



BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

SUMMER 2022



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

WELCOME BACK to the Belgrades! Many of you have been here for a while, and some of you are planning your annual visit. We have been busy this year. The Village looks wonderful with the new sidewalks, benches, and bike racks settling into the scene. Recently the Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village celebrated the completion of Phase One of their project. Make sure you stop by the Donor Garden down by the dam spillway and sit for a moment. You can look up the stream or out across Long Pond, feel the breeze, and just treasure this special place. The new community docks behind Day's Store on Long Pond are installed and provide more opportunity for folks to visit the village and enjoy being on the water.

Your BLA has also been busy. Water Quality remains our most important responsibility, and we continue to monitor the lakes with our partner organization - 7 Lakes Alliance - to take the steps needed to keep our water clarity at current levels. There is one main thing you can do to help:



Carol Johnson, BLA President

KEEP THE DIRT OUT OF THE LAKE!

Some suggestions to accomplish this goal follow. With Covid restrictions easing, we can schedule in-person assessments of your properties. We have a terrific Youth Conservation Corps team that can assist in implementing measures to make sure your waterfront is lake-friendly. If you belong to a road association, please make sure you have had your road evaluated as this can be a main cause of erosion. BLA will again be staffing both the Long Pond and Great Pond boat launches with Courtesy Boat Inspectors looking for "hitchhiking" invasives. Last year we had a "save" on a boat going into Long Pond. This one action was well worth the almost \$40,000 that will go instead to our CBI program this year. We encourage you to make sure your septic is inspected regularly and pumped out at least once every three years for year-round homes and every five years for seasonal properties.

Our Milfoil program is active and has taken another step in attempting to "knock back" this stubborn plant. Maine DEP has applied an approved herbicide that hopefully will make a big difference. We will have an important update at our Annual Meeting on July 31st with Sharon Mann, our Milfoil Specialist, as our keynote speaker.

Dick Greenan and team have been out on the lakes working on our Loon Preservation Project with our consultant, Lee Attix. We have installed some more floating nests and are experiencing a bit of population growth. Early July is hatching time, and we are keeping track of all the new babies - either from the natural nests or because of our efforts.

Our next challenge is the continued implementation of both the Long Pond and Great Pond Watershed Surveys. Please set aside a time to go to our website and read through the plan for your lake. Progress is being made to repair many town roads that need new culverts and ditching to keep phosphorous out of the lake. A big challenge for each of us is to make sure we have proper buffers along the shoreline.

There is lots happening. Choose to be involved. Adopt-a-Shoreline is looking for folks to check regularly for lake invasive plants. The loon team is looking for folks to help keep track of these special creatures. Please consider training to be a LakeSmart evaluator or a volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspector. Meanwhile, don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets! Hamlin's Marine has once again partnered with the BLA by providing our Grand Prize. Make sure you stop and say, "Thank You."

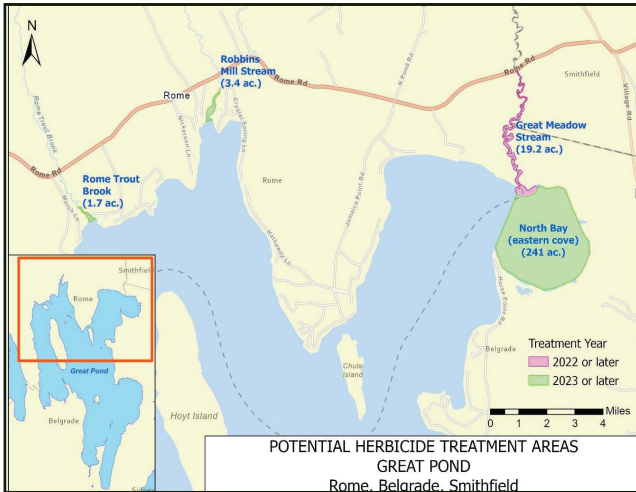
Lastly, the Belgrade Lakes Golf Course has graciously agreed to host our meeting on Sunday, July 31st, at 4PM. Please come join us at this perfect place to view those important lakes that we are entrusted to keep healthy. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Carol Johnson



Invasive Aquatics Program

By Sharon Mann, Invasive Aquatics Director

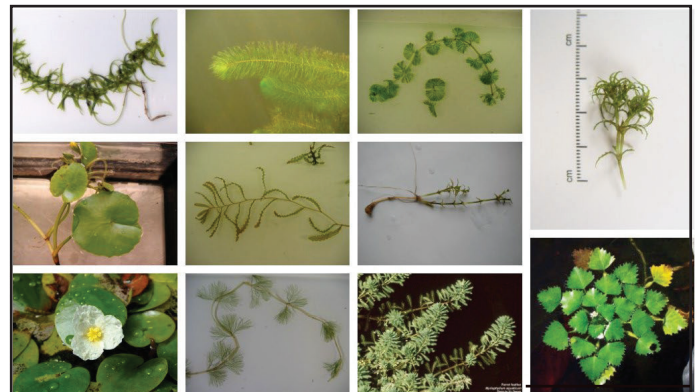


Map provided by Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME-DEP)

On June 16th, Great Meadow Stream was treated with a **low-risk** herbicide to reduce the size of the invasive milfoil infestation.

Why herbicide was used in Great Meadow Stream

7 Lakes Alliance and the Belgrade Lakes Association supported Maine-DEP's decision to treat Great Meadow Stream with a low-risk herbicide, ProcellaCOR, after extensive research on the efficacy and safety of the herbicidal product. This one-time treatment will help knock back invasive milfoil to a manageable level where our milfoil divers can continue to remove regrowth sustainably while preventing the infestation from spreading. In other words, the herbicide treatment is not a silver bullet to eradicate ALL invasive milfoil! We will be monitoring wildlife, native plants, and water quality regularly to determine whether this new herbicide product can be used in other milfoil infestations in the Belgrade Lakes Region. Note: the areas in green are possible treatment areas in 2023. For more information, please contact sharon.mann@7lakesalliance.org.



Do you know how to identify the "11 most unwanted invasive aquatic plants"?

No? That's alright; we can teach you! Attend one of our invasive aquatic plant and Adopt-A-Shoreline training events (schedule below)!

