

Summertime in the Belgrades

... Serving the Central Maine Lakes & Kennebec River Corridor

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 9



Why Lake Meetings Matter

by Esther J. Perne

Because in Maine lakes beckon from every turn in the road...because lakes sparkle in every view from a mountain...because lakes number over six thousand...because lakes attract hundreds of thousands of users...because lakes are a huge economic driver...because lakes provide work and livelihoods and careers...because lakes belong to and are accessible to every resident of Maine... because lakes provide recreation and inspiration and motivation and love - all these and many more reasons are why meetings about lakes are important.

Smaller, specialized lake-oriented meetings

are held constantly, continually, creatively throughout the year, the state, the region. As organized infrastructures such gatherings date back over a century. They have sponsored safety, sociability, credibility, guidelines and fun.

With summer come the larger, more comprehensive programs and agendas - the Annual Lake Association Meetings. Issues that affect everyone are identified, topics that promote responsible use of the lakes are presented, problems - and solutions - are spelled out, differences are ironed out and questions are answered.

What is a benthic barrier? A CBI? Alum treat-

ment? A secchi disk? No-wake speed? A rubber razor blade? Swimmer's itch? Gloeotrichia?

What improves water quality? Controls invasive plants? Comprises climate change? Helps maintain the loon population?

Annual meetings are as close as it gets to learning what's going on and as clear as it gets to how the state of the lakes are a choice the residents of the lakes, the watersheds, the communities make.

Numerous studies and projects and undertakings for the protection, preservation and the bet-

Continued on page 2

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Lake Associations in the Belgrades: A Week Full of Annual Meetings

Meetings, meetings, meetings: it's a great week coming up to learn more about the Belgrade lakes by attending an annual meeting, connecting with watershed neighbors and discovering the hard work accomplished and many resources available in the best interest of the lakes.

The Friends of Messalonskee (FOM), which includes the towns of Oakland, Belgrade and Sidney, will hold its Watershed Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 7 via Zoom at 10 am. This year's guest speaker is Jen Jespersen, Water Resource Specialist and Principal/Owner of Ecological Instincts. FOM has contacted Jen to lead the upcoming Watershed Survey which she will discuss and answer questions from the membership. Jen has 30 years of education and experience in the environment field and has worked with many lakes in the region for watershed planning.

The agenda will also include the FOM Annual Meeting Video which will explain what is being done this season to prevent the spread of Variable Leaf Milfoil and will cover other FOM programs. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Whitney King, Colby College Professor.

To access the Zoom link visit, www.friendsofmessalonskee.com and go to the Events tab or call 618-8723.

The Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Great

Pond and Long Pond, Reception and Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, August 8, 4-6 pm at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club. Following a short business meeting, guest speaker, Lee Attix, Loon Conservation Specialist will discuss the Loon Preservation Project sponsored by the BLA. For information call 512-5150 or email info@bla-maine.org

North Pond Association's Annual Meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, August 10, 7-8 pm. Guest Speaker will be 7 Lakes Alliance lake scientist Dr. Danielle Wain and there will be a presentation from the treasurer and the president of George's Pond Association who will share their experiences with fundraising for lake remediation. Access the meeting at www.NorthPondMaine.org.

The Annual Meeting of the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association will be held outside at the Pleasant Point Park on McGrath Pond in Oakland on Thursday, August 12, 6 pm. (The rain date will be August 13 at 7 pm.) The meeting will include a presentation "Getting Smarter About Our Lakes," with Maggie Shannon speaking on the history of LakeSmart in Maine, Mary Wicklund of Maine Lakes on its statewide program promoting LakeSmart and Kim and Dave Hallee discussing LakeSmart on McGrath/Salmon since 2013. There will be time for discussion among the speakers and with the

audience.

The meeting will be observing CDC and Maine COVID-19 guidelines. In light of the Delta variant, masks are optional. Everyone is requested to bring their own chairs to avoid having to sanitize chairs. www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org

The East Pond Association Annual Meeting was scheduled in July and was held via Zoom. For more information about East Pond visit www.eastpond.org



Continued from page 1

terment of lakes have been initiated at the lake association level. With the help, advice, resources, staffing and financing from private, business, community and government sources and ordinary interested individuals many of these inquiries and innovations have been pursued, completed and applied, often successfully but always with the advantage of enhanced knowledge.

As annual lake association meetings take place over the course of this summer throughout the region and the state and especially over the course of this next week in the Belgrades, there is no need to wonder why they matter.

They matter because in Maine lakes are so important.



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Charles Family Matching Challenge Exceeds Goal
Raises \$40,000 for Youth Conservation Corps



YCC moving rock toward shoreline to install an erosion control measure to keep phosphorus out of the lake.

Belgrade Lakes Association and 7 Lakes Alliance together have raised over \$25,000 through the Alan Charles Matching Challenge for the 7 Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), far exceeding the challenge goal of \$15,000. As a result, the YCC will receive an additional \$15,000 in combined funding from the Charles family, Bill & Joan Alford Foundation and John & Flor Atkinson, for a total of \$40,000. These funds will support the YCC’s efforts to prevent erosion to keep dirt and the algae-feeding phosphorus it carries out of the lakes.

