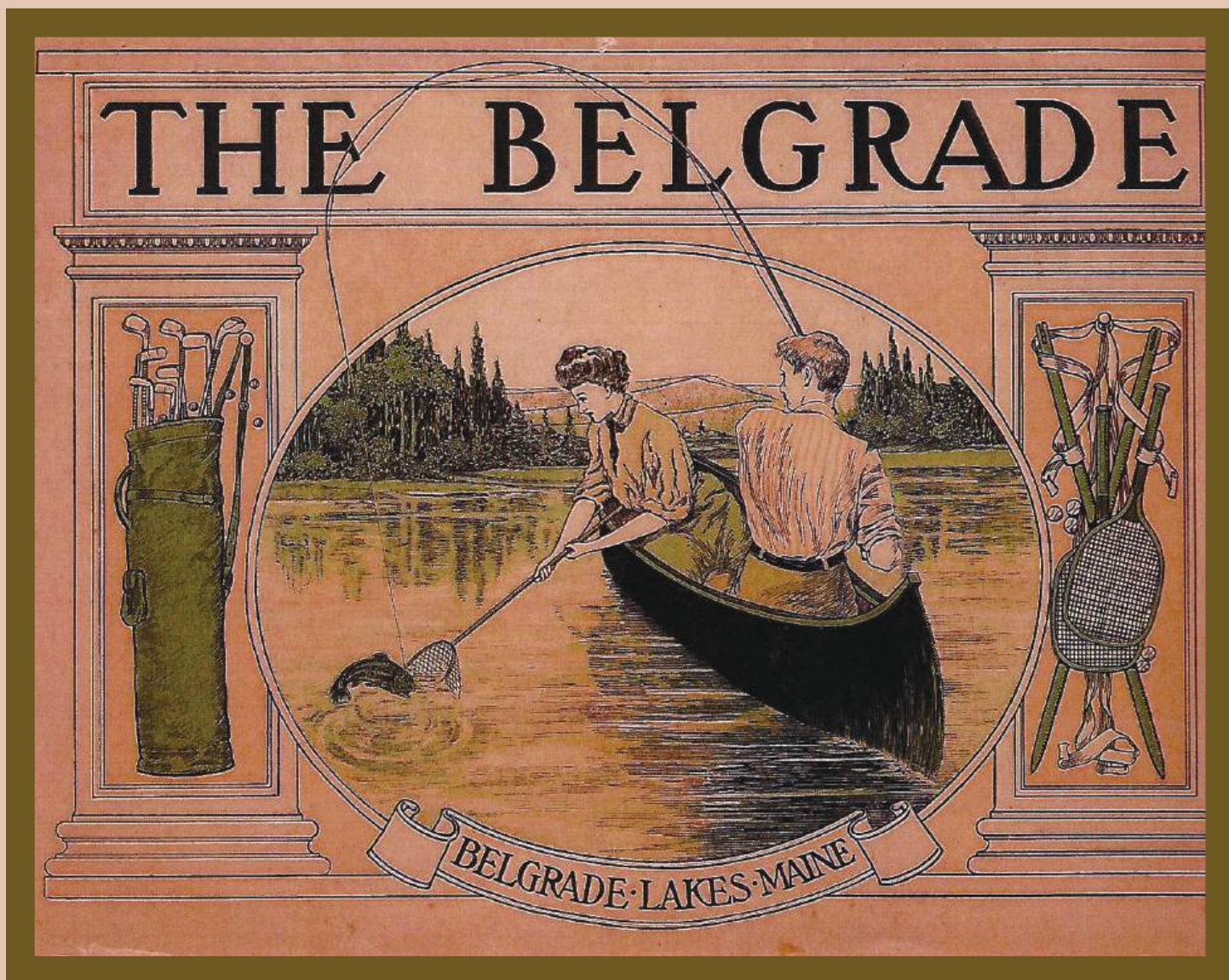


BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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



The Belgrade Lakes Association - protecting and preserving its lakes for more than 100 years.

President's Remarks

Dear Friends and Members,

As we welcome another beautiful season in the Belgrades, I'm pleased to share some exciting updates.

We kicked off the summer with our **May 24th membership event at the Village Inn** which was a tremendous success. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to welcome new members who share our love and dedication to preserving this special place.

Please mark your calendar for our **Annual Meeting on July 27th** which will be held at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club from 4 to 6 pm. It promises to be an informative and inspiring gathering with updates on our ongoing initiatives and a look ahead to future priorities.



Our **Annual Raffle** is now underway—always a fun and important way to support the BLA's mission. Your participation helps fund critical programs that protect our lakes and watershed such as the Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI), Youth Conservation Corp (YCC), Invasive and Aquatic programs, and erosion control measures.

We are initiating a new **summer septic intern**, managed through 7 Lakes Alliance (7LA), who will assist the Towns of Rome and Belgrade in building a database of existing septic systems that includes when they were last rebuilt, etc.

This year marks **16 years since the Docks to Doorways initiative began**, a visionary program emerging from the BLA that ultimately led to the creation of the **Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC)**. It's a milestone worth celebrating as the MLRC continues to be a hub for conservation, education, and community engagement. The Belgrade Lakes Association is also proud to have raised the full amount necessary to purchase the Lakes Post Office building many years ago, ensuring continued dock access to the Village. Having originally conveyed the property to 7LA's predecessor for \$1.00, we are hopeful for a meaningful role in its revitalization. We also look forward to the opportunity to maintain a presence in the currently unused space along the stream.

On a personal note, this will be **my final letter as President** of the BLA. It has been an honor to serve alongside such dedicated board members, volunteers, and supporters. I will continue on the board. Together, we've made great strides in protecting our lakes for future generations, and I'm confident that the Association will continue to thrive under new leadership.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. Your involvement and passion are what keep the Belgrade Lakes pristine and vibrant. Please share with us your 'lake stories;' we would love to share them with our readers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bert Languet'. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'B' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Bert Languet, President, Belgrade Lakes Association

Preparing for the Future: Sustaining our Lakes in Uncertain Times

By Richard LaBelle, BLA Vice-President

Over the past several years, the leadership at the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) has kept a close eye on the shifting landscape of external funding. Like many nonprofit organizations, we recognized early on that the financial boost from COVID-era legislation—while never directly awarded to BLA—created ripple effects that benefited many of our programs. As those temporary funds sunset, the challenge becomes clear: how do we sustain progress in an era of tightening budgets?



Here we are in 2025; the State of Maine doesn't have the brightest financial outlook. On the back of a not-so-sunny report from the State Auditor, forecasts indicate revenues are plateauing and then are likely to dip in the years to follow. This trend signals potential cuts to both essential services and quality-of-life programs. Local governments are likely to feel the pressure first with reduced state aid leading to increased reliance on property taxes to maintain vital services.

In Washington, there's governance from the other side of the political aisle, and the landscape is equally uncertain. A shift in political leadership has prompted efforts to scale back or eliminate funding for programs deemed "non-essential." Congressional Directed Spending (CDS), a key tool in securing targeted support for local initiatives, has been paused—its future unclear.

To illustrate the stakes: consider Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This federal program provides funding to address nonpoint source pollution, like stormwater runoff—a major threat to lake health. While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determines how much Section 319 money is needed, Congress controls the actual appropriation of those funds. Through the State of Maine, these dollars support essential local efforts such as the Youth Conservation Corps and other lake protection projects. Should this funding be reduced or disappear, those projects will be delayed, diminished, or lost entirely.

This isn't partisan rhetoric—it's a call for preparation and resilience. As an organization, we must face the reality that we cannot rely on federal or state funding to secure the future of Great Pond and Long Pond. If those dollars come, we'll welcome them—but we must be ready to move forward without them.

Now more than ever, the long-term health of our lakes depends on local resolve. It will take a strong, sustained financial commitment from our members and the community to continue this work. The Belgrade Lakes Association, powered by dedicated volunteers, remains steadfast in its mission. We will continue to raise the funds necessary to protect and preserve these cherished resources to ensure that future generations can enjoy them as we do today.

No matter who is in power, the pattern is clear: yesterday's funding programs are disappearing. It's up to us—all of us—to invest in the future of our lakes.

This newsletter continues bits of history pertaining to the early times of the BLA and the Village. Our cover shows a brochure cover from 1909 of the famous Belgrade Hotel that opened in 1905. The BLA was established c. 1908.

State of Maine



Department of the Secretary of State

I, the Secretary of the State of Maine, certify that the Office of the Secretary of State is the Legal and Constitutional repository of Corporate Records and the Great Seal of the State of Maine.

