



# BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

WINTER 2022/2023



**Herbicidal Treatment in Great Meadow Stream A Success!**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear BLA members,

I look forward to serving as your president for the next three years. I understand that the job of the BLA is to preserve the quality of the water and the experience of Long and Great Ponds. Exciting things are happening. Our partnership with the 7 Lakes Alliance and Colby College has been and continues to be crucial as we continue to work together on CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspections), YCC (Youth Conservation Corps), milfoil remediation, water monitoring (Secchi disc measurements and water samples), and especially now as we develop the Water Management plans for Great and Long Ponds from information in our surveys of the lakes. We also meet with the other lake associations through the Lake Trust group.



*Bert Languet, BLA President*

I want to thank Carol Johnson for serving as president for the past 4 years. She agreed to stay on an extra year due to the Covid crisis. Carol worked diligently and cares tremendously about our two lakes so much – she has the only house with property and docks on both lakes in the village. She has a passion – as you heard her at the annual meeting – to “keep the dirt out of the lakes.” She serves on the Belgrade Selectboard and was a lead proponent of the village Improvements. You can find her almost daily on her boat on Great Pond at sunset or out on her Sea-Doo on Long Pond.

Our board is diverse, with many opinions, which makes it strong and representative of our membership. I want to thank those who currently serve and those who have served in the past. All of our board members participate and play an active role. Without a devoted board we would not be able to accomplish as much as we do without a full-time staff. From the loon preservation project to the raffle table, one or several members take on a project and get it done. Some examples are:

Loons – Dick Greenan, Nathalie and Blaine Horrocks, Paul Feinberg

Membership – Carol Johnson, Stephanie Gardner, and Richard LaBelle

Milfoil – Richard LaBelle

Newsletter – Polly Beatie and Liz Fontaine

Raffle – Andy Cook and George Atkinson

Septic – Paul Feinberg

We are looking to grow our membership because it is important that we increase community awareness of the lake issues through word of mouth, our website, Facebook, emails, newsletter, and annual meetings. In the next few years, we want to find more social events where our members can get together, as well, especially after the last few years of Covid. How do we do it? How would you feel more involved? Please reach out to me or any board member if you have ideas.

Who should be a member? We exist not only for lake property owners, but also for renters, and anyone who uses our lakes and is interested in Great and Long Ponds water quality: boaters who put in each week or once a year; folks who pay to dock their boats; friends or relatives who appreciate the lake while visiting; anyone who is participating in the lakes areas. Membership does not cost much – as little as \$25.00 per year – though many give much more.

The Lake Trust is our partnership with other associations – Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond, North Pond, East Pond, Messalonskee Lake, and the 7 Lakes Alliance. The water from East Pond flows into North Pond which flows into Great Pond via the Great Meadow Stream (see cover). Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond flow into Great Pond; and then Great Pond flows into Long Pond and finally it all ends up in Messalonskee Lake. We can never forget that what happens upstream affects all of us. We will be successful if we work together to protect and preserve.

Please be sure to continue your membership with the BLA each year and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bert Languet". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bert Languet

2 BLA President



\*Cover photo by Alex Wall

# INVASIVE AQUATICS PROGRAM

Sharon Mann, Director of 7 Lakes Alliance's Invasive Aquatics Program, offered the following updates about 7 Lakes Alliance's ongoing efforts, conducted with the support of the Belgrade Lakes Association, to combat milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and other invasives in the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

## Great Meadow Stream herbicide treatment a wonderful success!

With the support of 7 Lakes Alliance and the Belgrade Lakes Association, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection permitted the application of a low-risk herbicide, ProcellaCOR, to greatly reduce the footprint of invasive variable-leaf milfoil in Great Meadow Stream.

Since the application, no sign of invasive milfoil regrowth has been observed. Based on similar applications in the Northeast, we fully expect some invasive milfoil regrowth in 2023. However, the growth will be significantly less than in previous years.

Maine DEP may permit the application of ProcellaCOR in Rome Trout Brook and Robbins Mill Stream, two tributaries to Great Pond, in 2023.

## Summer 2022 by the numbers

- 0 invasives found outside known infestations
- 19 acres of invasive milfoil cleared in Great Pond
- 13 acres of curly-leaf pondweed cleared (East Pond and North Pond)
- 50 new Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers trained
- 16 miles of shoreline adopted
- 5.9K courtesy boat inspections at public launches
  - Great Pond – 2.2K
  - Long Pond – 1.5K
  - North Pond – 820
  - East Pond – 717
  - Salmon Lake – 612
  - 0 introductions of invasive plant fragments

**NOTE:** Friends of Messalonskee conducts its own courtesy boat inspection program.

## Volunteer opportunities available

- **Adopt-A-Shoreline:** In 2022, 7 Lakes Alliance revamped the Adopt-A-Shoreline program by quadrupling the number of training sessions. Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers pledge to survey their shorelines for invasive aquatic plants twice during the summer season after attending a brief plant identification and survey training workshop. Adopt your shoreline today!
- **Courtesy boat inspections:** 7 Lakes Alliance is seeking volunteers to cover courtesy boat inspection shifts next summer. The demographic of paid inspectors is mostly high school to early college-age youth and young adults who must return to school by mid-August – leaving public boat launches unmanned at the end of the boating season. In 2023, 7 Lakes Alliance will be launching a scheduling phone application, Homebase, which will allow volunteers to claim hours that best fit their schedules and availability.

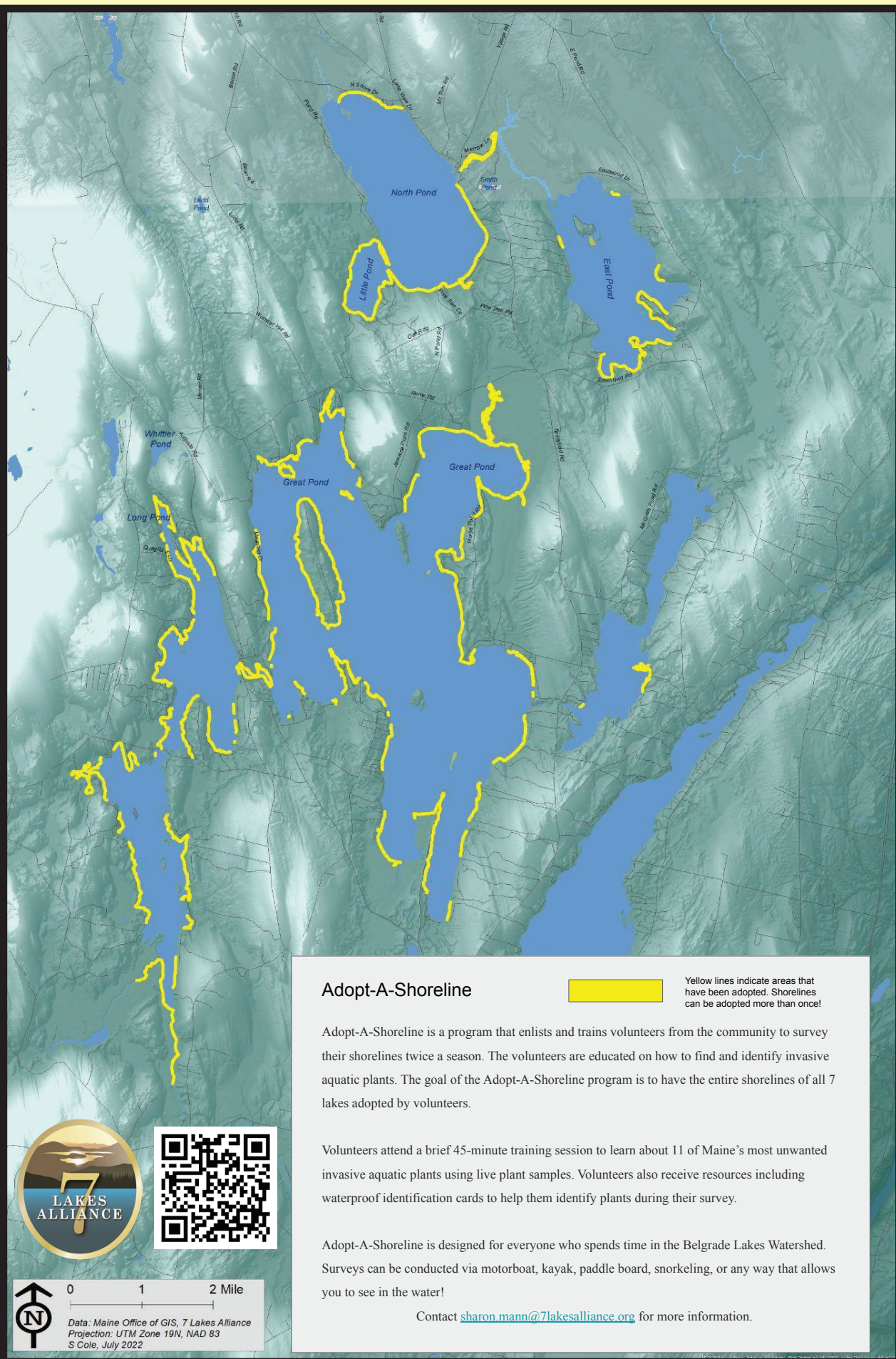


If you are interested in any invasive aquatic volunteer opportunity, please email [sharon.mann@7lakesalliance.org](mailto:sharon.mann@7lakesalliance.org).

