dirt out of the lake." That dirt is full of phosphorus.
- Don't fertilize.
- Clean up pet waste.
- Make sure your septic is in good working order and regularly pumped out.

Thanks again for all your support. Have a great summer. See you at the BLA Annual Meeting on August 8th.

GREAT POND AND LONG POND WATER QUALITY UPDATE

By Dr. Danielle Wain, Lake Science Director, 7 Lakes Alliance;
Data from the 7 Lakes Alliance-Colby Water Quality Initiative

While much time in 2020 was spent on developing the Great Pond Watershed-Based Management Plan, throughout the summer on both ponds the 7 Lakes Alliance continued to collect profiles of temperature and oxygen, in addition to Secchi disk readings and water samples, for phosphorus analysis. Much thanks to Pete Kallin for shuttling me out to the buoys on Long Pond to collect water samples for phosphorus analysis!

Since 2015, BLA, the 7 Lakes Alliance, and our Colby interns have collected temperature and oxygen profiles, in addition to Secchi disk readings (water clarity) and water samples for total phosphorus (TP) analysis. From our monitoring, we can see how important water quality metrics, such as the average P and Secchi disk transparency (SDT), change from year to year. These metrics are one way of classifying the trophic state of the lakes which essentially tells us if we have good (oligotrophic), medium (mesotrophic), or bad (eutrophic) water quality. The State of Maine has defined thresholds for water quality based on SDT and TP. An average SDT reading between 13 ft and 26 ft is defined as medium water quality (> 26 ft is good and < 13 ft is bad). An average TP value between 4.5 and 20 ppb is defined as medium water quality (< 4.5 ppb is good and > 20 ppb is bad). All of the Belgrade Lakes are in the medium range except for North Pond.



Dr. Danielle Wain

Both lakes are deep, so they stratify for the summer; the summer thermocline typically gets established in Long Pond in June and Great Pond in July. Because of this stratification, both lakes tend to have more stable water quality through the summer compared with lakes like East Pond and North Pond which can change very quickly because of their shallow depth. But the hot weather early in the summer in 2020 put a strain on all the lakes in the Belgrades. Fortunately, most of the lakes returned to their typical water quality by August.

In Great Pond, the average SDT in 2020 was 19 ft, slightly lower than the average of 21 ft over the previous five years (Figure 1, left). The average phosphorus was 13 ppb, higher than the average of 9 ppb from the previous five years (Figure 1, right). The average phosphorus below the thermocline was 12 ppb, lower than in the surface. The maximum phosphorus observed at the bottom of the deep holes was 80 ppb; by comparison, we observe values of > 800 ppb near the bottom in Salmon Lake. This is further evidence that phosphorus release from the sediments is currently not one of the primary phosphorus sources, as determined in the Watershed Based Management Plan, which indicated that remediation focus should be placed on the watershed. (continued on p. 9)

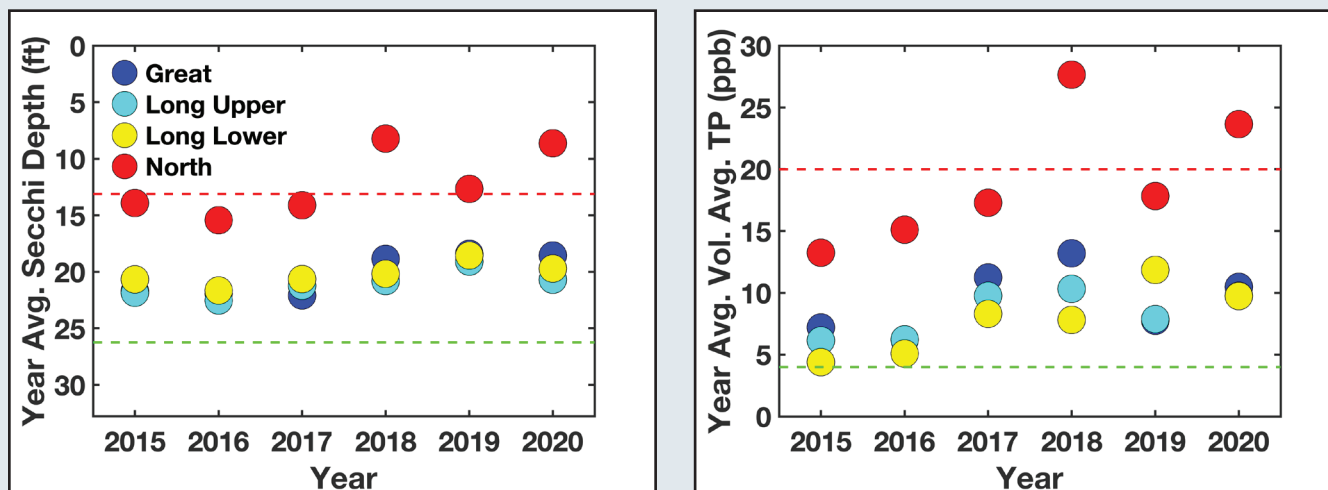


Figure 1. (left) The average Secchi disk transparency in the lakes since 2015, with comparison to North Pond. The two water quality thresholds are plotted as well. (right) Volume averaged phosphorus concentration in all the lakes since 2015. The two water quality thresholds are plotted as well.

GREAT POND AND LONG POND (continued)

In the upper basin of Long Pond, the average SDT in 2020 was 21 ft, the same as the average from the previous five years, and the average phosphorus was 10 ppb, slightly higher than the 2015-2019 average of 8 ppb. In the lower basin of Long Pond, the average SDT was 20 ft, same as the average of previous years, and the average phosphorus was also 10 ppb, compared with 7 ppb for the 2015-2019 average.

Despite the slight decline in water quality in 2020 in all lakes, SDT and phosphorus are still well within the medium water quality range. After the bloom in North Pond in 2020, many users of the lakes have been concerned that this might happen to their lake as well. As can be seen in Figure 1, both Great Pond and Long Pond have had better SDT and less phosphorus than North Pond over the past 6 years and have stayed within the medium water quality range with both metrics. But we continue to monitor the lakes, along with volunteers from Lake Stewards of Maine and BLA, like Pete Kallin.

We are fortunate to have our Colby interns back for 2021, and we will continue to keep an eye on the lakes! To keep the lakes stable, all property owners need to do their part to help reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the lakes by building buffers and using other best management practices. You can contact the 7 Lakes Alliance or Mary Wicklund, the new LakeSmart Co-ordinator, (see her article on page 14) at BLA to help make your property LakeSmart!