Wednesdays until August 25th

10:00 am - 11:30 am

137 Main St, Belgrade Lakes

Thursdays until August 26th

10:00 am - 11:30 am

The Fairview Grange, Smithfield

WANTED: Adopt-a-Shoreline volunteers on East Pond, North Pond, Salmon Lake, and McGrath Pond!

Do you spend time on the water? If the answer is "yes," you qualify to be an Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteer! We are seeking eyes on the water to help identify new aquatic plants in the area. Scan the code on the map for more information!

MILFOIL MANAGEMENT PLAN PIVOTS WITH STATE GUIDANCE

By Richard LaBelle, BLA Board Member, Milfoil Chair

It has been over a decade since invasive milfoil was identified in Great Meadow Stream on the north end of Great Pond. Early in the process, then-President Polly Beatie led the Belgrade Lakes Association into a cooperative effort to form the Milfoil Task Force. The task force membership was comprised of representatives from many organizations: the BLA, Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, Maine Lakes Resource Center (now, 7 Lakes Alliance), Colby College, and other entities. Over ten years later, these relationships have continued, strengthened, and been invaluable in fighting back against milfoil.



We do not want to see this happen here!

In Summer 2012, the BLA issued a special edition newsletter informing the lakes communities about the presence of milfoil, how each of us could become involved, and what the future looked like for the Belgrades. What would it look like if we didn't do anything to battle milfoil? What would be the best-case scenario if we moved swiftly towards eradication? In that same newsletter was one strikingly accurate line: "Like it or not, we are in for one tough fight with this aggressive invader. There's an awful lot at stake... loss of a traditional way of life... and an uncertain future here for generations to come."

Regional efforts have been endless; we seem to be doing everything correctly. Unfortunately, milfoil remains a solid foe. We push it back, and it regrows; tens of thousands of gallons of milfoil are removed annually. Despite all of the hard work, dedication, and support, milfoil has continued to remain strong. After a thorough review of our extensive investment and the resiliency of milfoil in Great Meadow Stream, the State of Maine recommended an alternative remediation method.

A few short months ago, the State approached our local lake organizations about the prospect of using herbicide to push back against milfoil in Great Meadow Stream. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Invasive Aquatic Species Program (IASP) published extensive program considerations concerning such use on established invasive aquatic plants. In that document, it is noted that "Maine statute limits such treatments in lakes and ponds to the restoration of biological communities. The IASP staff generally justifies herbicide use on an incipient invasive plant population when the opportunity exists for restoring a water body to conditions prior to the infestation..."

The efforts of the Maine DEP, together with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, advocated for a responsible herbicidal treatment of milfoil in Great Meadow Stream. The decision to proceed with treatment was made after a series of public meetings plus a public hearing, and it was completed on June 16th. The treatment, overseen by Maine DEP and completed by a third-party applicator, SOLitude Lake Management, was isolated to Great Meadow Stream. The product, ProcellaCOR, demonstrates the best risk profile and is expected to prove effective. ProcellaCOR has also been used in treatments on Cobbosseecontee Lake and Annabessacook Lake.

In 2012, Peter Kallin, Ph.D., then-Executive Director of the BRCA, wrote about the potential need for herbicidal treatment. At that time, the infestation in Great Meadow Stream did not meet the standards of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for chemical treatment. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, the status of milfoil in 2022 does meet the State's standards for herbicide treatment. As such, the decision to proceed was made. Neither the BLA nor its local partners were proactive in seeking an herbicide treatment; however, we understand the necessity

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MILFOIL MANAGEMENT (continued from page 4)

of doing so. We are supportive of the common goal of protecting our lakes and appreciate the importance of responsibly restoring access to all of our state's waterbodies.

In the post-treatment, teams will continue to monitor Great Meadow Stream for effectiveness. Teams will also be deployed to other vulnerable parts of the lakes to monitor for milfoil. Significant costs remain associated with milfoil management, but we are confident and appreciative of our supporters' commitment to battling milfoil. No, the herbicide treatment will not fully eradicate milfoil from Great Meadow Stream; however, it will make great progress in knocking it back and making it far more manageable in the future.

Please look out later in this season for a milfoil update! We are monitoring the success of the herbicide treatment and will continue the traditional work of sending teams out to work in the field for monitoring and removing milfoil. Your continued support is still needed and greatly appreciated.



Milfoil "not welcome" here!

THE ANNUAL BLA RAFFLE – YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE FUN!!!

By George Atkinson, BLA Board Member

Since its inception just fifteen years ago, the BLA raffle has become a summer tradition in the Belgrade Lakes region. With tickets sold at the post office and Farmers Market throughout the summer and also at the annual meeting, the raffle is the BLA's largest fundraiser. Last year's sales set a record, generating over \$46,000!

In the past, the two-person raffle tables have been staffed primarily by BLA Board of Directors along with a few stalwart BLA members. We welcome more of our members to become involved.

In addition to raising income to protect our lakes, some of the perks of staffing a raffle table include:

- Explaining the mission of the BLA
- Discussing the BLA's major initiatives: water quality; milfoil and phosphorous remediation; loon preservation
- Getting reacquainted with friends and neighbors you haven't seen since last summer
- Sharing what you like most about the Belgrades with new vacationers
- Watching with amazement the speed at which vehicles travel through town!

The 2022 raffle kicked off over the Memorial Day weekend and will run through August 14. Please contact George Atkinson (gatkinton295@yahoo.com), our raffle table scheduler, to join the fun and staff some shifts. Become part of this wonderful Belgrade tradition!



Looking for a summer job or volunteer opportunity?



7 Lakes Alliance is now hiring Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) for the 2022 Summer!



CBIs inspect boats at public boat launches to prevent invasive species from entering Maine's waterbodies. If you're outgoing, friendly, and eager to help protect our environment, then this is the job for you!

**Work
outside &
near the
water!**

**Work "on
call" and
flexible
hours!**

\$13.50



Scan the code
to sign up!

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORP (YCC) UPDATE

By Stuart Cole, YCC Director

Out of all the best management practices (BMPs) we use to improve our lakes' water quality, vegetative buffers are among the most important and most effective. Vegetative buffers work to protect water in two ways: they act as filters for surface water by catching the dirt particles that are picked up as the water moves across the ground; and they stabilize the shore line by adding structure to soil. One buffer YCC planted recently is blueberry sod. Because they're native to Maine, blueberries are very tolerant of poor soil and inconsistent light conditions. Blueberry sod is also a great option because low bush blueberries don't impede view of the water.

