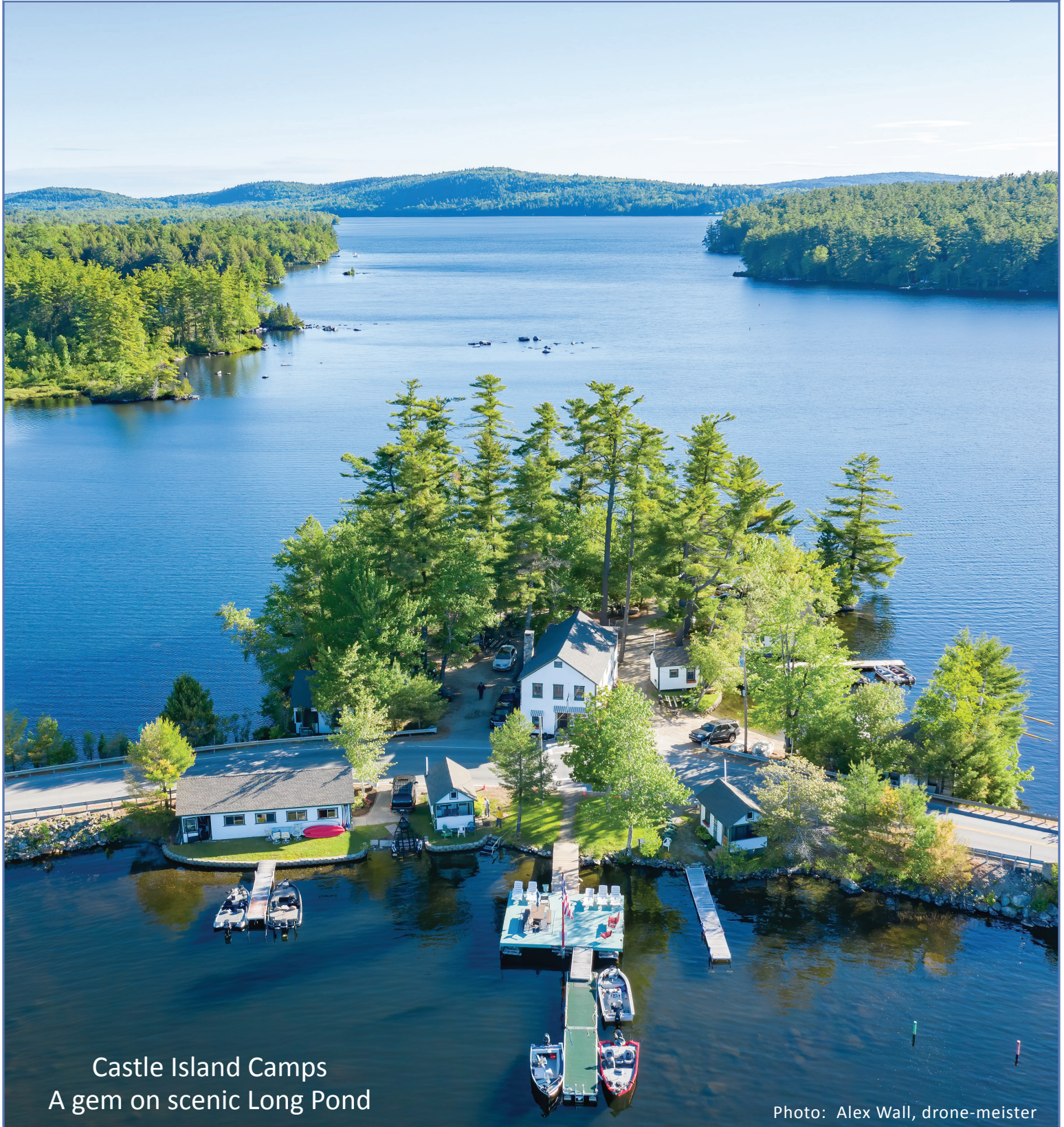


BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

Summer 2020



Castle Island Camps
A gem on scenic Long Pond

Photo: Alex Wall, drone-meister

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings from the lake to each of you, wherever you may be at this moment. We find ourselves in very different situations than we expected to experience this year. For many of you, that means determining when - or if - you are coming to the lake this summer. Who knew that self-isolation and quarantine, social distancing and masking would become part of our everyday vocabulary? ZOOM has taken on a whole new meaning and provides a way to keep us connected in both personal and business matters. We each have new constants in our lives, and for those of us fortunate enough to live here, our lakes are just that.



Carol Johnson, BLA President

BLA is another constant. We are continuing our work to protect the lakes within the parameters of our current circumstances. STOP MILFOIL has been declared an essential project, and our crew has been in the lake for the past two weeks. Memorial Day again marked the beginning of our Courtesy Boat Inspectors at both the Long Pond and Great Pond boat launch sites. LakeSmart will be available in a revised format while the Youth Conservation Crew is necessarily smaller due to Covid-19 rules. Additionally, we are getting ready for the Long Pond Survey this fall to keep us in compliance with DEP rules for managing our lakes. One exciting new project is our Septic System Committee that is working on this important piece to the external loading of phosphorous in our lakes. Through the years BLA has worked with the former BRCA and now 7 Lakes Alliance in conserving land that borders our waters. The parking lots at the trailheads are full and getting outdoors is a wonderful gift representing the foresight and generosity of our members, and we have two new artificial loon nests as we work on increasing our loon population!

We need your continued support and help. Due to Covid-19, we are unable to conduct our annual raffle which will dramatically affect our 2020 budget. Instead we will be conducting a special solicitation mid-summer to make up this deficit. Maine's Keep Maine Healthy guidelines mandate we can only have 50 people congregate at one time. We are cancelling our Annual Meeting and will plan to gather next year for a really big party. In lieu of the meeting, we will have a virtual BLA Member Update on August 16th at 4PM. There will be presentations on our Loon Project, Water Quality and, especially, we will hear from Dr. Whitney King regarding the important work being done on Great Pond and Long Pond. Please stay tuned for updates. One more thing, send your email address to us (info@blamaine.org) so we can more rapidly communicate what is happening at the lake and with BLA.

As I write this, I am heartbroken at the current upheaval in our country. Many of you live near places of unrest. Be safe. Be involved. May we all be a part of the solution. In these difficult times I leave you with this poem by Bob Perks:

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish you enough "Hello's" to get you through the final "Goodbye."

The lakes are here. We hope you can be also. If not, may the memories of happy times carry you through until that is possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Johnson". The script is cursive and fluid.

MILFOIL MITIGATION WORK UNDERWAY

by Lynn Matson

The work to remove invasive milfoil this year from Great Meadow Stream and North Bay of Great Pond is underway. According to Milfoil Program Director Sharon Mann, her team got in the water two weeks earlier than last year and is making great progress. They are pulling plants, laying down barriers, and searching for new outbreaks.

New England Milfoil, the professional dive company headquartered in Brownfield, Maine, is also back this summer. They worked three weeks in June and will be back in late August for a 4-week stretch.

Great Meadow Stream is again closed to all motorized watercraft this year to help prevent the spread of the milfoil to other parts of the lake, into Long Pond, and for the safety of the milfoil divers. Thanks for your understanding of this necessary step.

The STOP MILFOIL team is employing burlap barriers for the first time this year. This technique has proven successful on other lakes in Maine, including Lake Messalonskee. The burlap, which kills the milfoil by blocking out light, can be laid much more quickly and cover much larger areas than the benthic barriers. Because the burlap is a natural material, it can be permanently left on the bottom.

The milfoil mitigation work is allowed under state COVID-19 guidelines. New England Milfoil has been deemed an essential service company. The 7 Lakes Alliance team can support this work because milfoil removal is considered essential maintenance by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). All work is being conducted in accordance with COVID-19 state guidelines.