Furthermore, I certify, that the following Corporation,

The Belgrade Lakes Association

has been duly incorporated as a corporation for

100 years

on July 14, 2019 and is rightly commended for demonstrating those qualities required to achieve this honorable distinction of duration and longevity. Therefore, having striven for and accomplished this tremendous achievement, let it be known to all so this company may now and always make further contributions to the wealth and prosperity of the Great State of Maine.

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed; given under my hand at Augusta, Maine, this fourteenth, day of July 2019.




Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

BELGRADE LAKES

Group raises \$400K toward water project

Goal is to raise \$1.5M for properties between Great Pond and Long Pond

BY MECHELE COOPER
Staff Writer

BELGRADE LAKES — The Belgrade Lakes Association made the initial payment recently on two properties that will give boaters water access to the village.

In eight weeks, the association raised \$400,000 of a \$1.5 million goal to purchase and renovate a Main Street building that houses the post office plus a vacant lot down the road.

The properties are on Mill Stream between Great Pond and Long Pond.

Gail Rizzo, spokeswoman for the association, said Docks to Doorways is a privately funded, community-led campaign aimed at enriching community life by providing:

- public access to the docks behind the post office;
- downtown community space for events, seasonal retail and realization;
- continued mail boat service; and
- resources devoted to ensuring both water quality and watershed integrity.

Rizzo said the association has a signed agreement with the property owners.

"The buildings are sale pending," she said. "We have one year to raise the rest of the money."

She said the Docks to Doorways Committee of her, Dick Grenan, Scott Finlay and Kathy Lowell got the campaign rolling, but at this point a large-

er committee is needed to raise the rest of the funds.

"We cannot do it alone," she said. "We need your help. We have to raise the rest of the money as soon as possible."

She said the association needs financial help as well as ideas and enthusiasm. She invites people to help with the campaign.

Lowell, who co-chairs the committee with Rizzo, said the campaigning started out without a big donation.

But committee members have solicited funds door-to-door, at the village farmers' market, and from the Great Pond mail boat.

"Everyone has been working together to make this happen including the property owners, which I get excited about," Lowell said. "This is truly a community effort."

The owner of the Main Street building where the post office is located put the property up for sale and built the fence to blunt liability from public use of the docks.

A summer resident from Naples, Fla., eventually bought the building and intended to tear down the fence and reopen the docks, but his plan fell through.

Rizzo said people can donate to the nonprofit for the campaign at www.belgradelakesassociation.com or Belgrade Lakes Association, P.O. Box 511, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918.

Mechele Cooper — 623-3811, ext. 408
mcooper@centralmaine.com



Staff file photo by Joe Phelan

MILL STREAM: This blue boat house and docks are on Mill Stream in Belgrade Lakes on the back side of buildings that house the Post Office and other offices.

A History of the Maine Lakes Resource Center

The Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC) in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, was established to promote lake and watershed conservation in the region. In 2007, volunteers from the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) initiated a project to purchase the site of the current post office and an adjacent empty lot in the center of Belgrade Lakes Village. A plan called Docks To Doorways was developed that included restoring the docks behind the post office to reconnect Great Pond residents to the village, providing permanent office space for the BLA and the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), and creating a small park on the empty lot.

Construction of the empty lot building, now called the MLRC, began in late 2010 and was completed by July 2011, just in time for the Fourth of July celebrations. The 4,000-square-foot building was constructed using reclaimed white oak beams from two 200-year-old Amish barns in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and was built entirely by local tradesmen.

In late December 2017, the BRCA started to evolve into the then-forming group called the 7 Lakes Alliance, an organization committed to conserving the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes region. Today, the building serves the Alliance as a year-round visitor's center and houses the offices of its partner organizations including Colby College and the Belgrade Lakes Association. The public gallery space offers educational materials on lake science, trail maps, and best management practices for reducing phosphorus and other pollutants into the lakes as well as a meeting space for lectures and classes.

The resource center grounds also serve as a demonstration property for the LakeSmart program by showcasing several best management practices (BMPs) for erosion control.

These resources provide in-depth information on the environmental history and conservation initiatives in Maine, including the Belgrade Lakes area. The Belgrade Lakes Association is proud to be a continued supporter of and contributor to such an important resource.



Antique Postcards from among the Lakes!



"Pine Beach Camp" Great Lake, Belgrade Lakes, Me.

50748-B



THE WAR CANOES — KENNEBEC JUNIOR CAMP — NORTH BELGRADE, MAINE



Castle Island, Belgrade Lakes, Me.

SUNKEN GARDENS OF BELGRADE HOTEL OVERLOOKING LONG LAKE, BELGRADE LAKES, ME.



MAIN LODGE, JAMAICA POINT CAMPS, BELGRADE LAKES, ME.



Every Dam Thing You Should Know!

By Dick Greenan, BLA Board Member, Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee

As of this writing, we are beginning our summer in good shape with Great Pond's Village dam 2.28" above full pond with one gate opened three feet after the recent rains. Basically, the water is just 2.28" deep going over the top of the stone spillway. Long Pond and its Wings Mill dam is .96", basically 1" below full pond with gates opened 18" and 3' respectfully. Salmon/McGrath is right at 2.16" above full pond with its single gate opened just the mandated 1 cfs (cubic foot per sec) flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are presently 8.88" below due to maintenance and their hydroelectric demands.



3" flow over the stone spillway

The forecast for the next ten days is just 1.32" of precipitation while the long-term forecast calls for 21% less precipitation for both May and June followed by 30% less for August and September. All translates into another Chamber of Commerce Summer, if we can believe our forecasters!! As a result, your Dams Committee is trying to start off this summer with all of the ponds at 3" above full pond. If you recall, at 3" above full, the water level shouldn't float off any one's dock and, more importantly, not flood out any of our native hummock style loon nests.



Wings Mill Dam with Wings Mill Road at the top

Your Dams Committee has another busy summer with a total rebuild of both hemlock gates as well as the driveway at Wings Mill. All of the other dams, although in need of routine maintenance, remain in good shape. A relative term here in Maine!



Wings Mills gates scheduled for rebuild

If you have a particular question regarding our dams and/or water levels, please email your inquiry to: dickgreenan@outlook.com. We will try to answer your question via email.

Thank you all for your continued support and enjoy your summer! It's supposed to be another classic.

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

We are getting ready to launch our new and improved website. With easy to navigate menus you can learn about our BLA history, explore our wide range of activities, stay updated with the latest news and promotions, and learn how you too can be involved. Stay tuned for the launch.

Great Pond and Long Pond Water Quality Update

By Dr. Danielle Wain, Lake Science Director, 7 Lakes Alliance

Phosphorus is the key nutrient for growth of algae in our lakes. That is why reductions in phosphorus are the primary goals of the Great Pond and Long Pond Watershed Based Management Plans (WBMP). 7 Lakes and Colby closely monitor phosphorus during the entire open water season on both lakes. Over the winter months, we finished processing all the phosphorus samples from 2024, giving us a picture of where we are on this important metric. The good news is that the volume-averaged phosphorus in both lakes mostly stayed below 10 ppb, with a yearly average of 8.5 ppb and 9.1 ppb at the two Great Pond sites, 7.6 ppb in the North Basin of Long Pond, and 7.1 ppb in the South Basin of Long Pond (Figure 1). The WBMPs set a goal of 8.5 ppb in Great Pond and 8.1 ppb in the North Basin of Long Pond, and 7.9 ppb in the South Basin on Long Pond (indicated by the dashed lines in the right panel of Figure 1). While it is great that we are near to meeting the goal on Great Pond and met the goal last year on Long Pond, we cannot rest on our laurels. As recently as 2020, the averages for all the lakes were above 10 ppb. 2024 was also a relatively dry summer, and both Great Pond and Long Pond have better water quality in dry years; runoff from the watershed plays a very important role in how much phosphorus is in both lakes (in other words, the external load of phosphorus is the most important element in the phosphorus budget). It is important we continue to execute the action plans in both WBMPs that include conserving land, buffering shorelines, and ensuring your septic system is functioning well.

