



BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

Winter 2017-2018



Getting the job done on Horse Point Road, 1934.

THANK YOU

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In just a few short months my term as BLA president will be over. Carol Johnson, your vice president, will be taking over in August. She is a smart, dedicated, natural leader with strong life-long ties to the Belgrades. She will do a fabulous job.

Over my forty years in business I had the opportunity to fill many leadership roles, but I don't think any of them have topped my experience of the last three years in leading the BLA. Here's why.



Lynn Matson, BLA President

The BLA Board of Directors is a very special group of people. They are a real joy to work with. Each one of them is dedicated to the BLA mission of protecting and improving the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond. They care deeply about this community. I can't begin to thank them enough for all the time and hard work they give to the BLA. Thank you, BLA Board.



Lynn Matson,
2017 Annual Meeting

The BLA also has terrific members. It's been a joy to get to know many of you. You are a very supportive, engaged, and generous membership. Our average membership donation is now up to \$110 from under \$50 just a few years ago. Over 200 of you attended our recent annual meetings and member receptions. And you really responded to the milfoil threat, donating over \$1 million to the STOP MILFOIL Capital Campaign in the last 5 years. Thank you, BLA members.

This is also a special community. Phyllis and I are still newcomers. We moved here as year round residents in 2010. We had no ties to the area, no relatives here. We had never been in Belgrade Lakes until the day we bought our home in Rome. Yet you welcomed us with open arms. And we quickly came to realize this is a special community with a deep sense of self and a determination to preserve a way of life that is loved and cherished by so many. Thank you, Belgrade Lakes.

The upshot of a great board, engaged membership, and a receptive community is that the BLA has been able to take action, make a difference, and hopefully have a positive impact on this entire watershed. Our work has included keeping the invasive milfoil in check, funding our Courtesy Boat Inspectors, topping the state in LakeSmart surveys and awards, and leading the way on water quality and phosphorus remediation planning.

We still have a lot of work to do, especially dealing with the excess phosphorus in our lakes and the prevention of further phosphorus loading from runoff, erosion, and faulty septic systems. However, I am confident that we'll solve these problems and go right on building the 110-year legacy of your BLA. Carol will lead the charge, and I'll be right behind her.

In wrapping up I want to thank you for the support and encouragement I've received from so many of you over the last three years. It's been a real pleasure and honor to serve as your president. Have a good winter. See you next summer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Matson'.

Lynn Matson



They say behind every
successful man is a great
woman: Phyllis Matson.

Route 27 Road Reconstruction Update

THE FRIENDS OF BELGRADE LAKES VILLAGE PREPARE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

Here is a quick update on the latest scheduling information on the the Route 27 road construction project that is now less than a year away! MaineDOT has postponed the road reconstruction portion of the project until after Labor Day so there won't be traffic delays, flaggers, or noise next summer. However, utility crews will begin work in the spring by cutting trees and moving utility poles to the Great Pond side of the road. Though this "new look" will be an adjustment, the recent storms are reminders of the importance of healthy trees and modern utilities.

Throughout 2017, the nonprofit Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village organization has been working hard:

- To raise the money necessary to meet the \$300,000 matching grant challenge from the Alford Family Foundations.
- To identify 36 donors to sponsor the pedestrian lamp posts that will line the new brick sidewalks. The sponsorships are \$10,000 per lamppost which will pay for the lamppost, the wiring, the installation and a recognition plaque. Donors are honoring loved ones with this special recognition.
- To raise funds to purchase a property for off-street parking and build much-needed, modest, ADA-compliant restrooms. Though the new ADA-compliant sidewalks with curbing will improve safety and walkability, these features also reduce the already insufficient number of parking spaces. Donations, large and small, are needed and welcomed!

In addition, thanks to a generous leadership gift from Lynn and Phyllis Matson, the triangle property between Route 27 and the West Road will be transformed into a public Village Green complete with gazebo, walking paths, and stone walls for seating.



If you are interested in learning more about the project, follow the Friends on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FOBLV/ or email: friendsofbelgradelakesvillage@gmail.com.

Those interested in donating can mail a check to P.O. Box 331, Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918.

MILFOIL MAKES A COMEBACK

by Lynn Matson

Just when we thought we really had the invasive milfoil in Great Pond on the ropes, it made a big comeback this past season. It's proving to be a very tough foe.

Over the last five years we have consistently reduced the size of the milfoil infestation in Great Meadow Stream (GMS) and at the mouth of the stream where it enters into North Bay of Great Pond, as evidenced by the amount of milfoil that has been pulled each year. In 2012 we pulled 48,648 gallons. By 2016 that number was all the way down to 3,500 gallons. This year we removed a total of 17,151 gallons. That's almost five times more than last year. What's going on?

Nobody seems to have an exact answer for the sharp increase. The best explanation points back to the summer of 2015. If you will recall, we had very dry, sunny summer that year with very little rainfall and very low water levels. Those conditions seemed to give all the aquatic plants in the stream, especially the milfoil, a great head start this past season. And the plants took off.

The good news is that the BRCA STOP MILFOIL team was able to pull all this new growth and leave the infestation area pretty clean going into this winter, just as we have for the last five years. But it's surely an indication that we cannot drop our guard, even for one year.

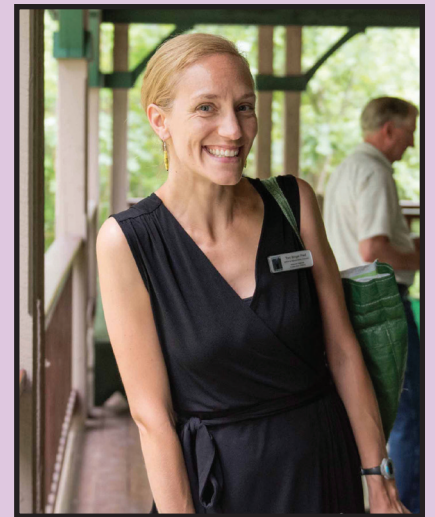
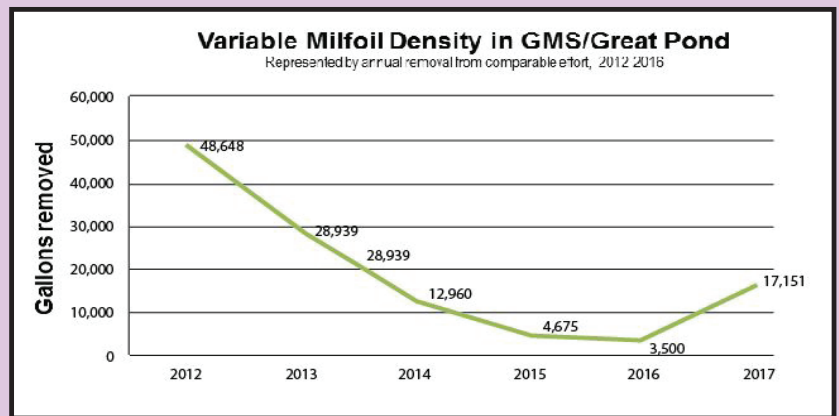
The other good news is that the STOP MILFOIL survey team checked the entire shorelines of both Great Pond and Long Pond and found no new outbreaks. They also used the lights on our boat at night to check several high-risk areas like Pinkham's Cove and Austin Bog and found no new variable milfoil. The plants pulled from those two spots the previous summer had not grown back.