The other good news is that the Courtesy Boat Inspectors have been at the Great Pond and Long Pond boat ramps since Memorial Day and will be on duty seven days a week from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm right through Labor Day. This service has also been deemed essential by the Maine DEP. The CBIs will follow all social distancing guidelines.

You Can Help

Despite the new reality of living with a world wide pandemic, we cannot let our guard down with invasive milfoil. Here's how you can help. First, please stay vigilant. If you think you see invasive milfoil in our lakes, mark the location and call the 7 Lakes Alliance at (207) 495-6039.

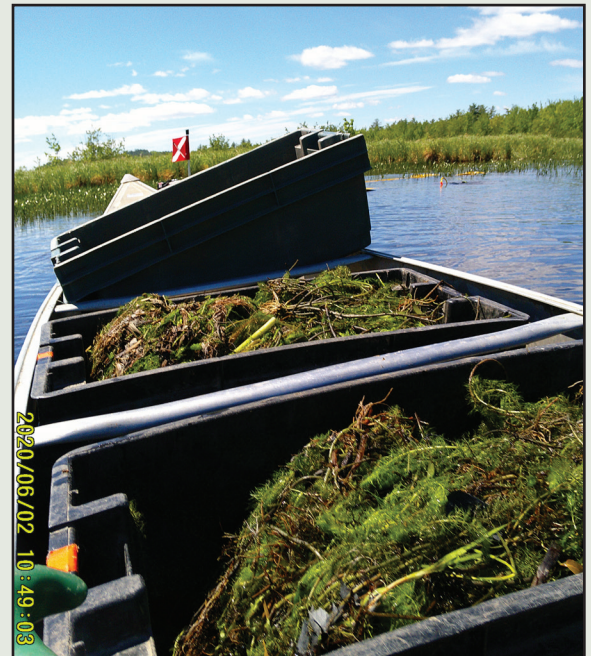
Second, please consider contributing to the 2020 STOP MILFOIL Annual Appeal. Just go to the BLA website at www.belgradelakesassociation.org to make a donation. Thank you!

Your gifts are needed to fund this important work.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. Together, we'll beat the virus and the invasive milfoil.



Variable Milfoil. If you see this plant in our lakes please call the 7 Lakes Alliance at (207) 495-6039 to report your findings.



Tubs of milfoil pulled from Great Pond.



SUMMER VISITORS

By Dan “Tree” Robbins

Warmer weather has finally returned to the Belgrade Lakes region and with the onset of summer, our summer friends are returning, as well. But while this is the year of the pandemic crisis, with new guidelines how we must interact with each other to maintain a modicum of safety, these visitors seem to blatantly ignore the need for masks and quarantining. We'll not begrudge them for being clueless to human tribulations, however, but rather welcome them to one of the delights of summer in the Belgrades.

I'm talking, of course, of our feathered friends who, returning from their winter habitats in warmer climes to the south, enjoy the bounty of Maine in summer as much as we do. They are the real “snowbirds!” While the Chickadees and Hairy Woodpeckers have already established nests in our garden, in the space of a couple of days, starting May 15th, we saw a variety of new arrivals appear at our feeders.

The morning started finding a Wood Thrush outside one of our windows scrounging through leaf litter for suitable nesting materials. Next, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers were spotted enjoying peanuts, his brilliant red plumage and black wings



Baltimore Oriole, female



Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, female



Baltimore Oriole, male



Scarlet Tanager

SUMMER VISITORS (continued)

in stark contrast to the subtle green and yellow feathers of his mate. In the afternoon, a female Baltimore Oriole was seen trying to extract a meal from the suet feeder. Rushing to get a bag of oranges at the store and with halves set out, she was back the next morning along with her more brightly colored male counterpart. This pair was quickly followed by two female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks going for peanuts. The eponymous male showed up shortly after. By afternoon, we had a rare visit from an Indigo Bunting at one of the sunflower seed feeders. This is only the second time we've seen one at our house, so it was particularly exciting! A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird sampled the potted flowers on a wall waiting to be installed in flower boxes, and a Catbird showed up for sunflower seeds, too. And just yesterday, we had a first time ever visit from a Black-throated Green Warbler flitting through a Red-twigged Dogwood that hovers over our stream.

Most of these birds are just passing through, but it's so nice to see them stop by and to offer them a waystation along their journeys.



Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, male



Indigo Bunting



Goldfinches, two males and a female



Catbird

WELCOME BACK TO THE LAKE!

By Maggie Shannon and Shelly Fitzgerald

We so hope to be able to say these words to you. It was a very strange spring as we sat in our homes watching the ice melt and loons return. Memorial Day was quiet as everyone attempted to figure out their summer plans amid Covid-19 and health restrictions. But by July 4th, we are seeing more folks cautiously returning to spend time on our beautiful lakes.

Governor Mills has enacted the Keep Maine Healthy program. The rules are fluid as we experience improvements in fighting Covid-19. As of July 8th, the quarantine protocols have been removed from residents of New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. The State will also allow adults who obtain and receive a negative COVID-19 test from a specimen taken no longer than 72 hours prior to arrival in Maine to also forgo the 14-day quarantine.

If you do need to quarantine, most of you will likely bring a supply of food and household necessities with you so that you won't have to venture out for the 2-week duration. That said, it's also likely that you will have forgotten or will run out of some things during that period.

To help you comply with those important public health procedures and ease your arrival, Neighbors Driving Neighbors (neighborsdrivingneighbors.org) is initiating a grocery delivery service to help new arrivals for those first couple of weeks for residents of Rome, Belgrade, Mt Vernon, Vienna and Fayette. The idea is that you can place and pay for a "take-out" order from a local, participating grocery and, with at least **24-hr notice**, a volunteer will pick it up and deliver it to your door at no cost to you.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please email Neighbors Driving Neighbors at neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com. They will take your contact information, answer your questions, and let you know next steps.

For the most up to date information, please check <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy>

Neighbors Driving Neighbors
Belgrade, Fayette, Mount Vernon, Rome, Vienna

Need help getting food or medication during Covid 19?

Call or email NDN
207 860-0677

Email - neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com

Website - neighborsdrivingneighbors.org



BLA \$REBATE When You Protect Your Lake!

**MONEY BACK ON BUFFER PLANTS AND LANDSCAPING,
AS WELL AS SEPTIC PUMP-OUTS AND SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTIONS**

Stable shorelines and phosphorus control are so important for lake health that BLA will reimburse Great and Long Pond shorefront homeowners 10% on 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 between August 1 and December 31, 2020. The Rebate limit: \$500. 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! Please include phone and email, too.



Youth Conservation Corps' Banner Year in 2019; Kicks off 25th Anniversary Year in 2020

By Lauren Pickford, YCC Director

2020 marks the 25th Year of the Youth Conservation Corps! Thanks to everyone who has helped make this legacy of lake protection and youth development a success, including the BLA, local towns and citizens. We'll celebrate the YCC throughout the coming year!

In 2019, in a fitting lead-in to this milestone, 7 Lakes Alliance's Youth Conservation Corps completed more projects to protect the lakes than ever before - 112 to be exact! Three crews worked for 8 weeks in the summer season installing erosion control projects. On Long and Great Ponds, 57 best management practices to control erosion were installed at 23 sites.

These projects keep soil from washing into the lakes carrying excess nutrients, including phosphorus, into our precious waterbodies. Excess phosphorous contributes to harmful algal blooms. By keeping phosphorous out of the lake, the YCC helps prevent excess algal blooms as part of the long-term solution for our lakes. The program offers discounted labor costs to homeowners seeking to improve their property's impact on the lake. The YCC also provides high school and college students meaningful employment protecting our lakes and lands.