Soil erosion is a leading cause of excessive and potentially toxic algal blooms that turn lakes green. When water runs off land from lakeside lawns and upstream lands, it washes dirt and, with it, polluting phosphorus into the lakes. Phosphorus is a key cause of algal blooms that turn lakes green. In 2020, the Great Pond Watershed Management Plan identified erosion control as among the highest priorities for restoring and protecting water quality. The YCC works with landowners to install best management practices to help prevent erosion.

The Charles family expressed gratitude for the overwhelming generosity of people who share Alan Charles’ passion for the lakes region. “Together, we are all investing in a strong Youth Conservation Corps both to protect the lakes today and to foster the lake stewards of the future.” Alan loved the Belgrade Lakes and was a long-time BLA volunteer.

“What an awesome show of support for the YCC’s work to protect the lake for everyone!” said 7 Lakes’ YCC Crew Leader Tyler Pellerin. “Like the landowners we work with, every contributor to this challenge is benefitting people and wildlife by keeping the lakes from turning green.” To learn how to help protect lakes from phosphorous pollution, including YCC projects, lake-friendly practices, LakeSmart, or other erosion control assistance, contact 7 Lakes Alliance at (207) 495-6039.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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McGrath Pond. Rain date Aug.13th @ 7:00 pm

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Calendar

Great summer events going on!

Please call or email event destinations for last-minute changes in start times, locations and adherence to CDC guidelines.

Friday 8/6 and every Friday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street, Farmington.

Friday 8/6 - Waterville Rocks Free Concert, Casey Abrams, free, family friendly outdoor concert, all ages, 5:30 pm, music starts 6 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Friday 8/6 and every Friday in July and August - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, 8/6 , 6-7:30 pm, on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 8/7 and every Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Gristmill, corner of Court and High Streets, Skowhegan.

Saturday 8/7 - Friends of Messalonskee Annual Meeting, see details on page 2.

Saturday 8/7 - 7 Lakes Alliance Adopt-a-Shoreline Workshop, noon, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes Village.

Saturday 8/7 - Belgrade Lakes Loon Calling Contest, sponsored by Castle Island Camps, sign-up 6:30 pm, 3 age groups, contest starts 7 pm, Lakepoint Real Estate dock, Belgrade Lakes Village.

Saturday 8/7 - Whistlestop Concert Series, Maine Dead Project, 7 pm, Narrow Gauge Cinema, Farmington.

Through Sunday 8/8 - Skowhegan River Fest, celebrating Run of River, whitewater recreation area, events all week, runofriver.org/river-fest, downtown Skowhegan and greater Skowhegan area.

Sunday 8/8 - Loon Lap 5K, to benefit the Mt Vernon Community Partnership Corp and the Greater Minnehonk Lake Association, following CDC guidelines, sign-up 9 am or register online, loonlap5k@gmail.com, Mount Vernon Community Center, 2 Main Street, Mount Vernon.

Sunday 8/8 and every Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/8 - Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) Annual Meeting, see details on page 2.

Tuesday 8/10 and every Tuesday - Early morning paddle on Great Pond, 7 am, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards available, no fee, The Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 8/10 - Tinkergarten - Outdoor Playtime, 495-3508, 10 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Tuesday 8/10 - North Pond Association Annual Meeting, see details on page 2.

Wednesday 8/11 - 7 Lakes Alliance Road Workshop, fee includes lunch, 10 am-3 pm, to register visit www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes Village.

Wednesday 8/11 and every Wednesday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 3-6 pm, Somerset Gristmill parking lot, downtown Skowhegan.

Wednesday 8/11 - Oakland's Rise to Prominence in the Axe Industry, presented by Howard Hardy and the Oakland Public Library, 4 pm, 465-7533, hosted by Oakland Fire Department, Atlantic Room, Oakland.

Wednesday 8/11 and every Wednesday - Weekly Cruise-In, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, live music, 50/50 raffle, food and ice cream specials, Fast Eddie's, Route 202, Winthrop.

Wednesday 8/11 and every Wednesday - Weekly Cruise-In, 645-2145, 5:30-7:30 pm, Dutch Treat, Route 2, Wilton.

Wednesday 8/11 - Waterfront Concert, Dj Matt James, Block Party free, 6 pm-sunset, Mill Park, downtown Augusta.

Wednesday 8/11 - Mid-Maine Global Forum, Ambassador

Continued on page 10...



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— Take It Outside —

I spent most of the past week out in the woods foraging mushrooms, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries. I did meet a young family from Fairfield at French Mountain getting ready to embark on their first hike there. Justin works with Kevin Hawes in Belgrade and had heard a lot about the trail from coworkers and visitors. As I was putting my foraged bounty in the freezer, I thought that what I was doing was similar to what others have done around lakes for a long time. It reminded me of a column that I wrote ten years ago when we were just opening the brand-new Maine Lakes Resource Center in Belgrade Lakes. For ten years, the nonprofit conservation organizations in the new center have been helping to develop new science and practices for better caring for our lakes. But like all science, we try to learn from the past. The rest of this column is from one of my favorite "Watershed Wisdom" columns from 2011 that I originally titled, "Ancient Wisdom."