Boulders? Single-track meandering pathways? Water crossings? These are no problem for the Youth Conservation Corps. Having started a full twenty days earlier than in prior years, the YCC crew has already completed multiple shoreline stabilization projects, installed buffer gardens, meandering pathways, and rubber razors, all under time and under budget. With a second crew that started June 20th, our goal for the 2022 season is to install over 100 BMPs in the 7 Lakes watershed.

Driplines on homes without gutters have the potential to cause major erosion issues if the water falling from your roof is landing on bare soil. The best way to address this issue, other than installing gutters, is to install a dripline trench. Dripline trenches are 18-inch wide trenches filled with crushed stone; they work by allowing the water to easily percolate into the soil below thus reducing runoff and the erosion associated with it. If you are noticing erosion around the base of your home, give the Youth Conservation Corps a call at (207) 495-6039. We'll come out for a site visit and let you know if a dripline trench is the answer.



New dripline trench installed here.



Buffer vegetation prevents runoff.



Rip-rap ready for shoreline use.

7 LAKES ALLIANCE AT WORK THIS SUMMER

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

Working closely with the BLA and other Belgrade area lake associations, the 7 Lakes Alliance is underway with another busy season. There are many threats and opportunities to deal with this summer.

Invasive Aquatic Plants – Sharon Mann, 7 Lakes Invasive Aquatics Manager, and her STOP MILFOIL team are removing invasive variable milfoil in Great Meadow Stream and searching for new outbreaks around our lakes. They are also working to remediate a new invasive aquatic plant, curly-leaf pondweed, discovered last year in the Serpentine between East and North Ponds. Thanks so much for your ongoing financial support which has been key to helping us keep these threats in check.

Water Quality – Last fall the Lake Messalonskee watershed survey was completed. Now surveys have been completed for all seven lakes in our Belgrade watershed.

The findings are alarming. We have identified about a thousand sites with erosion problems that can result in phosphorus-bearing soil washing into our lakes that causes water quality degradation and possible algae blooms. To tackle these problems, 7 Lakes recently hired Stuart Cole as our Erosion Control Project Coordinator. We will soon be adding an Erosion Control Manager to lead this critically important effort. **Welcome, Stuart!**



Stuart Cole

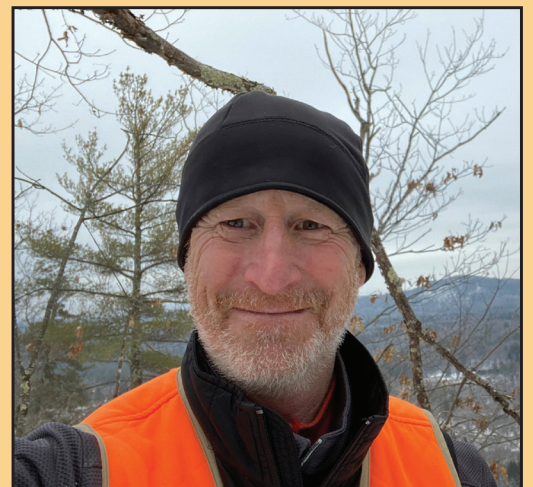
Work is also underway to monitor and further study the water quality in all our lakes, especially North Pond which experienced major algae blooms the last two summers. There's good news from East Pond. As a result of the 2018 alum treatment, it was determined East Pond had the best water quality in the Belgrades last summer. 7 Lakes is also welcoming new staff member, Elizabeth Gallagher, who will be joining 7 Lakes Science Manager, Dr. Danielle Wayne, later this summer to strengthen our water quality team. **Welcome, Elizabeth!**

The LakeSmart volunteers and Youth Conservation Corps are working hard to identify and remediate additional erosion problems. Also, the 7 Lakes Alliance received 3 federally funded grants totaling \$308,000 to undertake larger erosion control projects, like camp road drainage, on Great Pond, McGrath/Salmon, and North Pond.

Land Acquisitions – Did you know that the single most important thing we can do to maintain good water quality is to keep our forest lands? Undeveloped forestland is at least 10 times better at protecting water quality than developed land because the soft forest floor acts like a big sponge absorbing nutrients, like phosphorus, before they wash into our waters.

As a nationally accredited land trust, the 7 Lakes Alliance has a long-term goal to conserve 30% of the land (the current federal and state guideline) in our Belgrade watershed. Right now about 11,000 acres are protected (about 11% of the land in our watershed) including an 814-acre parcel on Vienna Mountain, adjacent to the Kennebec Highlands, acquired earlier this year. Watch for more exciting news about additional land acquisitions. To help care for these conserved lands, Jonathan Milne recently joined the 7 Lakes staff as our Land Steward.

Welcome, Jonathan!



Jonathan Milne

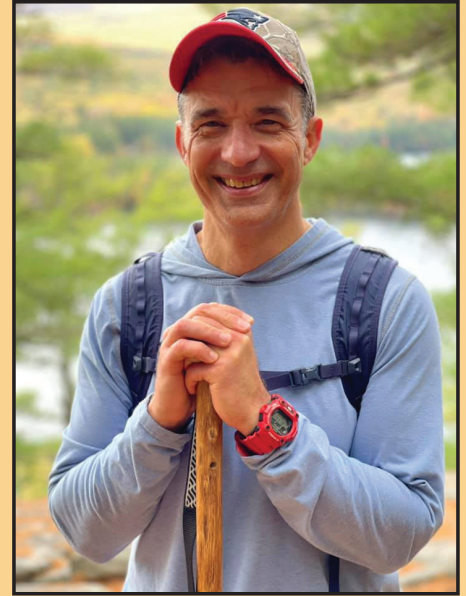
7 LAKES ALLIANCE (continued from page 8)

New Senior Staff – I'm also happy to report that former Belgrade Town Manager, Anthony Wilson, has joined the 7 Lakes leadership team as Director of Communications and Operations. Anthony will work closely with CEO Laura Rose Day to tell our 7 Lakes story and further strengthen our programs and operations. **Welcome, Anthony!**