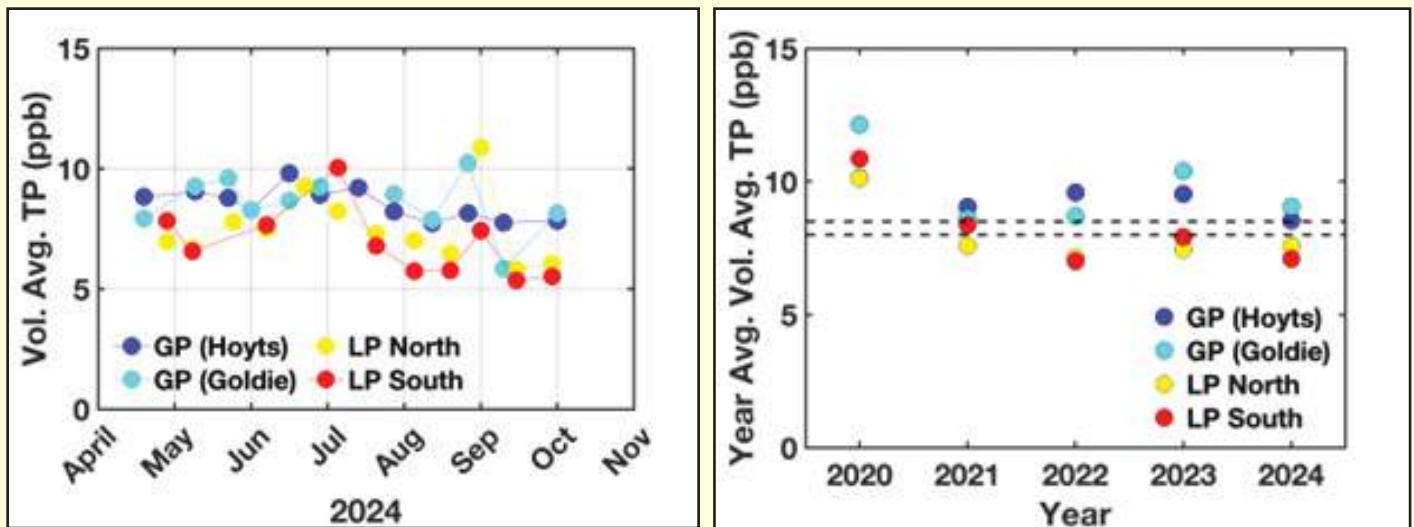


Figure 1. (left) Volume-averaged Total Phosphorus (TP) in both lakes over the course of 2024. (right) The average for the year of volume-averaged TP in both lakes from 2020-2024. Dashed lines indicate WBMP goals. Data from 7 Lakes-Colby Water Quality Initiative.

While phosphorus is important for understanding the risk of algal blooms, other parameters can indicate other water quality issues in the lakes. Recently, documentation of high conductivity in McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake by MPSLA caused an investigation of potential leachate from the landfill in Oakland which resulted in the testing of fish in the lake for PFAS (another element of landfill leachate). This led to fish consumption advisories from the Maine CDC. Conductivity itself is not harmful; it is simply a measure of how well water conducts electricity which is directly related to the amount of dissolved ions (salts) in the water. While Salmon and McGrath had conductivity that was 50% higher than all the other Belgrade Lakes, across all the lakes, we see statistically significant increasing trends in conductivity since the 1980s (Figure 2). In many places with icy roads in the winter, this increase in conductivity is attributed to the use of road salts which then are washed into the lake.

Salts in the lake can reduce biodiversity, disrupt food chains, and create changes in the lakes' mixing patterns and stratification.

So it is important to note that all the work we do to keep runoff out of the lake has impacts beyond just phosphorus!

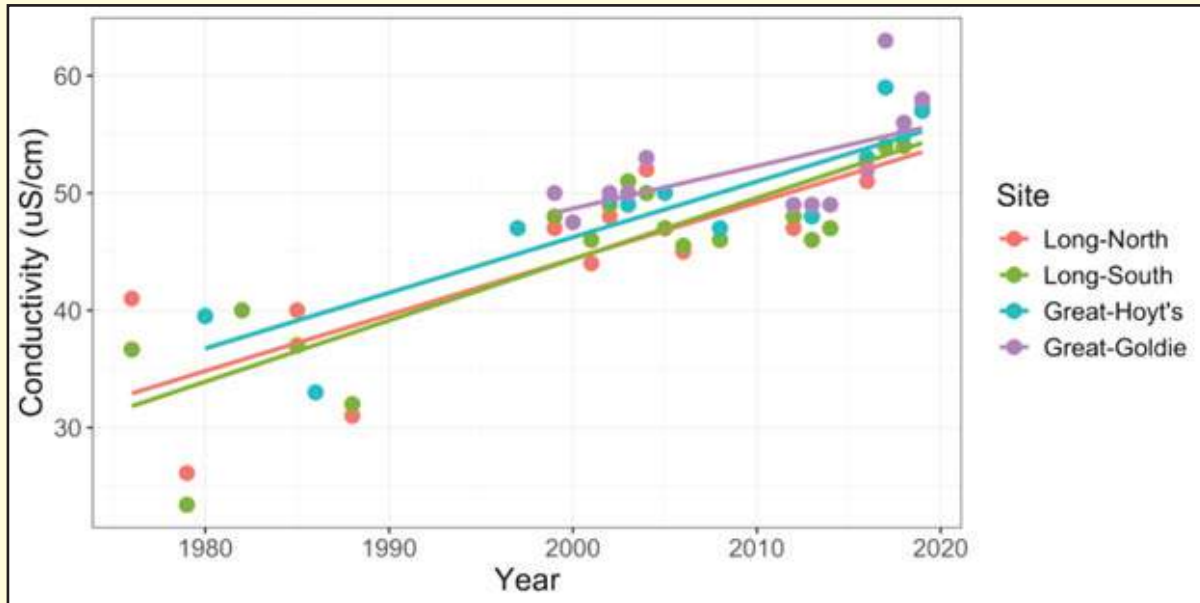


Figure 2. Yearly average of conductivity in Great Pond and Long Pond going back to the 1970s, along with trend lines. All trends other than Great-Goldie are statistically significant and strongly show increasing trends based on a Mann-Kendall analysis.
[Data from the Lakes of Maine database maintained by the Maine DEP.]

To our Visitors:

You are one of thousands of lovers of the out-of-doors who visit these Belgrade Lakes each year. For over half a century visitors from all over the United States have come here to rest, relax, swim, sail, fish and hunt. Many have become property owners, building permanent summer homes and camps.

In spite of an increasing summer population, these lakes still keep their original charm. They continue to have a sense of remoteness and deep woods. Their shores have not been lumbered off, and the encroachments of civilization, so apparent in many other lakes in Maine, are so far inconspicuous.

It is of importance to all of us who come here, to keep the Belgrade Lakes as natural, unmechanized and free of the abuses to privacy which have destroyed dozens of other once-beautiful areas.

The members of the Belgrade Lakes Association, whose voluntary contributions support many of the advantageous features of this area, have subscribed to the code which is printed on opposite page. The code needs your support and acceptance. By it we can keep the great charm of the Belgrade Lakes region intact. We ask you to abide by the Belgrade Lakes Code yourself, and to assist us in urging all others who enjoy these lakes to do likewise.

**THE MEMBERSHIP OF
THE BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION**

THE CODE OF THE BELGRADE LAKES

1. Throw nothing into the water or onto the shores of these lakes which will endanger a barefoot swimmer. Never throw a bottle, tin can, or debris into the water or onto the shore.
2. When in a motor boat or outboard keep at least 100 yards away from swimmers, sailboats, canoeists, and people fishing.
3. Leave all campsites better and cleaner than when entered.
4. Keep your boat well outside coves and beaches of occupied private property, especially those off which floats and diving towers have been moored.
5. When fishing unusually early or late, remember that you may disturb those asleep in lakeside cabins.
6. Ask permission before landing at docks or on shore line which is obviously private ground.
7. When erecting new buildings or developing shoreline, keep changes as inconspicuous as possible, and in harmony with their surroundings.
8. When cutting timber, do not strip the shoreline.
9. Do not use mechanical amplification systems.

Above is the BLA lake code c.1948

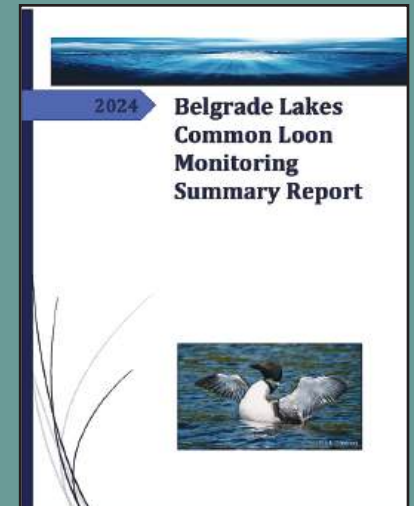
The 2024 Belgrade Lakes Common Loon Monitoring Summary Report

By Dick Greenan, Chairman, Loon Preservation Committee

The results of our 2024 Belgrade Lakes Association's 6th year of our Loon Project are now available on the BLA website @ blamaine.org home page. Thank you, Lee, for your undaunted support and insights!