Mother Nature's watershed design is based on maintaining upland forests and vegetated wetland buffers to protect water quality. We strive for responsible development to avoid excess stormwater runoff that can cause erosion and deplete groundwater supplies. These are not new ideas. Consider this observation from over 2000 years ago:

"There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings....while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the



Justin from Fairfield with his kids, Bryson and Harper.

earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it." Plato: Dialogue of Critias 360 B.C.E

Plato could just as easily be talking about modern day America. Cutting down forests in the uplands and clearing the native vegetation results in too much impervious surface, which in turn results in excess stormwater runoff. Instead of recharging the groundwater aquifers and filtering slowly into streams and lakes, this runoff flows quickly down the hills, resulting in flooding in the lowlands and excessive erosion and phosphorus-laden sediments flowing into our lakes.

The LakeSmart program emphasizes the importance of maintaining native vegetated buffers along the shorelines of our lakes, rivers, and streams. Over 500 years ago, Leonardo da Vinci gave the same advice:

"The roots of the willows do not suffer the banks

of the canals to be destroyed; and the branches of the willows, nourished during their passage through the thickness of the bank and then cut low, thicken every year and make shoots continually, and so you have a bank that has life and is of one substance."-Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)

A few hundred years later, Henry David Thoreau built his home next to Walden Pond and observed:

"My house was on the side of a hill, immediately on the edge of the larger wood, in the midst of a young forest of pitch pines and hickories, and half a dozen rods from the pond, to which a narrow footpath led down the hill. In my front yard grew the strawberry, blackberry, and life-everlasting, johnswort and goldenrod, shrub oaks and sand cherry, blueberry and groundnut."- Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Thoreau clearly understood the importance of diverse vegetation and a healthy vegetated buffer. Interestingly, even before the advent of shoreland zoning rules, he built his house a half dozen rods back from the water, almost exactly the 100 ft setback requirement of Maine's current Shoreland Zoning law. With his narrow meandering footpath, I'm sure Thoreau would have qualified for a LakeSmart Award. He certainly understood the beauty of healthy lakes with forested shorefront areas:

"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature. The fluviatile trees next the shore are the slender eyelashes which fringe it, and the wooded hills and cliffs around are its overhanging brows."

Continued on page 10...

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Call of the Loon

Q: I just found a loon chick under my dock that has been abandoned. What should I do with him? What should I feed him?

A: 99% of chicks that appear to be abandoned have been merely "stashed" by a parent in an effort to protect them from an intruder (typically a rogue loon interested in their territory) or some other threat, human or otherwise. The best thing that you can do, as an apparent threat, is to leave the area, and usually within an hour or sometimes longer, one or both of the parents will return. The wait can be pure torture but it is the best thing you can do. After a while, the chick will usually start calling for their parents with little chirps but it still may take up to an hour or so, and forever, if we are still in the vicinity.

We observed what we assumed was an intruder approaching 'our' parent approximately one hundred yards away when we began searching for the chick with our binoculars. We finally found the chick dutifully and safely stashed under a dock while the parent went about dealing with this intruder



This Long Pond chick anxiously waited over an hour for his/her parents to return.

into 'Their Home' territory. This intruder could have been a descendent from this cove thinking they were just coming Home, but we don't know without having leg bands by which to identify the birds, hence another reason for our banding program. But this intruding loon was taken as an intruder which initiated a "Circle Dance" by which the birds form a rough circle and all look down at the same time to make sure that they will not fall prey to a rogue loon looking for a "free" territory.



A parent trying to appear larger than life to this Intruder!



The Long Pond "Circle Dance"

Continued on page 7....



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— Conservation Too —

So..., What Is Erosion Control Mulch?

By Dale Finseth

It is that time of the year when folks focus on doing some yard work around their home or camp. For many of you that hopefully includes using Erosion Control Mulch to slow down stormwater runoff and direct more of the water into the ground.

In some yard sites it is difficult to use vegetation, whether that is ground cover, low growing plants, shrubs or trees. You may have areas where it is difficult to get anything to grow. So..., what to do then? First try and let the natural duff collect in your yard and beneath your plants. It helps to slow runoff and soften the impact of water droplets to protect the soils beneath. If you can, only maintain the needed pathways and open areas which you use. We often have more open space around buildings and drive-ways than we use. Let it return to a relatively natural state. I've seen yards where people have swept the pine needles and other duff into piles and left the bare ground exposed. Avoid this type of practice. It leads to unimpeded stormwater runoff that carries sediment and phosphorus into the lake.

Mulch can best be used to supplement vegetative buffers or even replace vegetation in areas where it is difficult to establish plants. Erosion Control Mulch, also referred to as ECM, is the better type of mulch for this purpose. Mulching is one of the most effective and efficient Best Management Practices (BMP's). For stabilizing construction sites, eroded banks, and topdressing buffer plantings, almost any type of mulch helps. But for establishing a better stormwater control practice ECM is better to protect water quality.