HERE, MY HEART SKIPS A BEAT

By Elizabeth Baillie

The truth of the matter is that my heart skips a beat every morning I wake up in the Village of Belgrade. I absolutely cannot wait to start my days here. I love the contrast of the quiet mornings and vibrant days. The Village provides everything we need to live a daily life that never feels rushed but offers so much to do. A typical day could mean joining an exercise class on the Village Green, breakfast at one of the local eateries where there is always good conversation, picking one's own vegetables and flowers, running to a Main Street shop to buy a gift, or even grabbing a few lobsters for a special dinner. There is so much community here to stimulate all the senses: the sights and sounds of lake life, great food, and so many opportunities to connect with fascinating people who have stories to tell and knowledge to share.



Loon calls complement any meal.

Living in the village means it is quiet enough to hear the loons call in the earliest hour of the day. It also means there will be a trickle of cars, visitors, and pedestrians coming here to enjoy the restaurants, businesses, farmers market, and places of worship that turn every Sunday into a Main Street, USA parade! It's my favorite day of the week during summer and fall. The Sunday morning church bells remind me to give thanks for all the blessings and bounty of this awesome place before I run out my front door to enjoy the people and beauty of Belgrade Lakes. I love to fill my canvas bag with the best local provisions and to socialize with other locals and those visiting. I call it my Sunday morning happy hour! Because I am physically encumbered by the many good things I've just purchased, a coffee in one hand and a REAL newspaper tucked under my arm, I am unable to actually skip home. But I'm sure as heck that my heart skips a beat...being in this happy place that I'm privileged to call home.



Elizabeth Baillie

2021 BLA LOON SURVEY RESULTS

By Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project

As you all know, the Belgrade Lakes Association is into its third year of its Loon Preservation Project to develop a responsible comprehensive plan in order to support our loon population in a sustainable manner.

In the past several years we have had a respectable adult population, but as of late, 2020 in particular, Great Pond had only one chick that fledged. In other words, it made it to its six week life span which can be so easily shortened due to predation, boat traffic and, most unfortunately, territorial disputes. Long Pond fared somewhat better with three chicks fledging.



Nothing feels better than a vigorous morning flap.

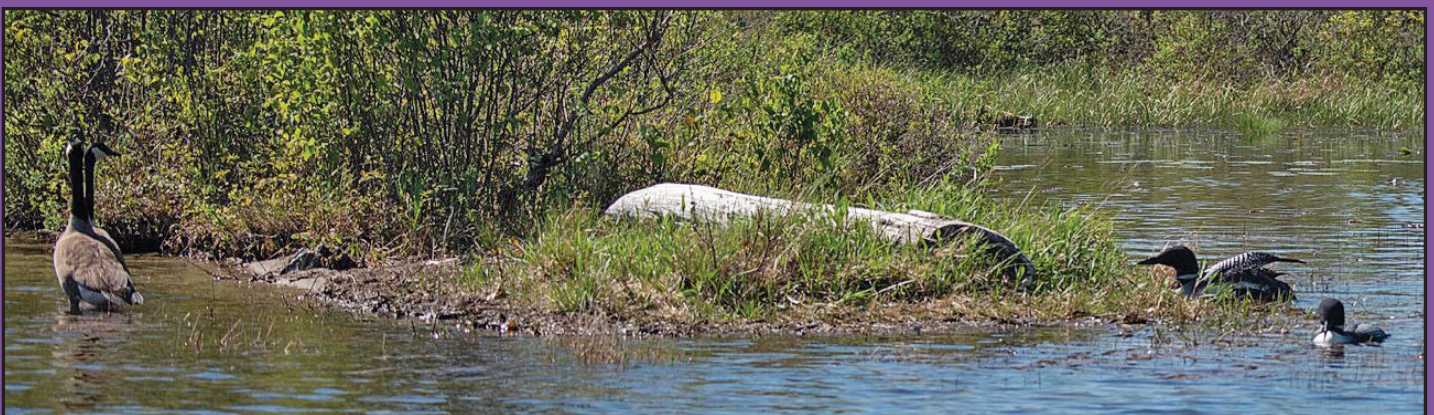


Sandpiper is relaxing on the Austin Bog Loon Nest.

We just completed our first survey of the 2021 season on both Great and Long Pond recently in order to assess each of our loon territories where we have or had activity in the past. Our loons typically nest around Memorial Day and, with an average 27-28 day gestation period, we should expect to see our first chicks as early as Father's Day on June 20th this year, up until around the 4th of July. As of this writing, we have only two nests on Long Pond with egg(s), but it's still a bit early.

This spring, we refurbished four of our existing floating nests and placed two new floating nests, both on Great Pond. Some have referred to these new nests as the "Taj Mahal" of loon nests, and I have to agree...right down to the 3" thick turf generously donated by our friends at Lakeside Landscaping.

We have purposely not disclosed the exact locations of our Loon Nesting Sanctuaries as they need all of the privacy that we can afford them. The State-wide 200' No-Wake Zone, although important for so many obvious reasons, when actually practiced, is just not adequate to ensure our loon's safety. Canoes, kayaks, and paddle-boards, in particular, result in too many birds being flushed from their nests despite the well-intentioned being asked to maintain at least a 50 yard distance to any known nest, floating or otherwise.

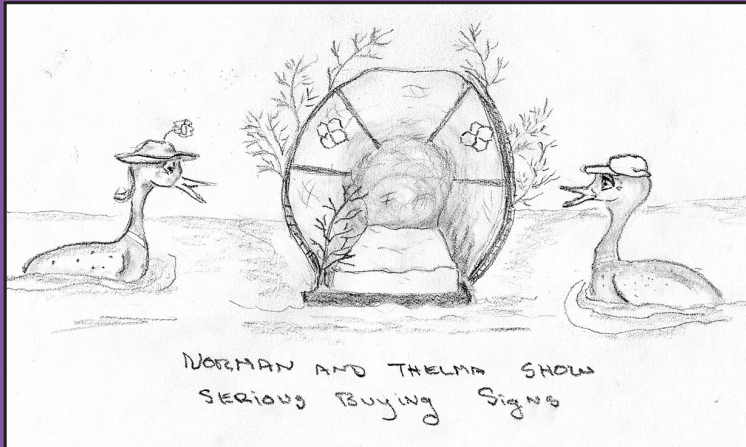


Loon pair successfully staring down and chasing off two geese competing for "their" new floating nest at Horse Point.