As we prepare ourselves for another season, the following are highlights from this past year's Summary Report. As you will read, the biggest takeaways are:

1. The 2024 overall productivity of 0.26 CS/TP (chick productivity per territorial pair) remains very low when compared to the established sustainable population threshold of 0.48 CS/TP. Looking at 2019 (0.35), 2020 (0.17), 2021 (0.35), 2022 (0.30), 2023 (0.26) productivity, no single year approaches 0.48 CS/TP. These consistently low productivity numbers over a six-year period are concerning.
2. For populations to thrive, long-term survival and mate fidelity are critical factors. Early findings raise concerns about loon fidelity in the study area. While return/survival rates are strong, mate fidelity is low. Only two of seven pairs banded in 2023 remained together in 2024 (29%) despite all the adults returning. Overall, only five of 14 pairs since 2020 have remained together (36%). Four years of (banded) data collection is a beginning and integral part of the study.
3. Three of the six man-made floating rafts were used for nesting (50%), and two of the three nests were successful (67%). Comparatively, there were a total of 15 natural nest attempts on the two lakes, and six nests were successful (40%). Rafts can be an excellent option where open natural nests consistently fail due to predation.



Loon Mentor Lee Attix on a bumpy and wet Great Pond ride!

1. Thirty of the 36 banded adult loons returned (83%) to their territory.
2. Nesting was confirmed for the first time in Great Pond's Otter Island territory. The male resident was originally banded in Snake Point Cove back in 2008. The nesting pair hatched and fledged one chick.
3. Last year we had just one chick from all of Long Pond and four chicks from Great Pond that we assumed made the Great Fly-off this past fall.
4. Progress recruiting new citizen volunteers in the community has been slow, however. Our Colby Internship program is a start, but it does not assure the necessary sustainability. Further study and evaluation of population trends is warranted to help better understand the low productivity and determine if there are additional conservation measures which could be implemented to enhance loon chick productivity.



Long Pond's Lynch Cove female on floating nest with a Great Blue Heron getting in on the loon cam!

Loon volunteer assistants are desperately needed. If you love loons, here is the opportunity of a life-time! Get to know your loons personally while making a difference! Many hands make light work so the more the merrier!

Here's to 2025 and the continuing efforts of our stewardship!

A Century of Care: The Story Behind the Belgrade Lakes Association

By Chris Raleigh, BLA Board Member



Example of original Belgrade camps.

In the early 1900s, long before lake associations became commonplace, a small group of passionate lake lovers gathered on the shores of Great Pond. They weren't officials or policy experts—just summer residents, fishermen, and neighbors - drawn together by a shared sense of responsibility for the place they called their seasonal home.

With time they had begun to notice subtle changes in the water, the fish, and the land, and they saw a choice: stand by, or step in. They chose action.

Around 1908, this informal group began meeting to discuss how best to protect

the Belgrade Lakes from the growing pressures of development and recreational use. What started as conversations turned into a collective vision: to ensure the health and beauty of these waters for generations to come.

That vision became official on **July 1, 1919**, when the group incorporated as the **Belgrade Great Pond Association**, now known as the **Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA)**. While many of the founding members hailed from New York City, their hearts were rooted in the Belgrades. They didn't just want to enjoy the lakes - they wanted to preserve them.



Recreation Hall - Belgrade Lake camps.



Original BLA logo c.1909

Leading this early effort were William P. Beaver, the Association's first president, James W. Myer as treasurer, and Robert R. Myer as secretary. Together, they built more than just an organization—they laid the foundation for us today with its community-wide commitment to stewardship.

From the very beginning, the Association's purpose was clearly stated and has stood the test of time. The original charter focused on safeguarding the lakes from pollution, encouraging safe boating and swimming, stocking fish, protecting wildlife, and preserv-

ing the shoreline and surrounding natural beauty. It wasn't about reacting to a specific problem - it was about creating a long-term vision for conservation and community engagement.

That vision quickly gained traction. By the end of its first year, the Association had grown to nearly 70 members - a powerful reflection of the community's support and shared concern. The example set by the Belgrade group soon caught the attention of lake communities across Maine, many of whom reached out for guidance on how to form similar associations of their own.

The Association's 1909 annual meeting, held at the Thwing Brothers Camps on Hoyt's Island, was more than a gathering - it was a moment of growth. Members voted on improvements to the Association's operations, made changes to the membership process, and found ways to keep people informed about evolving fishing laws. These decisions reflected a thoughtful, responsive approach to governance that continues today.

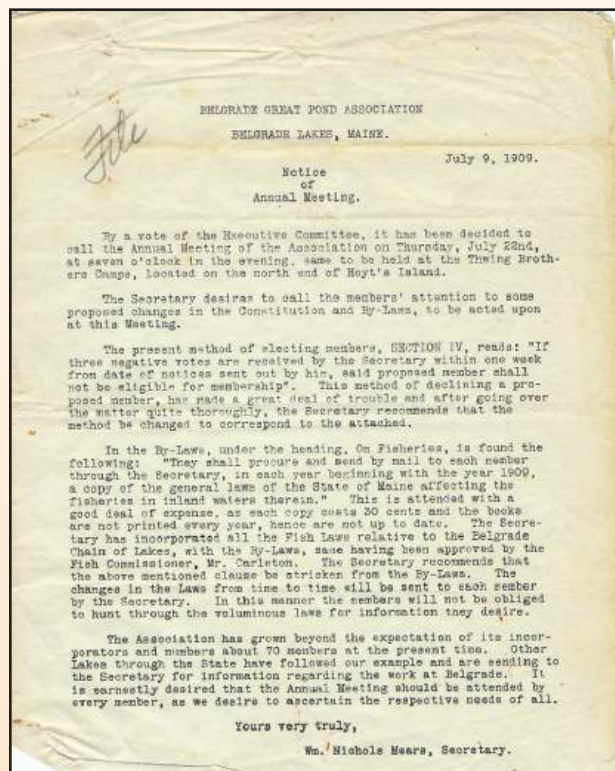
Incorporation in 1919 marked a new chapter. Establishing its headquarters in Rome, the Association formalized its legal standing,

further strengthening its long-term capacity for stewardship. While the

documents filed with the State of Maine reflected the formal language of the era, the purpose behind them was clear and heartfelt: to care for the lakes through civic-minded action and thoughtful leadership.

In the years that followed, the State of Maine recognized the Association's civic mission, exempting it from the reporting requirements typically expected of commercial entities. This acknowledgment affirmed the public service role the Association had come to play in the region.

That commitment didn't stop with the founding generation. Today, many members of the Belgrade Lakes Association are legacies whose families have contributed to lake stewardship for decades. One such example is long-serving Board member and former BLA President Polly Beatie, whose deep ties to the Association span generations. Her father, Wilson Parkhill became secretary-treasurer in 1926 and was either one or both



Annual meeting notice - 1909

when necessary until 1959. He also served as President of the BLA in the 1940s, bringing leadership honed through his 25 years as Headmaster of The Collegiate School, the nation's oldest secondary school, located in New York City. Polly's cousin, Franklin Coe, also served as President in the 1930s and played a key role in guiding the Association through a time of growing change. Coe, a prominent figure in publishing, was the former owner of Town & Country magazine before selling it to William Randolph Hearst, and later managed House Beautiful. Their shared commitment to the lakes helped

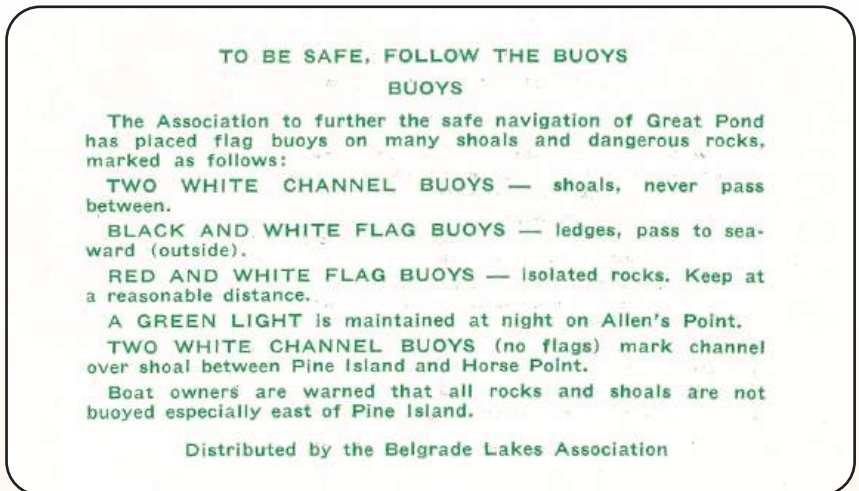


Official 1919 Embossing Stamp

shape the organization's direction and spirit, and their influence continues to be felt today.