*Briahna Loring, lead remediation diver for 7 Lakes Alliance's Invasive Aquatics program, removes curly-leaf pondweed from the Serpentine stream that flows between East and North ponds.*



# ADOPT-A-SHORELINE





# 3 COMMON BEST PRACTICES FOR SLOWING EROSION

By Stuart Cole, 7 Lakes Alliance Erosion Control Project Coordinator

Major thrusts of the 7 Lakes Alliance are to encourage and facilitate “best management practices,” or BMPs, that mitigate erosion into our lakes and streams. Such measures are important for protecting and restoring water quality. Developed property, particularly construction that is not sustainable, is prone to create runoff. Dirt carries phosphorus into a waterbody, and phosphorus feeds algae which will degrade water quality.

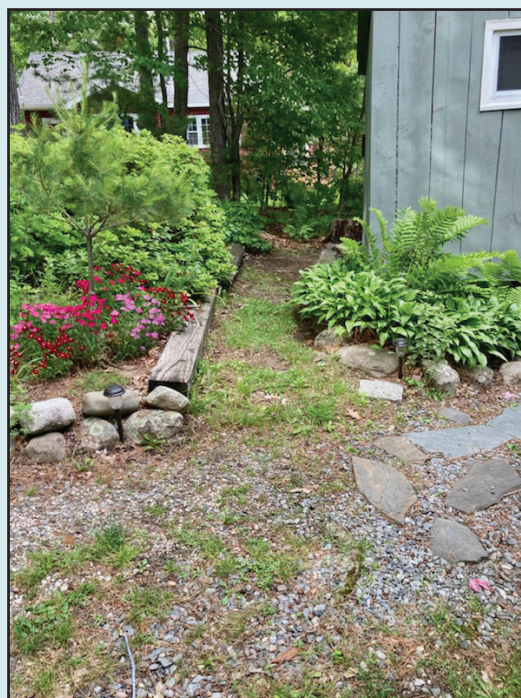
All BMPs are good. Which are best depends on the characteristics of a property. These three BMPs are most common:

- **Vegetative buffers** are the most effective BMPs. Trees, shrubs, bushes, plants, and duff (decaying organic matter such as pine needles) anchor the soil better than grass and keep it from washing away. Tree canopies offer the added benefit of dispersing rainfall before it hits the ground, minimizing runoff. Blueberry sod and bushes are particularly effective BMPs.
- **Defined pathways** offer meandering paths to the water using crushed stone or mulch. Left to their own devices, people trod the most direct path between their camps and their docks, typically forming a dirt path straight to the water. Coarser than the covering used on playgrounds and flowerbeds, erosion-control mulch is the gold standard for mulch.
- **Defined parking areas** provide surfaces that, while not completely impervious, are better than dirt. The porous pavers at the 7 Lakes Alliance building (at 137 Main St. in Belgrade Lakes) are a great example of a pervious parking area. Many people opt for bluestone which creates less runoff than asphalt and is leagues better than dirt.



Most shoreline properties could benefit from more vegetative buffers in limiting erosion. Blueberry sod, such as this, is the gold standard of vegetative buffers, though it is expensive.

The LakeSmart and Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) programs are free and easy ways to determine which BMPs can help minimize runoff from a shoreland property. Recommendations can be installed in the summer by the YCC for a minimal cost. Property owners pay for the materials, though we arrange for their acquisition. To schedule a survey, contact me at [stuart.cole@7lakesalliance.org](mailto:stuart.cole@7lakesalliance.org) or 207-495-6039.



*Before*



*After*



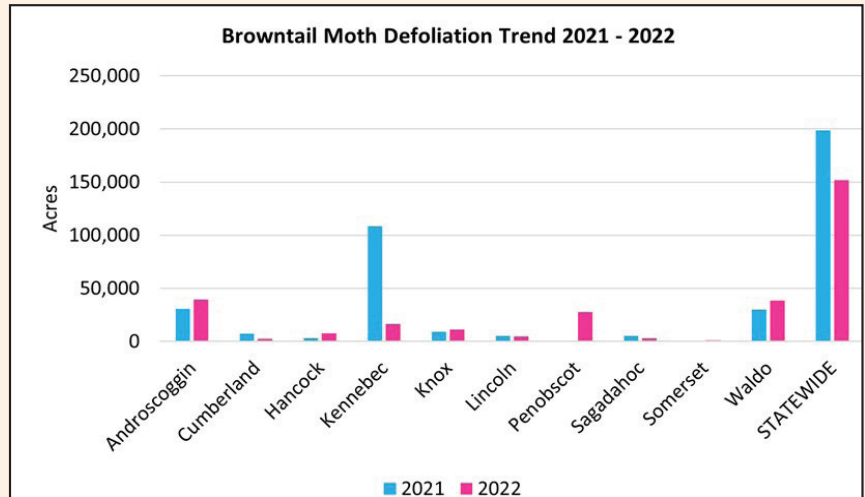
# INVASIVE FOREST PEST NEWS

By Allison Kanoti, Director of Forest Health and Monitoring at Maine Forest Service

Although they are not what the region is best known for, the forests around Belgrade Lakes help define it. The area is home to several types of trees that are the target of invasive forest pests, and, unfortunately, pest activity is currently up.

Many will be familiar with the browntail moth (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*). It is a pest whose populations have been elevated for several years in the region. Browntail moth caterpillars have tiny poisonous hairs that can cause skin reactions similar to poison ivy and other more severe reactions in sensitive individuals.

The Maine Forest Service (MFS) conducts surveys from fixed-wing planes to determine the state-wide extent of damage from browntail moth and other forest pests. In 2022, 72,264 acres of defoliation were mapped in the early summer and 79,452 acres of damage in the early fall for a total of just over 150,000 acres. In comparison, last year, there were 198,773 total acres of damage mapped. Broad areas, particularly around the Capital Area, experienced a population collapse (Figure 1). You can find a map with data from these surveys at [www.maine.gov/dacf/knockoutbtm#where](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/knockoutbtm#where).



What does this news mean for you? Well, almost nothing. The reality is that to determine the impact expected from browntail moth in a specific area, you need to look at the trees around that area and assess the density of the population on a smaller scale. This can be achieved by looking for the winter webs beginning in October. MFS developed a video to help homeowners recognize winter webs.

Caterpillars of the browntail moth are not picky eaters. They can survive on the leaves of a wide variety of broad-leaved host trees and shrubs and, in later stages of development, can even eat conifer needles. In Maine, they seem to be most abundant in fruit trees (apples and crabapples, cherries, hawthorns, serviceberries, and others) and oaks. However, as mentioned, they can be found on a broad array of deciduous trees and shrubs.



*Browntail caterpillar sleeping bag*

The browntail moth overwinters as a caterpillar, inside a silken sleeping bag, with dozens or hundreds of its 'siblings.' These sleeping bags, or winter webs, are constructed during the late-summer feeding period from a host leaf or leaves and silk. They are currently fastened securely to the tips of the branches of host trees (remember, they aren't picky, so look at broadleaved trees or shrubs). The webs are seldom larger than soft-ball sized and are attached to the twig with a shiny rope of silken strands. Some people feel impacts from the shed hairs when web densities are as low as ten webs per tree.

If you are sensitive to the caterpillar hairs and see more than ten webs per tree in trees where you spend time, you may want to explore options for reducing the populations. When control

measures are taken, we recommend using physical controls where possible. Generally, this entails removing webs during the dormant season using hand or pole pruners. Sometimes it can include removing trees, but usually when those trees are not growing well or are not growing in a good place. Some work can readily be done by anyone, and, at other times, tree-care professionals should be involved. If physical controls aren't practical, there are several options for management using pesticides. We recommend hiring a reputable and experienced licensed pesticide applicator for such approaches to management.