Most people will buy their ECM from a contractor. Make sure you actually get what you intend to use. Don't confuse "compost", "conservation mulch", "bark mulch" and "wood chips" with ECM. Erosion Control Mulch (ECM) was developed to protect soil from erosion in high traffic areas, heavy exposure to the elements, or on steep slopes. ECM, sometimes called slope stabilizer, is not your standard landscape bark mulch. ECM is "chunky". ECM

In 2001 the Maine DEP developed ECM Specifications - Erosion control mix/mulch can be manufactured on or off the project site. It shall consist primarily of organic material [at least over 20%], and may include: shredded bark, stump grindings, composted bark. Wood chips, ground construction debris, reprocessed wood products or bark chips will not be acceptable as the organic component of the mix/mulch. Erosion control mix/mulch shall contain a well-graded mixture of particle sizes and may contain rocks less than 6" in diameter. Seventy-85% of the stone mix should be less than 3/4" stone. Erosion control mix must be free of refuse, physical contaminants, and material toxic to plant growth. DEP no longer has a specific standard posted. When using ECM you can use this standard as a guide.

traps plenty of moisture, and can remain stable on steeper slopes. Thickness of application can vary depending upon several factors but 4-6" is average. Sites with extreme exposure to wind and water may need more while mulch berms may be 18-24" thick if circumstances dictate.

When bare soil is exposed to the elements, erosion begins to occur. Rain and wind can remove topsoil very quickly and deposit soil particles in the water. As these particles are transported in stormwater, they act like little magnets picking up pollutants and nutrients along the way. Once in the lake, these pollutants are deposited. Result - problems including algae blooms and elevated levels of toxins.

Erosion Control Mulch, when properly installed, can be part of the solution for this problem on your property. Remember, there is a lot to do in order to protect water quality.

For information about any of our conservation projects please contact Dale Finseth at 622-7847, x 3 or check our website at www.kcswwcd.org



...Continued from page 6



The Long Pond "Circle Dance" getting out of control with a "Neck Hold".
(They all swam away, most with egos still intact!)

A Reminder – our very own Lee Attix will be presenting the latest data on Belgrade's Loon population at this year's Belgrade Lakes Association Annual Meeting on August 8th from 4-6 pm at the Belgrade Golf Course. You will want to make this program and can register via the below email.

If you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blmaine.org and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Thank you all for your care and support of our loon population.