Lauren Pickford, YCC Director and Conservationist Connor Grindle, Courtney Richard, and Michael Chavez, 7 Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps, installing a rain garden at Pine Tree Camps, Rome.

In response to COVID-19-related challenges during the summer of 2020, 7 Lakes will operate a reduced crew to prioritize safe practices including social distancing. While on-site work will be possible, the crews must follow safety protocols including social distancing. They will also adjust many practices such as travelling separately to work sites. This summer, the crew includes primarily returning YCC employees with the skills and experience to have a strong positive impact to protect the resources we all love so much. They will accomplish as much work as is possible and as safely as possible. For work that cannot be done this year, the YCC can plan and prepare to accomplish projects as soon as time allows.

If you are interested in improving your property's impact on the lake, check out our website 7lakesalliance.org/erosion or the LakeSmart program for an evaluation.

2020 RAFFLE CANCELLED / COVID 19 APPEAL

Dear Members,

We are sad to say that due to Covid 19 and the social distancing measures, we have had to cancel our 2020 Raffle. We ask that you continue to support our generous raffle prize donors in this difficult economic environment. **Thank you to Hamlin's Marine, Hammond Lumber Company, Lowes, Lynch Landscaping, Lake Point Realty, Days Store, the Farmers Market, the Rizzos, the Smiths and all our other contributors.** The raffle is a major part of our fundraising and this cancellation will greatly affect our 2020 budget. In place of the raffle, we will be launching a COVID-19 appeal with a target of raising \$20,000 to support our efforts to maintain clean lakes. Look for a special appeal letter and envelope this summer.

Your BLA Development Committee

LakeSmart is a Go for 2020!



The Belgrade Lakes Association is pleased to be partnering with the 7 Lakes Alliance this summer to continue the LakeSmart program. In a jointly-funded effort, the BLA and 7 Lakes Alliance are in the process of hiring an Erosion Control Coordinator who will administer the LakeSmart program on Great and Long Ponds. The coordinator will also manage the jointly-funded Youth Conservation Corps program and will initiate follow up work on the Great Pond Watershed Survey and Management plan.

At its heart, LakeSmart is an education program that assists lakefront homeowners manage and improve their property to protect water quality and maintain property values. In practice, it identifies and recommends ways to mitigate water runoff and erosion thereby reducing the amount of phosphorus getting into our lakes. The goal is to change landscape practices around the lakes to more natural lake-friendly environments and help us all become better lake stewards.

If you are interested in having a LakeSmart survey conducted on your lakefront property, please call (207) 495-6039 to connect with the LakeSmart team. They can also provide you with more lake-related information and landscaping tips. The LakeSmart program is 100% voluntary and absolutely free to lakeshore property owners.

LakeSmart Start

New to LakeSmart this year is a self-assessment feature called LakeSmart Start. It's a set of non-technical questions a homeowner can use to complete the initial screening of her/his property. After completing and submitting the questionnaire, the property owner will be contacted to arrange a time for a complete LakeSmart survey by a trained evaluator. To get the LakeSmart Start questionnaire, please call (207) 495-6039.

COVID-19 Guidelines

For the safety of participants, staff and volunteers, the LakeSmart program will follow all COVID-19 guidelines and precautions, which currently include:

- If you have arrived from out of state and are required to self-quarantine for 14 days, please complete your quarantine period before the date of your proposed LakeSmart visit;
- Maintain a 6-foot social distance when meeting and exchanging with our LakeSmart staff and volunteers.
- Wear a mask during the time the volunteer is on your property. We will, too!

Thank you! We look forward to hearing from you!

LONG POND WATERSHED SURVEY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Lynn Matson

We need your help. The BLA is looking for volunteers to help conduct a survey of the Long Pond watershed. Please consider joining us for this important project.

The survey is scheduled for September 22-23, 2020. The purpose of the survey is to identify and prioritize sources of erosion and stormwater runoff in the Long Pond watershed that may be negatively affecting the water quality of the lake.

The last Long Pond survey was conducted 18 years ago in 2002. Current information is needed to help develop a lake management plan that will protect and improve water quality.

A new survey is also required to apply for and receive grant funding from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). These funds can provide cost-sharing opportunities for landowners, road associations, and towns to undertake improvements identified during the survey. Acquiring grant funding is a 2-3 year process that begins with the volunteer-assisted watershed survey and is followed by updating the lake management plan.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this survey, please contact me at lynncmatson@gmail.com or by calling 207-716-6094. Thank you.

Volunteers will participate in a short online training program and work with a technical expert in the field to assess erosion runoff on properties in the Long Pond watershed. All meetings and fieldwork will be done in full compliance with state COVID -19 guidelines. If it is determined that this work cannot be done safely this fall, the survey will be postponed until 2021.

As always, thanks so much for your support of the BLA, our work, and activities. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

YOUR BLA AND THE CARES ACT

By BLA Development Committee

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) was signed into law on March 27th. This bill provides increased tax incentives for both corporations and individuals to give in the 2020 tax year.

- Itemized deductions limits have been raised from 60% to 100% of AGI for cash contributions (Adjusted Gross Income) for individual donors.
- Corporations can deduct cash contributions up to 25% of taxable income (previously it was 10%)
- If you are not itemizing, the CARES Act allows for an additional "above the line" deduction for charitable gifts of cash up to \$300 which is considered a temporary universal charitable deduction.
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) rules were not changed by the CARES Act which allow an individual over the age of 70 ½ to donate up to \$100,000 in IRA Assets directly to a charity annually without taking the distribution into taxable income. However, under the CARES Act an individual can now deduct up to 100% of AGI for cash charitable contributions. Individuals over 59 ½ can take a cash distribution from their IRA (there is a 10 % penalty if under 59 ½), contribute the cash to their charity, and may be able to completely offset the tax from the distribution due to the ability to deduct up to 100% of AGI (Adjusted Gross Income). So for 2020, if you are between 59 ½ and 70 ½ , you may want to consider this strategy if you are not dependent upon your retirement funds for income.

As always, we at the BLA strive to make the best use of your donations. Any gifts you can make are greatly appreciated and will go to keeping our lakes clean and beautiful for generations to come.

PROPANE GAS – OH, SO RIGHT, UNLESS IT GOES, OH, SO WRONG

By Marcel Schnee

Propane gas. It is used by thousands of people in Maine because it is portable, efficient, and convenient to transport. Propane makes it possible for many of us to live in out-of-the-way places, to which you cannot run gas lines, and still heat our homes or camps and cook with ease. It makes our daily lives easier and keeps us toasty warm during cold Maine weather.

We likely all agree that propane is a wonderful modern convenience. Unless. It. Explodes.

Last year's propane gas leak and explosion in Farmington caused tremendous destruction of property, the death of one firefighter, and injuries to many others. Thus, this seems an appropriate time to discuss the importance of propane safety.

Did you know that there have been propane explosions in Rome and Belgrade?

Take July 24th, 1979, for instance. Six members of the Wentworth family on Drury Lane in Rome lived through a propane explosion. According to the Morning Sentinel article from July 25th, Mr. Wentworth reported that there was no advance warning, saying, "There was no sharp crack, just a kee-waammpp. It felt like the house went up in the air." A fire then ignited in the basement and burned some of the home's contents before being extinguished by Rome and Belgrade fire departments.

According to one local family member, the force of the blast lifted the home off its foundation and set it back down crookedly, blew out two exterior bedroom walls, blasted out doors and windows, broke the chimney, damaged the floors, and knocked the shoes off one of the young girls in the house.

This author spoke with one of the ladies who was in the house at the time of the explosion and she reported, "My father was sitting at the kitchen table holding a coffee mug. After the explosion, he ended up lying on the floor. The coffee mug was gone, but its handle was still in his hand!"