The other news is that the BRCA Milfoil Program Director, Toni Pied, left the BRCA last October to pursue another career opportunity. She will be missed. Toni led the STOP MILFOIL effort for five and a half years, including hiring and managing the milfoil crew and the Courtesy Boat Inspectors. We all owe her our thanks for her hard work, true dedication, and a job well done. A search for Toni's replacement will soon be underway.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our STOP MILFOIL program. Your generous donations to this campaign have made it possible for us to contain this threat to our lakes and community.

Unfortunately this milfoil problem is not going away. It's impossible to fully eradicate. So if you will continue to back our efforts, we'll continue to work hard to keep this menace in check. That way we can all enjoy our clean, beautiful lakes for many generations to come.



Our special thanks to Toni Pied for her dedication and hard work leading the fight against invasive milfoil for the last five and a half years.

Milfoil Boat Needed

The STOP MILFOIL team is looking for a good used 16-18' Boston Whaler or Wahoo type boat to help conduct its work next season. The boat needs to handle a 60 hp outboard, which is already owned by the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA).

If you know someone who might be willing to donate this type of watercraft to our STOP MILFOIL campaign, please call the BRCA office at (207) 495-6039. The addition of this boat will greatly improve the productivity of our milfoil removal work in Great Meadow Stream and Great Pond and the donation will be tax deductible.

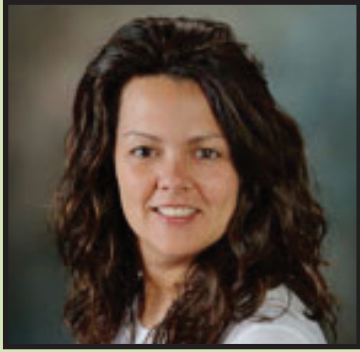
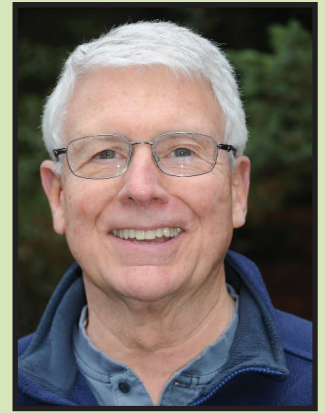
Thanks so much for your all your help with our STOP MILFOIL campaign. It's your ongoing support that has made our success possible.



Boston Whaler

BLA BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

GEORGE ATKINSON: George and his family have summered in the Belgrades for many years and have been members of the BLA all along. George and his wife, Kathy, now live year round in their home on Long Pond in Belgrade. A graduate of Ursinus College and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, George served in the US Navy before joining IBM, where he was in sales management until his retirement. He is the father of two sons and likes to sail, snowshoe and share the area with family and friends. A hearty welcome to George.



STEPHANIE GARDNER: Stephanie has lived and worked in Belgrade Lakes for over 13 years. She owns and operates Lakeside Cottage Rentals and is a Broker at Lakepoint Real Estate, selling and renting only in the Belgrade Lakes area. Stephanie is married to Adam Gardner and has 3 wonderful children. She loves this area and believes so much in the Belgrade Lakes Association that it is the only committee she chooses to be on. Thank you, Stephanie.

Gail Rizzo: Gail has been selling real estate in the Belgrade Lakes Region for over 30 years. She has learned firsthand the importance of protecting and preserving Maine's natural treasures and heritage. As a Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) board member and past president, Gail has shared knowledge and best practices on how to be a good steward of the land and lakes with the community, guiding property owners on how to abide with shoreland zoning ordinances, thus ensuring a lasting natural legacy in the Belgrade Lakes Region. This is the primary goal of BLA's Lake Smart Program, allowing a new generation of waterfront owners to both protect and preserve the regions' character and sense of place. Gail has been fortunate to grow up and spend her entire life in the Belgrade Lakes Region. She has shared numerous memories with her husband of 47 years, Frank (a New Yorker), and their two sons, Eric and Todd. She looks forward to making many more memories in the area with her 5 grandchildren, whether it is for a few months or year-round as she has for many years. She encourages those in the community to be involved and become stakeholders of the areas' natural beauties through the Belgrade Lakes Association or the Maine Lakes Resource Center/ Belgrade Regional Lakes Conservation programs.



Carol Johnson: Carol was born in Belgrade, and her very first residence was 39 Main Street. Even though her parents, Albert and Lydia Johnson, started wintering the family in Florida when she was just a year and a half old, Carol has always viewed her "home" as Belgrade Lakes. Each year she came to the lake –and back home- in the summer months and has spent weekends in Belgrade Lakes every year of her life. After high school Carol attended Colby College and graduated with a major in Russian. For the last 40 years she worked for Allstate Insurance: first as an agent, then manager, and for 25 years as an agency owner in Portsmouth, NH. She is looking forward to turning over the reins this summer to a long-time employee. Carol and Donald have purchased and renovated a home in the Village and are looking forward to finally living here year-round. She plans to work remotely from her desk in Belgrade Lakes (overlooking the stream from

Great Pond and the lake on Long Pond) as the life and retirement specialist for the agency. Carol is actively involved in the Union Church in Belgrade Lakes as a Lay Leader and Chairperson of Church Council. She is also a Board Member of the Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village and has devoted much of the last two years helping to "Envision the Village." The road reconstruction project next year includes new brick sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, and benches making the Village even more special. "Belgrade Lakes is where my heart has always been. It is where I can breathe. I can't think of another place I would want to be or spend my energies."

YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM AND YOUR KIDNEYS

ALTHOUGH YOU CAN'T SEE THEM, IT REALLY MATTERS IF THEY AREN'T WORKING RIGHT!

Compiled by Marcel Schnee

What is a Septic System?

Your septic system and your kidneys - both are responsible for the treatment and disposal of human waste products. Our lakeside septic systems are the “kidneys” of our lakes, and healthy kidneys make healthy lakes!

Household sewage (**wastewater** from sinks, toilets, showers, washing machines, garbage disposals, and dishwashers) flows into the septic tank. There, heavier particles settle to the bottom, and scum rises to the top. Bacteria in the tank help break down some of the solids.

The liquid typically includes contaminants such as nitrates, phosphorus, disease-causing bacteria and viruses, dissolved metals, detergents, and solvents. The septic tank and leach field provide minimal treatment for these contaminants. Generally, phosphorus and dissolved metals are bound up by the soil; although, sand and gravel may not effectively remove these pollutants. Nitrates and solvents are diluted in groundwater. Bacteria and viruses are filtered by the soil or die off.

But septic systems can fail due to poor design or construction, to overloading or inadequate maintenance.

Environmental Impacts

Improperly functioning septic systems are major sources of water pollution which can leak harmful pollutants, like bacteria and excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), into groundwater, lakes, rivers, and coastal waters. In coastal ecosystems, nitrogen is the nutrient of greatest concern. In lakes, rivers and streams, phosphorus is the biggest threat.

Lake Contamination

Failing Septic Systems are the source of 5-10% of the **phosphorus** that reaches lakes. In a lake, increased phosphorus nourishes algae. When phosphorus levels rise, even by a small amount, algae multiply. The water becomes cloudy and green, leading to taste and odor problems; and dissolved oxygen levels are reduced, resulting in impacts to fish and other organisms that live there. As a result, lake use may decrease and property values can plummet.