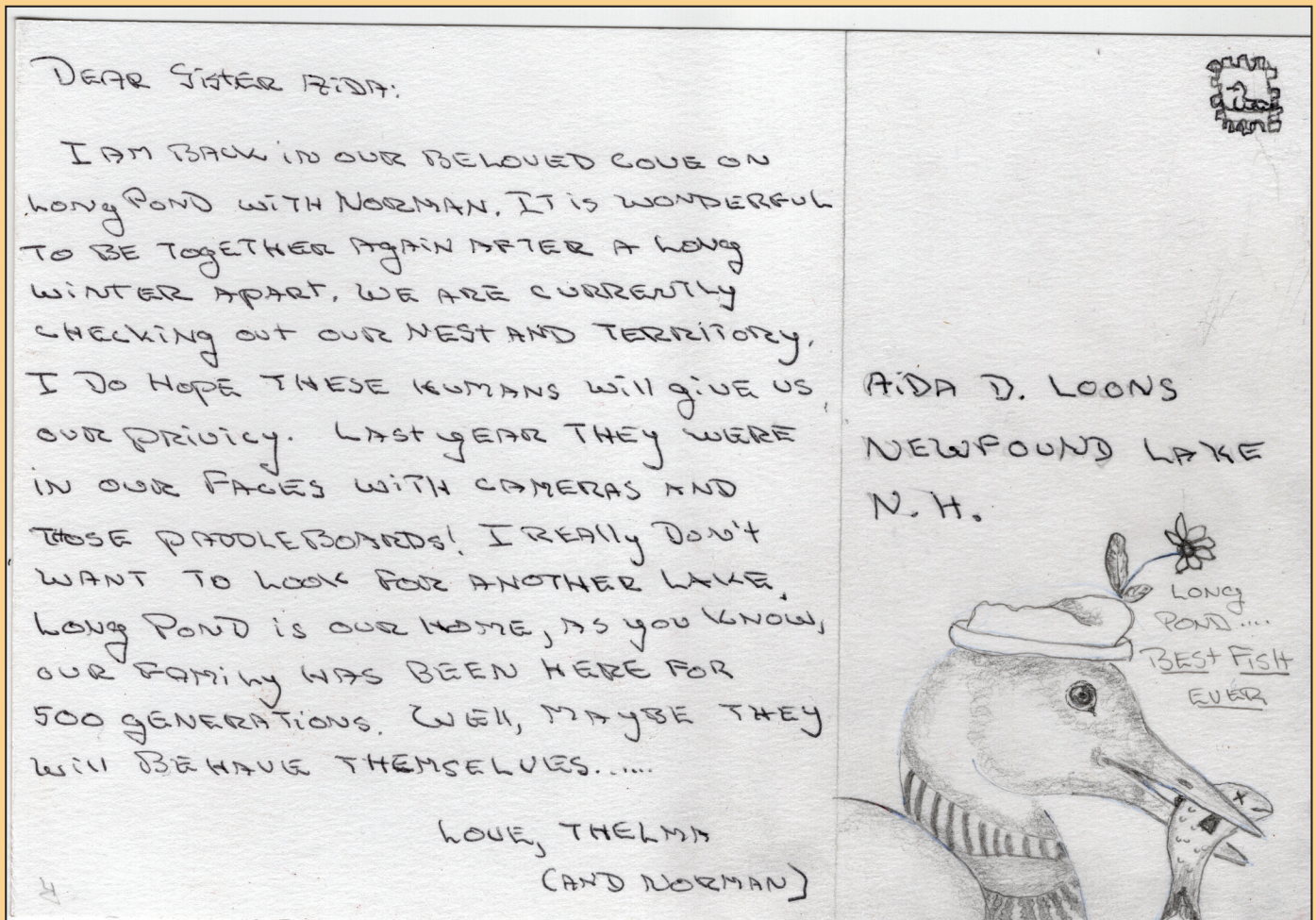
All the decisions and actions taken by the 7 Lakes Alliance are based on the best science available which is why we are so thankful to be able to work closely with the BLA and other lake associations, Colby College, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and some of the leading lake scientists in the country.

At the same time, we always appreciate your ideas and feedback, as well as your vigilance in spotting new invasive outbreaks, your time, financial support, and everything you do to be a good lake steward.

Thank you, and have a wonderful summer!



Anthony Wilson



Another postcard from Thelma

MASLAK FAMILY LOON NESTING PLATFORM

By Blaine Horrocks, BLA Board Treasurer, Loon Project Volunteer

Long Pond's Tracy Cove floating loon nest platform had a great run of 26 years. Located off a small peninsula in the northern reaches of Tracy Cove, this nesting site has provided sanctuary for generations of loon pairs looking to mate and propagate their presence on Long Pond. But where did this man-made nesting platform come from and why was it placed in Tracy Cove?

For a number of years, loon breeding pairs have utilized the Tracy Cove area as a site for establishing their nests. These nesting areas are commonly termed loon breeding 'territories.' Though the term loon 'territory' and its



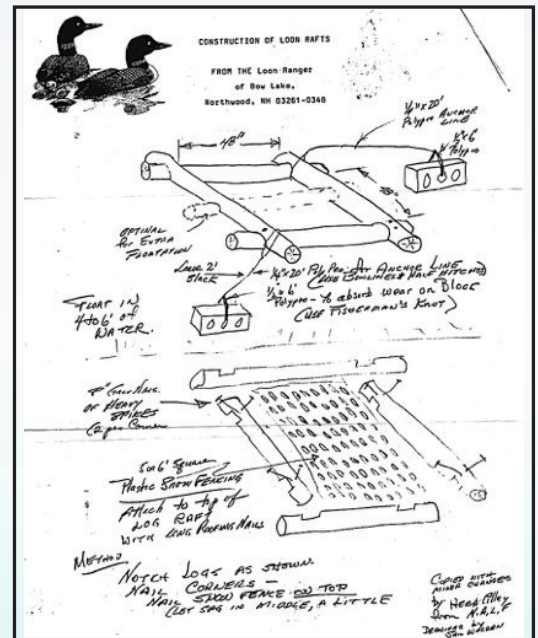
1st Tracy Cove man-made floating nest, c. 1995
Photo courtesy of Craig Killingbeck

desirable features arguably deserves a separate article in and of itself, I will simply assert that Tracy Cove provides the type of natural geography and resources sought by breeding pairs. One of the realities of breeding loon pairs is the desire to select a nesting site that provides protection against threats and intruders that might otherwise foil the nesting pair's success in loon egg/chick management and protection. This is where the concept of man-made floating platforms should provide certain advantages such as protection against high/low water level fluctuations and a safer haven against land-based predators that might eye a loon's egg(s) as their next meal.