Another of the Wentworth's family members reported that the home's propane bottle was sitting outside on the ground, that the bottom had rusted and developed a small hole, and that propane had leaked out of the bottle and down through cracks in the stone foundation to fill the home's basement with vapor.



This was the scene Tuesday morning at the Guy Wentworth home in Rome, rocked Monday night by an explosion that twisted walls and knocked out doors and windows. Six persons in the house

escaped with bumps and bruises. A leaking gas cylinder was blamed for the blast. (Sentinel Photo by Philip Norvish)

GREAT POND WATER QUALITY STABILIZES

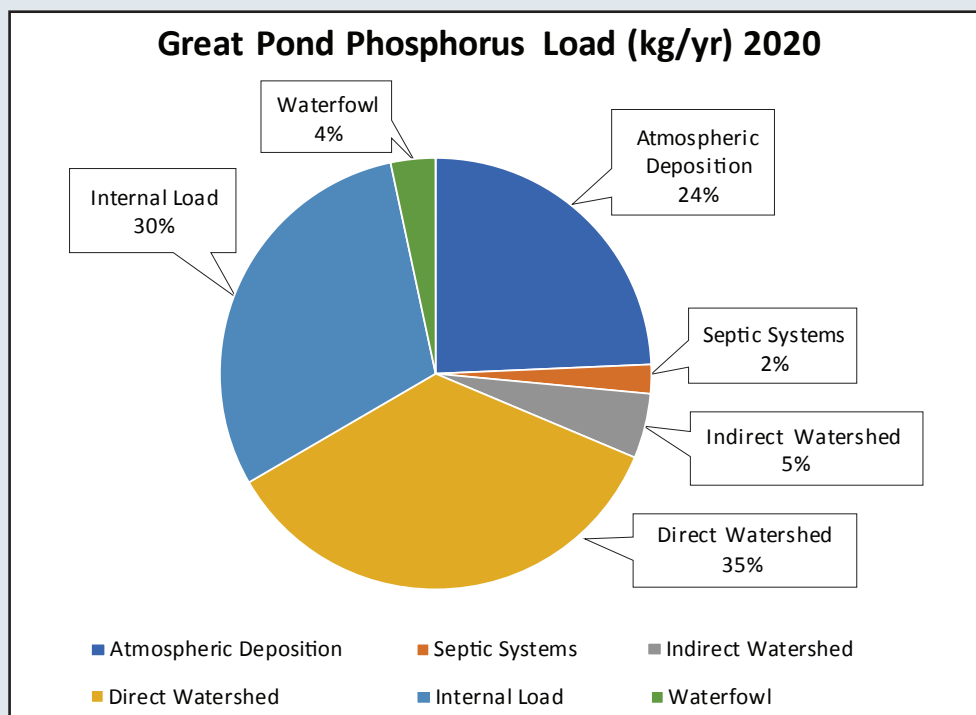
by Lynn Matson, BLA Water Quality Committee Co-Chair

For the last several years we have been sounding the alarm about the water quality of our lakes. Now there is some good news to report.

Key water quality trends in Great Pond appear to have plateaued. A careful analysis of the water clarity and phosphorus readings in Great Pond is showing that the long-term steady decline in water quality has actually leveled off over the last six years. This is the finding of the Science Committee that recently gave an update report to the Great Pond Steering Committee, which is charged with developing a management plan for the lake.

With the exception of a slight dip in Great Pond's water clarity in 2013, the water clarity readings over the last several years have been relatively stable. There has been no additional significant degradation of the water clarity, as determined by our water quality monitoring.

The Science Committee reported that it is very difficult to determine exactly why we are experiencing this flattening of the trend. The weather is undoubtedly a factor. Recent summers have been dry with few heavy downpours. This means less erosion and runoff of phosphorus-laden soil. Approximately 40% of all the phosphorus entering the lake comes from sources on land, like runoff, and are problems we can fix. (See chart)



You can learn more about the Great Pond water quality at our BLA information meeting and webcast on August 16th. Watch for details. Dr. Whitney King will give us an update on the latest research results and how we are going to track the lake's water quality in the future.

The good news about Great Pond's water quality does not mean that we are out of the woods. Our lakes already carry a burden of phosphorus, and the weather is very unpredictable. We could get a major storm event tomorrow with a big flush of phosphorus from the land that would significantly diminish our water quality.

40% of all the phosphorus entering Great Pond comes from sources right in the watershed including soil erosion from runoff. Natural buffers along the lakeshore and tributary streams are the best way to protect and improve the water quality.

The Internal Load

There is also real concern about areas in the deeper parts of the lake that have little or no oxygen. These "anoxic areas" are continuing to expand and are lasting longer, possibly also the result of the warmer summers. This is a problem because anoxia is the primary driver of the phosphorus already in the lake bottom sediment, referred to as the internal load. When oxygen is present, the phosphorus stays locked up in the bottom sediment. But when that deep water loses its oxygen, in mid-to-late summer, the trapped phosphorus is released. In October, when the lake turns over, that phosphorus is pushed up to the shallower water, where it's present the following summer to feed the algae. In short, more anoxia ... more phosphorus ... more algae ... less water clarity.

GREAT POND WATER QUALITY STABILIZES (continued)

Treatment Considerations

With its large shallow areas, many islands and two deep holes, Great Pond is an extraordinarily complex ecosystem. The recent stabilization of the Great Pond water clarity and average phosphorus readings means that we have gained some time; it is time being used to further study the dynamics of the lake's unique structure. We will need to fully understand these dynamics to ensure the efficacy of our efforts should we ever make the determination to treat the lake with alum to sequester the phosphorus.

Since at least 50% of the water entering Long Pond comes in over the dam in the village, the benefits of treating Great Pond will flow right into Long Pond. Timing is also critical because alum has, at best, a 15-20 year life span, and treating the lake too soon will just waste our investment.

Limiting the External Load

There's another possible reason we're seeing the water quality stabilize in Great Pond. Over the last several years a great deal of time, work, and money has been invested in improving the Great Pond and Long Pond watersheds. Vigorous LakeSmart and Youth Conservation Corps work has helped stem erosion from stormwater runoff on shorefront properties. Also, major camp road and drainage improvements have been made with funding from 319 grants. Here are the numbers for the last 6 years:

- 268 LakeSmart evaluations have been completed on Great Pond and 78 LakeSmart awards have been granted. For Long Pond, 131 evaluations were completed and 60 awards were granted.
- 210 Youth Conservation Corps shoreline erosion control projects have been constructed around Great Pond and 124 around Long Pond.
- 102 road and drainage projects have been completed to reduce major erosion problems representing over \$378,000 in investments. (Since 1999, \$1.7 million in 319 erosion control projects have been completed in the Belgrades.)

All this work has undoubtedly helped reduce the amount of phosphorus washing into the lake, and we are doubling down on these efforts.

In 2018, the BLA funded a survey of the entire Great Pond watershed. It resulted in the identification of 237 nonpoint source pollution (NPS) sites where significant erosion was evident. A similar survey of the Long Pond watershed, also funded by the BLA, will be conducted this fall. These surveys are the first step in developing lake management plans, required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to secure permits and federal and state funding for major erosion control work and in-lake treatments, should they become necessary

The BLA has also increased its funding support of both the LakeSmart and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) programs. Support of the YCC, which is staffed and run by the 7 Lakes Alliance, has been tripled in the last few years from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to fund more crews and allow them to complete more projects.

Just as exciting is a new collaborative effort underway between the BLA and 7 Lakes Alliance. We are co-funding a new Erosion Control Manager position on the 7 Lakes staff. The BLA has pledged \$20,000 this year for this effort. The position is being filled right now. This full-time staff person will manage LakeSmart on Great Pond and Long Pond and coordinate with the Youth Conservation Corps. He or she will also lead the effort to develop plans and offer assistance to the owners of the 237 NPS sites in the Great Pond watershed where significant runoff was identified. More sites will undoubtedly need to be added to this list after the Long Pond survey is completed this fall.