Dick Greenan, Chairman,
BLA Loon Preservation Project



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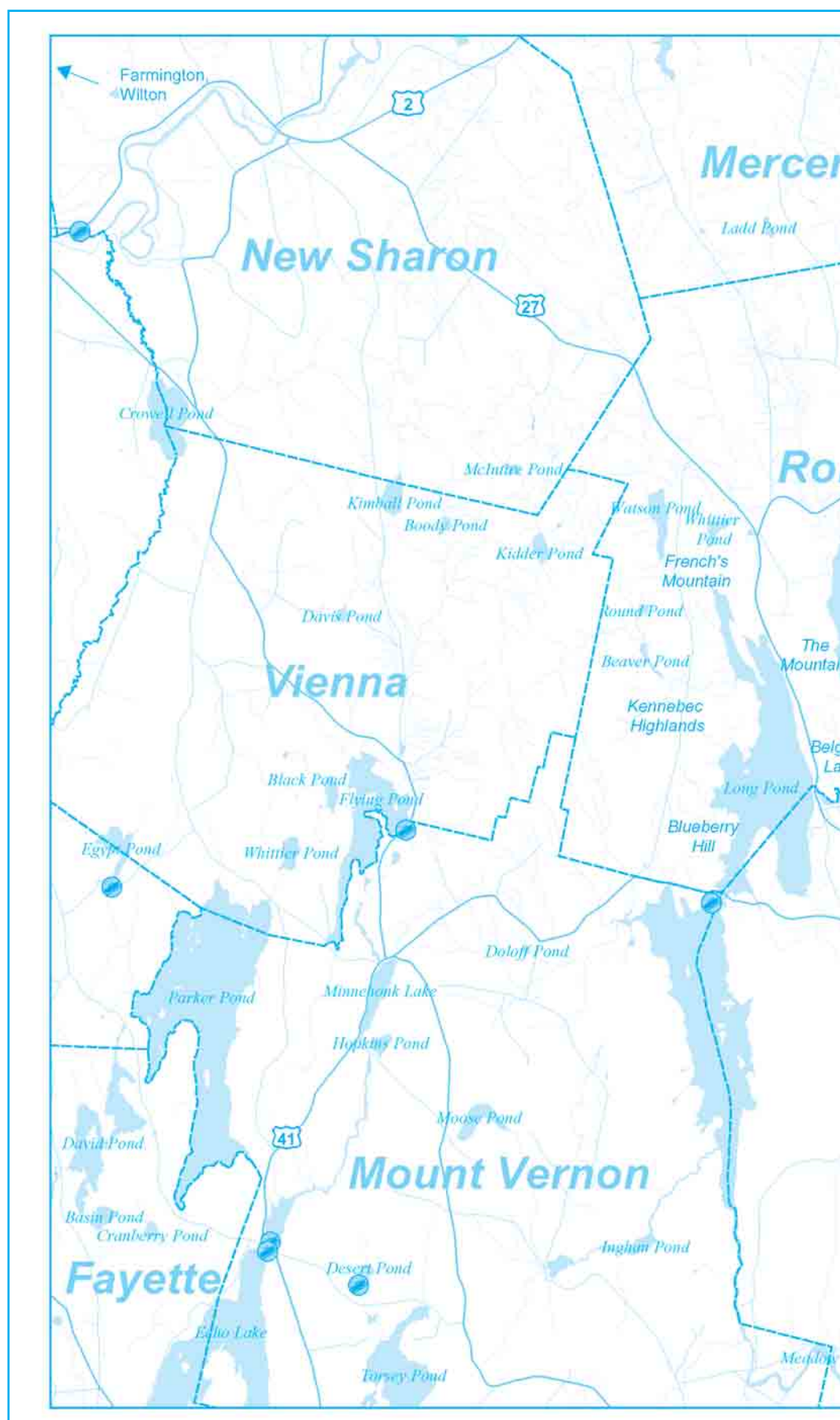
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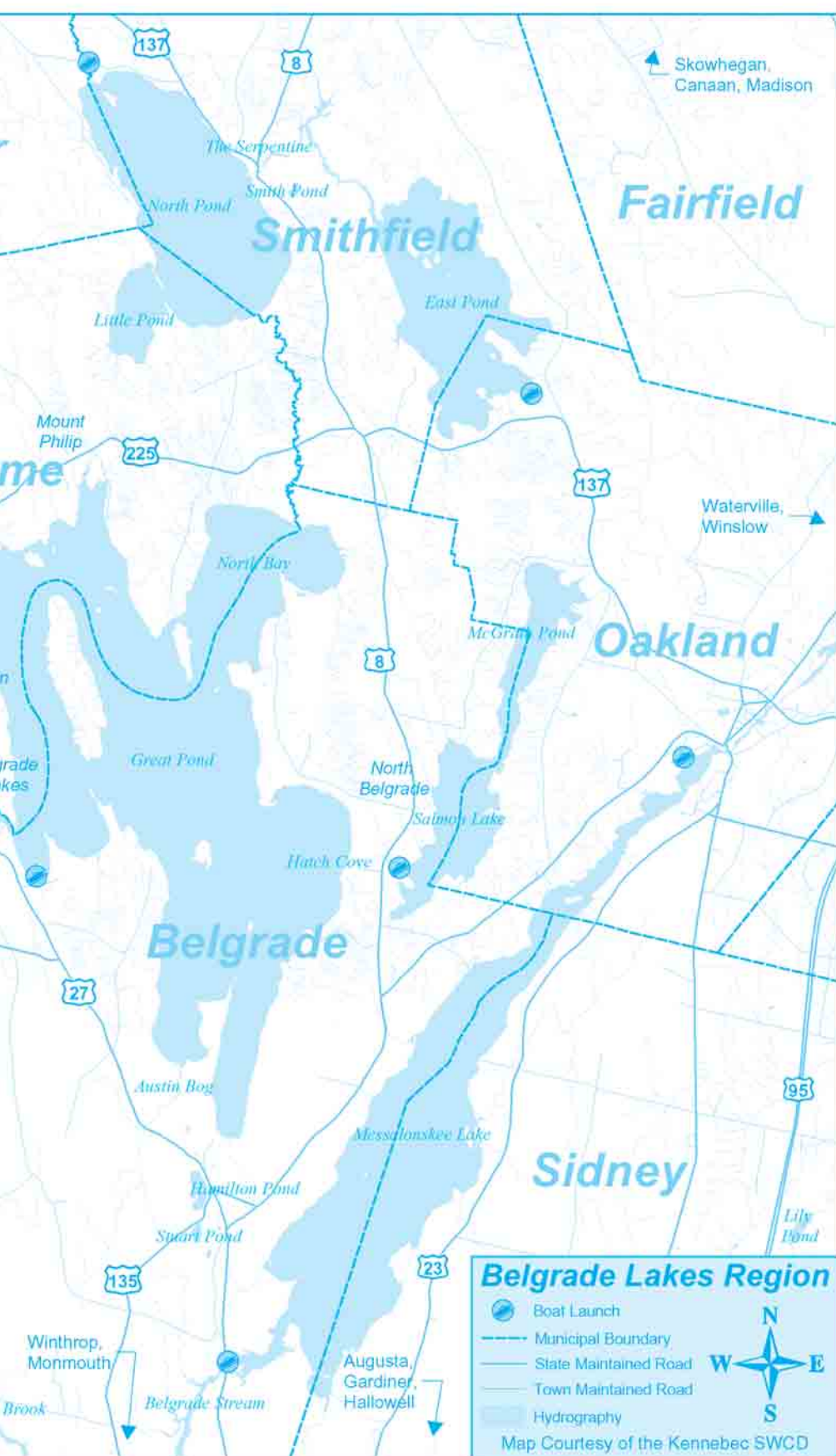
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...Continued from page 4

Dennis Ross guest speaker on issues in the Middle East, dinner/social time 6:15 pm, fully vaccinated event, reserve at app.schooldoc.com/register/midmeglobalforum, Colby College, Waterville.