(continued on page 7)



## INVASIVE FOREST PEST NEWS (continued from page 6)



*Cluster of Browntail caterpillars*

detection in Oakland, blonding was noticed at highway speed on a roadside clump of ash. If you suspect you have found emerald ash borer damage, please let us know at [foresthealth@maine.gov](mailto:foresthealth@maine.gov) or [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab). If you want advice on managing ash in the forest considering emerald ash borer, your district forester can help. A management plan should be developed for ash trees in residential or commercial areas. That might involve tree removal or treatment with a registered insecticide when emerald ash borer is found or when it is found within about 5 miles of the trees in question. If you are interested in formally participating in monitoring for emerald ash borer, let us know. We have three monitoring programs that rely on help from the public. You can learn more about emerald ash borer on our department website, [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab).

It is important to point out that, with the establishment of emerald ash borer and browntail moth in the region, your actions can threaten forests far from the area. When traveling, leave your firewood at home and use firewood local to your destination. Insects like browntail moth and emerald ash borer can hitch a ride on and in firewood.

Keep your eyes peeled for damage from invasive forest insects, and if you suspect a problem, reach out to us ([foresthealth@maine.gov](mailto:foresthealth@maine.gov) (207) 287-2431). Sign up for our Conditions Reports to learn more about forest health concerns.

Although the impacts aren't as painfully obvious, emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) can also impact your quality of life. In Maine, 2022 saw significant expansions in southern Maine where emerald ash borer is known. Most notably for the Belgrade Lakes Region, emerald ash borer was detected in Oakland and Waterville in June of 2022, roughly 40 miles from the nearest known infestation. Emergency orders were put in place to limit the movement of ash around many of these discoveries. Most of these infestations were discovered by people spotting woodpecker feeding on ash. Other new infestations were found using green funnel traps and girdled trap trees.

As you are out and about, we ask that you keep an eye out for the tell-tale signs of emerald ash borer. In particular, woodpecker activity is often one of the first clues to infestation by this pest. Observers have noticed blonding on the trunks of trees, where the birds have flecked off the outer bark in search of plump overwintering larvae, as well as piles of bark at the base of ash trees, obvious on fresh snow. In the case of the



*Woodpecker feeding area*



# Help Protect Maine Forests

## Maine Forests are **Threatened** by tree-killing pests and diseases moved with firewood

Forests cover 89 % of the land in Maine. They provide:

**Environmental** benefits and

- Clean water and air
- Provide habitat and food
- Stabilize soil
- Remove CO<sub>2</sub> from atmosphere

**Economic** benefits

- \$8.5 billion and 33,500 jobs in the forest economy
- Additional jobs and \$ in agriculture, tourism and recreation economies



The **SPONGY MOTH** (formerly gypsy moth) is a devastating pest of oaks and other trees. Female moths lay tan patches of eggs on firewood, campers, vehicles, patio furniture- anything outside! When these items are moved to new areas, this pest gets a free ride.



**OAK WILT** is a deadly disease of oak trees, especially those in the red oak group. This disease is found as close as New York and could easily be brought to your neighborhood or favorite camping spot through infected firewood.



The **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY** sucks sap from dozens of tree and plant species. This pest loves tree-of-heaven but will feed on black walnut, white oak, red maple, and grape. Like the spongy moth, this pest lays clusters of eggs on just about any surface, from landscaping stone to firewood!



The **EMERALD ASH BORER** - the infamous killer of ash trees - is already found in parts of Maine. This insect rapidly spreads when firewood is moved. Prevent this killer from destroying all the state's ash trees. Keep your firewood at home.

The **ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE** loves to eat red maple but can feed on over 20 species of hardwood trees. The larvae of this beetle bore into trees, making it an easy pest to transport in firewood.

**DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD.org**

## What can **you** do?

- ✓ Use local or heat-treated firewood
- ✓ Check trees for signs of pests and diseases
- ✓ Report signs of invasive pests to [Bugwatch@maine.gov](mailto:Bugwatch@maine.gov)
- ✓ Visit [www.maine.gov/firewood](http://www.maine.gov/firewood) to learn more



# DOES WATER QUALITY AFFECT THE VALUE OF YOUR REAL ESTATE?

By Andy Cook, BLA Board Member

Did you know 80% of the Town of Rome's real estate tax valuation is in lake frontage properties? That means \$4 of every \$5 in the town's property tax revenue comes from property owners with Great Pond, Long Pond or North Pond lake frontage. Those important dollars pay for Rome's Fire Department, its 24/7 paramedic and rescue service, 911 emergency dispatching, road maintenance, plowing, sand and salt, General Assistance for the needy, and the schools.

The Town of Rome's Budget Committee, the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and the Board of Selectmen realize how important lake water quality is to the town. As part of the 2022 budget planning process, they asked BLA Board member and Rome resident, Andy Cook, to give them a presentation on lake water quality.

They heard how critical lake frontage real estate valuations are to the town. They also learned that decreased water quality can reduce valuations by as much as one-third. One BLA Board member, a local real estate agent, noted, "When East Pond had its algae bloom, no one wanted to see (real estate) showings there. In a sense, East Pond valuations dropped to zero."

The Budget Committee, the Selectmen, and the town residents took all this seriously during the annual town meeting. Understanding that lake water quality is critical to the town's tax revenues, voters approved doubling Rome's annual contribution to the Belgrade Lakes Association, 7 Lakes Alliance, and the North Pond Association, from a combined \$18,000 to \$36,000 total. If the funds are well spent with good results, town officials said they are willing to consider asking voters to approve more. In their minds, contributing to lake water quality is not "nice to do." Instead, it is an essential task to help preserve Rome's tax base.

Anthony Wilson, 7 Lakes Alliance Director of Communications and Operations, gave a presentation on November 7 to the Rome Selectboard. He noted the significant work in 2022 that occurred in and around Long Pond and Great Pond (along with the other five lakes) regarding erosion control, water sampling and testing; those activities are essential to preserving water quality. Further, the 7 Lakes Alliance engages in milfoil remediation, invasive plant surveys, and courtesy boat inspections, all of which are vital to preventing invasive plants from choking our lakes.

Anthony noted Rome's example has prompted 7 Lakes Alliance to seek greater municipal contributions from six other towns in the watershed – Belgrade, Oakland, Sidney, Smithfield, Mount Vernon and Mercer – to assist in the costs of its lake conservation work ... thus protecting those towns' tax base valuations.

So how can you help?

- Bring to the attention of your town's Budget Committee and Selectboard the important contribution lake frontage properties make to the town's tax base.
- Show them the potential burden a decrease in lake water quality will place on taxpayers who do not have lake frontage, that includes most year-round residents who are also town meeting voters and who would approve municipal contributions.
- With the help of BLA and 7 Lakes Alliance, help town officials see, in this budget cycle, the value of making a substantial and increased contribution to the BLA, 7 Lakes Alliance, and other lake associations.

Andy and Anthony can help you prepare information for your town. It is best if you, a resident or lake frontage owner, are engaged in the dialogue and help provide information. You will be credible because:

- It's your lake.
- It's your town.
- It's your tax base that supports the town services you receive.

Protect and Preserve – we can do it with our towns.



# COOLER WEATHER DOESN'T SLOW WATER SAMPLING

By Lizzy Gallagher, 7 Lakes Alliance Assistant Lake Scientist

The Compass and the Great-Great, the 7 Lakes Alliance's two trusty water-quality sampling boats, shuttle team members to and from sampling sites on Great and Long Ponds throughout the summer, but did you know we keep at it long after the swimming season ends?



*The turnover of water layers that had been stratified by temperature caused an algal bloom on Salmon Lake in the fall. This photo by BLA member and 7 Lakes Alliance board member Alex Wall shows the stream that connects Salmon to Great Pond in the distance.*

Just as the beautiful fall colors signal a change in seasons in forests, lakes undergo seasonal changes, as well. One important change we look for during our fall monitoring is the shift from stratified to mixed waters. Long and Great Ponds are stratified during the summer, meaning they have distinct layers of water with different temperatures. If you plunged into a lake last summer, you'll remember the top layers were warm. As you dove deeper, the water became cooler.

As these layers warm throughout the summer, they stay near the top because warmer water is less dense than cooler water. Once this pattern is established, it carries throughout the entire water column to the bottom of the lake which can limit the transportation of dissolved oxygen. During periods of stratification, the bottom of the lake can become anoxic (without oxygen). That creates conditions that allow phosphorus to escape from the lakebed. Excess phosphorus in the water column is a problem we all want to avoid as it can lead to algal blooms.