Genesis of a Loon Nest.

Dr. David and Mavis Hoyt visited the Belgrade Lakes region in the mid-1980s and were taken enough by the region that they purchased a camp in the very upper reaches of Tracy Cove in advance of David's 1994 retirement as a chiropractor. Their daughter, Virginia, and husband, Timothy Comeford, would vacation with the Hoyts while Tim was attending chiropractic instruction in Chicago, IL. During these visits, Tim particularly recalls the water clarity of Long Pond, ease in catching fish, and hearing the call of the loons. Once licensed to practice, Tim acted on some sage advice; "Open your practice where you want to live." So, the Comeford family located to Belgrade Lakes, and Tim commenced his chiropractic career.

"If you build it, they will come" is a misquote from the movie Field of Dreams with Kevin Costner and Ray Liotta. But is this saying myth, or fact? An examination of this claim by FactMyth.com content creator, Tom DeMichele, concludes: "If you build it, and focus enough thought and effort on it, you increase the odds of them coming."



Instructions for a floating loon nest
Courtesy of Alan Starr, Maine IF&W



Tracy Cove loon nest refurbishing party
L to R: Pete Kallin, Reen Maslak, Dick Greenan,
Roy Lane

Tim was introduced to the concept of artificial loon nesting platforms from a local nature presentation. With strong suspicions that loon eggs had been lost to predation in Tracy Cove, he pursued further information and was put in touch with Alan Starr of Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W). Alan provided plans to build an artificial loon nest, and in 1995, Tim commissioned what may be the first artificial loon nest in the Belgrade Lakes region. Per the IF&W plans, the original nest consisted of notched white cedar logs, snow fencing, and pine needles raked up from the Hoyt's homestead. About 7-8 years later, the snow fence was replaced with green indoor/outdoor carpeting, and Tim continued to use raked up pine needles each year for placement on the nest. The earlier photo proves that 'they indeed did come' and provides testament to the success this nest enjoyed. Tim and fellow lake

LOON NESTING (continued from page 10)

advocate, Beaver Cove resident Craig Killingbeck, collaborated on loon nest design, and Craig also constructed an artificial nest still in use in Beaver Cove.

Stewardship Transitions.

With the 2005 sale of the Hoyt residence in Tracy Cove, Tim Comeford was no longer able to maintain the Tracy Cove artificial loon nest, and stewardship of the nest was handed to Tracy Cove resident, Maureen Maslak. Since her 1993 relocation to Long Pond, Maureen, or 'Reen' as she was known to her friends, was an active member of the community and a volunteer wherever duty called. Reen's endearing passion for the environment and love of Maine's pristine lakes was manifest. Amongst her many endeavors, she participated in the Maine Audubon's annual loon count, served as a BLA Secretary and Board Member, was an ardent volunteer at the BLA Raffle table, and was selected as the Belgrade Lakes Association Woman of the Year.



*2018 Tracy Cove loon nest with the avian guard
Photo Courtesy of Dick Greenan*



*2022 Tracy Cove loon nest with volunteers
Nattie and Blaine Horrocks hard at work*

Reen continued her stewardship of the Tracy Cove loon nest for a number of years. Each year, the nest would be tweaked to ensure structural integrity and spruced up with fresh greenery. In 2011, the nest was stripped of corroded chicken wire, nylon webbing was installed, and the nest was topped with a 5-inch bed of moss. About 2012, an avian guard was installed to further protect the nest's occupants from airborne threats (i.e., eagles, gulls, etc.). Over time, stewardship was passed on to Dick Greenan who continued to enlist support from other interested parties, including Pete Kallin, Roy Lane and, more recently, yours truly.

The End of a Legacy and New Beginnings

After years of serving the loons of Tracy Cove, the ravages of time coupled with the unintended consequences of boaters, who did not fully grasp the concept of "No Wake Zone," had taken their toll. In June of last year, the nest simply came apart at the seams, and Dick Greenan discovered a non-viable loon egg on the lake bottom. Dick affected temporary repairs, and the loons offered up one last egg which yielded a chick on July 21. After the nesting season, the nest was brought ashore, dismantled, and remnants taken to the local transfer station.

Given the continued loon hatch success of Tracy Cove, a search for a replacement nest proceeded through this past winter. With the assistance of our loon consultant, Lee Attix, a replacement was selected. Technology has advanced significantly over the past 26 years. Our new Tracy Cove nest is constructed of lobster trap PVC coated wire mesh, and its floatation consists of closed-cell foam. The new nest is much lighter than prior nests, won't become water-logged, includes an avian guard (to protect against airborne predators), plus attachments that can either hold additional floatation or native plant species.

BLA is most pleased to announce that the Maslak family will cover the full cost of the new Tracy Cove loon nest as a tribute to Maureen, and the nest will be adorned with a plaque commemorating the Maslak family, specifically Maureen and her legacy. A hearty thanks to the Maslak family, and long live Reen's Nest!



*The finished Maslak platform
L to R, Dr. Tim and Ginny Comeford, Blaine and
Nattie Horrocks, Dick Greenan, Roy Lane*

Acknowledgements: I would like personally to thank the Maslak family, Dr. Timothy Comeford, Craig Killingbeck, Lee Attix, and Dick Greenan for their significant contributions and support in making this historical account possible.

GREAT POND AND LONG POND WATER QUALITY UPDATE

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

It's been a busy year for water quality again! In early 2021, BLA, 7 Lakes, and other partners, led by Jen Jespersen of EcoInstincts, completed the comprehensive Great Pond Watershed Based Management Plan (WBMP). It required multiple years of data collection and analysis in the lake and the watershed and was followed by meetings with stakeholders to help develop a plan to ensure that the water quality in Great Pond does not decline any further (and hopefully improves!). This document can be found at both the BLA and 7 Lakes websites.