Wednesday 8/11 and every Wednesday in July - Music at the Gazebo, concerts by area youth, 7 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Thursday 8/12 - 7 Lakes Alliance Plant Paddle at North Pond, 8 am, rain date 8/13, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, boat launch, North Shore Drive, Smithfield.

Thursday 8/12 through Sunday 8/15 and August 18-21 - Living on Love, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Thursday 8/12 and every Thursday - Outdoor Storytime 495-3508, 11 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Thursday 8/12 and every Thursday - Gardiner Classic Car Cruise-In, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, music, demonstrations, giveaways, 50/50, local foods, www.gardinermainstreet.org, Waterfront Park.

Thursday 8/12 and every Thursday - Art in the Park, new theme every week, 3-5 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Thursday 8/12 and every Thursday - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, Front Street, Waterville.

Thursday 8/12 and every Thursday through 9/2 - Music

...continued from page 5

We have discussed the importance of watersheds and managing our lakes on a watershed basis instead of arbitrary municipal boundaries. There are two places in Maine where this takes place- the Cobbossee Watershed District and the Penobscot Nation in the Penobscot River Watershed. It is no coincidence that Cobbossee Lake is the only major lake that has been taken off of the official DEP list of impaired waterbodies and the Penobscot is Maine's only river with a relatively healthy run of Atlantic Salmon. Native Americans have long recognized the importance of taking care of our lakes and rivers. Chief Seattle (1786-1866) was not a Penobscot but I think they would agree with him:

"The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother."

More recently Luna Leopold (1915-2006), the son of the great 20th Century conservationist Aldo Leopold, who was the Chief Hydrologist of U.S. Geological Services (USGS) and a Professor at the University of California summed it all up when he said:

"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetimes. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land."

Our new Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC) will shortly be working to make conservation a tradition in our watershed. We plan to implement

on the Village Green hosted by Chris Poulson, 6:30-8 pm, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/12 - McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association Annual Meeting, see details on page 2.

Through Sunday 8/15 - Topsham Fair!

Thursday 8/12 - Saturday 8/21 - Skowhegan State Fair!

Thursday 8/12 - Village Green Music Series, The Sandy River Ramblers, 6:30-8 pm, hosted by Chris Poulson, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Friday 8/13 - 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Steam Support at Rome Trout Brook, 8 am, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, Robbin's Mill Stream, Hoyt's Lane, Rome.

Friday 8/13 - Waterville Rocks Free Concert, The Big Takeover, free family friendly outdoor concert, 5:30 pm, music starts 6 pm, Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Friday 8/13 - Free Waterfront Concert, The Half Moon Jug Band, sponsored by Johnson Hall

Saturday 8/14 - Rustic Overtones, Whistlestop Concert Series, 7 pm, Narrow Gauge Cinema, Farmington.

Sunday 8/15 - Belgrade Lakes Association Raffle Drawing, at the Farmers' Market, 512-5150 for information; 465-6388 for information, Maine Lakes Resource Center, downtown Belgrade Lakes.



some of the wisdom of past generations to preserve this special place for future generations. We need to take advantage of Mother Nature's built in systems and figure out ways to modify man-made systems to mimic natural systems. We have implemented many state-of-the-art best management practices into the design of our new center. Come visit and learn how to live lightly on the land for the sake of the lakes. We want our children and grandchildren to have memories like E.B. White:

Letters of E.B. White, Childhood memories, age 5: "For me the golden time of year was summertime, when we all went for one month to a rented camp on the shore of Great Pond, one of the Belgrade Lakes in Maine. This Belgrade era began, I think, in 1904, when I was five years old. It was sheer enchantment. We Whites were city people—everything about Belgrade was a new experience: the big freshwater lake, the pines and spruces and birches, the pasture with its sweetfern and juniper, the farmhouse where we took our meals, the rough camp with its sparsely furnished bedrooms... the boating, the swimming, and the company of other campers along the shore. The month of August was four solid weeks of heaven...."

The delicious smells and sounds of Belgrade are still with me after these many years of separation. I spent much of my time in a canoe, exploring bogs and streams, netting turtles.... At Bean's store [in the Village] Father would treat us to a round of Moxie or birch beer, and we could feed the big bass that hung around the wharf and then head back [in the launch] across the lake... (There was a new drink out called Coca-Cola, but Father assured us it was a cheap imitation of Moxie and without virtue.)"





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• **H.J. Blake's for Goodness Sake's**, fresh, homemade, tasty take out, signature lobster rolls, hot dogs, burgers, scenic outdoor seating, 945 West Road, Belgrade, 462-2280

• **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273

• **Winterberry Farm Café**, homemade treats, pie, cookies, granola bars, grilled organic cheese sandwiches, veggies, drinks, 538 Augusta Rd, (Route 27), Belgrade, 649-3331

Mount Vernon

• **Old Post Office Café**, fresh-baked goods and quiches, omelets, homemade soups, specialty sandwiches and salads, 293-4978

Waterville

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Notebook

Maine's 1st Wild Blueberry Weekend

• On Saturday and Sunday, August 7 and 8, Maine will hold its First Annual Wild Blueberry Weekend with eats, drinks and tours of wild blueberry farms, rain or shine. For farms to visit and businesses that will be featuring wild blueberry products visit WildBlueberryWeekend.com. All participating farms and establishments will be following COVID guidelines per the CDC.