As top waters cool in the autumn, they eventually mix with the rest of the water column. The term for complete mixing is "lake turnover." Once lakes turn over, dissolved oxygen is evenly distributed. Sampling late into the fall lets us capture the timing of this change. This is vital for two reasons. First, because lake turnover means the layers of water are completely mixed, algal levels can increase during and after turnover because there is a release of phosphorus during the process. On some lakes, this can result in a fall algal bloom. Second, it is important to know when the anoxia on the bottom of the lake has ended as it will have implications for the next summer in terms of phosphorus levels.

As of the end of October, one sampling site on Great Pond had turned over, and the other site was almost completely mixed. Long Pond continued to hold onto its stratified layers; neither sampling site has fully mixed.

We continue to monitor these sites for as long as the weather holds. At some point, ice on the lakes forces a temporary hiatus until it is safe to sample again. Although we measure many of the same parameters, winter sampling is an entirely different ballgame. By drilling through the ice to sample, we can monitor the



*Lizzy Gallagher, 7 Lakes Alliance's assistant lake scientist, lowers a probe to measure water temperature and oxygen levels while collecting water samples in October. 7 Lakes Alliance collects and analyzes samples throughout the fall to determine when a lake's water "turns over" after being stratified by temperature throughout the summer.*



## COOLER WEATHER (continued from page 10)

many lake processes that occur beneath the ice. Winter sampling provides the unique opportunity to study these processes while the lake is buffered from the atmosphere.

The 7 Lakes Alliance is proud to have a robust sampling program that captures seasonal conditions throughout the year.



*Dr. Danielle Wain, 7 Lakes Alliance's lake science director, collects water samples in October. 7 Lakes Alliance collects and analyzes samples throughout the fall to determine when a lake's water "turns over" after being stratified by temperature throughout the summer.*



*This probe records data beneath the ice, measuring characteristics such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, clarity, and other attributes.*

## WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS... START THE CHAINSAW?

When heavy winds blew down a huge pine at the Schriever camp, Pete and Elaine didn't just cut up the tree and have the pieces hauled away. Instead, they called chainsaw artist, Josh Landry, and had him turn the huge towering stump into a beautiful work of art. Elaine explained that the tree was carved with every animal that they have ever seen at their camp and that it reminds her and Pete of many wonderful memories they have from their summers on Long Pond.





# 2022 BELGRADE LAKES LOON PRESERVATION PROJECT RESULTS

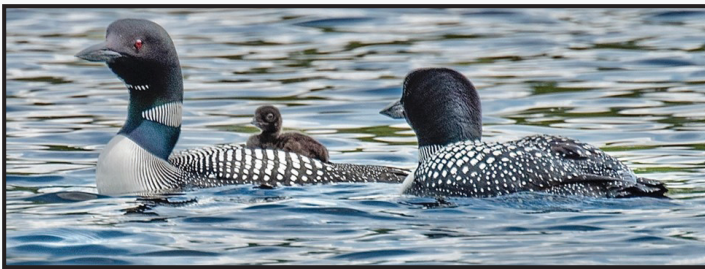
by Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project

Thanks to Loon Consultant, Lee Attix (Loon Conservation Associates), the results of Belgrade Lakes Association's 4th year of the 5 year Loon Project is now available on the BLA website at BLAmaine.org.

This work could not have been accomplished without the numerous eyes out on the water of our many unsung loon project volunteers, Nattie and Blaine Horrocks and Paul Feinberg, in particular. As in each of the past four years, Great Pond and Long Pond were surveyed bi-weekly by Lee Attix with and alternately by BLA volunteers. Thank you all for your continued support of this all-important project!

It was another very interesting year in that out of the 25 known loon territories between our two Great and Long Ponds, we documented 15 nesting pairs out of those possible 25 territories. Out of these 15 nesting pairs (two more than last year), we had 12 successful nests with 13 chicks hatched (1 less than last year); BUT, only 4 chicks survived to fledge for this fall fly off – and all from Great Pond. Not one out of the 6 chicks survived on Long Pond due to a myriad of reasons.

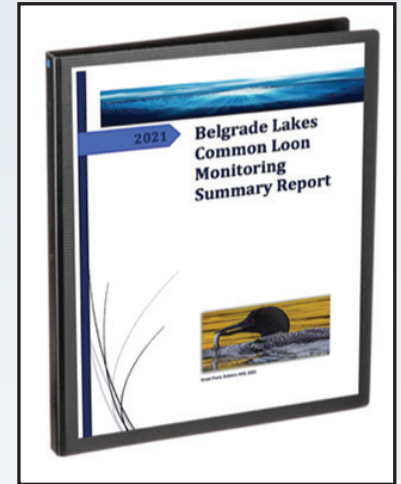
Once again, we had a healthy number of adults, but due to suspected poor parenting, we started off this year's breeding season with another eight eggs abandoned and, as we stated above, only 4 would make the fall fly off. For lack of a more scientific explanation, I refer to this situation as "poor parenting" because in all cases, except for two where the abandonment was due to human disturbance, the parents left with the one chick and abandoned the second egg. We experienced an almost identical situation last year; and the egg studies, annually conducted by Biodiversity Research Institute in Portland, found that all of last year's eggs were in some form of embryonic development without any heavy metal poisoning, leaving no known clinical reasoning for abandonment other than the assessment of just "poor parenting." The parents left with the first chick and, in their euphoria, plumb forgot about the second egg with a chick ready to go.



*Long Pond's Ingham Stream Loon Family*

How common is this level of abandonment? We are seeing it in the Belgrades and according to our loon consultant, Lee Attix, this is not just a Belgrade anomaly. Others are seeing this as well. Remember, for the first year of our study in 2019, Great Pond produced more chicks than Long Pond. Then in 2020, Great Pond only fledged one chick compared to Long Pond's three that year. Then in 2021, Great Pond loons fledged five chicks versus Long Pond's three – a relatively productive year. Also, as a result of this level of abandonment, the only loon territory out of fifteen, to produce two chicks, was Long Pond's Beaver Cove 25 yr. old floating nest.

So, we are obviously dealing with egg abandonment, but what happened to our chicks that were hatched? Where did they all go? Remember, out of 13 chicks, we ended up with just the four on Great Pond this year. We lost two (one adult and one chick in separate cases) to apparent boat impacts, one lost to an eagle that actually left the chick after killing it, one due to documented lead poisoning, a few due to territorial adult loon intrusion, and the rest to more of the above or other predators, including a large mouth bass! Believe it or not, a 22" largemouth bass in upper Long Pond this summer was harvested, and upon cleaning was discovered to have a mallard duckling in his stomach! Mother Nature never fails to surprise me!



*2022 Belgrade Lakes Common Loon Monitoring Summary Report*



*The Ingham Stream nest was abandoned due to human activity and very poor choice of a nesting site.*



## LOON PRESERVATION (continued from page 12)

Human disturbance certainly doesn't help circumstances as you can well imagine; so education is a necessary part of the puzzle that we have to address more and more with reports and pleas such as this. Lead sinkers, jigs, etc., have been outlawed in the state, but there are still a great many offenders in tackle boxes; and do not be fooled by the paint on your lead jigs. According to the saints at Maine's Avian Haven in Freedom, the paint on a lead jig is absolutely no protection and comes off rather quickly in a loon's gizzard exposing the lead. Watching a loon die from lead poisoning is horrible, inexcusable, and preventable, so there is no time like the present to clean up our tackle boxes.



*This Great Pond Ram Island chick will weigh 11 lbs. in just 5 weeks – only 2 lbs. less than his mother.*

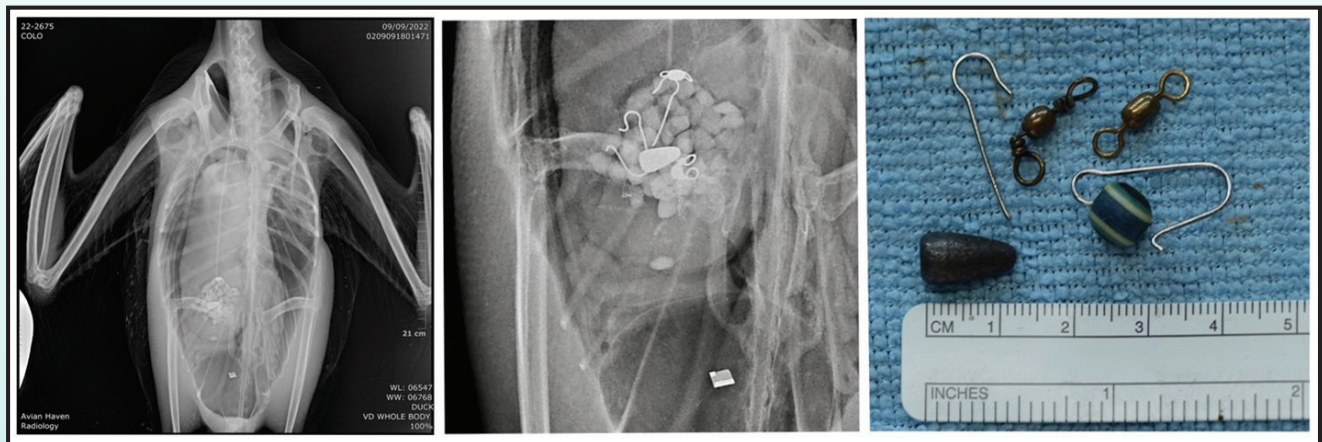
One significant component of our summer loon surveys is the capture and banding of loons. These are long-established and effective tactics for night capture of adults with chicks. This allows individual identification, tracking of movements, and survival over time. Both parents and chicks are then carefully released and observed until we can be assured of their rebonding and safety. Due to our biologist's availability and the uncooperative weather when the loons were available, we were only able to band one night on Great Pond this summer, but we successfully banded four adults and one chick (11.2 lbs., later lost to a boat impact).