In 2022, it was Long Pond's turn! Long Pond had an existing WBMP, so the goal was to assess how well the existing plan was doing at maintaining or improving the water quality in Long Pond and to update the plan for current needs.

So why do we need to develop these plans? There are over 6000 lakes in the state of the Maine. Of those 6000, 170 are considered to be "threatened," which means they are at risk due to nonpoint source pollution, particularly of phosphorus. Nonpoint source pollution means that the phosphorus comes from the entire watershed, as opposed to a discharge pipe from a treatment plant or other specific point. Across Maine, only 21 lakes are considered to be "impaired," meaning that they are already seeing the negative impacts of nonpoint source pollution.

All seven of the Belgrade Lakes are listed as impaired (East, Great, Long) or threatened (North, MGrath, Salmon, Messalonskee)! The main reasons Great and Long have been added to the impaired list are:

- There is a strong long or short-term negative water clarity trend
- There is a watershed development threat

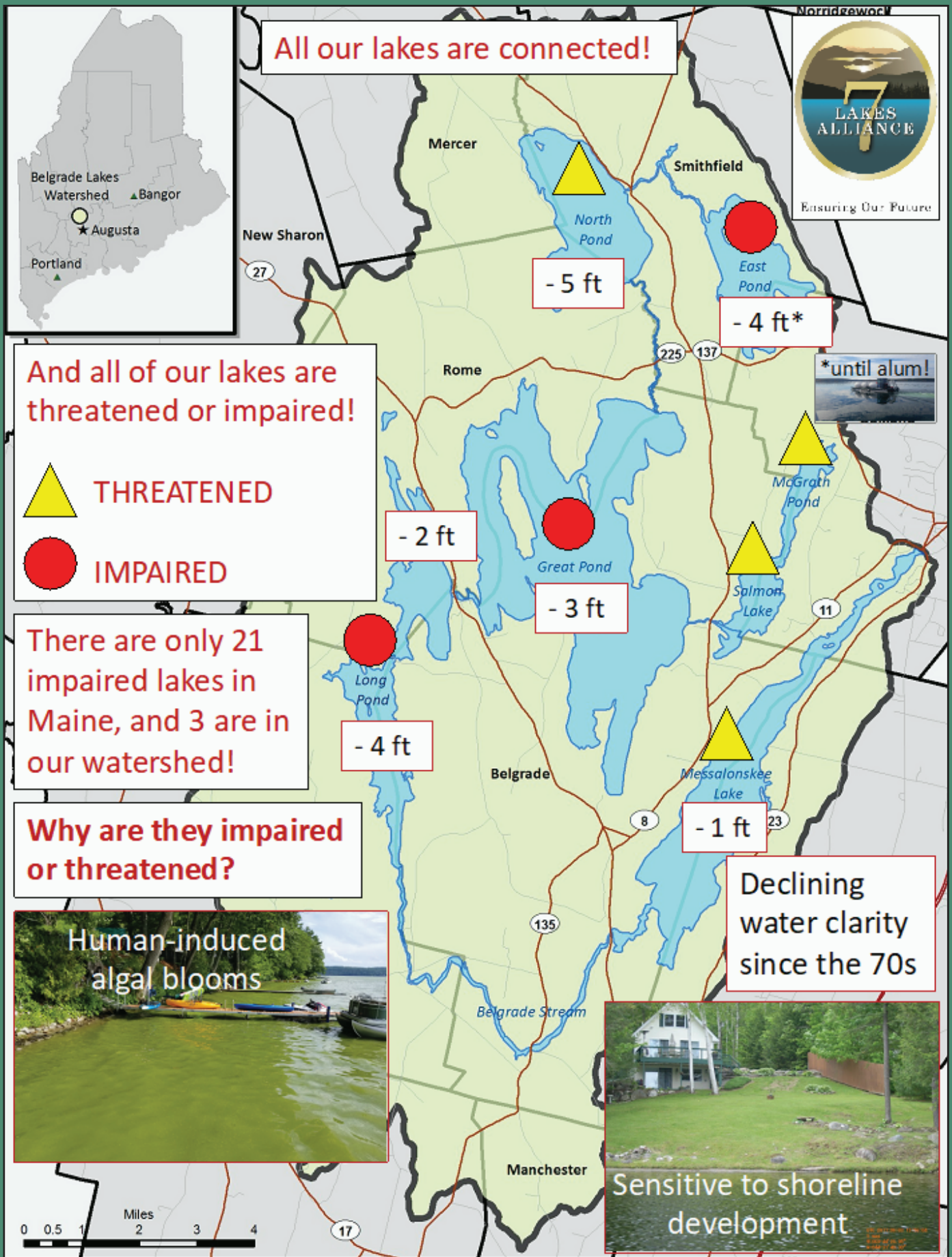
So the purpose of these plans is help combat the negative water quality trends by making recommendations for watershed management including:

- Address Watershed Survey Sites
- Reduce Phosphorus from Septic Systems
- Improve Ordinances
- Conserve High Priority Land
- Adapt to Climate Change
- Increase Public Awareness
- Build Local Capacity
- Track Progress (Monitoring)

In the upcoming years, partners in the watershed will be working together to implement these management recommendations. You can do your part by making sure your property is Lake Smart (even if you don't live right on the lake!) and that your septic system is functioning well and is pumped regularly. Also, please maintain your driveway, join your road association, and support BLA, 7 Lakes, and all our partners in the watershed as we do this important work of protecting our lakes!

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WATER QUALITY (continued from page 12)



MAINE'S FIRST BOATING LICENSE LAW GOES INTO EFFECT IN 2024!

An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters CHAPTER 656 PUBLIC LAW - APRIL 23, 2022

By Dick Greenan, BLA Board Member

By now, most of you have heard about the pending legislation that boaters younger than 25 would be required to pass an education and safety course prior to January 2024 in order to operate a boat on Maine's lakes and rivers, but excluding, for the time being, the coastal waters. Well, it's no longer pending and will now be the law, effective January 1, 2024

The Rationale:

- Maine is one of the few states in the country that does not require boating licenses. Neighboring New Hampshire for example, has required anyone 16 years and older to obtain a boating license.
- According to the U.S. Coast Guard, those under age 25 are not the boaters getting in the most accidents or causing the most fatalities. However, Rep. Jessica Fay (D-Raymond), who sponsored the legislation (LD1663), states that "Sometimes the best way to teach adults new things is by making sure that younger people understand the thing that we're trying to learn." Rep. Fay also notes that the legislation has gained the support of numerous lake associations, environmental and wildlife groups, and lakeside property owners.