More than 100 years later, the current Belgrade Lakes Association continues to carry forward the legacy of those early members with their commitment to community, conservation, and care that still drives the organization's work. Each initiative, each partnership, and each new generation of lake stewards builds on the strong foundation they created.

As we look back, we don't just honor their efforts - we are inspired by them. The challenges may have changed, but the mission remains the same: to protect and preserve the lakes we love for all who come after us.



Early BLA Buoy information card.

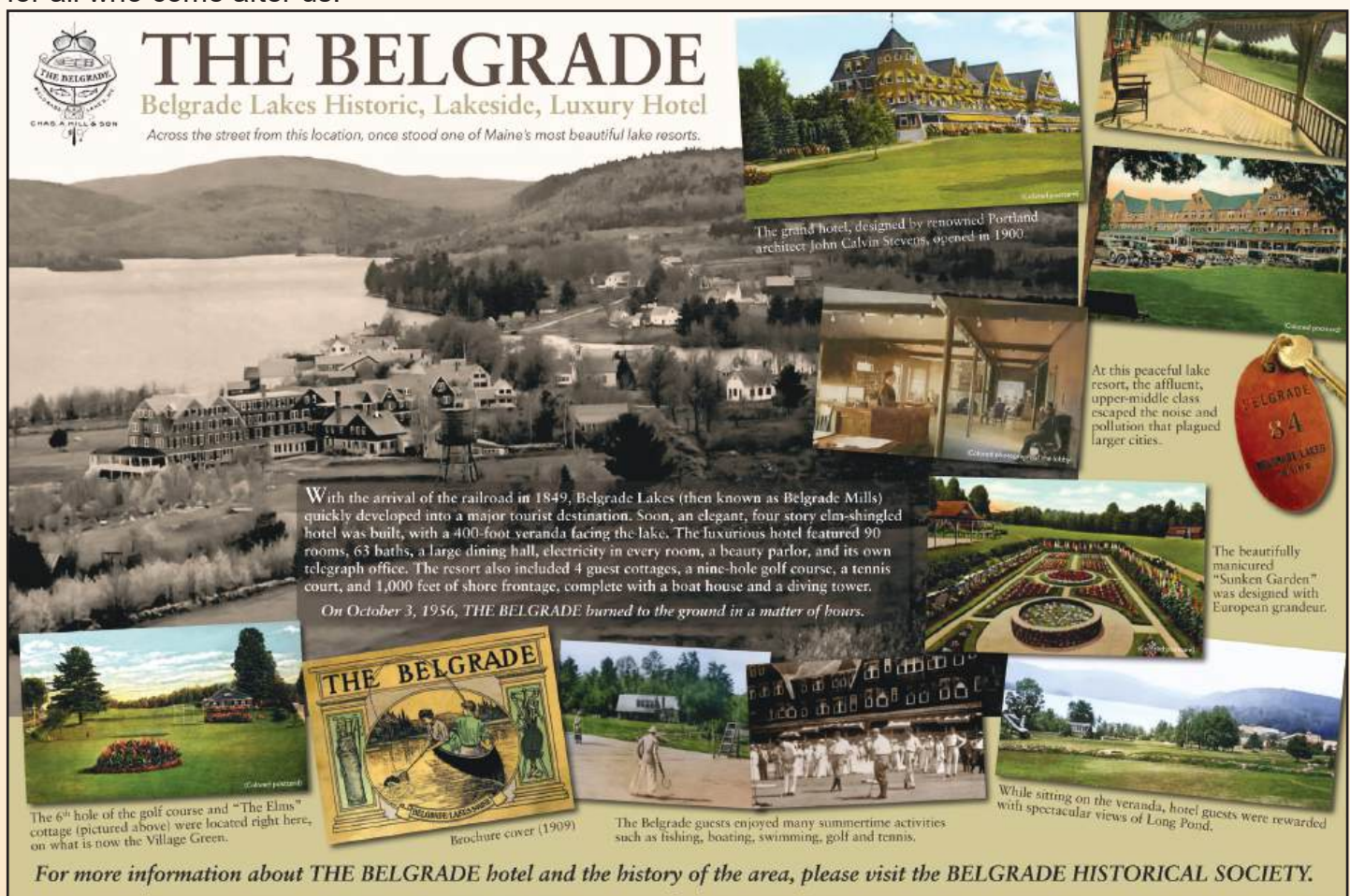


Photo of plaque that stands in the Village Green commemorating the Belgrade Hotel that once stood nearby.

Clearing Vegetation in the Shoreland Zone

By Liz Fontaine, BLA Board Member

The shoreland zoning law prohibits any vegetation removal within the 75-foot buffer area around a great pond that is zoned for resource protection. This applies to Great Pond, Long Pond, Salmon Lake, McGrath Pond, Messalonskee Lake, East Pond, North Pond, and Watson Pond.

All of the following are rules that apply to properties within a 100-foot setback from any great pond.

1. No opening in the forest canopy may exceed 250 square feet.
2. Selective cutting is allowed, provided that a well-distributed stand of trees remains.

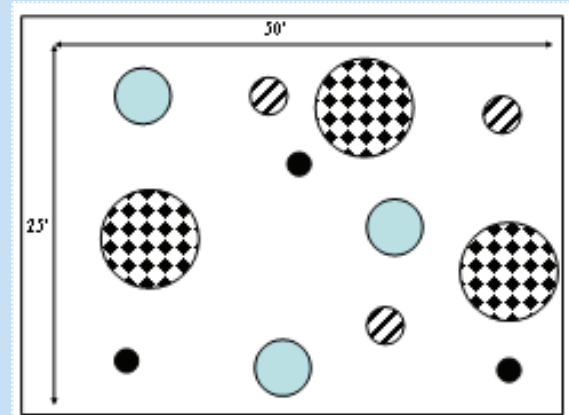
A “well-distributed stand of trees” is defined by a point system. Shoreland properties owners must maintain 24 points within a 25x50 square. You cannot overlap squares. The following shows how the point system works. Measurements are based on the diameter of a tree at breast height.

1. Under 2 inches = 0 points
2. 2 inches to 4 inches – 1 point
3. 4 inches to 8 inches = 2 points
4. 8 inches to 12 inches = 4 points
5. 12 inches or greater = 8 points

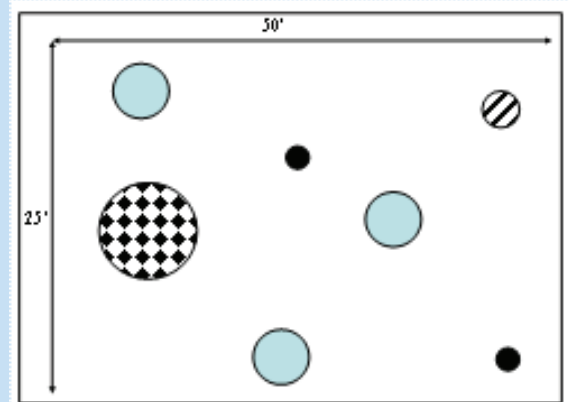
Exemptions: You are exempt from these rules when the property owner needs to remove vegetation due to storm-damage, disease, unsafe or dead trees. However, the property owner must replant with native trees unless there is new tree growth present.

As an example of the above rating system, adjacent to a great pond, if a 25-foot x 50-foot plot contains three (3) trees between 2 and 4 inches in diameter, three (3) trees between 4 and 8 inches in diameter, three (3) trees between 8 and 12 inches in diameter, and here (3) trees over 12 inches in diameter, the rating score is:
 $(3 \times 1) + (3 \times 2) + (3 \times 4) + (3 \times 8) = 45$ points

Before (45 points)



After (24 points)



KEY

Symbol	Tree Dia.	Points
●	2 - <4 inches	1
⦶	4 - <8 inches	2
●	8 - <12 inches	4
⦶	12 inches or greater	8

Thus, the 25-foot by 50-foot plot contains trees totaling 45 points. Trees totaling 21 points (45 – 24 = 24) may be removed from the plot provided that no cleared opening is created. The accompanying graphics are just one example of allowable cutting under the point system.