There is much to be thankful for at this time, too. Great Pond's water quality appears to have plateaued, at least for now. We have a great science team that is continuing to study the lake to better understand its complex dynamics and anticipate future threats before they occur. We're working in very close partnership with the 7 Lakes Alliance, Colby College, and Maine DEP. We're also really stepping up our investment in

LONG POND AND GREAT POND WATER QUALITY UPDATE

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

(Data from the 7 Lakes Alliance-Colby Water Quality Initiative and Pete Kallin)

The first step to protecting the water quality in our lakes is to monitor their health. Since 2015, 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 phosphorus (P) 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. Great Pond and Long Pond both have medium water quality, although closer to good than bad. An average concentration of 20 ppb is the medium/bad threshold for P (we want to be lower than that!), while an average reading of 13 ft is the medium/bad threshold for SDT (we want it to be higher so we can see farther into the water!).

All of the lakes are deep, so they remain stratified by temperature through much of the summer and lose oxygen near the bottom, which can lead to the release of P. In the upper basin of Long Pond, the average P concentration (P_{avg} = 8 ppb) was good, and the same as the average of the last four years (Figure 1, left). SDT was 19 feet (Figure 1, right). Although this is 3 ft less than the average from 2015-2018, it still indicates medium/good overall water quality. The average P concentration in the lower basin of Long Pond was 12 ppb in 2019, which is twice as high as the average from 2015-2018, which was 6 ppb. This is due to P release from the sediments, which appeared to be higher in 2019 than in past years because of lower oxygen near the bottom. The average SDT was also 19 ft, which is 2 ft less clear than the 2015-2018 average. The average P concentration in Great Pond was 10 ppb in 2019, a slight increase over the 2015-2018 average of 9 ppb. The average SDT was 18 ft, which is less clear than the 2015-2018 average of 21 ft.

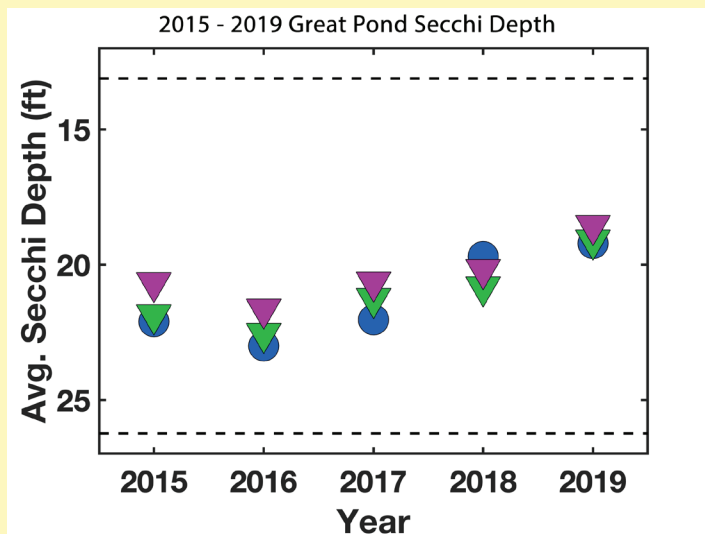
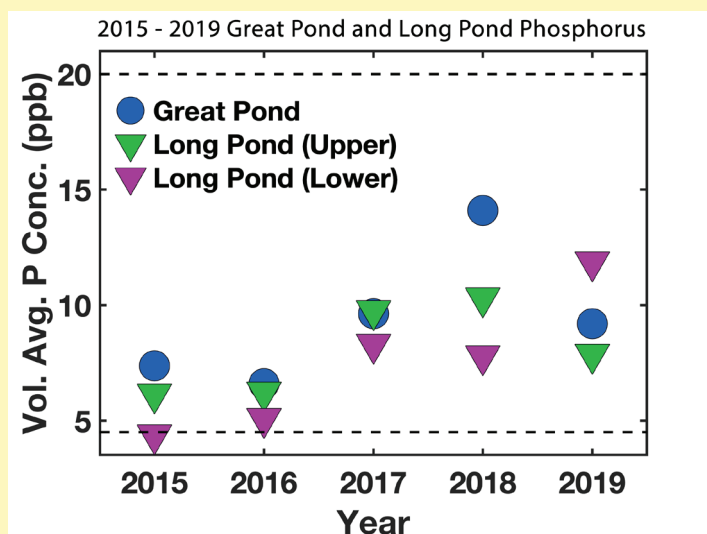


Figure 1. (left) Average phosphorus concentration in Great Pond and Long Pond since 2015. The good/medium threshold (4.5 ppb) and the medium/bad threshold (20 ppb) are shown as dashed lines. (right) The average Secchi disk transparency in the lakes since 2015. The good/medium threshold (26 ft) and the medium/bad threshold (13 ft) are shown as dashed lines.

As part of the Great Pond Watershed Based Management Plan, we have been looking at trends in SDT over the last 50 years to see how water quality in the lake has changed. The worst years for water clarity were in the 2000s (Figure 2), leading to the listing of Great Pond as impaired in 2010 due to the upward trend in SDT (upward is bad!). The water clarity has improved since then, although it is unclear if this is due to all the attention placed on watershed improvements by BLA and others or if this is just a natural oscillation. While our SDT is back now near where it was in 1970, 2019 was the worst year this decade. The Science Advisory Committee is reviewing this data, along with historic P data, to make a science-based recommendation to the Great Pond Watershed Steering Committee on management strategies to ensure that water clarity on Great Pond does not decline.

(continued on next page) I-3

GREAT POND WATER QUALITY STABILIZES (continued)

erosion control on shorelines and across the watershed. These are all very important steps in protecting our lakes for future generations.

What You Can Do To Help

So what can you do to help? First, do everything you can to reduce erosion and runoff from your property. Over forty percent of all the phosphorus getting into our lakes is coming right off the surrounding land. Reducing this input is critically important. If we do it well, we may never need to spend millions of dollars to do an alum treatment. Even if that treatment becomes necessary, the better job we do of reducing the runoff the longer the benefits of that costly treatment will last. Simply put, reducing phosphorus inputs from the land extends the effectiveness of the treatment in our lakes.

So whether we ever do an alum treatment or not, reducing runoff is the most important thing each of us can do to help. For lakeshore property owners, the best way to reduce runoff is to create a good robust natural buffer between the water's edge and the rest of your property. For more information about buffers and making your property more lake-friendly, please call the 7 Lakes Alliance at (207) 495-6039.

The other important thing you can do is to continue to belong to and support the BLA with your time and financial donations. As reported, the BLA has really stepped up its investment in controlling erosion and improving the water quality of our lakes. That's only been possible because you have continued to value the BLA and show your approval of our work with your financial support.