As I have stated before, our loon population, as well as the Belgrade Lakes Association's Loon Preservation Project, could use any support you deem appropriate. We are in our third year of the Project and have our work cut out for us. Increased funding will enable us to maintain our present monitoring, conduct two more evening banding sessions, and have a volunteer training program, all this summer. But it will only happen with your support. Please support the Loon Preservation Project online @ <http://belgradelakesassociation.org> or via mail @ Belgrade Lakes Association, PO Box 551, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918. Any support would be most sincerely appreciated by all of those involved. Thank you, and we'll see you on the lake!

2021 BLA LOON SURVEY RESULTS (continued)

PS: All of the accompanying photographs were taken in the past weeks. For the entire 300 photographs of one recent week's survey: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e8yskbc8dxg5agf/AAAviG7sA9H-BbyzrTGjGU2La?dl=0>



Norman and Thelma navigating this year's volatile real estate market.



Long Pond's 25-yr old nest undergoes some remodeling.



BLA's latest floating nest on Great Pond, the "Taj Mahal," was kindly donated by Gail and Frank Rizzo.

\$ REBATE \$

Save Money When You Protect Your Lake!

**YOU'LL EARN MONEY BACK ON BUFFER PLANTS AND LANDSCAPING,
AS WELL AS SEPTIC PUMP-OUTS AND SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTIONS!**

Stable shorelines and stopping stormwater runoff are so vital to lake health that **BLA** will reimburse Great and Long Pond shorefront homeowners 10% of their investment when they build or reinforce their vegetated buffer strip, and/or complete a septic tank or cistern pump-out, and/or septic inspection this year.

This offer is good for buffer work or purchase and completed septic pump-out and/or septic system inspection for calendar year 2021. The Rebate limit: \$500 dollars.
Proof of completed work required.

Get your **REBATE** by mailing your receipt, showing plant materials purchased and itemizing completed work to:

BLA REBATE
PO Box 551
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Be sure to include your USPS address so we can send you your money!
Include phone and email, too, please.



THE VILLAGE INN TURNS 100

by Maggie Shannon

Two Houses and a Barn

Belgrade Lakes on the Map

At the start of the 20th century, the lure of wilderness, waters, and sport fishing brought Belgrade Lakes to the attention of well-to-do Easterners. Guest houses and three hotels -- the elegant Belgrade, The Central House (later known as the Lakeshore Hotel) and Red Oaks Lodge at the mouth of the Mill Stream -- accommodated the travelers disembarking at the Belgrade Depot, where Hammond Lumber now stands. Welcoming these visitors with open arms, the village hummed with enterprise, and summertime tourism changed its welfare for good. Golder's General store, the largest in Kennebec County at the time, was down the street from Bean's Bait and Tackle Shop, run by L.L.'s brother Erwin. Classic Rangeley rowboats and double-ended guide boats were built by Ernest Sola and then Ralph Stewart in a shop on the stream where Lakepoint Realty now stands. Soon, motor cars and improved roads opened vacation travel to those with more modest incomes, fueling the tide of summer visitors and establishing the village perched between two lakes as a highly desirable destination.



Locusts House, ca. 1925

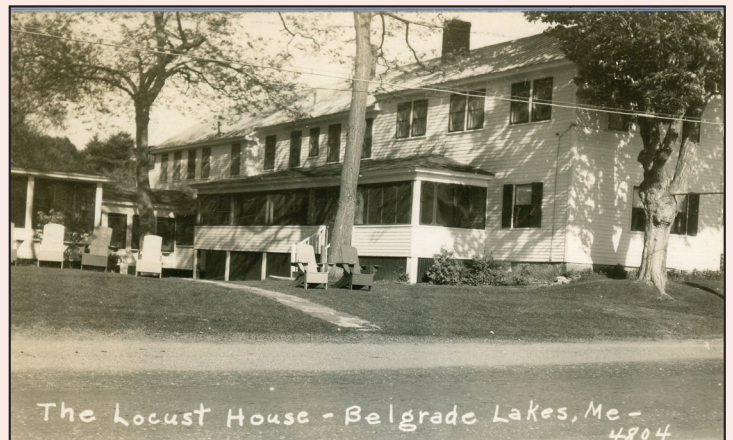
Of all the village businesses that existed 100 years ago only two are still in business today -- perhaps because they grew forth from the town's true character and have always changed in keeping with the times. One is the general store we depend on, the essential Day's.

Two Houses and a Barn

An enterprising young man named Ed Megill first came to the village shortly after 1900. A fisherman and summer visitor at first, Ed became a guide, bought property at a wide spot on the Mill Stream, and moved full time to Maine. It wasn't long before he decided to join two houses and a barn together and open his doors to the tourist trade. Named for the great trees that shaded its western front, The Locusts House, today known as The Village Inn and Tavern, began operations in 1921, exactly 100 years ago. Offering docks on Long Pond and the Mill Stream, as well as a long covered porch overlooking the water, Ed's inn catered especially to fishermen and their families. In those days, it wasn't unusual for an angler to return with 60 or 70 fish from the day's sport. With a staff who'd cook their catch to order, and the outdoor life valorized by Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir right out the door, The Locusts House thrived. Of all the village enterprises active in the year of its founding, only this inn and Golder's - now Day's Store - are still in business.

The Duck Place

Economic contraction arrived with the Second World War. The railroad canceled passenger service in the fifties. Red Oaks Lodge burned. While the Center House continued successfully as The Lakeshore Hotel for some years, in October 1956, the mighty Belgrade burned to the ground. This final loss had a devastating effect on the town's economy. About this time, however, another summer visitor, Paul Provandie, bought The Belgrade's abandoned caddy shack. He converted it into a snappy take-out called the Lobster Pot, which in time would become the Sunset Grille. Paul was an advertising man and marketing whiz with a business in Boston. His wife, Priscilla, was a homemaker with a reputation for great cooking and a yen to run a restaurant. Ed Megill noticed. He'd been managing the Locusts House for 45 years when he approached Paul with a chance to buy the place for \$10,000. The creative businessman could not refuse. After two years spent renovating the Locust House, and with a friend's recipe for slow-cooked duck as his secret weapon, Paul Provandie opened The Village Inn restaurant in 1969. Its reputation was built on that



Locusts House, with new annex, ca. 1940

THE VILLAGE INN TURNS 100 (continued)

duck and Priscilla's pies, both still served there today. Paul's son Skip was quickly recruited to manage the inn, and it wasn't long before he took over as chef. Running a restaurant kitchen is demanding work, though, and Skip was soon in need of sleep. So, instead of rising in the middle of the night to pull ducks out of the oven, he turned the heat down and slept in until 8. This low-and-slow process, along with a selection of mouth-watering sauces, made 'The Duck Place' famous far and wide. Then as now, the Village Inn serves more duck than any other restaurant in America, despite being a seasonal business open just 8 months a year.