About half of the phosphorus reaching a septic system is from **household cleaners**. Much of this phosphorus will be removed by a properly functioning system. But, if the leach field is clogged, for example, effluent may surface and flow over land to nearby streams and lakes. If the soil cleansing process does not work properly, phosphorus may flow underground to nearby streams or lakes through groundwater.

Groundwater Contamination

The chemicals and organisms in untreated septic waste can be dangerous. Wastewater contains nitrates, which

are particularly toxic to infants, and disease-causing bacteria and viruses. Wastewater also contains toxic chemicals from household products such as cleaners, spot removers, solvents, furniture polish, silver polish, bleach, and pesticides. These chemicals and organisms may migrate through groundwater and threaten nearby wells.

What Makes a Septic System Fail?

- **Failure to pump out the tank.**

Wastewater will back up into the house or break out onto the ground when sludge and scum from an overfull tank flows into the leach field and clogs the soil.

- **Poorly sited or poorly built systems.**

When the septic system is sited in or too close to the high water table, or is constructed with improper fill, saturated soil can cause wastewater to back up or break out. This is particularly likely to occur in the spring when the water table is high.

- **Tree and bush roots.**

Tree and bush roots over a leach field can break or block pipes and interfere with the distribution system.

Four Signs of a Failing Septic System

1. Sewage **odor** near tank or leach field.
2. **Standing water** over the tank or leach field.
3. **Slow running** drains and toilets.
4. A patch of **bright green grass** over the leach field in the winter, or lush green growth in the summer when other grass is slow-growing.

Preventing System Failure

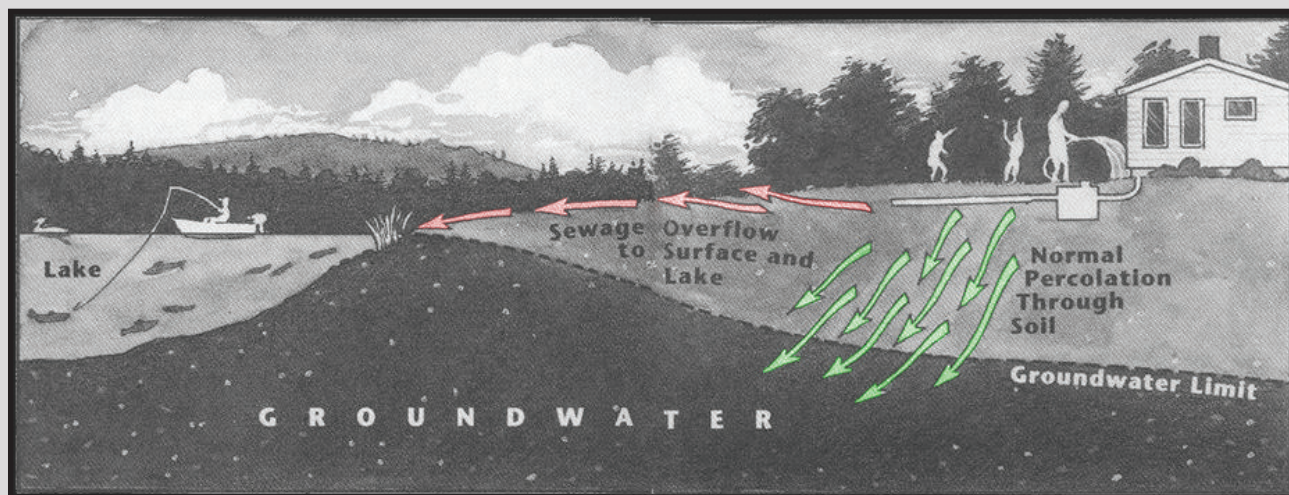
Many homeowners believe that a septic system will last forever. This is not true! Most septic systems, even with maintenance, will work effectively for only an average of 15 to 25 years.

To help protect against premature failure, the homeowner can follow a few simple procedures to help reduce sludge build-up: reduce water use, eliminate toxic waste, keep the system's bacteria working and protect the leaching system.



Marcel Schnee

{continued on next page}



Sewage running across the lawn into the lake is BAD.

For Clogged Drains:

- Use a plunger or mechanical snake.
- Or pour one handful of baking soda and 1/2 cup of white vinegar down the drainpipe, and cover tightly for one minute. Repeat process as needed.
- Or pour 1/2 cup salt and 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain, followed by six cups of boiling

DO Checklist

- **Do Inspect** your tank for signs of sludge buildup and make sure the baffles are in working order.
- **Do Pump** your tank as needed (every 2-3 years for year-round residences and every 4-5 years for seasonal residences).
- **Do Compost** food garbage or put it in the trash.
- **Do Keep a grease can** handy.
- **Do Mark** your septic system so you can protect it from vehicles and encroaching trees and shrubs.
- **Do Conserve** water; install water-saving devices, such as front-loading washers and low-flow faucets and shower heads.
- **Do Use non-toxic cleaning products** such as baking soda to scrub toilets and boiling water to clear drains.
- **Do Contact** a site evaluator if your septic system shows signs of failure; **contact** your local plumbing inspector if you see evidence of other malfunctioning septic systems.
- **Do Plant** shrubs, trees and grasses downhill from your system to act as a sponge (they will tie up excess nutrients and water as well as prevent soil erosion). Keep small trees and shrubs at least 10' away from your leach field and large trees at least 20' away.
- **Do spread out** your laundry loads to even out your water use and to avoid flushing your system.

DON'T Checklist

- **Don't use a garbage disposal**—it adds 50% more solids to your system.
- **Don't pour** automotive oil, cooking oil or grease down the drain.
- **Don't drive** vehicles over the tank or leach field.
- **Don't plant** bushes or trees over the leach field.
- **Don't use too much water**, especially during rainy, wet seasons when the ground is saturated.
- **Don't pour** paint or paint thinner into your system.
- **Don't use toxic drain cleaners** or chemicals.
- **Don't use chemical or biological septic system cleaners** which can plug up the leach fields.
- **Don't flush** feminine hygiene products, cat litter, disposable diapers, or other non-biodegradables.
- **Don't flush** medicines, particularly antibiotics.
- **Don't use** products labeled "antibacterial."

What to do if Your System Fails

- **Call the Maine Department of Health Engineering, at 289-5672.** They may refer you to your local plumbing inspector or a licensed site evaluator.
- **Exercise caution when near an opened septic system.** Toxic and explosive gases present are hazardous. Never enter a septic tank!
- **Have your septic tank pumped.**
- **Conserve water in your home.** This helps if your system has not failed completely and can help lessen the problem for a short time.
- **Fence off the area.** Prevent people and pets from coming into contact with seeping effluent.
- **Have a licensed site evaluator design a new system or an extension of your existing system.**

NB: The information contained in this article was compiled from the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (207) 780-4820, The Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District (207) 856-2777, and from Maine DEP publication #DEPLW-57. Portions written by Frank O'Hara. Illustration by Jon Luoma.

THE LAKE TRUST OF THE BELGRADES: HEALTHY LAKES STRONG COMMUNITIES

by Maggie Shannon, BRCA Lake Trust Chair, BLA Water Quality Co-Chair.