Thank you! Working together we will continue to have the clean beautiful lakes we all love and cherish in the Belgrades. **We hope you'll join us on August 16th.**

LONG POND AND GREAT POND (Continued from page I-3)

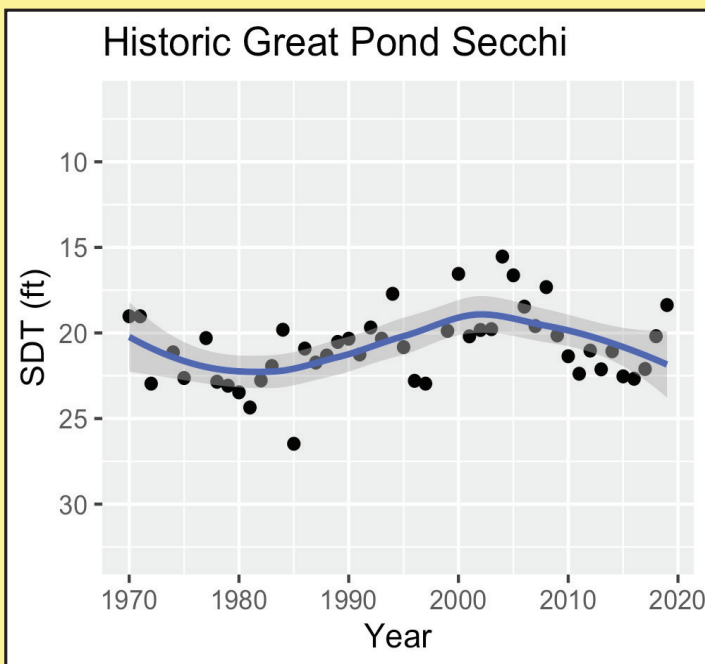


Figure 2. Mean annual Secchi depth 1970 – 2019 with a smoothed trend line. Data is from the Lake Stewards of Maine/DEP and 7 Lakes Alliance/Colby.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have no Colby interns this summer to collect samples, but with the help of Whitney and Jan King and Pete Kallin, we are continuing to monitor the water quality in the lakes. The data will be available online this summer at:

<https://hobbes.colby.edu/7LA-Colby-WQI/InSitu/>

Goldie (our data buoy) has been deployed into Great Pond this month as well, and she will do some of our monitoring for us!



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

PROPANE GAS (continued)

[The following information was gleaned from a July 31st, 1995, Bangor Daily News (BDN) article and from a conversation between this author and Ben Swan, owner of Pine Island Camp.]

On June 27, 1995, just three days after 80 boys from around the globe had boated over to Pine Island Camp on Great Pond for six weeks of fun, potential catastrophe struck hard.

Mr. Swan reported that the fire started when a fitting broke while an empty propane bottle outside the camp's dining hall was being switched for a full one. He reported that the propane was blasting out under extremely high pressure, ignited, and turned the 100-lb propane bottle into a huge blowtorch which promptly ignited the building and (I am about to plagiarize a line from Deep Purple's song, 'Smoke On The Water') "burned the place to the ground."



Catastrophic Inferno

The fire spread very quickly, despite efforts to put it out. Campers were herded into a boat and taken safely to shore as the wind-fanned fire consumed several wood buildings, tents and a stand of mature red pine trees. Mr. Swan stated that Belgrade Fire and Rescue responded immediately by boat, bringing pumps and hoses, and that they saved numerous structures although the campers' tents and belongings were destroyed. Helicopters also arrived with big buckets to douse the flames. No one was seriously injured and only half of the three-acre island was destroyed by fire. Camp Runoia and Colby College helped house the campers in the first few days after the blaze. Mr. Swan also reported



The burned camp

that the newly-elected Governor, Angus King, mobilized the Maine National Guard which pitched tents for the stranded campers, and that L.L. Bean brought truckloads of supplies and sold them at cost in order for the campers to have the sleeping bags and backpacks and other outdoor supplies needed in order for the camp session to continue. Mr. Swan stated that, in spite of a seemingly insurmountable event, the Governor, the National Guard, Camp Runoia, Colby College, parents of the campers, local volunteers, and lots of energetic and hard-working campers, taking part in what Emily Swan called "Island Rebuilding" (see Bangor Daily News article), made 1995 one of the most triumphant summers ever at Pine Island Camp.



Rebuilding!

Photos: Thanks to Nick Isles for providing these pics.

The newsletter staff apologizes for the delay in printing this edition. Covid-19 has been very disruptive. We wish all our readers a safe and happy summer.

"I'M NOT LAZY, I'M A GOOD ECOLOGIST"

By Brooke MacDonald



Brooke at the Helm!

opportunities and new challenges, but nothing could have prepared me for what we are currently facing. Now, you all don't know me well yet, but I have always been a "silver linings" type of person – within every challenge is an opportunity for growth. I firmly believe that with a little creativity and flexibility we can still make a lot of progress with LakeSmart this year, but by "progress" I don't necessarily mean lots of property visits and Award presentations. Here are just a few things we are working on:

LakeSmart 2.0

LakeSmart standards were implemented in 2003 by the Department of Environmental Protection, 10 years before the program was transferred to the Maine Lakes Society and Maggie Shannon. LakeSmart has since been a great success, but increased pressure on lakes from intensifying storms, increased summer temperatures, and changes in winter ice cover have prompted us to reevaluate our program standards. How can we adjust LakeSmart standards to be both more protective of water quality yet still be realistic for motivated property owners? Can we update award standards without creating barriers that are simply too difficult for homeowners to overcome? Maine Lakes is currently reviewing our property evaluation standards and plans to implement a few new changes in 2021.

LakeSmart: Where are they now?

Whatever happened to folks who received Commendations in years past? This is a great time for our LakeSmart teams to follow up with previous participants and check in on the status of their properties.

LakeSmart Social Media

We are currently developing a series of LakeSmart webinars and social media posts to help spread our message: Best Management Practices demonstrations, LakeSmart tips, native plants information, LoonSmart, and much more!

LakeSmart Start

As of this writing, Governor Mills has extended the Stay Safer at Home order until May 31, so we are unable to complete any on-site evaluations until that has been lifted. LakeSmart Start is a way for us to provide virtual support to homeowners so they can prepare their home for a formal, on-site property evaluation in future – thus, giving them a head start!

There is no doubt that 2020 will be a strange year. I find comfort in the little things that seem to stay the same. Spring is here again, as always. The bees are buzzing around my too-tall lawn, and the songbirds are thrashing around in my scrubby forest.

I am excited to work with you all and for the opportunity to learn and grow as we navigate our socially changed world. Thank you for welcoming me! I'm very happy to be here.

I have always admired thoughtfully arranged, well-maintained landscaping, but you would never know that from looking at my property. I mow my lawn infrequently, and when I do, I leave the dandelions and clover because the bees like them. I ignore fallen, dead trees and scrubby underbrush in my wooded areas because it encourages more songbird activity. I allow leaf litter to build up in the fall because it benefits the soil microbes and invertebrates. Nature likes for things to be messy, and I guess I like it, too.

"I'm not lazy, I'm a good ecologist!" is how I justify this to others, but admittedly there is some truth to the laziness part. I think this philosophy has helped me connect to LakeSmart so deeply. I began working as your LakeSmart Program Manager full-time back in January. I knew my first year would present many exciting



Home Sweet Home for Brooke's bird friends.

Sign up for a free property visit to protect

- Clear, Clean Lake Water
- Abundant Wildlife
- High Property Values

Call:



GET SMART...GET
LakeSmart!

www.maine-lakesociety.org

IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND, MAUREEN MASLAK

The following paragraph was excerpted from a letter written by Pete Kallin to the Maslak family:

Your mom was truly inspirational and was always the first to step forward whenever a job needed doing, whether it was as a volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI), Chairman of the BRCA Milfoil Committee, CBI Coordinator for the entire Belgrade Lakes Watershed, Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) volunteer, Maine Audubon Loon Count volunteer, Maine Lakes Society LakeSmart screener and volunteer, or Rome-Belgrade Food Pantry volunteer and board member. She loved living in Maine, appreciated the beauty of all four seasons, and was especially dedicated to protecting and preserving the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. She loved this place and her constant quest was, "What can I do to help to make it even better?" She will be sorely missed but fondly remembered by all who knew her.



The following is a letter written by Stephen Maslak:

I am writing to let you know of Maureen Maslak's passing on the evening of April 20, 2020, and to share a few thoughts about her with you. Maureen was a transplant from New York to Maine in 1993 and lived on Tracy Cove until illness forced her to relocate back to New York near family in 2016.