Locusts House with new entrance, ca. 1940

Fine Dining on the Water

The Village Inn has continued to change over the years. Skip Provandie sold it in 1981 to Edie and Newell Dubord, who owned it briefly before selling to the Danforths, a couple from Farmington who had run a popular diner there for years. Little changed under their stewardship until Charlie and Susan Grover bought the inn, brought to it their personal warmth, and restored an upscale menu to its service. Known for fine dining on the water, the Grovers' Village Inn soon became the place for special occasions, hosting birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and popular event parties like Jimmy Buffet Night and October Fest.

The Inn and Tavern Today

In 2014, the Grovers sold the Inn to Kate Beales and her partner, Heather. Kate, a former chef, is no stranger to the kitchen, and says, "after switching gears at a young age to work in advertising for so many years, I felt blessed to be able to return to my roots here on the lake in Maine and in the kitchen. I mean, how lucky is that!" As the third generation of a family that has owned property on Great Pond since 1930, she laughs when she says, "We always thought our history was unique, that we were alone in thinking of the lake as the home of our hearts, no matter where we were. But since owning the inn, I've learned that our unique family heritage is the secret identity everyone here shares!"

She says it was the opportunity of a lifetime to buy the inn and considers it her job to conserve its history while modernizing its food and service to reflect today's tastes. While it will always offer fine dining and preserve the cachet special occasions require, today's lifestyles also call for a more casual approach and contemporary food. She invested in major reconstruction to create the downstairs tavern and outdoor eating space while redecorating all three floors to recapture the atmosphere of the Inn's beginning as a fishing lodge. "We want to honor the need of our patrons for more upscale and special occasion dining, while at the same time still making it equally comfortable for our guests who are rolling in off the boat after a day on the lake in flip flops with the kids in tow, for a lobster roll and cocktail on the lawn ...It is Vacationland, after all!" She adds that, "Now that Covid and Main Street's reconstruction are behind us, I think all of us are looking forward to a very bright future here in Belgrade Lakes, and the beautification of the village, and all of the hard work that was put into that by so many, only adds that much more to our special little town."

Come to the Centennial Birthday Celebration on August 1!

The Village Inn and Tavern will open its doors to the public on Sunday afternoon, August 1 from 12 – 3 pm for a centennial celebration, and everyone is invited. With photographs from the Inn's archives on display, and an open mic for reminiscences from the people who know its history, the afternoon will explore the past and celebrate the history of Belgrade Lakes. Music and refreshments will be on tap, and contributions to the Belgrade Historical Society are encouraged.



Village Inn Today

LAKESMART 2.0 – IT’S FINALLY HERE

by Mary Wicklund

Welcome to 2021! Are you as glad as I am to put 2020 in the past? Looking on the bright side, I know I have an even greater appreciation of the natural resources here in Maine. For myself and for many, these spots were a source of refuge during the past year. I am sure many of us are eager to get back outside to our lakes and special places. So, with that, I am happy to share that LakeSmart is a “GO” for 2021!

With a new year come many new changes to the LakeSmart Program.

First, a refresher:

As many of you know, the LakeSmart program was created by Maine DEP in 2003 to address declining lake water quality due to urban/suburban landscaping and development. LakeSmart Award Standards were purposely created to balance what would be achievable, and would generate widespread buy-in and participation, with what might ultimately be the most desirable in terms of pollution reduction.

LakeSmart has grown and lake associations all over the state have active programs - but a lot has changed since 2003! Increased pressure on lakes from intensifying storms, increased summer temperatures, increased droughts, and changes in winter ice cover prompted us to reevaluate our program standards. LakeSmart standards must be high enough so that they continue to make a difference for water quality - now and in the coming decades - but also remain achievable for homeowners to reasonably reach. How can we adjust LakeSmart standards to be both more protective of water quality, yet still be realistic?

To help answer this question, Maine Lakes embarked on a study that incorporated a thorough review of scientific literature, interviews, and surveys with lake scientists, meetings with experienced LakeSmart Coordinators and Evaluators, and several LakeSmart Committee meetings. The study was a massive effort that spanned more than 14 months. We are so excited to finally share our results with all of you!

What’s new in 2021?

First of all, Maine Lakes has upgraded the LakeSmart program in ways that stretch far beyond just the Property Evaluation. We have created, upgraded, refreshed, and/or rebranded many fantastic materials such as our LakeSmart brochures and posters, Protect Your Pond brochures, the Lakers Dozen, Caring for your Septic, and Common Shrubs of Central Maine Shorelines! See our website www.lakes.me/lakesmart for more information.

New LakeSmart Award signs

We have, a new LakeSmart Award sign for 2021 with the new Maine Lakes logo. The LoonSmart Award sticker can be added to the lower left, and there is space for a Lake Association logo sticker on the lower right. We will provide stickers for the year of the Award which will help determine in the future when it may be time to reevaluate a property.

New LakeSmart 2.0 Evaluation

The goal was NOT to reinvent the wheel by making significant changes. The evaluation process will still be familiar – with update/improved standards, to make them clearer, consistent, and protective.

For example, the importance of the buffer is reflected in LakeSmart 2.0. The buffer is evaluated in two parts: the entire shoreline buffer, and the buffer of the developed area. With slope having a direct impact on the speed of stormwater runoff, this is now included in the assessment.



Mary Wicklund



MY SUMMER (LOOKING) AT PINE ISLAND

by Luke Beatie

When I heard that Pine Island Camp had been canceled for 2020, I almost cried. I was so sad that my summer home was closed, and I was going to miss out on all the amazing things PIC provides for everyone fortunate enough to go there. Luckily, I had another option...a place not unlike camp. So, my family took me there instead, and I was able to spend the entire summer in one of my favorite places on Earth... Belgrade, Maine...all while staring longingly across the lake at Pine Island.