How to Make a Campfire: A Step-by-Step Guide

By Bert Languet, BLA President

Whether you're camping in the backcountry or just enjoying an evening in your backyard, a campfire is an essential part of the outdoor experience. It provides warmth, light, a way to cook, and a cozy atmosphere for storytelling and bonding. However, building a safe and effective campfire requires preparation, technique, and a respect for nature. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you make a campfire safely and successfully.

Step 1: Choose a Safe Location

Before you strike a match, choosing the right spot is crucial. Follow these guidelines:

- **Use existing fire rings:** If you're at a campsite with designated fire pits, use them.
- **Clear the area:** If you're building a fire from scratch, find a flat, open area away from overhanging branches, dry grass, or tents.
- **Check fire regulations:** Always check for fire bans or restrictions in the area due to dry weather or wildfire risk.

Step 2: Gather Your Materials

You'll need three types of materials to start a fire:

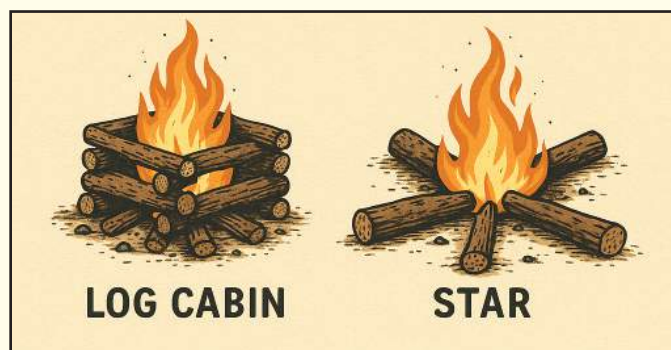
1. **Tinder:** Small, dry materials that catch fire easily, such as dry leaves, pine needles, bark shavings, or paper.
2. **Kindling:** Small sticks or twigs (typically pencil to thumb thickness) that catch fire from the tinder.
3. **Fuelwood:** Larger pieces of wood that keep the fire burning once it's established.

Make sure all materials are dry for the best results.

Step 3: Build the Fire Structure

There are several effective ways to structure a fire. The most common are:

- **Teepee:** Place tinder in the center, surround it with kindling standing upright like a cone, then add larger sticks leaning against the structure. This allows air to circulate and feeds the flames upward.
- **Log Cabin:** Create a small teepee, then stack larger logs around it in a square shape like building a cabin. This structure burns longer and more steadily.
- **Lean-To:** Place a larger log as a windbreak, lean kindling against it, and place tinder underneath. Good for windy conditions.



Step 4: Light the Fire

- Use a match or lighter to ignite the tinder. Light it from several sides if needed to help it catch evenly. Blow gently at the base to provide oxygen and encourage the flames.
- Be patient—let the fire catch naturally, and add kindling gradually until the fire is strong enough for fuelwood.

Step 5: Maintain and Use the Fire

Once your fire is burning well:

- **Add wood gradually:** Avoid piling on too much at once which can smother the fire.
- **Keep it manageable:** A small, controlled fire is safer and more useful than a large blaze.
- **Use for cooking or warmth:** Let the fire burn down to glowing embers for the best cooking heat.

Step 6: Extinguish the Fire Properly

Never leave a campfire unattended. When you're done:

1. **Let the fire burn down:** Wait until the wood is mostly ash.
2. **Pour water:** Slowly pour water over the fire, stirring the ashes and embers.
3. **Stir and soak:** Continue until all hissing stops and the ashes are cool to the touch.
4. **Scatter ashes:** If appropriate and safe, disperse the cool ashes to leave no trace.

Final Tips

- Always keep a bucket of water or a shovel nearby.
- Don't burn trash or plastics—they release harmful chemicals.
- Respect the environment and practice Leave No Trace principles.

Building a campfire is a rewarding outdoor skill that enhances any camping experience. With the right materials, careful preparation, and safety awareness, you can enjoy your fire responsibly. A good book of ghost stories and some Smore materials make it all the better. When my family was younger, we spent many a night sitting around a fire – those are memories you remember for the rest of your life.

Invasive Aquatics Program Updates

By Sharon Mann, Invasive Aquatics Program Director, 7 Lakes Alliance

Variable-leaf milfoil

On a bright and windy afternoon, we conducted our annual kick-off SCUBA survey of Great Meadow Stream. The stream was alive with fast-flowing water, red-wing black-bird calls, and a handsome pair of loons busily preparing their nest. It brings me great joy (and relief) to report only 1 invasive milfoil plant was found! Interestingly, the plant was removed in the same exact location we have been finding it since the herbicide treatment in 2022. Variable-leaf milfoil is well known for its deep and hardy roots- think of them as pond dandelions. Thankfully, we find and remove this sneaky little fellow, as it re-emerges, long before it can develop into a patch and spread. The crew will continue to conduct full SCUBA surveys of Great Meadow Stream every two weeks until November.



Josie prepares to dive.

While there is no longer a legal restriction against motor boats entering Great Meadow Stream, we continue to recommend keeping noisy motor boats OUT! Sadly, there are few “natural” places left in our watershed where nesting birds and other wildlife can exist in peace. Thank you all for continuing to enjoy all the beauty Great Meadow Stream has to offer from low-impact paddlecraft. The brightly painted turtles, busy muskrats, and sneaky water snakes thank you for respecting their home.

Across the pond and into Messalonskee Lake- we are excited to kick off year-1 of managing invasive aquatic species programming in Messalonskee Lake, Belgrade Stream, and Messalonskee Stream. Taking on these infestations will be a heavy lift (physically, financially, and emotionally), as variable-leaf milfoil is well established, especially in Belgrade Stream. Since we are just beginning this project, we have limited connections on Messalonskee Lake and streams. If you are interested in connecting about our work in Messalonskee, please reach out to sharon@7lakesalliance.org. We'd love to hear from you and start working together!

**Weekly Aquatic Plant ID & Adopt-A-Shoreline workshops at the MLRC
will resume June 25th, Wednesdays 10 AM - 11:30 PM.**