*Our 2022 Great Pond Banding Team of Biodiversity biologists led by world renowned Dave Evers (far left), the first person to successfully band a loon!*

We are all well aware that loons are recognized as a key indicator of aquatic integrity (ie. water clarity and quality!) for lakes, and the BLA Loon Preservation Project provides us an opportunity to confirm our current population status, identify major threats, and create long-term, sustainable conservation solutions designed to support this population.

Without your continued support, we would no longer have the means to protect and preserve these important resources. We thank you!



*This Great Pond fatality was due to a 1/10 oz. lead sinker causing lead poisoning.*



# WHY MAINE?

By Mary Jane Mott Auns

When we first moved to Maine, the most often asked question was, "Why did you move here?" If directed to my husband Vilis, he would simply point to me. I then had to find an answer that made sense and didn't involve too much explanation. However, answering that question never seemed easy to me. My journey to living in Maine began many years ago.

I was an only child, raised by a single parent, and I was lonely. My father died when I was four, and my mother had to step in and run the family insurance business. As you might imagine, this created some parenting dilemmas as I was way too young to be left to my own devices. It happened that when I was 7, my mother heard about a wonderful camp in Maine where I would be with children my own age and older and be well cared for. So it was that I found myself with my friend Romney and our parents on a drive into New York City on a June afternoon so the two of us could be put on a "camp train" and sent to Maine for two months. I remember feeling scared and nervous, but not wanting to let Romney see that side of me. She was both more confident and sophisticated than I was.

We arrived in the city and found our way into the Statler Hilton Hotel where we would have dinner later before boarding the camp train. We were dressed in nice dresses and our brand-new camp blazers. As we were sitting down, my mother said,

"See those girls sitting at that table over there? I'll bet they are headed to camp, too. Wouldn't it be fun if they are going to Runoia?"

All during dinner I wondered about those two girls and whether they would be on the same train with Romney and me. I also noticed that one was crying all through the meal. I was happy that, although I was sad to be leaving my mom, at least I wasn't crying like a baby. I ate as slowly as possible to prolong the trip into the station, but eventually it was time.

When we got into Grand Central Station, I looked around and all I could see were signs with different camp names. I couldn't imagine how we would find the right one, but we did. There were lots of girls waiting already, and most of them seemed very excited, a good sign I thought. Then I saw those two girls from dinner approaching. Sure enough they were going to my camp, too, and it was their first year as well. One was still crying. Little did I know that she would be one of my bridesmaids many years later.

Goodbyes were said and some tears shed, but we boarded the train and soon enough were pulling out of the station. The whole train, it turned out, was devoted to transporting children to camps in Maine. Runoia filled up one car. We



*MJ (right) with daughter Krissie*

slept in bunks and spent much of the night peering out of the curtains to see the older girls talking and singing camp songs at the end of our car. Meanwhile, I was making friends of my own and comforting the crying girl who would become one of my best friends.

The next morning, we arrived at a little station in Belgrade, Maine, and were met by the camp director who was named Johnny, the Arts and Crafts counselor Shelley, and a few other counselors. We were shown which cars to get in and were driven to camp in Belgrade Lakes. I was in the car driven by Johnny. She was a little scary to me, but I did notice that most of the other girls were laughing and joking with her, and I began to relax. When we turned onto Point Road, Johnny told us that there were a few steep hills to climb and that the car we were in needed some help to climb them. She told us that we should all raise our feet off the floor of the car when she gave the signal and that would help the car make it up the hill. We did as we were told, and eventually all the new girls realized this was a joke that Johnny always played on new campers. When we arrived, we were told how to find our cabins and off we went. I remember smelling the pine and the old wood of some of the buildings and thinking it smelled like perfume. There was a lake down a hill, tennis courts, a tree house, and way too much to take in all at once. I knew I would love this place from that moment on. I felt as though I had found a second home. Romney and I were both in 4th Shack which made me happy.

I attended Camp Runoia for ten summers as both a camper and a counselor, and those years were formative for me. I learned about being a child among children which was sometimes difficult for me as an only child. On the flip side, I learned the joys of sisterhood and embraced those fully. Sports became central to my life and have brought me great joy. Being a counselor gave me skills I used all my working life as a teacher. All of this helped me to become the person I am today. My camp friends and I marvel to this day that we were able to have this incredible experience. I see several

(continued on page 15)



## WHY MAINE? (continued from page 14)

of my camp friends to this day, people I have known and loved for over 60 years.

I returned to camp when I had children of my own to be an Assistant to Betty Cobb, the Director. My daughter attended as a camper, and my son went to another camp on the lake. Vilis enjoyed being part of it all, happily grilling at camp cookouts and attending campfires. Even our yellow lab, Jamie, was a part of Runoia although he usually stayed on his own property except on cookout night when there were all sorts of treats for him to clean up after the campers left for the evening program.

I am still involved with Runoia as a member of the Alumnae Board that exists to raise scholarship money for girls who otherwise could not afford to come to this wonderful place. As I return each summer for our board meeting, I still get butterflies when I drive through the camp gates.

So, when I am asked, "Why Maine?"

I almost always answer,  
"Because of camp."

## SELLING LEMONADE...SAVING LAKES

By Leah LaPointe, reprinted with permission from Summertime In The Belgrades

### The Cast:

- Harrison Dilts, 13 - volunteered to help sell raffle tickets and made the majority of products sold at the lemonade stand.
- Leah LaPointe, 11 - Thought of the idea to accept donations rather than a designated price. Quote: "I thought it would be a more reasonable idea to extend the maximum amount of money that would be accepted rather than having to limit it. Using that method, we were able to collect over \$350." Leah also ran the cash register and assisted in distributing the product among the customers.
- William Dilts, 11 - Made creative signs and was the key to attracting customers. One buyer claims, "I practically heard you from down the street."
- Weston LaPointe, 8 - the youngest of the group, who assisted by being moral support, as well as by helping William to attract business, and ran any errands to help keep our merchandise fresh and stocked up.



### The Products:

- Lemonade - Produced from homemade lemonade mix and fresh lemons.
- Brownies - We constructed our 3 types of brownies (Milk chocolate, Double Fudge with chocolate chips, and Regular Fudge) from our Mimi's famous homemade brownie mix.
- Popcorn - We decided to make our popcorn from storebought kernels, but popped them the old-fashioned way with a popcorn maker. We drizzled the butter on our popcorn the day of sale to ensure that the popcorn stayed as fresh as possible.

### The Motive:

We have been protecting our lake with the money raised from our lemonade stand for the past 4 years. Despite the fact that we had been doing this for so long, this year was our most successful. We raised \$385 and all of the profit made went to preserving our lakes. This year was a real success, and we hope to continue doing this in order to see the change we all desire to see in our beautiful great lakes.





# RAFFLE SUCCESS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

By Andy Cook, Raffle Czar

Thanks to the many generous prize donations by our faithful supporters (Hamlin's Marine, Hammonds Lumber, Lynch Landscaping, Day's Store, The Farmers Market, Lakepoint Real Estate, The Village Inn, the Rizzos, and Dick Greenan), donation of a canoe by an anonymous donor, the valuable donation of time by our many table volunteers led by George Atkinson (including the entire BLA Board of Directors and many member volunteers) and the success of the raffle lemonade stand led by the Dilts and LaPointe children (of the Charles family), our financial results were:

<b>Gross receipts</b>	<b>\$40,030</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,960</b>
<b>Net BLA income</b>	<b>\$35,070</b>

This is a great success! Thanks to the many who helped out. Especially notable were Lynn Matson's assistance, Dick Greenan's leadership, and the almost heroic amount of table time donated by leaders such as Carol Johnson.