See, my family has been on Great Pond since before Pine Island Camp existed. Every summer I would go there and play in the lake as PIC rested in the background, her boats and the KWS cruising back and forth. This past summer, I was fortunate enough to be there again doing many of the activities I would have been doing at camp. I swam, canoed, and sailed on the lake. I learned to tie dozens of knots. Riflery...I had an airsoft target range set up in our back yard. I camped out on Oak Island and roasted hot dogs and s'mores over a fire I built (thank you, Woodcraft). I watched 4th of July fireworks from the shore of the lake. I even got to do some things I would not have been able to do at PIC...like learn how to knee board and water ski. I also enjoyed several visits from Sumner who would boat over to our dock and chat with us (from a distance, of course) about the work happening on the island, how sad we all were to miss out on camp, and how the Yankees were WAY better than the Red Sox this year. I then kayaked over to the island where I was able to float in the water and visit with all the counselors and staff who were working away to make camp even better for next year. The best part was getting to water ski past the island while the staff stood on the dock cheering as I zoomed by trying not to wipe out in front of everyone.

In all, it was an amazing summer. Even though I never set foot on Pine Island, I almost felt like I was there...until I remembered all the campfires and trips and songs and stories and friends I was missing...all the things that make summers on Pine Island so special. So, I hope we are all together there again next summer. Until then...AKKA LAKKA!!!



Luke hanging out (literally) at the lake

LAKESMART 2.0 – IT'S FINALLY HERE (continued)

What about LakeSmart training?

You are not alone! Maine Lakes is offering two kinds of training throughout the month of June. One training will target returning LakeSmart teams and focus on getting everyone up to speed on the changes. This training will all be done through Zoom. The second training will target brand new teams and will be held in two parts: the first will also be online through Zoom, followed by an on-site training session (scheduled after the Zoom session is completed).

We know that you have busy schedules, so we are offering both weekday and weekend dates and a variety of times. Please visit www.lakes.me/lakesmart for a current schedule.

And one more new addition for 2021.....

I am excited to work with all of you this year as Maine Lake's new LakeSmart Program Manager. Brooke MacDonald, my predecessor, has done an amazing job over the past year with the research and development of LakeSmart 2.0. I look forward to supporting all of you as we head back to the great outdoors, enjoy our lakes, and work together to protect our special places!

HARD WORK CONTINUES TO KEEP MILFOIL AT BAY

by Richard LaBelle

Invasive plants have long been a threat to our lakes, but milfoil tops the list in the Belgrades. According to USGS, milfoil was first identified in Maine in 1968 and in Great Pond in 2010. To fund the fight against milfoil, the BLA created the STOP MILFOIL program which raises funds for milfoil remediation. The BLA has been fighting the battle to prevent the spread to other areas of Great Pond and into Long Pond and has funded various tactics to stop the spread. The hardy invasive has proved a mighty foe as it can survive our cold winters under ice and finds ultimate growing conditions in our summer waters. Milfoil's worst characteristic is its reproduction abilities; it can spread and re-grow from plant fragments.

Milfoil can grow up to about 15 feet tall; under ideal growing conditions, it can grow one inch per day. Once to the water's surface, it creates a mat-like layer on the top of the water. This mat layer prevents the sun from reaching other plants, eventually allowing milfoil to replace native vegetation. As noted last year, milfoil has become the prominent vegetation in Great Meadow Stream. The loss of native vegetation impacts the ecosystem in that insects, fish, and other organisms that feed off those native plants will be displaced; when these surface mats of milfoil decay, oxygen levels in the water depletes, contributing to anoxic conditions.

Milfoil has the potential to be disastrous in our lakes. The BLA's work to remove plants and control the spread is vital to our economic success. If milfoil spreads, it will impact swimming, fishing, boating, and other water activities. When recreation suffers, tourism suffers, real estate values sink, tax rates rise, and our region's economy suffers. We must remain vigilant in our fight against milfoil.

With your generous support to STOP MILFOIL, teams have removed over 194,177 gallons of milfoil from Great Pond since the program's inception. In 2020, your support allowed for the pulling of nearly 33,000 gallons. 2021 has been a very productive season so far, in terms of milfoil removal, and we are grateful for our partners who ensure there are folks in the water pushing back against milfoil. The BLA helps fund 7 Lakes Alliance teams' extended presence while also employing the professionals at New England Milfoil for four weeks in September. Courtesy boat inspectors (CBIs) are working on Great Pond and Long Pond throughout the summer; they began on Memorial Day and will continue through Labor Day. The CBIs are there to help check boats for hitchhiking plants from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days per week.

The crews that will be managing milfoil this year will be divided into two focused crews. The first will focus on diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH) removal, while the second will focus on the continued installation of burlap barriers. Good news resulted after crews got in the water early this season: the burlap barriers installed last season appear to be holding up well and no invasive milfoil is growing through! Teams will continue to use these barriers in large patches of milfoil.

So, what can you do to help control milfoil? Small, considerate tasks can make a monumental difference in our efforts.



Invasive milfoil, courtesy of Portland (ME) Water District

- Learn about invasives. Please become familiar with milfoil and be able to identify it. We don't all have to be scientists; we just want to be aware of what these harmful plants look like. You can view live samples at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (178 Main St., Belgrade Lakes).
- Check your boat. Inspect your boat, motor, and trailer before you launch and when you land. Don't forget to check your anchor, fishing gear, live well, and bait bucket. If you find a fragment, you should call the Maine Department of Environmental

HARD WORK CONTINUES TO KEEP MILFOIL AT BAY (continued)

Protection at (800) 452-1942. If you are using a launch when courtesy boat inspectors are present at the launch site, please notify them.

- **Volunteer.** You can Adopt-a-Shoreline, which is a simple, volunteer effort to monitor a small section of the shoreline to check for milfoil or other invasive plants. You could also volunteer for plant paddles, or for courtesy boat inspection. No matter how much or little time you'd like to give, we appreciate your willingness. If you're interested in volunteering for any of these efforts, call (207) 495-6039.
- **Give.** The generous support of our many members has enabled us to hold the line against milfoil. Your donation to the BLA supports the milfoil removal teams and courtesy boat inspectors, both of which are essential in managing invasive plants like milfoil.

It is unlikely that we will ever be able to eradicate milfoil from Great Pond fully, but we must invest in removing as much as possible and prevent it from spreading to other locations. With your help, we can continue working hard to isolate milfoil where it currently exists and take preventative measures to keep it from spreading. We're looking forward to another productive season to manage milfoil. Thank you for your continued support.