Maine Bicentennial Parade August 21

• The Maine 200 Parade and Bicentennial Street Fest is scheduled for Saturday, August 21 in Lewiston, starting at 10 am. Organizations, businesses, groups, schools and bands from across Maine will appear in the State of Maine Bicentennial Parade. For information visit maine200parade.com

Smithfield Food Pantry and Garden Receives Grant

• Skowhegan Savings Bank Charitable Foundation has awarded the Smithfield Food Pantry and Community Garden with a \$1000 grant. Grant money will be used for improvements to the garden's raised beds and

storage/closet organizers for clothing in the food pantry. Thanks goes to Jodie Mosher-Towle for not only writing the grant on behalf of the Town of Smithfield but for also recognizing what could be accomplished to make the food pantry space more user friendly for those in the community who need it.

Skowhegan River Fest Celebrates Kennebec River

• Downtown Skowhegan, the Kennebec River, nearby Lakewood Theater and Golf Course and Bigelow Brewing are the setting for a busy schedule of events during Skowhegan's annual River Fest celebration. Highlights include: Thursday, August 5 - Moonlight Madness and Bed Races; Friday, August 6 - Rotary Club Lobster Bake (Curbside Pickup), Drivers and Duffers Golf Classic and Glow Stick River Run; Saturday, August 7 - Somerset Bassmasters Riverfest Team Open, Skowhegan Farmers' Market, Family Fun Day Activities, Gorge Raft and/or Ducky Rides, Dinner in the Park and Fireworks; Sunday, August 8 - Set in Stone, live music in Coburn Park. For complete details visit runofriver.org



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www.hathawaymillantiques.com

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The Apple Farm, 104 Back Road, Fairfield,
453-7656, www.applefarm.us

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovate, 17 Birchwood Road,
Augusta, 242-3663. www.lakehousedesignbuildmaine.com [houzz](http://houzz.com)

ARTS

Waterville Creates, 10 Water Street, Suite 106, Waterville,
616-0292, www.watervillecreates.org

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Belgrade Lakes Marine and Storage, Inc, 366 Augusta
Road, Belgrade, (Rte. 27), 495-2378,
www.belgradelakesmarine.com

BANKING

Maine State Credit Union 200 Capitol Street, Augusta,
623-1851, www.maine-statecu.org
Skowhegan Savings Bank, 450 Civic Center Drive, Route
27, Augusta, 1-800-303-9511, 623-2300, www.skowsavings.com

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MOND, www.hammondlumber.com

BOAT MOORINGS

Great Pond Marina. 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

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BOOKS

Children’s Book Cellar, 52 Main Street, Waterville,
872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
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www.narrowgaugecinema.net

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great
Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 512-



5150, belgradelakesassociation.org

McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA),
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Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com

Amy Bernatchez, Lakepoint Real Estate, 314-2353, amy@belgradelakepoint.com

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The Dams Keeper Report

I like England a lot but I can do without their weather! And I certainly never expected that I would have to live with it in Maine! Enough is enough!

The ponds are more than full now, thank you. So full that we are starting to just tweak the gates enough to get us back DOWN to our 3" above full pond levels.

Long Pond is presently 3.06" ABOVE full pond with Great Pond at 3.72", also above full. Messalonskee is 4.08" below full pond with their electricity generation and Salmon/McGrath is now 1.5" above full pond. With 'just' .72" of rain in just the past ten days, we naively assumed that we would start to feel some relief from this wet weather but I haven't felt it, yet! We're still having showers practically every day and they are forecasting another 1.52" of precipitation for the next ten day. UGH!!

I'll let you in on a little know fact: Normal precipitation in our little corner of Vacationland is in the neighborhood of 3.25" which, if you can believe it, is still more than what we've been experiencing living with. We've been spoiled

RESTAURANTS

See Dining Directory on page 11

RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Granite Hill Estates, 60 Balsam Drive, Hallowell,
626-7786, 1-888-321-1119, www.granitehillestates.com

SCHOOLS

St. Michael School, grades pre-K 3-year-old through 8th,
56 Sewell Street, Augusta, 623-3491,
www.smsmaine.org

SECURITY SYSTEMS

Cayer Security Services, Inc, 1152 Main St. (Rte. 100),
Clinton, Maine 04927, www.cayersecurity.com