Ten years ago, the 5 lake associations of the Belgrade watershed established a forum to explore lake issues, learn from each other, and bootstrap operations. The presidents and other representatives of the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), East Pond Association (EPA), Friends of Messalonskee (FOM), McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MP-SLA), and North Pond Association (NPA) have met regularly since then as the **Lake Trust** – a committee of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA).

Hearing from experts working on our lakes, sharing our challenges and successes, and partnering on group buys and projects, we've built knowledge and a spirited camaraderie that pops from this September, 2017, photo of the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association's Watershed Survey crew. Most everyone is MP-SLA, but survey volunteers from sister lakes, including BLA's President Lynn Matson are there, too.



Maggie Shannon

Maintaining Gains for Overloved Lakes

As stewards for overloved lakes, we recognize restoring the sparking gems that are home to our hearts may require in-lake treatments across the watershed in time. We know the costly alum treatments planned for East and Great Ponds are big deal operations similar to life-saving medical interventions where good outcomes depend on teams of highly trained specialists armed with sufficient data, the right equipment and materiel, deploying at the proper time. We've learned so much, so fast: i.e. that it takes such a tiny increment of phosphorus, *just 13-15 parts per billion*, to tip a lake, that internal recycling is a force of nature, and that careless land use adds up to millions of dollars in repair. The immediate need for active stewardship, as with LakeSmart, now looks more like a flashing neon sign to us than the barely discernable handwriting on the wall it was five years ago.



*An enthusiastic group of survey volunteers!
(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Jespersen, Eco Instincts Consulting.)*

But, we've also learned *we're preaching to the choir*. An informal afternoon survey of Days' Store customers this summer showed Great Pond's plight is a too well-kept secret. To finance the planned alum treatment, maintain its gains, extend the life of our investment, and prevent further harm, we'll need the active support of our entire community -- the engagement of most folks who live, work and play in our watershed. The value of engaging these friends and neighbors can't be overstated. Since the lake associations and Lake Trust are community-based, they are best positioned for this task.

Getting Out the Word

Recent MP-SLA President and Lake Trust stalwart Christie Souza deserves a shout-out in this regard. Early in 2017, she engaged Lake Trust members to write opinion pieces about various aspects of our lakes for the Waterville Sentinel and Kennebec Journal. Topics from bass tournaments to volunteering to what it means to have a healthy lake nearby have already appeared under the tagline **HEALTHY LAKES, STRONG COMMUNITIES**. Another is on the way from Woody Woodsum of MP-SLA. They reflect the up-tempo exchanges within the Lake Trust where we challenge and learn from each other as we work to raise all boats.

Join the In Group?

We meet for a couple of hours every third Wednesday evening of the month from September to May. You're welcome to come. If you'd like to join us, please call Mary Kerwood at the BRCA for the next meeting time and location -- we might be convening on a pontoon boat beneath a quarter moon, you never know! Mary's number is (207)-495-6039.



Christie Souza

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SURVEY GREAT POND

Next summer the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) will be looking for many volunteers to help conduct a watershed survey of Great Pond. The purpose of the survey is to identify specific sites where runoff and erosion are contributing to the excess phosphorus problem in the lake.

This survey is the first step in developing a management plan for Great Pond. The plan is required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to obtain the permit needed to treat the excess phosphorus.

Volunteers will work in team of 3 or 4 and visit all the shorefront properties around the lake, where owners have given permission, to look for runoff and erosion. That information will be incorporated into a model of the lake, which in turn, will serve as the basis for a management plan designed to reduce these sources of external phosphorus loading.

No date has been set for the Great Pond survey as of this writing. But if you are interested in volunteering a day of your time to work with friends and neighbors on this important lake project, please call the BRCA office at (207) 495-6039 to sign up. Training and lunch will be provided on the day of the survey.

Thanks so much for your support of this vital work. With your help we will keep all our lakes clean and beautiful for generations to come.

PRELIMINARY WQI REPORT FOR GREAT AND LONG PONDS,

by Brenda Fekete and Maggie Shannon

Swift Summary of Water Quality Initiative findings for BLA Lakes:

Brenda was kind enough to send me preliminary data which I've organized under several topics for ease of communication/understanding. To wit:

Water Clarity: As of last week, the thermocline in both Great and Long ponds was at about 10 meters and holding fairly steady. Remember that these readings are a snapshot in time, even summer averages, and that their meaning is more clear when seen in a 10-20-year context (beyond the scope of this short report!)

- Great Pond – the most recent Secchi disk reading was 7.5 meters, and the summer average is 6.9 meters. Anoxia occurred on 8-23-17. We won't know the extent of anoxia in Great Pond until December or January according to Dr. King.
- Upper Long Pond – recent Secchi was 6.4 meters; average over the summer 6.7. Anoxia set in on 8-21-17
- Lower Long Pond – Most recent Secchi 5.8 meters, summer average 6.8. Total Phosphorus: 13-15 ppb is the danger zone.
- Great Pond – 10 ppb; up from 9 ppb in 2016 (if memory serves, 9 is lower than other recent years and is probably attributable to the lack of rain in 2016)
- Upper Long Pond – 12 ppb; 11 last year
- Lower Long Pond – 10 ppb in both 2016 and 2017

Gloeotrichia: since there was "spotty coverage" on both Great and Long ponds, there isn't a report from Brenda.

Needless to say, this is not a complete report, but simply what was available at the time of this printing. I think we should ask for more information on the Gloeotrichia monitoring as it is my understanding that BLA has had 20 volunteers in prior years. More on Great than on Long, to be sure, but some of these folks have been recording Gloeo data for nearly a decade. Each volunteer was issued a new temperature sensor this summer and given the opportunity to participate in the EPA Cyanowatch Program, so I am surprised that the returns haven't been more substantial.

THE TREMOLO, THE WAIL, AND THE YODEL

By Joan Witkin

Loons

The loons that we hear and see on our lakes are the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*, one of 5 species of *Gavia* in North America). They are large aquatic birds (weight about 7-15 lbs, length 27 to 36 in, wingspan 50 to 58 in). Males are larger than females. Loons are not a type of duck. The differences are appropriate for their lifestyle. They live almost exclusively on water, coming onto land only as mature, breeding adults to build nests, mate and hatch eggs. They are chiefly fish eaters and dependent on swift underwater diving. Unlike most other birds their bones are solid. This increase in weight aids in their diving, which can be as much as 200 feet below the surface. Their legs are situated very posteriorly, maximizing thrust in water, but making them ungainly on land. When diving and in flight, they are streamlined by the backward extension of their legs beyond their short tail.



Juvenile plumage, brown upper body, white belly, brown beak and eyes.

The plumage of male and female loons is identical. In adults the head is black as is the dorsal side of the body and the long thin bill. There is a small band of white dots just under the head and below that is a collar of vertical white stripes which lead into broken lines of white dots and a pattern of bars and squares on the back and wings. The breast and underbody are white. Their eyes are red.



Molting. The loon at left is further along in the process.

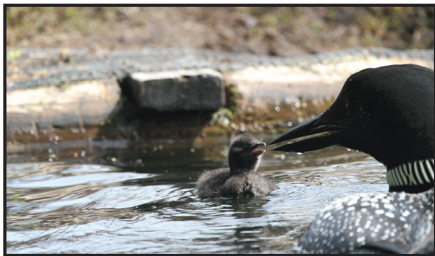
Their coloration alters dramatically over the course of a year. During the summer, which they spend on freshwater lakes, loons are easily recognized by their spectacular plumage. Beginning in the fall migration to coastal waters and continuing until just the spring return to the lakes, their upper body and bill change to grey. Their flight feathers are lost in late winter leaving the birds flightless for a few weeks.