The Belgrade Lakes Association would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to Lynn Matson, who did a remarkable job of chairing the STOP MILFOIL Task Force. Lynn's leadership on this initiative has been the driving force behind the work to prevent the spread of milfoil and prevent other invasive plants from entering our waters. Thank you, Lynn, for your hard work and dedication to our organization and our lakes!

INVASIVE AQUATICS PROGRAM SUMMER 2021

by Sharon Mann

Field Crew Updates

We are happy to report that the burlap barriers installed last season held up very well over winter! Burlap barriers are a natural alternative to the plastic tarps we have previously used. Native plants have already begun growing on top of the burlap substrate- which means less area for invasive milfoil to grow!

The dive crew began pulling weeds from the mouth of Great Meadow Stream on May 24th and our benthic barrier crew started laying burlap on May 27th. Great Meadow Stream remains closed to motorboat traffic to protect our divers during milfoil removal and to prevent fragments from spreading.

Adopt-a-Shoreline is for all! (see map on p. 18)

Did you know the Adopt-a-Shoreline program is not just on Great Pond? If you own or visit a shoreline property in the Belgrade Lakes region, we need your help! Adopt-a-Shoreline volunteers survey their shoreline twice during the growing season. Surveys can be done via snorkel, paddle board, kayak, or even a motorboat. If you see something you've never seen before, we want to know! For more information, please email adoptashoreline@7lakesalliance.org



Milfoil Manager, Sharon Mann, hands a bag of invasive milfoil off to new hire, Megan Aubrey.



Adopt-a-Shoreline Coordinator, Erin O'Leary, searches for aquatic invaders during an invasive plant paddle.

Invasive Plant Paddles

Invasive Plant Paddles are a great way to protect our waters while having fun with the whole family. Group paddles are open to the public of all ages! If you are unable to attend a group paddle but are still interested in learning how to ID invasive aquatic plants like variable milfoil, let us know! We make dock-side calls!

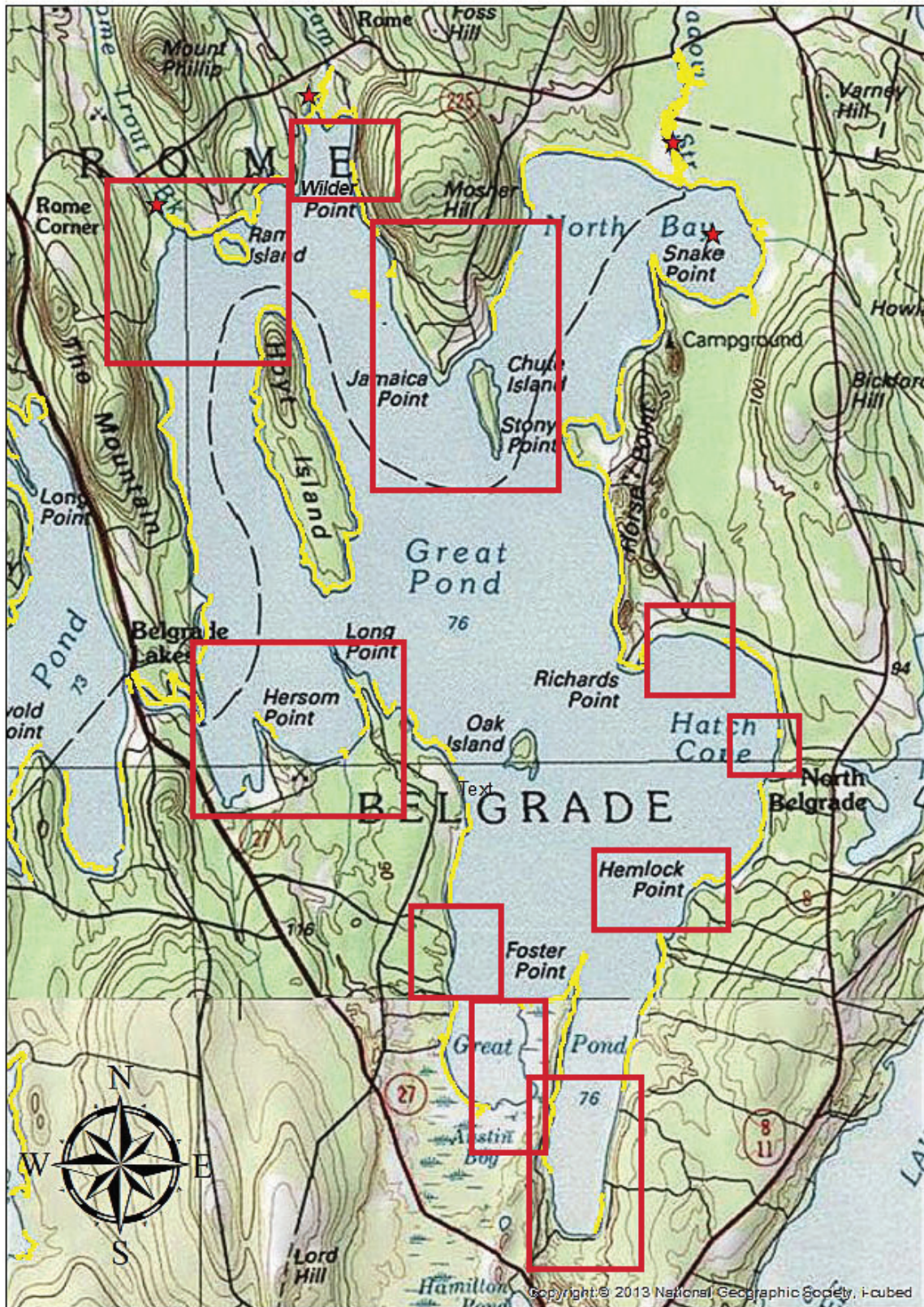
Group Paddle Dates

East Pond- July 24th

McGrath Pond & Salmon Lake- August 19th

North Pond- TBD

IS YOUR SHORELINE ADOPTED?



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

** Seventy-one percent of Great Pond shoreline has been adopted.
If your property is in a red square, please consider adopting! **

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS CONTINUES ITS WORK

by Art Grindle

The 7 Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is at it again! This 2021 field season we are running at increased capacity and making the most of the good weather. We expect to complete as many as 80 Best Management Practice installations this year, on all 7 lakes. Thanks to focused resource allocation and a dedicated staff position, the YCC will be able to run for an extra week this year.

YCC provides high school and college students summer employment with work that protects the water quality of the region by decreasing soil erosion.



Jaxon Roan is unloading mulch.



Brennan Dunton is installing riprap (expertly).