There were some notable occurrences:

- The first prize winner Terry Jacques, a Rome native, had bought just one ticket on a whim at the Farmers Market. He loved the boat and could hardly wait to get it in the water.
- Two of our winners won twice, once in the regular raffle and once in the bonus. They both had bought bonus raffle tickets (\$100 – 24 tickets) so two of their tickets won. One, Nancy Fuller – who is 98(!) and a BLA member, told me she had bought raffle tickets every year since it started (1998). This was the first time she won – she was very excited and looked forward to her "Loon Tour" with Dick Greenan and her Day's Store Picnic.
- We did a "post-affle lessons learned" discussion and have many great ideas on how to make things better next year.
- This was the first year that the value of our prizes (\$41,000) exceeded our net income for the lakes (\$35,070). This is significant. Prize values are escalating with inflation, our ticket prices have not.

The raffle was conceived in 1998 as the BLA's major source of funding. And it has been a fun and successful effort over the years. We have met many new friends, renewed old friendships, and had an opportunity to touch base personally with our many BLA members. It has been a major help in supporting our ever increasing work for Great Pond and Long Pond water quality.

As we have all seen with event of phosphorus blooms in East Pond and North Pond, the impact of Milfoil (and mitigation), the Watershed Based management plans for both lakes, the Youth Conservation Corps, the importance of township ordinances as regards water frontage and septic systems, and so on, our work has increased, become more important, and the funds needed have increased substantially.

In this same time period the value of our raffle prizes has escalated at the rate of inflation. Since 1978 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has almost doubled – that is to say, what cost \$1 in 1998 costs almost two dollars today. But our raffle ticket prices have held rock steady - \$5 a ticket, \$25 for a booklet, and \$100 for the bonus.

We now find ourselves in a situation where there is an ever greater need for BLA funds, the value of our prizes is increasing (a lot, as result of inflation), and our ticket prices have not changed. The conclusion is clear. The time has come for the BLA to recognize that our raffle tickets – a valuable source of funds for our lakes – are worth more than we are charging for them. Further, our prize donors are donating prizes with the expectation that their donations will help the Lakes! They are expecting that their valuable donations will lead to even more valuable financial contributions for our work. We will be letting them down if we don't get the value or the revenue for their donations and, thereby, the value for the lakes that they are expecting.

So in recognition of the importance of the work the BLA does, the value of the prizes our providers are donating, their expectation of the good work their prizes will lead to, and the doubling of the CPI, we are anticipating a long overdue change in the raffle ticket price in 2023.

It will go well because people want to help the lakes, the prizes are well worth it, and the raffle revenue increase will reflect the funding we really need to help the lakes.

We all look forward to another great raffle year in 2023. Thank you all again for your help and support.



*Dave Reynolds won the vintage canoe.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE BLA BOARD



**Sharon Jeffe**

Sharon Jeffe grew up in Weymouth, Massachusetts, attended college in Plymouth, NH, and, over the course of 4 years, embraced living in a more rural environment. After several years of teaching in her hometown, she was able to purchase some land in Maine with two friends and subsequently moved to Cornville where they built a log cabin. They were guided by a book purchased in a Boston bookstore titled, "How to build your own low cost log home." She found her way into the paper industry in 1982 and worked on the SD Warren start up crew for paper machine #1 as a crew leader in a support department. She then spent several years in a shift supervisor's role which led to a Product Management position. In 1998 she accepted a sales position with Mead Paper and, after riding through 5 company ownership changes over the next 22 years, retired in 2020. Sharon and her husband vacationed on Long Pond for several years before moving to Belgrade in 2008, and in 2018 Sharon built her retirement home on Long Pond where she enjoys paddle boarding, boating, occasional golf, wine tasting, and hiking with her golden doodle, Belle. It has been so easy to love this beautiful place and the wonderful friends that have come into her life. Belgrade is home.



**Blaine Horrocks**

Blaine joined the Belgrade Lakes Association in 2021 and recently took on the position of Treasurer. Hailing from Michigan, he always had opportunities to enjoy many lakes and stays at cottages in his younger years. The enjoyment of being on a lake is something he has always treasured through the years.

Following high school, Blaine entered a 29+ year career in the Coast Guard, including four at sea commands of cutters from Cape Cod to Kodiak, Alaska. Along the way, he met and married Nattie and together raised their two sons while living in and traveling through numerous states across the U. S. After retiring from military life, Blaine worked for the Transportation Security Administration for 17 years at the Portland International Jetport in positions ranging from Stakeholder Liaison to Assistant Federal Security Director of Mission Support for the state of Maine. Blaine is a graduate of the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, earned a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University, and holds a Master of Self-Propelled Vessels of Unlimited Tonnage license in the U. S. Merchant Marine.

Blaine and Nattie first acquired their camp on Long Pond in 2002 and, following a renovation in 2019, transformed their camp into a retirement lake house in 2019.



**Nattie Horrocks**

Hi, I'm Nattie Horrocks, and, yes, Blaine is my spouse. I was born a New Englander in Winchester, Massachusetts, and I have resided in five of the six New England states (Rhode Island being the exception). While growing up, our family would often vacation in Maine where I continue to cherish many fond memories. After graduating from Shenendehowa, I attended both Berkshire Christian College and Baylor University. I had a great job working for one of the First Vice Presidents of the Gillette Corporation in Boston when I met my husband on Cape Cod, and I became a military spouse.

As a mom, I always chose to put my children first on my list of priorities while accompanying my husband through his career. His Coast Guard career allowed us to live (temporarily) in many states where I made it my mission to make the most of every situation and find a way to become part of a community. With the kids in school and Blaine working, I had many opportunities to work full and part-time in a variety of different positions in entrepreneurial, retail, and office settings (including working in the Public Defender's Office in Kodiak, Alaska).

As fate would have it, family circumstances arose such that, in 2002, we decided to purchase a camp near where we were living at the time – Londonderry, New Hampshire. As we began to focus on retirement, we had been going to camp for nineteen years and thought why not try to find a new place to live and start over in a new community, etc. I was certainly tired of looking at school scores as the basis for locations in which to live, followed by moving, unpacking, and then getting ready to move, yet again. In discussing retirement during a conversation with my Freeport neighbor, I said to her, "Do I want to look out my window at a road and passing cars, or do I want to look out to a beautiful lake." I chose the lake and am so happy I did.

Beyond designation of our camp as a Lakesmart property, I was not able to volunteer during those nineteen years in Londonderry because I felt that I couldn't commit to the gatherings, meetings, etc., needed to be an active contributor. However, now that we have retired at our lakehouse on Long Pond, I have contributed to the Adopt-A-Shoreline program, the Loon Preservation Project, and now as a Board member of the Belgrade Lakes Association. I have a deep desire to commit and give back to a community that is a place of natural beauty and serves as a haven from the hustle and bustle of the many places we have previously lived.



# COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OUR LAKES: A WIN-WIN!

By Richard LaBelle, BLA Vice President

## Background

For over a century, the BLA has been working to promote responsible living and land use to protect our beautiful lakes. Through advancements in science, we now know much more about the health of our lakes and the factors that influence lake health. Phosphorus is a bad actor, in terms of water quality impact. While phosphorus is essential to support plant life, too much of it can speed up eutrophication which causes a lack (or absence) of oxygen at certain depths of a lake. Too much phosphorus is a problem that we are faced with here among the Belgrades.

A majority of phosphorus in our lakes results from nonpoint sources such as runoff from roads, pastures, and croplands, as well as erosion and the lesser-thought-of atmospheric deposition. The BLA understands that we can all do our part to reduce runoff, especially in areas concerning erosion. Recently, the BLA funded updating watershed-based management plans for both Great Pond and Long Pond which must be current to access specific funding sources.

The development of these watershed plans was a cooperative effort with the BLA, 7 Lakes Alliance, area towns, volunteers, landowners, and EcoInstincts, a firm specializing in creating and updating such plans. Qualified individuals visited nearly every property in both watersheds to identify areas that pose a risk to our lakes. When the team completed the management plans, they identified areas of concern with different indicators based on the degree of impact and project cost. As a result, the plans guide the priority of projects within our watershed relative to cost and impact on the lakes.

## Success Story

For the last several years, members of East Jamaica Shores Association (Crane Lane, on Jamaica Point in Rome) have been working diligently to identify erosion concerns along its roadways. They have progressively increased annual road dues to support building a reserve for road improvements. The association manages about 4,000 feet of roadway, some paved and some gravel, but the target impact project was a 2,000-foot stretch of gravel road.