*15 yr. old Benjamin is at the helm!
Is he legal? Read on further for the answer!*

Summary of CHAPTER 656 PUBLIC LAW:

- The law creates a mandatory boating safety course requirement for individuals born after January 1, 1999, for the operation of motorboats propelled by machinery over 25 horsepower on Maine waters beginning January 1, 2024. Basically, as of January 1, 2024, anyone born after January 1, 1999, and at least 12 yrs. old, is required to satisfactorily complete the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's (IF&W) adopted boating safety education certification program. This law also requires a mandatory boating safety course for an individual born after January 1, 1999, who wishes to operate a personal watercraft.
- The law requires all operators of motor boats and jet skis (personal watercraft) to be educated on the state boating laws and wildlife and environmental impacts, particularly the 200' No Wake Zone, or risk fines and misdemeanor criminal charges for noncompliance.



*Maine's minimum age to operate
a Jet Ski remains 16.*

- Boaters who violate the new law will be fined between \$100 and \$500 per offense, and those with three or more violations in a five-year period could be charged with a Class E crime.
- Due to many ambiguities, you will want to review the actual Law next year for any updates and/or log into the BLA website.

Maine-Approved Online Boating Safety Course:

The suggested Maine Boat Ed Course (<https://www.boat-ed.com/maine/>) is approved and accepted by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) and the United States Coast Guard and, in addition, meets the standards of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program and the U.S. Boating Education Standards

Is Benjamin Legal?

Fortunately, although Benjamin is only 15 yrs. old, he is driving an 8 hp Evinrude, well under the 25 hp minimum. BTW, 15-yr. old Ben also satisfies the 10-yr. old lifejacket requirement.

MAKING FRIENDS, RECONNECTING WITH LOVED ONES, AND ALWAYS LEARNING!

By Matti Bradley, Commodore of Great Pond Yacht Club



The Great Pond Yacht Club (GPYC) mission is to promote sailing on Great Pond by organizing and hosting sailboat regattas, youth activities, sailing classes, fundraisers, and social events. Membership is open to any person over the age of 18 who shares a commitment to the club's mission.

Dues are \$75 per year, per family. Membership privileges extend to the member's immediate family including spouse/domestic partner, minor children, and minor grandchildren.

Check out the 2022 event schedule at <https://www.greatpondyachtclub.com/calendar>.

Member or not, come on out to cheer us on. We would love to see you!

You don't know how to sail but think you might be interested? It's good clean fun. Join us! We'll get you and your family on a sailboat this summer! It's as easy as visiting <https://www.greatpondyachtclub.com/join>.

Questions? Email sail@greatpondyachtclub.com.

Let's enjoy the beauty of this wonderful place. Let's raise our sails together...raft up with friends, and have a picnic!



YOU'RE BACK, WE'RE BACK LET'S BACK THE BLA

And win a boat in the 2022 BLA raffle!

Welcome back. This year, when you come back to the lakes, your children will come back and, for some of us, our grandchildren will arrive for the very first time – you can WIN the BLA Raffle. Hurray for the vaccines, kudos to our lakes, and thank you for all the good work the BLA (and many others) have been doing to preserve and protect the lakes.

Hamlin Marine's Alumacraft 165 Escape



A generous member, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated this wonderful canoe.

Two Boats: This year you can win **TWO** boats in the 2022 BLA raffle: **something for fishing**, and **something for exploring**. Take that saved COVID money and stimulus money, and stimulate the BLA and your chances to win. The time is right; the prizes are right. **Your family will love them.**

Prizes and Prizes: We have a magnificent Hamlin Marine's Alumacraft 165 Escape Tiller, Yamaha 25 HP motor, and Trailer, and a Miller Canoe Vintage classic. There is an excellent set of 2nd, 3rd, 4th ... and bonus prizes: Hammond's boat lift, Hammonds dock sections, a stand up paddle board, golf for four, Day's picnic basket, a Village Inn dinner for 4, Landscaping by Lynch Landscaping, and a Farmers Market gift basket. The #1 bonus raffle prize is the exceptional **"Loons for a Day" guided tour for four** on Long Pond (12 loon territories) with naturalist, Loon Project Chairman Dick Greenan. A picnic Lunch and Jim Paruk's book, "Loon Lessons," are included.



You will win: You win, whether you win a prize or not, through better water quality and better lakes.



Come on down – buy your tickets: Please stop by our desks to make your purchase so we can verify your age (by rule of the State Gambling Commission). We will be at the Post Office as usual on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-1 and at the Farmers Market. We have a super credit card system, courtesy of Dick Greenan, so we can process your card efficiently. Come on down – buy tickets - buy more – then buy even more – and win something for that wonderful family of yours. **They will love you**, the lakes will love you, and **we at the BLA will love you** (even more!).

Preserve and protect!
Andy Cook, Raffle Chairman

2022 BLA LOON SURVEY UPDATE

By Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project

As you may or not know, your Belgrade Lakes Association is into their fourth year of their Loon Preservation Project to develop a responsible comprehensive plan for the support of our loon population in the very best sustainable manner.

Last year, our fledging success rate was such an improvement over 2020. Great Pond had 5 chicks that fledged (i.e. flew the coop along with the fall migration). Long Pond had 3 chicks that were able to beat the odds and flew off as well.

We began our first survey of the 2022 season on both Great and Long Ponds in mid-May in order to assess each of our loon territories where we have had activity in the past. We have already had a pair in Long Pond's Beaver Cove that just couldn't wait and started breeding early on April 24th! We have resident Craig Killingbeck to thank for maintaining his 25 year old floating Marriott! It is apparently the go-to nest in the world of loons!



Long Pond's Beaver Cove floating nest

Once again, our sincerest thanks to our friends at Lakeside Landscaping for their kind donation of turf for this loon's comfy bed!