Soil erosion carries excess phosphorus into the lakes threatening algal blooms and impaired water quality. The YCC provides cost-effective prevention to erosion-related algal problems. The YCC team works throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed and is generously funded by Belgrade Lakes Association, East Pond Association, North Pond Association, McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association, surrounding towns, and private donors. If you believe you have an erosion issue that the YCC could help with, please contact us at ycc@7lakesalliance.org.

These projects are great examples of what can be accomplished through the long-standing collaboration between 7 Lakes, LakeSmart, and the BLA! This winter, the YCC program is being incorporated into an integrated erosion control approach by 7 Lakes Alliance, under the umbrella of the newly established Erosion Control Coordinator. The new position is generously funded, in part, by the BLA.



Gabe Moumouris, Brennan Dunton and Courtney Richard are installing riprap.

TRAIN MEMORIES

by Polly Beatie

The train features prominently in some of my fond memories from my days at Camp Runoia. Camp Runoia campers used to journey to and from camp by train until the railroad stopped passenger travel. At the time of departure from Camp Runoia, we would place pennies given to us by our sad sack departing friends onto the train tracks. As the train pulled out of the station it flattened those poor pennies and completely changed their shape. We would send those flattened pennies to their owners as souvenirs. At some point it wasn't legal to do this to US currency, but we either didn't know or didn't care. The penny brigade distracted the departing girls helping to relieve any sadness. However, those who stayed behind were still quite tearful. Campers made solid friendships in 8 weeks and worried they might not see each other again. Two of mine smartly retired to Maine in part because of their experiences at camp.



Polly, age 4, on a dry and sunny day

In the early 1940's, I was traveling in my Dad's 1935 Ford Phaeton for 14-15 hours over 400 miles from Bronxville, NY to Belgrade when a storm hit and blew off the car's canvas top. We searched for a gas station with cover over the pumps, but found none. So I huddled on the car's floor in front of its heater, with the rain pouring down, for the rest of the trip. I had on my Easter hat and coat and my best dress shoes. By the time we arrived in Oakland, I looked like a drowned rat.



A locomotive huffing and puffing on a cold winter's day

Meanwhile, my mother, in her best travel outfit, had taken the train, and we met her at the Oakland station. She looked amazing in her suit, hat, and high heels. However, the grimace on her face was appalling. "Wilson, who is that poor child with you?" she demanded of my father. I, apparently unrecognizable, must not have looked as amazing as she!



Did you know that the North Belgrade Station still exists? When rail service ended, the depot building was purchased and then moved up the road leading to it. The depot building was then converted into the North Belgrade Baptist Church that sits on the corner of Station Road and Route 11.

The newsletter staff
(Polly, Liz and Marcel)
hope you enjoy this edition.

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marcelprints@outlook.com.

BELGRADE TRAIN STATION

by Eric Hooglund



Properly dressed ladies wait for the train at Belgrade Depot, ca. 1940, after its extensive remodeling in late 1930s.

The train first arrived in Belgrade in 1849 on a line that ran from Portland to Waterville via Lewiston, Leeds, Winthrop, Readfield, Belgrade, North Belgrade & Oakland. For 100 years the railroad was an important transportation link that enabled Belgrade to export its surplus crops, such as apples, corn and hay, manufactured products, primarily wood and lumber but also bricks, which were made at a brick yard where Hammond Lumber now stands, and ice. From ca. 1890, the railroad also brought properly dressed travelers and summer tourists to Belgrade and, by 1907, hundreds of school-age boys and girls to the rapidly expanding summer youth camps. The construction of thousands of miles of paved highways during the depression of the 1930s, as a government-funded work project for the unemployed, led to a post-World War II demand for cars and a corresponding decline in passenger use of railroads. Passenger rail service ended in Central Maine in the 1950s; both of Belgrade's stations were closed by 1955.

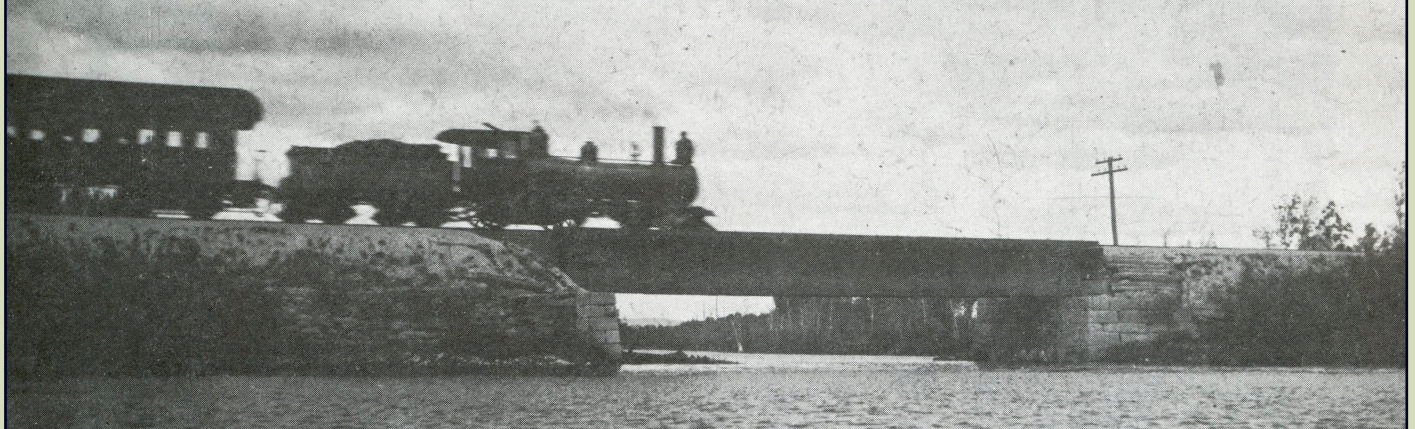
Railroad crossing Belgrade Stream.

The railroad first came to Belgrade in 1849, The Androscoggin and Kennebec line. It caused the business center of the town to move from the area at the bridge, across Belgrade Stream to where the railroad now crosses the Augusta Road.

This new center was only a few hundred yards to the north of The Bridge and had been an open common.

Several types of stores, two hotels, boarding houses, and a post office soon joined the rail station during the years following 1849.

The last steam-drawn locomotive went through Belgrade June 13, 1954, and the age of steam on the Maine Central Railroad ended after 92 years.