Life history

Loon life history begins with hatching after 28-30 days of incubation by both parents. There are usually 2 eggs which hatch a day apart. Often only one chick survives. The downy black chicks leave the nest after one day and are able to swim, but for a couple of weeks they spend some time on their parents' backs. The parents feed the chicks for about 2 months after which they are able to dive and catch fish. They then gradually take on adult body shape and characteristic but retain juvenile (brown) plumage and brown eyes.



Adult in flight.



Feeding chick.

At three months, they can fly and become independent. In order for the juveniles to be mature enough for a timely migration, they have to have hatched toward the end of July. The window for egg laying is thus from about Memorial Day to the 4th of July. In the late fall the adults begin their southerly migration and the juveniles follow shortly thereafter. At this time their appearance is similar to wintering adults with their plain brown heads, bills and backs and white throats and underbellies. They do not return to the lakes until they are 2-3 years old and sexually mature. At this time they molt to breeding plumage. The life expectancy of loons is reported to be up to 30 years.

The winter habitat of our Belgrade Lakes loons is primarily the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Adult breeding males return in the spring when the ice is out, and are closely followed by the females. The males choose a nesting site, often one from the previous year. Sites are within a few feet of the shoreline and can be on small islands. There follows a courting ritual in an area of the lake near the chosen nesting spot. Loons are often described as monogamous, but in actuality this is a loose interpretation. The female participates in nest refurbishing and/or building. By way of trying to increase loon population, artificial nests can be built and have a fair chance of success. There have been several examples on Long Pond.

Loon Calls

The other enchanting characteristic of these dazzlingly beautiful creatures is their calls. These are three main types: the tremolo, the wail and the yodel. (Examples can be found online on YouTube.)

The tremolo is the famous loon "maniacal laugh" that is said to be the inspiration for the naming of these birds. It is a rapid repetition of a few notes used as an



Turning eggs in nest.

alarm call. At night it may be used to defend territory. A form of the tremolo is also used in flight.

The wail is a hauntingly beautiful (some say eerie) howl, performed with closed bill. It is used in social interactions often answering tremolo choruses from other loons. It is also a means of regaining contact with mates.

The yodel is only given by males. It is a long, rising call (up to 6 seconds) of a repetitive sequence of notes, used for defending territory. It is produced with closed bill. Each male has his own variation and may change it if he establishes a different territory.

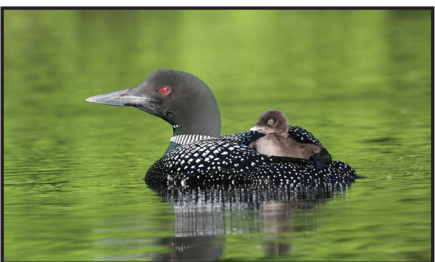
In addition, to these calls, loons use a short, soft call to communicate with family members. In the winter loons do not call at all.

Loons and Us

Loons evolved about 60 million years ago, while modern man has only been around for about the last 300,000. Over that span it is likely that anyone who lived near a freshwater lake heard and saw loons as we do today. Unfortunately in the modern era our presence is increasingly a threat to their survival. Two important components of this threat are the refinement in fishing technology and the invention of guns. Loons were popular targets in sport shooting until the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty was enacted in 1918 along with later more restrictive legislation. Fishing tackle includes hooks and barbs and weights, all of which are potentially dangerous as they can be attached to or inside fish that are swallowed by loons. Lead has been the material of choice in both large sinkers and small bead weights. These are taken in along with gravel on the floor of lakes as an aid to digestion. Lead is a major cause of mortality in loons. The selling of lead sinkers was made illegal in Maine as of September, 2016.



Loon in lake with first hatched chick. Loon on nest constructed on a log base.



Chick on parent's back.

The impact of human endeavors on the water quality of lakes is a broader and deeper problem. Acid rain has only been recognized as a major atmospheric pollutant in the last decades, although it was identified during the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. Its effect on aquatic life can be disastrous. Lakes with low pH (i.e., are acid) have low calcium levels and high aluminum concentrations. These factors lead to the loss of aquatic life, both plant and animal, resulting in abnormally (ominously) clear water. Rain with vaporized effluent from power plants and the manufacturing industry can contain dangerously high levels of contaminants such as mercury and other heavy metals. Additional sources of pollution are pesticides and fertilizer from agricultural and residential runoff. An important effect of this is the accumulation of phosphorus which promotes growth of plankton and algae. Because of this, lakes can become so choked that they turn green. This growth leads to a heightened requirement for oxygen. Subsequently the lake water contains lower levels of dissolved oxygen and is less able to support aquatic life including fish. Our lake organizations are deeply involved in finding and funding solutions for these problems. Most recently the focus is on methods to counteract the accumulation of phosphorus.

Loon populations are diminishing. Among the New England states they are classified as threatened or endangered. According to Susan Gallo, the director of the Maine Loon Project, there are only about 3,000 loons in New England. This estimate is arrived at through the Audubon Annual Loon Count. This is carried out by volunteers who go out in their boats and survey an assigned region of their lake from 7 to 7:30 AM on the third Saturday in July. They record numbers and locations of adults and chicks. Any chicks hatched after that time are not likely to reach adulthood and make the fall migration to coastal waters.

The Belgrade lakes participate in the annual count. Results from the 2017 count are: Great Pond with 50 adults and 5 chicks; Long Pond with 40 adults and 9 chicks. Records from past years show broad fluctuations in numbers, but there is no discernible trend. Volunteers for the count are always welcome.

Sources for this article include the Ornithology Department at Cornell and the National and local Audubon Societies along with myriad Googled sites.



Parents change places.



Adult in full breeding plumage.



Preening or, if defending territory, visual display with yodel.

LAKESMART: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION AND PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT

By Barbara Barrett, BLA-LakeSmart Program Director

As the new Program Director for LakeSmart Program this year, I found it to be all that is advertised. It's a consulting service that educates the homeowner regarding the **"Best Management Practices" (BMPs)** that protect our lakes and their water quality from damage caused by phosphorous and other pollutants.

We've heard the expression of "Death by a 1000 cuts" with each cut being a source of contamination of the lake. We learned at our annual meeting about expensive future 'in-lake treatments' to restore Great and Long Ponds to a healthy condition. If each homeowner, in turn, set a goal to apply as many BMP's as possible, these "Band-aids" would minimize erosion and extend the life of this remediation.

Wonderfully dedicated volunteers (David and Sue Gay, Maryjane and David Shiverick, Becky and Peter Adler, Cathy and Paul Desjardins, Ann Dolbear, Lynda Murray, Michael Bernstein, John Biddescombe, Linda Petersen, Nancy Whyte, Roger Larsen, Nathan Durant) as well as Maggie Shannon and I participated in visiting 78 properties this past 2017 summer season. Of these civic-minded lakefront property owners, 50 received 'LakeSmart Award Certification' and 28 received 'Commendations' for their progress toward LakeSmart.