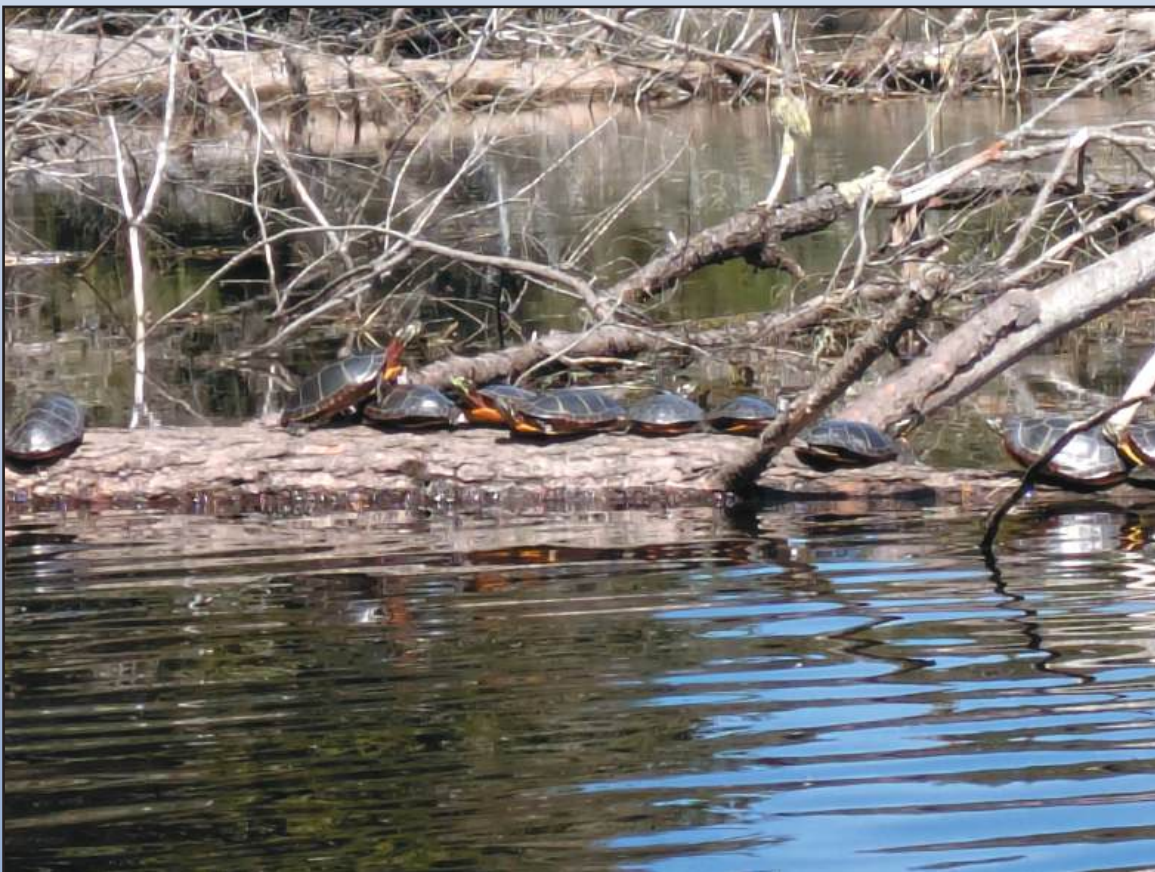
Curly-leaf pondweed

Last spring we uncovered a sizable infestation of curly-leaf pondweed around Pomleau Island in North Pond. Due to our diligent efforts last spring and fall, the amount of curly-leaf pondweed we are finding is much less than this time last year. Due to the strange life-history of this plant, we are up against the clock to remove as much biomass as possible by the end of May. Our goal is to remove curly-leaf pondweed plants before they produce new turions (how they reproduce) so that we can slowly reduce the size of the infestation as we have seen happen in the East Pond Serpentine.



Courtesy Boat Inspection & Adopt-A-Shoreline

It's after Memorial Day weekend which means boat traffic is up, and our friendly Courtesy Boat Inspectors are stationed at all public boat launches! As always, staffing the shoulder seasons is challenging as most of our paid CBIs are highschool or college students who aren't available to work until summer. Are you here year-round? Do you enjoy reading outside and occasionally making small talk with strangers? If yes, PLEASE consider helping staff the boat launches when our kids are still in school! Contact Josie at invasives.coordinator@7lakesalliance.org for training and scheduling.



Painted Turtles on a log

This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to Dr. Andy Cook



Andy announcing a lucky winner's name.

This issue of the Belgrade Lakes Association's newsletter is dedicated to Dr. Andrew Cook who has been an unstoppable driving force in the planning and execution of our yearly raffle, a highly important fundraiser, for the past 6 years.

Our "Raffle Czar" Andy is stepping down from his post this year in order to spend more time travelling and with his family.

Andy worked tirelessly to acquire our raffle prizes, create press articles, set-up our tables each weekend at the Belgrade Village Post Office and the Farmers Market; and always with his quick wit and ever-present sense of humor. Thank you, Andy for your hard work and tremendous dedication!

We want YOUR "Lake Stories"!

Hey neighbors!

We're excited to share something new in your BLA newsletter — a fresh little feature we're calling *Lake Stories*. It's brought to you by your newsletter crew: Polly, Liz, and Marcel (who all love a good story as much as a good swim).

Here's the idea: we want to hear your favorite stories from life on the lake. Maybe it's a hilarious misadventure (like the time your canoe took off without you), a sweet family memory (sunset s'mores, anyone?), or a tale that still makes you wince or laugh out loud. Think capsized sailboats, surprise visits from wildlife, wild weather, campfire pranks, or that one unforgettable 4th of July. You know the ones.

Whether it's heartwarming, hair-raising, or downright hysterical — if it happened here on the lake, we want to hear about it. Your stories are what make this place feel like home.

So dust off those memories and send your Lake Story our way. Family and friends are welcome to join in, too! Email your tale to Marcel at marcelprints@outlook.com — and don't worry if it's not Pulitzer-ready. We're here for real-life moments, not perfect grammar.

We can't wait to read (and maybe share) your lakeside legends in an upcoming issue!

Warmly,
Polly, Liz & Marcel
Your BLA Newsletter Team

“Being bombed”

A Lake Story by Marcel Schnee

While working here in the Belgrades, I’ve had the great fortune of meeting all kinds of interesting folks — some of whom have become dear friends. A few years back — six or seven, I’d say — I was invited over for supper by two such friends, George and Maike, at their summer camp during one of those perfect Long Pond evenings.

At one point in the conversation, George shared that Maike was born and raised in Germany in the 1930s. As it happened, his own mother — an American citizen and opera singer — was also living in Germany at that time. He explained that although the U.S. government urged all Americans to return home as World War II loomed, his mother loved Germany too much to leave. So, young George spent the entire war growing up there.

It was one of those moments — peaceful, thoughtful, and full of quiet connection — and I decided it was the right time to ask a question I’ve asked many times over the years:

“What is your first memory?”

Now, a little background on why I ask that question.

Back in 1985, just after graduating from high school in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, I gassed up my ’76 Ford Pinto and drove all the way down to east Texas to start college. During my freshman year, a few of us students were invited to supper at a professor’s home. Over the meal, he told us about his time as a pastor in southern Alabama during the 1960s. One of his congregants, Miss Millie — a remarkable woman about 105 years old — had recently been hospitalized, and he’d gone to visit her. During their conversation, he asked, “Miss Millie, what is one of your first clear memories?”

Her answer floored him.

She said, “President Lincoln’s funeral train coming through town.”

She described how the whole community turned out at the depot, the look of the train, the mood in the air. She remembered it vividly — the quiet, the reverence, the realization that this man, who had signed the Emancipation Proclamation and helped change the course of their lives, was gone. Ever since hearing that story, I’ve made it a point to ask people the same question whenever it feels right. That night on the deck overlooking Long Pond was one of those moments.

George’s answer?

“Being bombed.”

He went on to describe life as a child in wartime Germany — the rationing, the blackouts, the hunger, the constant uncertainty. He told me about the day he and a friend were running through town toward a bank whose underground vault served as a shelter. He described the Allied fighter planes diving out of the sky, the sound of bombs exploding, the flashes of light and the staccato fire from the planes’ machine guns, and how he pressed himself into a nearby doorway for cover. He also quietly recounted that his childhood friend, just behind him, didn’t make it to safety.

Years later, during the COVID lockdown, I called George and Maike to see how they were coping. Maike replied, cheerfully, “Oh, we’re absolutely fine. We’ve got electricity, water, heat, our phones, and food in the fridge. Compared to huddling in a cold bunker in the dark, I’d say we’re doing pretty good.”

In the background, I could hear George chuckle and say, “Yeah... this is nothing like back then.” George, rest easy, my friend. Thank you for trusting me with your story — it’s one I’ll carry with me always.

(Soap Opera) Stars in the Village

By Diana Schultz and Marcel Schnee

For several summers around 1952, we had a theater in a big old wooden building in the Village where the boat storage building is now.



A gentleman by the name of Mr. Ralph Englesmann had a summer home on Great Pond. Back in NYC, he was involved with soap operas that were then starting to appear on TV. He decided to bring some actors and actresses to Belgrade Lakes for several weeks in the summer to put on shows when they had time off from filming the TV shows. It was quite the event for the then quiet Belgrade Lakes area. The young men rode their motorcycles up from NYC. Some had the ladies as passengers. Many summer residents held cookouts and lobster bakes to entertain them during their stay here. I was in my early teens at this time, and I can remember well the reaction over these up-and-coming TV stars, especially from my mother and her friends. Stage props were borrowed from summer camps, and the performers always added lines such as "Be careful how you sit down on Mrs. Whitney's sofa" which brought laughs from the audience. They often had parts for local summer folks to fill. I remember cheering for my husband Jack's cousin when she walked on stage and said her few lines.

It was a fun time for all.

That same building was a bowling alley earlier on. My Dad told stories of going "to the Mills to go bowling" in his late teens and early 20s. I believe it was also a casino at some point. Many BLA board meetings in the early years (1920s) were held in the Acme Theater, too.



Fair and Warmer At Belgrade Lakes Playhouse This Week

Belgrade Lakes, Aug. 24—What a woman wants in the way of a husband proved the subject of much discussion, action and confusion in *Fair and Warmer*, the play presented at The Playhouse Wednesday evening, with performances continuing through Saturday night.