ROUNDING THE MARK

by Commodore Matti (Bradley)



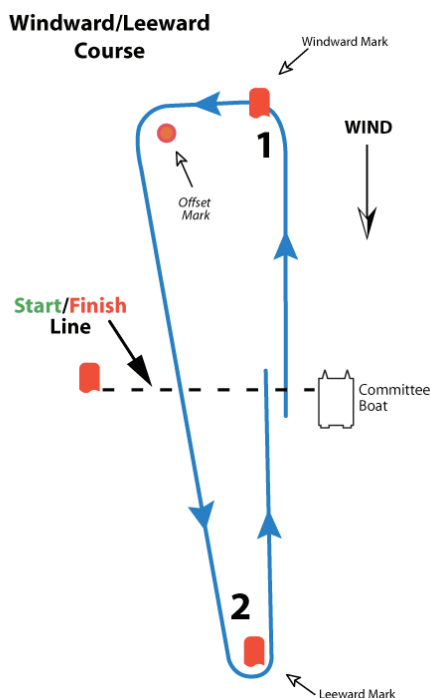
Sailing is a spectator sport!

One of the prettiest sights on Great Pond during the summer is a sailing race! We encourage you to pack a picnic and launch your boat/canoe/kayak/SUP...whatever floats...and come on out on race day and cheer on the sailors! We can use all the encouragement we can get!

The race schedule can be found at www.greatpondyachtclub.com. The race is on if the wind is between 5 and 15 miles per hour. The start is typically at 1pm. You will see sailboats sailing, motoring, or being towed to the starting area between 12 and 12:30pm. If you are on the water around noon, follow them there! You may see one or two orange race buoys somewhere on the horizon. Sometimes the race uses the islands as rounding points.

The best place to watch the race is probably around the windward mark (see diagram). It can get exciting and sometimes we need a lot of space to avoid collisions, to work with the wind we have, and to make the mark. Leaving plenty of room for the sailors to maneuver, and watching your drift, is greatly appreciated! Boat swells can make sailing difficult, so if you are cruising around the race area, please keep your wake in mind. Most of us are learning and appreciate

your consideration very (VERY!) much!



Most of all, it is great fun to share the water with everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all back out there soon. Happy summer of 2021, everyone. May the wind (and Covid) be forever behind you!

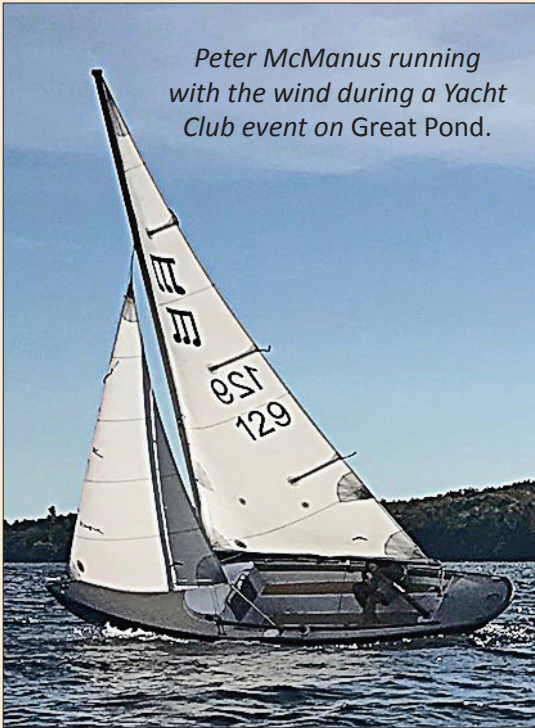


Dick Greenan on Lazy Daze

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND PETER McMANUS

by Liz Fontaine

Peter McManus running with the wind during a Yacht Club event on Great Pond.



Belgrade Maine lost a great community member on May 24th, 2021. Peter passed away at home with friends by his side. He was born in Mississippi on July 4th, 1945, the son of John Ambrose McManus and Joan (Schultz) McManus.

Peter was a long-time resident of New Jersey and spent his entire life summering on Belgrade Lakes with his grandmother, Grace Hatch. His parents met on Great Pond at their respective family camps – Hatchway and McManus Camps. In summer, he grew up on the water, having fun boating up the stream and water skiing on makeshift skis with his cousins. He was a great athlete and held the New Jersey record in pole vaulting for over 20 years at West Orange High School.

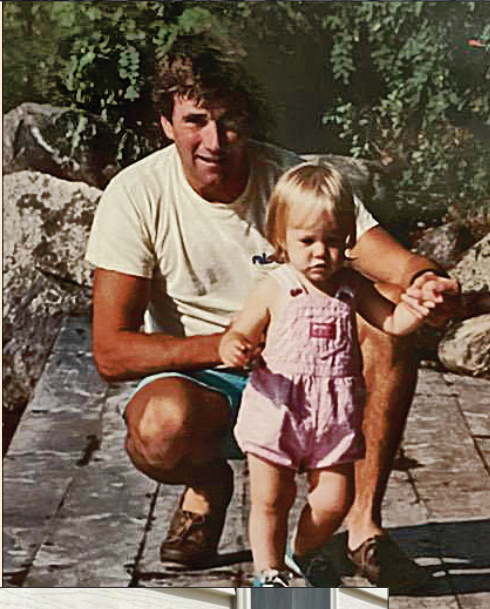
Peter moved permanently to Belgrade Lakes in 1985. He was the owner of the Forecastle Inn (now the 7 Lakes Inn) in the center of Belgrade Lakes Village and had a Sail Shop in the barn. He was also owner of McManus Brothers Furniture Co. Peter was the founding member and Race Director of the Great Pond Yacht Club. He worked to establish the sailing racecourse and layout for all the races. He had a particular fondness for the Minuet Sail Boat and, because of this enthusiasm, there are at least 9 Minuets presently on the lake.

He was a past president of the Belgrade Lakes Association and a board member for 25 years. He was also a sea captain for over 15 years.

Peter had many interests and hobbies. He loved to refurbish sailboats, go sailing, and teach people how to sail, windsurf, water and snow ski. He also enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and loved a donut from Day's Store.

The three things that were most important to Peter were his house on Belgrade Lakes Mill Stream, the Great Pond Yacht Club, and his daughter Chrissy.

Peter was a lighthouse for many.





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Village Green Music Series debuts for 2021!



Bring a lawn chair and come join your friends and neighbors to enjoy live music on the Village Green every Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. For more information call (207) 495-3481 or email recreation@townofbelgrade.com.