One of the properties I visited is owned by a young couple who expressed to me their reason for seeking out LakeSmart. It was for its educational knowledge. The new homeowners had purchased a real challenge, a property that had been completely cleared from camp to lake. "Help!" they said. Going from camp road to lakeshore, we toured the property together looking for opportunities to educate and discovering areas where erosion existed or had the potential to take place. At each point we discussed which BMP's would be beneficial.



Barbara Barrett addresses the attendees at the Annual Meeting.



Before YCC:

**Bare Ground
Washing
Away**



After YCC:

**Rip-Rap;
Erosion Control
Mulch;
Buffer Plants**

One of the benefits of the BLA-LakeSmart Office sharing office space with BRCA's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is that when we identify an 'emergent' situation, we are able to get right on the problem before more damage is done. This was the case for this young couple. They worked with Nathan Durant (YCC Program Director) and his crew to resolve a serious situation and to repair the shore line. In time this new buffer will develop and restore the shoreline.

As stated by one of our awardees, "We fully appreciate that this award comes with a requirement to maintain and improve our landside conditions, a requirement we fully embrace." We were very pleased to have met so many this past year who also expressed the same commitment to install BMPs with the help of LakeSmart homeowner handouts (Do-It-Yourself projects), Lakesmart certified Landscapers, or the YCC.

You Can Help! Have your property evaluated. It's free, non-regulatory, and carries no obligation. Sign up for the 2018 season (May to September) by contacting: brcacc@belgradelakes.org.

Volunteer to be a screener. We will provide education and mentor you to assist others. What a great way to meet and make new friends. Contact the BLA- LakeSmart office at 207-512-5150 or email to lakesmart@blamaine.org

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS - MOVING 300 TONS OF ROCKS TO SAVE OUR LAKES!

by Nathan Durant

The Youth Conservation Corps' (YCC) mission is to slow the transport of dirt entering our lakes. Each summer we hire high school and college students to work on erosion control projects in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. A watershed is a big bowl. The surrounding mountains are the edges of the bowl and the bottom of the bowl are our lakes and ponds. When rains hits the surface of the bowl, it starts a journey to the bottom. If rain drains too fast, it damages the watershed by transporting small pieces of dirt along with it.. This is erosion. The YCC prevents this by using techniques called Best Management Practices (BMPs). In summer of 2017, the YCC crew installed 101 BMPs. Even more impressive is the amount of work each project required. In total, the YCC crew moved 300 tons of 6-12" rock (32 tons per crew member).

We also installed 118 square yards of Erosion Control Mulch and built 6 sets of infiltration steps.



In addition to all this work, the YCC sent out a customer survey to the last three years of customers. The goal of this survey was to get an accurate view of customer relations. We asked 7 questions pertaining to the YCC program, including YCC crew behavior and YCC director communications. The results are still rolling in, but to date the lowest score is a 4.6 using a 1-5 scale. We can safely say the YCC is in good standing with the community.

Recipes

EMILY'S FAMILY FAVORITES

Crock Pot Chicken and Gravy.

Ingredients:

- 2-3lbs of Raw Chicken, thighs or breast
- 2 boxes Cream of Chicken, condensed
- 1 family size jar of Chicken Gravy
- 6 medium size Potatoes, cut into quarters
- 1 medium Onion, peeled and sliced
- 5-6 Mushrooms, sliced
- 1-2 tablespoons of Olive Oil
- 1/2 - 2/3 cup of Water, depending on how thick you want the gravy
- 1 medium - large Crock Pot

Directions:

Plug Crock Pot in and set to Medium/High Heat. Add, Olive Oil and Water, warm in crock pot. Add, 1 box of Cream of Chicken and 1/2 of the jar of Chicken Gravy, Mix well. Add, Raw Chicken, stir into Cream of Chicken and Chicken Gravy. Cook for 10-20min. Add, Sliced Onions and Mushrooms, mix well. Cook 10-20min. Add, Quartered Potatoes. Turn Crock Pot to Medium/Low Heat and cook for 3-4hours, or until chicken is cooked through.

Shortbread Crusted Lemon Squares.

• Recipe inspired by Gourmet Magazine

Ingredients:

- Crust:
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1.5 sticks or 12 tbl unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- Filling:
- 6 large eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 tbl heavy cream
- 2 tsp lemon zest, finely grated
- 1/2 cup Fresh Squeezed Lemon Juice
- 1/4 tsp salt
- Confectionary Sugar, for sprinkling

Directions:

Crust:

Preheat Oven to 350°F

**Use Middle Rack when Baking

Pulse together, Flour - Sugar - Salt, in food processor until just combined.

Add, pieces of butter to food processor until Flour, Sugar, Salt and Butter resemble a coarse meal. Press dough onto the bottom of a square UNgreased 9inch baking pan.

Bake, until golden brown, about 20min.

Filling:

Whisk together, Eggs - Sugar - Flour - Heavy Cream - Lemon Zest - Lemon Juice and Salt in a bowl until well combined.

Baking the Bars:

When the Crust is baked to a golden brown. Re-Whisk the Lemon Filling mixture and then pour onto the Hot golden brown crust. BAKE until just set, about 15-17min.

Transfer pan to a cooling rack.

Cover and Refrigerate bars until COLD, at least 4hrs. Just before serving sprinkle with a thick layer of Confectioners sugar.

• **Tip: This recipe makes about 2 dozen bars. The uncut bars will keep for 2 days if refrigerated. Cut bars will keep for 1 day at room temperature, if kept layered inbetween sheets of wax paper.

• ENJOY!! This is my Dad's FAVORITE dessert!!

THE GREAT POND YACHT CLUB

by Dick Greenan, Commodore, Great Pond Yacht Club

The Great Pond Yacht Club <https://greatpondyachtclub.com> was founded in 2011 by a select few passionate sailors who, like most of us, find the allure of a sailboat both beautiful, captivating, and just plain irresistible.



Hurricane Regatta at Camp Runoia

The GPYC had five Regatta/races this past summer with twelve to sixteen boats competing for the respective Trophy. The weather could not have been better for each event and, along with the camaraderie, just plain fun.



The GPYC is also into its 4th year of its GPYC Youth Sailing Program which is affiliated with [SailMaine](#). The program has been a huge success and has continued to grow each year. For the summer of 2018, in order to accommodate more youth, the program is expanding from 4 week-long sessions to 6 week-long sessions and is open to all youth ages 8 to 15. Their families are not required to be members of GPYC.



Max Krizo displays sailing trophy.

The Rome Yacht Club was founded back around 1975 and is worthy of its own historical significance in the Belgrades. A group of pioneering Great Ponders got together to enjoy both the waters and libations and, although it does not have an affiliation with the GPYC, it does have its own charter, its own burgee and a very “Treasured” history. I believe most of its dedicated members now have dual membership in both Clubs.



Enthusiasts enjoying a beautiful day at lakeside

The Great Pond Yacht Club is open to all with just a \$50 membership, and you do not have to have a sailboat nor reside on Great Pond. If you presently do not sail but would like to explore the waters of Great Pond, most of the boats would welcome additional “crew,” and “crew” generally means just enjoying the action and being good ballast when “coming about!” These are memorable times! And you will usually be offered the helm if you would like to get more “involved.” Membership is not mandatory although a love of our lakes is.