We have purposely not disclosed the exact locations of our Loon Nesting Sanctuaries as they obviously need all of the privacy that we can afford them. The State-wide 200' No-Wake Zone, although important for so many obvious reasons when actually practiced, is just not adequate to ensure our loon's safety. Well-intentioned canoes, kayaks, and in particular paddle-boards that move in too close usually result in too many birds being flushed from their nests because the birds perceive these incursions as a threat.



Tracy Cove's new "Robinson Floating Nest"

Our loons typically nest around Memorial Day and, with an average 27-28 day gestation period, we expected to see our first chicks as early as Father's Day on June 19th this year, or until around the 4th of July.

This spring we had to replace our 25-year old Tracy Cove water-logged, semi-floating log nest with the new light weight "Robinson Floating Nest" which should handle those incessant waves including, unfortunately, those in our 200-ft. no wake zone. We want to thank the Reen Maslak Family for the funds that made this nest possible.

As I have stated before, our loon population, as well as the Belgrade Lakes Association's Loon Preservation Project, would welcome your support today. We are currently in our fourth year of the Project and continue to have our work cut out for us. Increased funding will enable us to maintain our present monitoring, to finance another two evening banding sessions, and to begin a new volunteer training program - all to take place this summer. But it will only happen with your support.

Please donate to the Loon Preservation Project online @ blamaine.org or via mail @ Belgrade Lakes Association, PO Box 551, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918. Any support will be most sincerely appreciated by all of your volunteers. Thank you, and we'll see you on the lake!



*One of our first returning loons this spring was a 2021 banded male.
Photograph by Alex Wall.*



2022 Adult loon intruder fleeing after encountering the nesting pair in Long Pond's Tracy Cove

Inter-lakes Dams Report

By Dick Greenan

We began our summer with Great Pond's Village dam 1.2" above full pond with both gates completely closed. Basically, the water was just 1.2" deep going over the top of the stone spillway. Long Pond and its Wings Mill dam was 3.12", also above full pond with Gate 1 still open but down to 3'4". Salmon/McGrath was also 3" above full pond with its single gate opened just at the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee were at 1.8", also above full pond, in order to keep as much water in the pond as possible, yet still meet their hydroelectric demands. With another drought forecasted, we tried to begin our 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, will not flood out any of our native hummock style loon nests.



3" flow over the stone spillway



Local contractor, Steve Liberty, is opening up the frozen Salmon Lake Dam.

The long-term forecast is only for 77% of normal rain for May through July with a slight increase to 87% of the normal rainfall for August through November. This slight increase in rain will be great news for our farmers, those with shallow wells, and, of course, our ponds.

Your Dams Committee has another busy summer with installation of a wireless data logger and a rebuild of our Tainter (radial) gate at the Salmon dam which took a real hit this past winter. All of the other dams, although in need of routine maintenance, remain in good shape.

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.

\$ REBATE CONTINUES \$

Save Money When You Protect Your Lake!



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

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

This offer is good for buffer work or purchase and completed septic pump-out and/or septic system inspection in 2022. The Rebate limit is \$500.
Proof of completed work required.

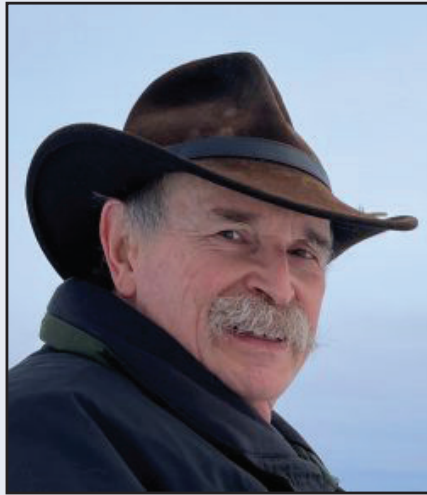
Get your **REBATE** by mailing your receipt, showing plant materials purchased and itemizing completed work to:

BLA REBATE
PO Box 551
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

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

In Memoriam: Dan “Tree” Robbins

By Joy Meason Intriago



Dan ‘Tree’ Robbins

The Belgrade Lakes Association lost a fervent supporter this year. There are some people who support nature, but there are others who embody nature in their very being. That was Tree Robbins, Dan Tree Robbins to be exact, who left this earth on April 11th of this year.

He was born in Worcester, MA on April 3, 1951, and attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He went on to graduate from Ohio University with a Master of Fine Arts in acting. He was truly multi-faceted.

At a very early age he knew that humans could communicate with trees, and they communicated with us. This led to his name of “Tree” and his continued communication with trees and nature.

Tree spent much of his professional career as a Civil Engineer for the Maine DOT. He was always active in the Belgrade Lakes area community by contributing time to several organizations including the Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village and the Great Pond Yacht Club Youth Sailing Program. Tree did every project with gusto. His contributions to the Youth Sailing Program ensured that hundreds of children could experience sailing on Great Pond.

He still found time to pursue his love of acting with the Sandy River Players in Farmington, including lead roles in Proof, Harvey, Inherit the Wind, and The Crucible.

His beloved wife, Elaine, was his partner not only in marriage, but also with their singing talents when they participated in the highly regarded local music group, Talisker. They also sailed on Great Pond on Arcturus, their vintage Minuet sailboat for which the club is known.

But Tree’s greatest love was for nature and all its mysteries. He was a friend to the many animals who would visit daily. Several of them were very fond of Tree and would seek him out for a peanut or, for a wobbly bird, a lift back into the air. He would scour the woods in search of native orchids, Indian pipes, and chanterelles. Each summer he and Elaine would search for and find Monarch caterpillars on ordinary milkweed. Knowing that the Monarchs are moving towards the endangered list, they would provide ideal homes for the caterpillars to grow and morph into viable Monarch butterflies which would be ready and able to start their journeys to Mexico.

In addition to his wife, Elaine, Tree cared for nature in all its forms which we are so fortunate to have here in Maine. The Belgrade Lakes Association and the Belgrade area will truly miss Tree, but we encourage each of you, our members, to consider following Tree’s example to become a valued caretaker of nature.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Tree
at the Maine Lakes Resource Center
on August 21st from 2 pm – 5 pm.





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© alexander wall

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

Printed by The Print Shop in the Village, marcelprints@outlook.com.