Maureen loved everything about living in Maine – its people, its beauty, her home on Upper Long Pond and the many activities of which she was a part. Very important among the things she treasured most was her time spent as a volunteer with the Belgrade lakes Association. Being a part of BLA and activities to protect and monitor Maine's environment added a richness to her life. As I recall, she and Trudy Smith were instrumental many years ago in establishing the first milfoil inspection stations on the lakes. Maureen was seriously committed to the BLA and served at one time as its Secretary. That relationship was reciprocated when she was also honored as BLA's Woman of the Year.

She participated in the annual loon census. She was an enthusiastic member of the team that did a count of the number of owls in a particular area by playing a taped set of owl calls in the dead of night and listening for a response. She volunteered at the Good Shepherd Food Bank each week. In short, Maureen was an integral part of the community and gladly gave her time and effort wherever she thought she could make a difference.

BLA was a fulfilling and wonderful part of her life and for that her sons Tim, Kenny, and Tom, as I, are truly thankful to you and her friends and colleagues in the BLA.

The following was contributed by Polly Beatie (BLA Board Member, and former BLA President):

Maureen was the BLA Secretary during my term as BLA President, and we were a really good team. My hearing was fading and Maureen had difficulty with her handwriting. She gave me an old-fashioned schoomarm's bell covered with glitter to get Board attention when I couldn't hear, and I gave her a recorder! We worked together in perfect harmony.

Few of us can compare to our dear friend, Maureen, who always volunteered to do just about everything after saying with a big smile, "That's a good idea, but who is going to do it?" At least 8 lake programs or watershed projects had Maureen on board. She took the BLA mission statement seriously and dedicated herself to it.

I miss Maureen to this day. She helped make our Board and the myriads of other undertakings in her Belgrade community so much better with her devoted service.



Always "on board!"

CASTLE ISLAND CAMPS

91 YEARS YOUNG AND GOING STRONG

by Maggie Shannon

In 1929, a Maine Guide named Leighton Castle decided to open a resort for sportsmen in the Belgrades. Most of us wouldn't choose a stepping stone of land, crossed by a road, mid-way across a lake narrows for such a project. But the 12 cabins Leighton built on Long Pond are shaded by mature white pines, surrounded by staggeringly scenic views, and bordered by a lake renowned for its fishing, and Castle Island Camps has thrived since its opening 91 years ago. Little changed today from its beginnings, the resort's amenities seem designed for even this uncertain summer when out of state visitors must self-quarantine for two weeks on arrival. In addition to housekeeping services and three homecooked meals a day, island guests have outboard motorboats and six thousand acres of open water on their very doorsteps. Where else would they want or need to be?



The Rice Family



A fine catch!

Leighton's timing was sharp as well. The town of Chandler's Mills was becoming famous up and down the eastern seaboard as the fishing mecca Belgrade Lakes. City dwellers, inspired by the wilderness ideals of Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir, and others, flocked to the Belgrade chain of ponds nestled so invitingly among the Kennebec valley's forested hills. Comfortable transport via the Central Maine Railroad and family automobiles fed a growing demand for inns, camps and hotels in the area. When Wallace Nutting rhapsodized about Maine's "most satisfactory visions vouch-safed to us mere mortals" in 1935, he could well have been describing a guest's everyday view from Castle Island. It hadn't hurt tourism any either when the Reverend Edwin A. White hauled the largest landlocked salmon ever caught in US waters (14 lbs. 4 oz.) out of the Belgrades a few years earlier.

That said, the secret of Castle Island's success isn't just its service, scenery, or outstanding fishery; it's the human dimension that sets this place apart. Guests have the habit of returning year after year for 2, 3, and even 4 decades. The lure that draws them back might be the Castle family itself; 4 generations have run the place continuously since



Will he catch Bass, Trout, Pike or Salmon?

CASTLE ISLAND CAMPS (continued)



Idyllic

Leighton's time. Present owners John and Rhonda Rice were unsure of anything except that they would face hard work when they took over from Horatio Castle eighteen years ago. What they have discovered since is the joy of enduring friendships and lifetime connections they share with the guests who call Castle Island home for a few weeks each year.

One of Rhonda's favorite recollections is of a burly outdoorsman who represents the 3rd generation of

a family that comes back every year. This angler, hunter, and 'man's man,' whose truck is as muscular as he is himself, has been known to quietly shed tears when it's time to leave. Another family which first arrived on their honeymoon, returned expecting a child the next year, and brought the child back again and again; that offspring, who counts that pre-natal year in the tally of his Long Pond summers, made certain to make it back every year when transferred to work in Australia.

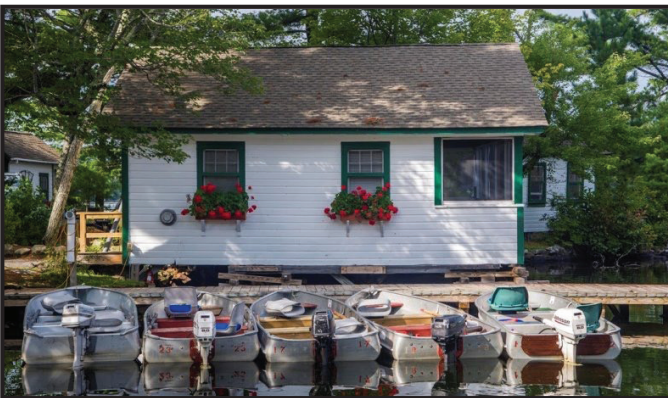


View from the East

With a twinkle in his eye, John Rice notes that getaway means different things to different folks as he recalls one guest who barely appeared during the whole of his stay - - just as if the man were in quarantine. This fellow who spent dawn to dusk on the water and never showed up for meals was the quietest guest they had ever had until 6 patrol cars rolled in to apprehend him and confiscate his trunkful of guns.

Coping with the unexpected, rewarded by abiding friendships, providing guest comforts in a rustic rural outpost, and serving up the makings for life's best memories is all in day's work for John and Rhonda Rice. Four generations of Castles have mastered an art that has no instruction book. You might want to check it out yourself.

<https://www.castleislandcamps.com/>



*Want to rent a boat for a bit of fishing or relaxation?
You can at Castle Island Camps!*

NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

By Janet Nichols and Teresa Cooper

The Old Lakeshore Hotel on Long Pond has been in our family for over 50 years and, although it no longer operates as an Inn, our exceptionally large family fills the house throughout the summer and especially during the weeks surrounding the best holiday in Belgrade Lakes Village, July 4th.

As you can imagine, it takes a concerted effort to keep the place running smoothly and efficiently during the summer months. Every year we prioritize maintenance projects, and every year we would put off replacing the septic system. We knew that it was time for a new system, as each year our calls to Stanley's Septic Service and Construction in Fairfield began increasing in frequency. We were vigilant in keeping up with our annual septic system maintenance, but our short-term, band-aid fixes were no longer working. Our reason for pushing this project out was mostly due to fear of the cost. We hadn't recently requested quotes,



The Lakeshore in 2020, with line of rocks protecting new septic system.

but we knew that

the price would be based on the number of bathrooms/bedrooms in our house, and until a couple of years ago that was enough to scare us into putting the project off. When we finally decided it was time, we went to Stanley's who recommended a local engineer for a quote and, to our surprise, it was affordable so we started right away.



New tank being placed.