Two campers learning the ropes (literally!) at the GPYC Sailing Camp

For more information on this excellent learning program for our next generation: <https://greatpondyachtclub.com/junior-sailing-program/>.

Please visit the GPYC’s Trophy case at the Maine Lakes Resource Center right here in the Belgrade Village. The Great Pond Yacht Club enjoys relationships with the Belgrade Lakes Association and all of its affiliate organizations in having a small footprint on this earth while enjoying these incredible resources. See you on the lake...

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Carol Johnson

Thank you to all our members for your support. We are 541 members strong with 55 new members this year. A special thanks to those who worked so diligently to bring in new members. Your special gift is “in production” and will be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

While our numbers look good, less than 50% of the waterfront owners on Great Pond and Long Pond belong to BLA. This next year we will be making a concerted effort to contact these folks and invite them to become part of the team. You can help us by checking with your friends and neighbors to see if they belong to BLA.

The water quality in our lakes is a major concern and is the focus of our activity. We will continue to support the Youth Conservation Corps, Courtesy Boat Inspectors and Lakesmart along with the efforts to control milfoil. The next big challenge is remediation of the phosphorus problem. This will only be successful if we all work together. One primary area will be education of those folks who are not aware of the severity of the problem and enlisting their support. We will need your help to spread the word.

Have a wonderful winter season while our lakes are resting beneath the ice. With spring will come new activities and programs. Before you know it, it will be time to again enjoy the beauty of our lakes.

2 ACTIONS THREATEN MAINE LAKES -- HELP US DEFEAT THEM!

MASSIVE 31% CUTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S BUDGET AND REPEAL OF THE CLEAN WATERS RULE ARE PENDING IN CONGRESS.

EPA Cuts Few things are as fundamental as water. In Maine, where the health of marine and fresh waters is synonymous with economic survival as well as life itself; the proposed EPA cuts pose an existential threat. Our lakes, which are fragile and uniquely difficult and costly to restore, will take a huge hit because our state is entirely dependent on EPA for every bit of funding for its lake protection and restoration work. Maine gets about \$1.7M in nonpoint source (NPS) funds for lakes through EPA's 319 Program each year. Half of this pays DEP to run the program and the rest goes directly to on-the-ground projects through competitive matching grants. These are the only funds available for restoring lake waters and correcting sources of significant overland nutrient and pollutant loading in Maine lake watersheds. We cannot afford to lose these funds.

Clean Waters Rule Unbelievably, an important water law is also under threat. The 2015 Clean Waters Rule (Waters of the United States, WOTUS) clarified the Clean Water Act (CWA) to include headwater streams and wetlands. This law defined “relatively permanent” streams to include year-round and intermittent streams as well as those which appear after rain events. WOTUS represents undisputed scientific knowledge about the connectivity of US waterbodies in the findings of many scientific studies and 5 years of public hearings. However, small and seemingly insignificant headwater streams are feeders for the entire US aquatic system. If headwaters are abused, built over, or loaded with nutrients, then all the lower order streams - many of which are last-bastion habitat to Eastern brook trout - rivers, lakes, estuaries, and marine systems we depend on will suffer water quantity and quality impacts. Resulting habitat and travel corridor destruction will impact wildlife.

The BLA and most of its Board Members are supporting the effort to oppose these actions by signing petitions. Many environmental leaders also visited our senators Susan Collins and Angus King in Washington, DC, to address these issues in person for Maine.

WATER LEVELS IN THE BELGRADES DURING FALL, WINTER AND SPRING

by Dick Greenan, Secretary Inter-local Dams Committee

Throughout the year our Dams Committee is actively working to competently manage the water levels on all of the Belgrade lakes. The actual Dams Committee is an Inter-local Agreement for the management of all of the Belgrade area dams to control those waters within our watershed. Specifically, the spillway dam in the Belgrade Lakes Village, the Wings Mill Dam at the lower end of Long Pond, the dam at Salmon Lake and the Oakland dam on Messalonskee/Snow Pond. This Agreement was adopted back on October 16, 1987 by the Towns of Belgrade, Rome and Oakland, all which make available volunteer delegates, of which, yours truly is one.



Long Pond's Wings Mill Dam in Fall

As you can well imagine, managing the water levels of the seven lakes in the Belgrade chain is no easy task based on the many unpredictable rain and snow events, the variations in watershed slopes, the needs of our State Departments of Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and those of Essex Hydro which generates local power with the Oakland dam.



Long Pond's Wings Mill Dam in Winter

However, there are three yearly planned activities that do create a lot of public interest. These are the "Lake Drawdown and Winter Management Activities", Spring Refill, and our Summer Water Level Management practices. The Committee is now very much in the FALL LAKE DRAWDOWN and WINTER STORAGE mode.

All of our Dams have been recently inspected and prepared for the onslaught of winter weather and ICE. The ice has to be manually and carefully dislodged to keep things flowing and as you can well imagine, it's always done when it's 10 degrees below in a howling wind! Your Dams Committee is made up of some tough and dedicated volunteers!

Trying to anticipate and accommodate the inevitable spring rains and ice melt is always challenging and satisfying when it all goes right – and it sometimes actually does. That satisfaction along with some incredible winter scenes make the task all worthwhile.

For the "2017-18 FALL LAKE DRAWDOWN & WINTER STORAGE ACTIVITIES" Public Notice and an explanation of your specific lake's drawdown levels, please click on the below link from the Town of Rome's website Dams page: <http://www.romemaine.com/17.18Fall%20DrawdownWinter%20Storage.pdf>.



Wing's Mills Dam opened 5 feet for drawdown.

As of this writing, both Great Pond and Long Pond are at 18" and 19" respectively with Salmon right at 12", all below full pond and right where we want to be at this time of year.

Our targets are just that, targets and are under constant examination. If you would like to attend a monthly Dams Committee meeting you are more than welcomed as they are open to the public. Just let me know. All of your Dams Committee members are volunteers and are also very concerned with our lakes and this heritage which is why we have gotten involved in the first place. See you next summer!



Dick Greenan, with a hearty thumbs up.

PINE ISLAND CAMP: A SHORT HISTORY

by Rhoads Miller

Pine Island's towering virgin white pines had just been sent to the sawmills when Florence Colby purchased the three-acre sliver of sand gravel on the southwest corner of Great Pond in 1892. Since the virgin forest had been cut all around Belgrade, she could have seen Pine Island from her family's farm near the head of the present Camp Road. Perhaps the tiny high-backed island was a favorite spot for family outings for picnics. Whatever her reason for buying the island, the purchase was propitious. Only a decade later, in 1902, her son Clarence Colby founded Pine Island Camp and began erecting the first buildings: a mess hall, a boat house, and a grand "Main Building" divided into a dormitory and an assembly room overlooking "choice bits of lake scenery."



The Pine Island Boat, with Pine Island in background

"Pine Island is the most picturesque spot in the whole Belgrade Lakes region," Clarence Colby wrote in a 1905 brochure, "admirably adapted for a camp, cool in summer, and free of mosquitoes." The program that Colby established – and that Dr. Eugene L. Swan continued to develop after buying the camp from Clarence Colby in 1908 – was remarkably like the present day Pine Island Camp. The day begins a little after seven with a "morning plunge" (now known as the 100% Dip) and, after a good breakfast, features a morning meeting, morning activities, a swim,



Happy Campers Sailing

rest hour, and afternoon activities that include sailing, rowing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, tennis, woodworking, archery, riflery, and fly-fishing. An hour-long campfire of home-grown entertainment, featuring skits, games, music and stories, ends the day. Today's recipe of structured activities with plenty of free time to read, fish, play, or simply relax is virtually unchanged from the camp's earliest days.