Several segments of road within the association's management scope were identified in the Great Pond management plan. That classification created greater urgency to complete the projects, but it also created an opportunity to partner with 7 Lakes Alliance to leverage grant funding. After a series of site visits with Charlie Baeder, a project plan was developed to improve the road. The project plan included ditch widening, installation of riprap, culvert resets, replacements, and improvements to the surface base material.

Baeder, Director of Conservation Programs at 7 Lakes Alliance, partnered with road association representatives to coordinate the bid process for all aspects of work. He also took the lead on verifying liability coverage from contractors that protect the association, homeowners, and property owners. Opportunities were made for owners in the vicinity to take advantage of contractors working nearby and also to have their properties reviewed for projects eligible for 319 grant support. Charlie worked with contractors to coordinate scheduling; he completed regular site checks and oversaw the construction process from start to finish. While the project was a significant commitment, in less than eight weeks the project was complete— neighbors can be pleased with their improved road; but, more importantly, they should be proud that they were able to responsibly invest in road improvements for the sake of our lakes.

The project's total cost was approximately \$40,000; half of that was paid for with the assistance of 319 funding. What a fantastic opportunity for any property owner, especially for road associations!

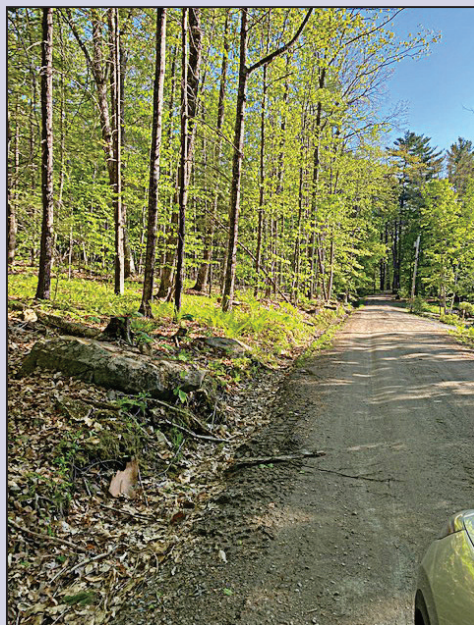
## The Partnerships

Helping our lakes is a cooperative effort. It takes more than a village to help support and maintain good water quality in our region. The programs for road maintenance and erosion control are no exception. Many individuals and groups must be dedicated to working together and seeing projects through. Who were the major players in this success story?



## COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITY (continued from page 18)

Belgrade Lakes Association: The road association learned about the 319 grant program and what can be accomplished through a previous BLA newsletter edition. Once contacted, the BLA team worked to facilitate a connection between the road association and the 7 Lakes Alliance to get the project off the ground. The BLA is also a strong financial supporter of the Youth Conservation Corps, a program that assists property owners with low-cost options for landowners seeking to protect the lakes from erosion problems. The BLA



*Before*



*After*

was integral to completing the watershed management plan updates. These plans are what helped identify the priority projects for preserving our lakes.

7 Lakes Alliance: The boots on the ground. The 7 Lakes Alliance has the staff to support writing grants to secure the 319 funding as well as to help private entities organize the work. Several members of their team were involved in seeing this project through from conception to the completion. The staff also provided all the grant administration, project coordination, and follow-up.

Road Association/Owners: The road association, comprised of over 20 families, fully supported completing the responsible road upgrades. Each owner understood that to protect the value of lakefront property and to maintain the water quality increased road dues to fund this project represented a nominal amount.

Contractors: Rick Labbe Construction of Smithfield (207-362-6471) is a reputable local contractor; Rick is a certified contractor with Maine DEP, demonstrating his commitment to understand responsible erosion control practices and the implementation process. Casey's Tree Removal of Sidney (207-557-3054) was also a professional partner in completing the projects. Owner Casey Cummings, a licensed arborist, helped guide the tree removal necessary to clear ditch lines. His qualifications support responsible management of tree removal by removing only those absolutely necessary to make the road improvements. To have qualified, reputable contractors is invaluable when trying to complete projects responsibly in our watershed.

### About Section 319 Funding

One of the best funding sources to help 'keep dirt out of the lake' is Section 319 money which comes from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is administered locally by the 7 Lakes Alliance. This money is made available under the Clean Water Act to support the remediation of nonpoint source efforts at the state and local levels. Depending on the project, Section 319 can support up to fifty percent of a project's cost—that's a dollar-for-dollar match! If you or your association is interested in having a project considered for funding support under Section 319, contact Charlie Baeder at 7 Lakes Alliance ([charlie.baeder@7lakesalliance.com](mailto:charlie.baeder@7lakesalliance.com)). You can also contact the 7 Lakes Alliance if you are interested in partnering with the Youth Conservation Corps or just seeking advice on how to responsibly manage or improve your land in the watershed.



## 319 GRANT AWARDED

By Anthony Wilson, Director of 7 Lakes Alliance Communications and Operations

The 7 Lakes Alliance has been awarded \$112,550 in Clean Water Act grants to address erosion issues that contribute to declining water quality in Long Pond. That follows a \$109,430 grant award last year to remediate erosion around Great Pond.

The grant money, awarded by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, will be used to mitigate erosion and stormwater runoff by improving town roads, private gravel roads and driveways, culverts, ditches, bridges and other infrastructure. The grants are used to leverage additional funds from property owners and municipalities, typically doubling the investment in infrastructure.

Dirt washed into streams and lakes by stormwater runoff contains phosphorus on which algae feeds. Excessive phosphorus in a lake can spark algal blooms.

The 7 Lakes Alliance was one of seven recipients to receive Clean Water Act grants through Maine DEP. 7 Lakes Alliance also received \$111,884 for erosion control around Messalonskee Lake. 7 Lakes Alliance has been awarded more than \$1 million in Clean Water Act grants since 2009.

The 7 Lakes Alliance erosion-control programs also include LakeSmart and the Youth Conservation Corps which help landowners identify and remedy erosion issues at lakefront homes and camps. All erosion-control efforts occur in collaboration with towns, property owners, Maine DEP, and lake associations, including the Belgrade Lakes Association.

“These grant awards underscore the effectiveness of 7 Lakes Alliance’s erosion control efforts,” 7 Lakes Alliance President and CEO Laura Rose Day said. “If not, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection would not have awarded us multiple grants over the past two years. These funds are significant, but they alone won’t resolve the environmental issues confronting the lakes. We need everyone’s participation. That’s why we’re grateful to have the collaboration of partners such as the Belgrade Lakes Association.”



*This bridge construction project on Marsh Lane in Rome was funded largely by a Clean Water Act grant that the 7 Lakes Alliance received last year to address erosion control around Great Pond.*

Funding for this project, in part, was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with the EPA. EPA does not endorse any commercial products or services.



# ANOTHER DAM REPORT!

by Dick Greenan, Chairman, Belgrade Area Dams Committee

As I write this column this fall, our all-volunteer Dams Committee is dealing with an unheard of 6" of rain in just the past ten days – just when we were in the middle of our 2022-23 Fall Drawdown and Winter Storage schedule. The schedule calls for Great and Long Ponds each to be drawn down to 18-24" below full pond and for Salmon Lake to be drawn down to 12" below full pond by November 1st, weather permitting, of course. Where was all of this rain this past summer when we could have used it? Actually, this summer's precipitation levels were not too bad and better than in the past four years.

This has been a busy fall for your Dams Committee with a couple of major projects. As you read this, the Salmon Lake Dam 9' x 10' radial steel gate has just been rebuilt with new steel, gaskets, cables, etc., to hopefully give us another fifteen to twenty years of service. In addition, another project which will be welcomed by our Salmon/McGrath neighbors, is a valve midway in the gate that has been installed to accurately measure out the mandated 1 CFS into the stream, ultimately running into Great Pond's Hatch Cove. In the past, the gate had to be adjusted practically daily by one of our two Salmon Lake Dam Committee volunteers in order to maintain the 1 CFS which, due to the gate operation, was estimated to be 2-4 CFS and was constantly being plugged up by our local beaver population! Particularly with our recent droughts, keeping more water in Salmon/McGrath will be a welcome relief, especially for navigating the thoroughfare. The new valve should also limit the gate from freezing in place and requiring the physical labor to remove the ice without damaging the seals.



*2022 Salmon Lake Dam gate rebuild*

The second project this fall was the installation of a computerized data logger which will automatically record daily water levels and temperature. As the Salmon Dam is a State Level One Dam with an Emergency Action Plan in place in the likelihood of a flood, a Daily Operations Log had to be manually recorded, even in the dead of winter, but which will now be recorded and available on the Dam Keeper's own cellphone app.