The system was designed by A.E. Hodsdon Consulting Engineers in Waterville and installed by Stanley in the Spring of 2018. The design and installation process was smooth and relatively fast given the size and scale of this project. It is designed with extra chambers so that no wastewater ever reaches the lake. From start to finish the process took about a week, which included site visits from the engineer to design and subsequently stake out the area for the pumping station, with installation and follow-up site visits by Stanley. Since the installation of the new system we have been keeping up with our annual maintenance and have had no issues. We are so relieved to have peace of mind that our system will not fail, especially during the week of July 4th when our house is full and we have a hundred people on our lawn to watch the amazing fireworks display. Overall, this long-term solution is better for our budget, our sanity and,

most importantly, the lake that keeps us coming back every year. We are so grateful to spend our summers in Belgrade Lakes, and we want to do whatever we can to keep the lakes healthy for generations to come.



Lots of dirt work.



New leach field chambers in place.

YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM MATTERS

By Paul Feinberg

The BLA has become concerned about how much failed septic systems contribute to the external loading of the lake with more phosphorous and nitrogen seeping into Great Pond and Long Pond. It has begun a project to educate and inform home owners. Eventually gathering data through surveys and testing will become important. However, given the social distancing we think our best efforts will be providing information and possibly webinars. In our latest budget, the Water Quality committee has been allocated \$5,000 to explore ways to alleviate this impact on water quality.

More attention is now being given with the State and Belgrade requirement of septic inspections on the sale of homes in the Shoreland district, but this only provides information for a small number of the Lake Front properties. It does highlight the problem because many home owners are unaware of whether or not their septic system is part of the problem.

It is important to understand how a septic system works in order to have an understanding of why they fail and how a failure can impact ground and/or surface water. Not pumping out a septic tank (which is recommended every 3-5 years) is likely to result in a disposal (leach) field failure, but not necessarily a water quality impact, so says David Rocque, the State of Maine soil scientist.

Mr. Rocque advises that septic systems can fail for a variety of reasons: improper design, improper installation, or improper maintenance. The most common failure is hydraulic. This results in either the effluent backing up into the home or effluent surfacing over the disposal field. These failures are easily detected while the “short circuit” failure is not, and this all may be occurring unbeknownst to the home owner due to sandy and gravelly soils which abound around our shorefront. A “short circuit” occurs when the effluent does not receive its final treatment or the polishing of the biomat, which contains bodies of micro-organisms and filters out most of the particles in the effluent and bacteria. Without a biomat, which happens when there are very course soils such as (coarse sand and gravels) and fractured bedrock, the wastewater can enter our Lakes untreated. Generally, homeowners are not aware of this because they are not experiencing a problem.

As we wait for more scientific studies to be completed and review the efficacy of a very expensive aluminum treatment as East Pond just completed, it is imperative that home owners know how they may be unwittingly contributing to the external load. To this end your BLA will be active in this septic initiative to inform and test suspect sites and trust that home owners will be willing to cooperate in this project to insure that our beloved lakes remain free of green algae.



Family fun on Great Pond.



July 4th fireworks across Great Pond.

LOON PRESERVATION PROJECT EXPANDS TO GREAT POND

by Dick Greenan

There are a great many threats to our loon population here in the Belgrades consisting of predation, lead poisoning, boating activity, and their own competition for territory often with fatal consequences, just to name a few.

With a declining loon population in our sights, the Belgrade Lakes Association has embarked on The Belgrade Area Loon Project to develop a comprehensive plan in order to support our loon population in a sustainable manner. With this plan, one of the initial objectives was to help sustain those native nesting areas that are sensible and well-protected. Unfortunately for our feathered friends, their choice of nesting sites has not always been well calculated and, as a result, usually predated.



BLA's first Loon Nesting Sanctuary



Great Pond's PVC nest under construction

In the past few years we have had a somewhat respectable adult population, but it was unfortunately coupled with a poor record of fledged chicks making it to their six week life span and due primarily to predation, boat traffic, and territorial disputes. For further specifics, please refer to our 2019 Belgrade Lakes Common Loon Monitoring Report by our loon expert and consultant, Lee Attix, on the BLA website at <http://belgradelakesassociation.org>.

As of this writing, we have completed three surveys so far this season 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 be seeing our first chicks as early as Father's Day on June 21st this year, up until around the 4th of July.



Great Pond's "Taj Mahal" in position

Based on the aforementioned Report, we have identified two specific land based nesting sites that have been historically predated and are excellent candidates for a floating man-made platform/nest. Long Pond has had two very successful floating nests for close to twenty years, so the BLA has designed and built two new PVC based floating platforms that are significantly lighter than the earlier eight inch cedar water soaked logs and should need much less maintenance. The inside dimensions and "accommodations" are identical to the twenty year models. 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 and hay bedding generously donated by our friends at Lakeside Landscaping.



"... and so the missus and me just invested in one of those new pre-fab nests this Spring"

We have placed one new nest on Great Pond and one on Long Pond. The locations of both are purposely not being divulged due to their sites being Loon Nesting Sanctuaries with all of the privacy that we can afford them. The State-wide 200' No-Wake Zone, when actually practiced, is just not adequate to ensure their safety. Canoes, kayaks, and paddle-boards in particular, are asked to maintain at least a 50 yard distance to any known nest, floating, or otherwise.

Our loon population as well as the Belgrade Lakes Association's Loon Project could use any support you deem appropriate. We are in our second year of the Project and running at a significant deficit. Increased funding will enable us to maintain our present monitoring as well as initiating a banding program this summer which is our next stage. 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. Thank you, and we'll see you on the lake!

Milfoil Remediation Spring 2020

By Sharon Mann; Milfoil Program Director

Early ice out, early milfoil season!

Last season, milfoil was not observed until the end of May. However, this season we found several patches that were already reaching the surface of the water by May 6th! To combat the early bloomers, our crew planned accordingly. We completed the survey of Great Meadow Stream and began pulling milfoil in May.



Continuing the fight against milfoil in spite of COVID-19



From left to right: The milfoil crew, nearly all returning: Cody Pajic, Sharon Mann (returning manager), Hannah Haskell, Matt Kelley, Briahna Loring and Erin O'Leary.

7 Lakes Alliance is committed to combatting invasive plants while keeping our staff and members of the public safe. Pictured above: Milfoil Remediation Crew demonstrates safe survey practice by keeping well over 6 ft apart with PVC poles while wearing masks. (And that is a white windbreaker – not a hazmat suit!)

Milfoil volunteer & education events

- Adopt-a-Shoreline trainings will be recorded and posted on our website: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/milfoil>
- July 17: Invasive Milfoil Update #1 on ZOOM
- July 22: Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond Invasive Aquatic Plant Paddle
- July 29: North Pond Invasive Aquatic Plant Paddle
- August 1st: East Pond Plant Paddle
- August 21st: Milfoil Update #2 (ZOOM)

We Want Your Old Tarps

The 7 Lakes Alliance would like to recycle clean, intact, used tarps and use them as benthic barriers to cover invasive milfoil!

Please contact Sharon.Mann@7lakesalliance.org for information on removal efforts, events or material donations.
Please contact Adoptashoreline@7lakesalliance.org to report a suspicious plant or to volunteer.



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2020 BLA MEMBER UPDATE - AUGUST 16TH

The State of Maine's Keep Maine Healthy guidelines limit gatherings to no more than 50 people. As a result, the BLA Annual Meeting has been cancelled for 2020 and will be replaced by a virtual Zoom meeting to be held Sunday, August 16th at 4:00 PM. The topics include:

- Loon Preservation Project - Lee Attix
- 7LA and Erosion Control - Laura Rose Day and Charlie Baeder
- Water Quality - Lynn Matson

Our keynote speaker, Colby Professor Dr. Whitney King, will deliver The 2020 Lake Health Report with the latest data on the status of Great Pond and Long Pond.

Please join us!

Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86931453633>

Full Zoom invitation including phone-in options can be found on our website <https://belgradelakesassociation.org/>

Our thanks to Great Pond Wealth Management for once again generously sponsoring this meeting.