Pine Island's wilderness tripping program also embraces the same spirit expressed by Colby and Dr. Swan, though warm sleeping bags and tents with good mosquito netting have replaced blanket rolls and canvas tarps. Over 40 canoe, kayak, sailing, rowing and

hiking trips depart from Pine Island each summer, taking campers and counselors from the summits of Mt. Washington and Mt. Katahdin to the border waters between Maine and Canada.

Dr. Swan's son Eugene L. Swan, Jr., assumed leadership of the camp in 1947, and Jun's son Ben is now the director. Ben and his wife Emily have been at the helm since 1990. They live on the island each summer, and their three children have all been active members of the Pine Island community. Ben Swan said recently, "It takes a lot of work, energy, and, unfortunately, money to ensure that Pine Island Camp can remain true to its beginnings. We so appreciate all the different kinds of support we get from the Belgrade community." Pine Island has been a non-profit for over twenty years now, and being able to receive tax-deductible gifts for our scholarship fund and our endowment has been a huge help. The unheralded but extremely valuable work of a talented board of directors also helps to ensure a bright future for Maine's oldest boys' camp.

A visit mid-summer to Pine Island (Come by if you can. Lunch is at 12:30!) will make it clear that Clarence Colby's original ideas and ideals are very much present at Pine Island today, and the philosophy he established is as important and relevant to young people today as it was well over 100 years ago. For six weeks each summer 90 lucky boys experience a summer just as Colby and Swan had imagined.



This 1913 flotilla looks ready for summer fun!

ADA FRANCES RISLEY DUFFUS (OUR DEAR FRIEND “DANCY”)

From: Adair Duffus Mulligan
To: BLA newsletter
Subject: Dancy Duffus, my mom

Greetings -

We loved your most recent newsletter, which surprised us all because it contains photos of Karonoko, our camp on Wilder Point that was built by Polly's grandparents. The “unidentified farmer” is David Nickerson, the farmer who lived at the head of Nickerson Lane and who sold the land to the Wilders with the provision that they would remember to close the gate behind them so his sheep wouldn't get out.

We want to let you know that our mother, Dancy Duffus, passed away on Thursday at age 89 and that we have asked that memorial gifts be made to the Belgrade Lakes Association. She was a very strong supporter of environmental conservation and lake protection all her life, and quite an activist. A little bit of Belgrade-related info about her in case it is useful -

- Her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Risley, purchased the camp from Larry Rice in 1944. Dr. Risley was a Waterville surgeon (and Registered Maine Guide). Dancy was 16 at the time. She enjoyed canoeing, sailing, fly fishing, tennis on Larry Rice's court, and driving the old Cris Craft.
- She spent time there every summer for the rest of her long life, and after her husband, Jim, retired, they were at camp for the entire summer, always painting, scraping, and generally keeping the old place in shape. She visited most recently over the July 4 weekend this year, with members of her extended family, and had a good chance to say goodbye to camp and the lake. The focal point of her nursing home room was a plaque made in Belgrade Lakes that bore a painting of our boathouse.
- Dancy was an avid birder and particularly fond of the loons on Great Pond. She faithfully participated in the annual loon count in July whenever she was able, and could detect the differences in the tremolo calls of the various males at the north end of the lake.
- She was deeply protective of the lakes and was one of the first volunteer boat inspectors at the boat launch on the south end of Great Pond. She was very proud that she actually caught a boat trailer carrying milfoil before it entered the water.
- Concerned about water quality, she and Jim made sure that Karonoko had a proper septic system and leach field long before that was widely done. Jim served as “road commissioner” for Nickerson Lane and both of them strongly supported retaining Karonoko's forested lake-side buffer. They sought help from the Youth Conservation Corps for shoreline stabilization and later for stormwater management to help capture soil

before it could reach the lake. The entire family was proud when the camp won an early Lake Smart Award.

- Karonoko is now in the hands of the third generation, Dancy's children Adair, Sarah, and Tom. Tom has recently moved to Freeport from Minnesota - the call of Maine was too strong to resist. Adair was married at camp as were her son Ned and Sarah's son Jeff. Growing up together over summers at Karonoko has made the fourth generation a close-knit group. They are now all adults, and we are looking forward to having a fifth generation at camp in the not too distant future.

We are grateful for all that BLA does to protect our lakes and share their history.



Jim and Dancy on Great Pond



Editor's note:

Our older generations, as above, remember and can appreciate their good fortune to have had lakes both clean and drinkable. As our recent families, who are unable to recollect, take on the responsibilities of preserving the lakes, it is hoped that they will defeat the nay-sayers and accept only the best possible remediations ASAP! If it can be done, it should be done perfectly! and SOON!

AROUND THE LAKES



A nice smooth lake for tubing.



This little guy knows how to relax.



Just look at this fabulous creature. Now look at the fish he caught! A 26-inch, 8.03 lbs brown trout from Long Pond.



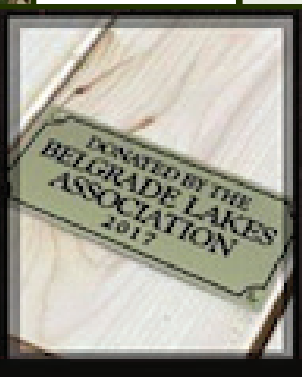
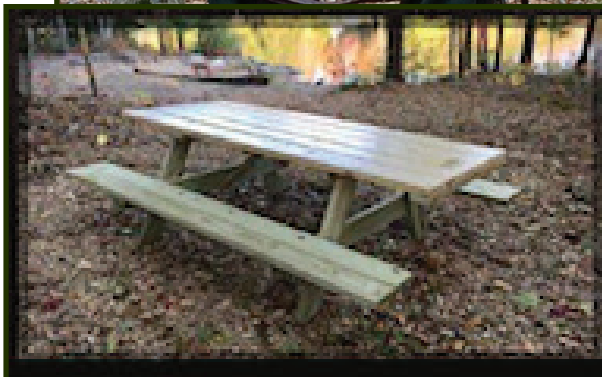
Oooops. These Village Inn patrons had a bit of trouble with the throttle. But, they inspired a new drink!!



The Flying Pontooni!



Charlie Heino hard at work stalking a monster buck in the dense undergrowth.



Sharing the delights of paddleboarding.

Rome's Recreation Committee is working to revitalize Friedrich's Beach Property on Great Pond. The table was built by Andy Cook and donated by the BLA.



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2017 BLA ANNUAL MEETING



The BLA Annual Meeting and Member Reception was attended by almost 200 people on Sunday, July 30, 2017 from 4-6 PM at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club. Presentations on the latest Water Quality Research Findings, the Stop Milfoil Progress Report, and an update about the merger of the BRCA and the MLRC were given by Dr. Whitney King, Toni Pied, and Lynn Matson, respectively.



The kids had fun, too!



The President's Service Award was presented to Tom Klingenstein for his ongoing generous support of our Water Quality Initiatives.