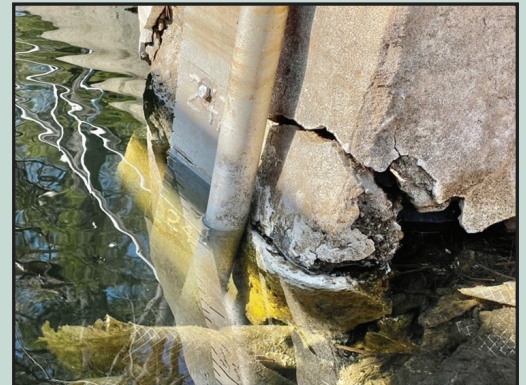
*January 2022: Local contractor, Steve Liberty keeping the dam operational.*

This coming summer, we will be addressing the deterioration of the concrete in the Village Dam just to the north of Day's Store. We have been patching the concrete breakdowns for the past several years in an effort to forestall the project that we all have been putting off. Well, it's time to face the music, as they say!

We had the entire Village Dam surveyed by Knowles Industrial Services Corp. this past fall and have a quote for \$100,000 to excavate all of the loose concrete down to the exposed rebar, re-paint the rebar and re-concrete with a new mixture more suitable to address the forces in play, ice in particular. In lieu of dropping the lake 3' to access the damaged concrete, a cofferdam will need to be engineered and installed on the upstream side of the dam to expose the damaged concrete and keep the field dry

for the 2-3 weeks required. The above cost will be itemized in our 2023 Dams Committee Budget Request to the five participating towns in our Inter-local Dams Agreement. Unfortunately, there are no other options.

Enjoy your winter! The Farmer's 2022-23 Almanac predicts that in January the eastern half of the country may see heavy rain and snow, followed by record-breaking cold temperatures and a stormy latter half of March. Maybe this is the year to go South!



*Village Dam NE abutment concrete deterioration*



*The concrete deterioration is throughout.*



# PROTECTING OUR PONDS FROM INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

By Blaine Horrocks, BLA Board Member

A U.S. Vice President once famously quoted advice from Bobby Knight as follows, “There is nothing that a good defense cannot beat a better offense. In other words, a good offense wins.” Whether you choose to believe that winning requires a better offense, or a better defense, both approaches are about taking solid action and providing great protection. The Belgrade Lakes Association’s mission is to protect and preserve our waters; we also want to win. Whether you prefer to call it offense or defense, there is a local program that allows you to personally become involved in protecting our lakes and ponds. This winning program is known as Adopt-A-Shoreline.

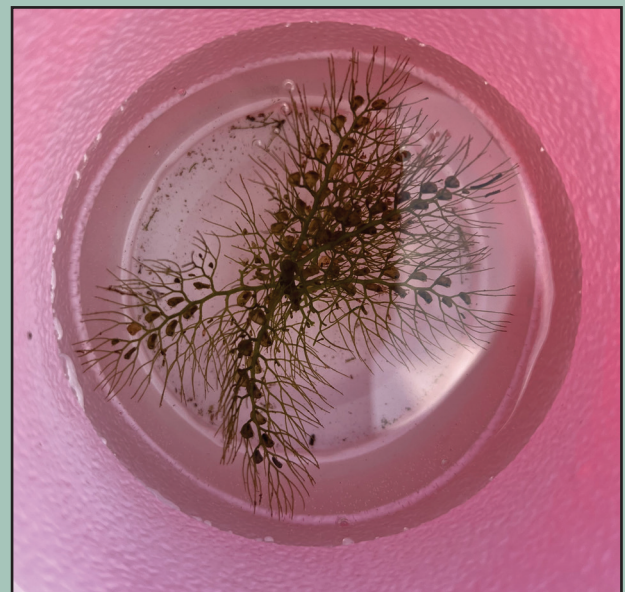
The program is pretty straight forward and a great way to enjoy being on the water while actively working to protect our waters from invasive aquatic plant species. The first step is to identify what section of a lake or pond you would personally like to survey to ensure no encroachment by an invasive plant(s). The next step is to register with the Adopt-A-Shoreline program coordinator. Training to identify invasive aquatic plant species is available throughout the summer, and there are some very helpful plant identification guides available, too. Whether by boat, canoe, kayak, paddleboard, snorkel gear, or just wading, when registered in the Adopt-A-Shoreline program, it’s time to get on the water, enjoy nature, and explore the shore.

My wife, Nattie, and I have adopted a section of western Long Pond from Lakewood Estates south to Castle Island. This section of shoreline is full of nooks and crannies and teeming with plant species. In addition to plant identification guides, I have added one more tool to my arsenal; the ubiquitous Red Solo cup. In 2011, Toby Keith released a song detailing the many attributes of the Red Solo cup, but Toby didn’t know just how valuable a tool this vessel, with a bright white interior, could be when trying to identify submerged aquatic plants. If you have ever pulled a submerged portion of a plant from the water, you know how the plant just collapses onto itself making plant species identification difficult. You can see from the picture, taken during one of this summer’s surveys, how placing a segment of a submerged plant into a cup of water can really make a difference.

If you wish to be involved in helping to protect our waters through early identification of an invasive aquatic plant species, please identify a section of shoreline you would like to protect through your survey efforts and register with our local program coordinator, the 7 Lakes Alliance.



*An important part of Blaine’s plant identification arsenal.*



*Sprig of Bladderwort*



# ANY PORT IN THE STORM!

by Andrew Dallas, Commodore of Great Pond Yacht Club

A former Navy sailor once gave me sound advice, “any port in a storm,” he said. While you, my fellow lake lovers and I may have few ports on the lake, we should all be ready when trouble strikes on the waves. This can help prevent a minor annoyance from becoming a full-fledged emergency. After more than five sailboat assists, including one ice boat, I know well that there’s trouble to be found out there.

A few things you can do when you see a sailboat or any other craft in distress:

1. Ensure they really do need help. Sailboats, particularly small ones are apt to capsize when wind and skill are not a match or when the sailor is pushing his limits. Perhaps they are having fun or maybe they are in trouble. Make contact and then decide what to do next.
2. Decide if you need help to provide aid. Signal to other boaters with your horn or call 911 on your cell phone to solicit more personnel and equipment. Our own Belgrade Fire and Rescue team regularly trains for water emergencies and are equipped to help persons in distress.
3. Protect yourself by donning a PFD. The last thing the situation needs is more people needing help. If you have decided to help someone who is experiencing an emergency, don’t make it your own emergency too.
4. Ensure you know how many people are involved and where they are. It is easy to overlook people in the water. Make sure to keep your boat a safe distance from swimmers and ensure your prop is not turning when trying to recover someone from the water.
5. Ask if there are any injuries and what the nature is. Ensuring everyone can breathe, isn’t in imminent danger of bleeding excessively, and is safe from hypothermia are priorities. If someone is injured, you need to ensure you do no further damage in moving them – especially if there is a spinal injury. Immediately call 911 if there are any injuries. Medical transport will be available on and off the water if necessary.
6. Use caution when approaching a capsized sailboat. The rigging, a collection of ropes and equipment designed to tangle your prop, is in the water and may not be visible. Since there is often wind associated with capsizing, the rigging will usually be pulled to one side of the distressed boat. Approaching from the other side is safer, but not safe.
7. Toss or drag PFDs to anyone in the water when needed. They may not have had one on when they went over.
8. Your primary concern should be for the souls onboard, not the equipment. If you can help to save the boat without risk, then by all means do. Towing a boat home has saved many people’s Saturdays, but towing a capsized or turtled sailboat will result in the mast impacting the lake bottom and can result in significant damage. If you do tow, ensure the tow line is strong enough (like a ski rope) and that both ends are securely tied.
9. Exercise extreme caution when in waves. While significant wave action may be rare on our lakes, those conditions do occur. Boat movement on the water is unpredictable, and it is easy to bump into a person in the water. Worse, it is easy to crush a limb between two boats as they move with the surf.



Thank you all for being good Samaritans and neighbors on the lake. I am fortunate to see so many boaters helping others from my perch on the shore. I hope to meet more of you and invite you to share our club members’ love of sailing. Remember, you don’t need to know how to sail or own a sailboat to join us. We all enjoy introducing new friends to the joys of slipping noiselessly across the water under a pretty set of sails!

A word of thanks to our retiring Great Pond Yacht Club Commodore and 7 Lakes Alliance co-chair Matti Bradley. Matti has authored these pieces as a form of GPYC outreach for the past four years. Matti has overseen growth of the GPYC in both membership and services. She was instrumental in realizing our new fleet for the youth sailing program which is now headed by Paul Feinberg. As a new commodore, but veteran sailor, I hope to inspire new members to join and share our year round fellowship and friendship as we sail together and tell tall tales of our experiences here on Great Pond and in faraway locales. Thank you, Matti, and welcome one and all!





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

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