Billy Bartlett, played by Joseph Keating, proves too tame and acquiescent a husband for Laura Bartlett, Lyllian Davenport's role, especially when her old flame, played by James Bender, appears on the scene.

Advice from the Bartlett's friends in an upstairs apartment, Jack and Blannie Wheeler, parts exceptionally done by Alan North and Jimmie McElwain, ricochets when actually tried out. Told he is too good and should branch out into wine, women and song, Billy does the branching via one most unusual cock-tail, taken with Blannie Wheeler. There results a build-up of a cock-tail that is almost unbelievable, with results in the two previous-tee-totalers that had the audience in gales of laughter.

With the help of the maid, played by Alice Gordon, and two moving company hands, situations grow worse until they finally clear up to the satisfaction of all involved and the weather finally comes off fair and warmer.

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**Belgrade Lakes
Playhouse Opens
Tonight At 8.30**

The Pulitzer Prize winning play, *They Knew What They Wanted* by Sidney Howard, will open the third season of the Belgrade Lakes Summer Playhouse tonight. Curtain time is scheduled for 8:30.

Starring John Darley and Jimmy McElwain that will be the first of 10 productions which will be presented by the Belgrade group.

The first play of the 1950 season will run all week. However, succeeding productions will open on Wednesday and run through Saturday.

Following its first two seasons, the Belgrade players held parties for the audience at the last show, but this season the Players are reversing the procedure and holding the party following the opening night.

The audience is invited to attend the cast party at the Lakeshore Hotel after the play and watch the cast in informal skits and meet the stars personally. Refreshments will be served.

In the cast with Darley and Miss McElwain opening night are Alan North, Joe Keating and Alan Rich, all of whom were in television, movie or stage productions during the off winter months.

They Knew What They Wanted is a fast moving drama which spent many weeks on Broadway and was produced by several road companies.

It is the story of an old wine grower, Darley, who falls in love with a beautiful girl, Miss McElwain. But when he proposes, he finds that the hired man, Alan North, is her other lover. The story of the resulting triangle and how it works itself out makes one of the most intriguing love stories ever presented by the Belgrade group.

The Acme Theater showed "High Class Moving Pictures" while the Acme Amusement Parlor offered bowling on regulation lanes, pool, and billiards.

The only newspaper in the world that gives a hoot about the Belgrade Region

BELGRADE BREEZES

Vol. XI

Belgrade Lakes, Maine, Thursday, July 26, 1951

No. 8

**Thank-You
Party Given
By the Fithians**

That was a nice thank-you that Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Fithian said to the villagers of Belgrade Lakes at Lagoon Hall Friday evening. They showed the film, *Major Barbara*, one of George Bernard Shaw's best, starring Wendy Hiller and Rex Harrison, and served soft drinks, making it quite an evening. The thank-you was for the way the guides, the game warden, the law

department and just about everyone else turned out. Monday afternoon when a false alarm went out that Douglas Fithian and two of the girls of the Fithian Dance Studio had turned over their boat in the sudden squall that churned up Long Pond.

Luckily the report was erroneous, as Doug, who is a capable fellow, had realized the danger and taken the boat ashore, down below Castle Island. But Mrs. Fithian said "I'm astounded at the way the townspeople were out on that pond within ten minutes, and circled where the boat was thought to have been. Continued on Page Four

**Local and Visiting
Artists to Present
Play At Playhouse**

There'll be activity around The Playhouse one of these days, as plans are a-foot for "Personal Appearance" to be presented there about August 9, 10 or 11. Mildred Greet, who is spending the summer at the Lounat House, with her good friend Edith Megill, will direct the performance.

Mrs. Greet has a dramatic school in Washington during the winter and is most capable of giving us a fine show and a lot of fun. "Personal Appearance" is just ringer enough to be right jolly. Gladly George made it famous on Broadway and in the movies and Belgrade will make it an even more talked-of play than ever before.

The cast calls for four men and six women, and here's where the fun comes in. Mrs. Greet wants any amateurs, who care to try for the parts, to appear at The Playhouse this Saturday between five thirty and seven thirty. She already has been fortunate in obtaining Sylvia. Continued on Page Four

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GPYC Youth Sailing Program Sails On at Great Pond

By Andrew Dallas, Commodore

In Ernest Thompson's "On Golden Pond," set on these very shores, Norman Thayer reflects, "This is the lake where I learned to swim, where I caught my first fish... It's a place where you can feel the past." For over a century, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) has safeguarded Great Pond's beauty, a mission the Great Pond Yacht Club (GPYC) proudly advances through our youth sailing program, now at the Town of Belgrade's Center for All Seasons for summer 2025.

From 2011 to 2024, SailMaine operated our program, the last of its satellite efforts. When SailMaine closed its program, GPYC partnered with the Town of Belgrade to reacquire our member-donated fleet and relocate to the Center for All Seasons. This transition, supported by the Town Select Board, Town Manager, Kristin McDowell (Recreation Director), Paul Feinberg (GPYC Director of Youth Sailing), and GPYC volunteers, ensures young sailors continue learning sailing as a lifelong skill.



Running July 7 to August 22, the program hosts up to 72 students, with morning sessions for ages 8-12 and afternoons for ages 12-16. Each class offers five one-day sessions, rain or shine, fostering resilience and passion. Over 60% of participants

are local, yet the program's draw sparks inquiries from January, with signups routinely exceeding 80% capacity. Many students return as counselors, building a legacy of leadership. A certified lead counselor, supported by a junior counselor, provides expert instruction.

GPYC's youth sailing committee guides the program, while volunteers maintain the fleet and Center grounds, keeping costs low. Up to six scholarships, backed by groups like the Union Church of Belgrade, ensure accessibility. Alongside the Center's Camp Golden Pond, the program strengthens Great Pond's community, echoing the BLA's vision of lakes as "the earth's eye," as Thoreau wrote.

With prime lake access, the Center for All Seasons is ideal for young sailors to hone skills and forge bonds, deepening their tie to Great Pond. Help sustain this tradition! Enroll your child or volunteer. Visit <https://www.belgrademaine.gov/recreation> or contact Kristin McDowell 207-495-3481 for registration and pricing details.



Dear Fellow BLA Members and Friends,

June 2025

All of us are truly blessed this year. Our hard work for our two lakes (and our money) is working. Great Pond and Long Pond water quality is holding steady. The invasive plant species threats are known and being addressed.

As part of the lake blessing, Hamlin's Marine has donated a wonderful Godfrey 18' Xperience pontoon boat, 25-hp Yamaha motor and trailer (see picture) to the raffle – a critical BLA source of funds. Several BLA Board members are providing a Sunfish Sailboat as the first bonus raffle prize. Hammond Lumber, Lynch Landscaping, the Village Inn, Skowhegan Savings, LakePoint Realty, the Farmers Market, Days Store, and BLA Board members Dick Greenan, John Atkinson, and Bert Languet have all provided valuable raffle prizes. It's great.

As usual, \$200 of raffle tickets (4 books) enters you into the bonus drawing. The Bonus raffle first prize is the Sunfish sailboat. As a new thing this year you, your friends, your guests, everyone (!) can buy tickets online at <https://bla.maineraf-fle.com>.



You might have noticed that we included an extra booklet in the mailing you received. If you buy 5 booklets for \$250, I will make sure that all your tickets (30 total) are put into the bonus raffle and the regular raffle.

I hope you will join us again, as you do every year, and support the raffle. We look forward to seeing you at the raffle tables. We love talking with you and renewing memories and relationships. You are part of our Great Pond and Long Pond family. Please stop by!

Consider \$250 of tickets; we will put the extra \$50 to good use. As always, your BLA is all about keeping our lakes healthy.

Protect and Preserve,

Andy

Andy Cook, your 2025 Raffle Chair for the BLA Board of Directors 207-465-6388



**BELGRADE LAKES
ASSOCIATION**

137 Main Street
P.O. Box 551
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

PHONE:
207.512.5150

EMAIL:
info@blamaine.org

WEB:
belgradelakesassociation.org

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2025 ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 27TH!

The BLA Member Reception and Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 27th, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club. This is always a fun and information-packed meeting. Here's what's in store:

An interesting lineup of guest speakers will update us on local conservation activities; mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres will be served by Kate and her staff from The Village Inn; a cash bar will be provided by the golf course staff.

Please make reservations by calling the BLA office at (207) 512-5150 or email info@BLAMaine.org no later than July 20th. Invite your lake neighbors and friends to join us. See you there!



Sunrise on Long Pond. Photo courtesy of [Lorna Dee Nichols](#).

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