SURVEYING

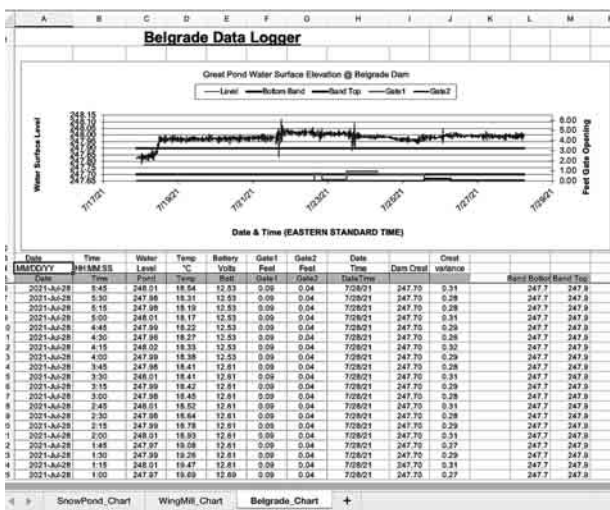
Acme Land Surveying, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5,
Farmington, 778-408, 1800-778-408,
www.acmelandsurveying.com

WINDOWS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 21 locations: Auburn,
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Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield,
Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville,
Machias, Portland, Rockland, Skowhegan, 1-866-HAM-
MOND, www.hammondlumber.com

WINE AND SPIRITS

Tree Spirits, 152 Fairfield Street, Route 23, Oakland,
861-2723 or 465-3007,
www.treespiritsofmaine.com



The computerized data logger spreadsheets that the Dams Committee receives every morning, with the past few summers as far as blue skies are concerned.

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams
Committee



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The Lowering Days: A Novel by Gregory Brown

by Martha F. Barkley

"The wind was down and the water as undisturbed as glass, and I was reminded of what I had realized years ago as a child--a lake is simply a window into the earth. Some see through it, some don't". Gregory Brown's first novel is still not fully read by me, but I wanted this description shared before I reach the end.

Every time the lake is still and quiet, I wonder if it is there, so I look out to check on the absolute stillness. I think a lake is an eye of God...

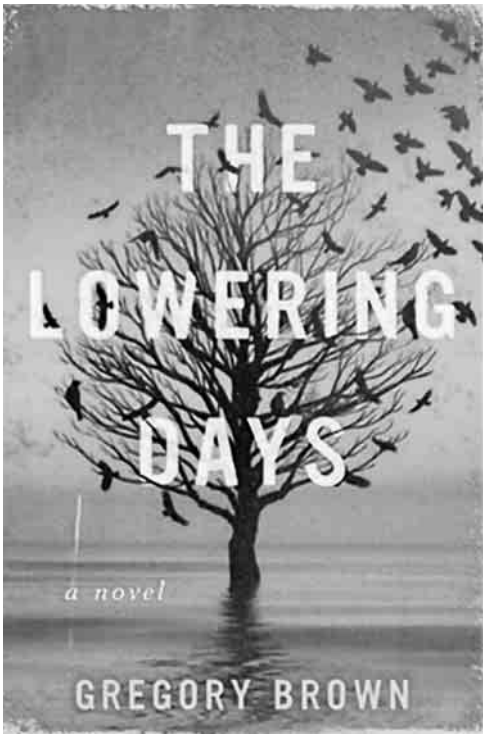
The Lowering Days is a Penobscot Bay story involving the criminal burning of a polluting mill and other crimes among a close knit community. The title comes from the name of the local community paper, edited by a most unusual, singular woman. Her husband is the creative boat builder, wooden wonders especially, designed and lovingly constructed.

Renee pulled this popular selling novel off the shelf for me at Oliver and Friends Bookstore on Main Street in early June when I attended Earl Smith's signing of his newly published history Downeast Genius. I bought that new title several weeks prior and read From Earmuffs to Motor Cars, Maine Inventors Who Changed the World. In Downeast Genius I was most impressed by Margaret from Maine who invented the square bottom paper bag. Smith even comments about paper bag use during our pandemic year.

Back to the novel. Ever curious about Colby grad authors, I devoured especially the Penobscot language as printed and translated within Brown's novel. Both Gabe Paul and Conor Quinn were recognized for their Penobscot Nation expertise in the Acknowledgements. Donald Soctomah was also consulted about the Passamaquoddy tribe.

"I realized [a dense wood of gnarled hemlock trees] was a stand of ancient old-growth forest, never touched by human saws. The trees seemed impossibly tall. Lichens spotted their trunks a hairy, fluorescent green. Great webs of moss wove between canopies like spooky cloaks..."

From the starry heavens as reflected in our Maine waters to the underground



roots and warmth felt in deep winter diggings, this author covers a world in nature studies and human conflict. Family resentments and knowing each other from the beginning and way back ancestors all combine in this well developed story of survival and resilience and compromise and tolerance.

Who set the fire that burned the mill? Where were they hiding? From the ashes of the destroyed mill the growth of green reconquers the pollution and poisons and destruction. The Lowering Days local paper has strong opinion pieces week after week while town resentments build.

Gardeners may find planting plans of interest. "They planted it half full with greens and corn and squash and beans. They filled the other half with storage crops. Beets. Potatoes. Turnips. Carrots. Onions."

Musquash Lake is even mentioned with a little history of indigenous peoples living there. My husband Frank and I camped on East Musquash 46 years ago before our son was born. I have vivid memories of cooking and washing the dishes as an awkward pregnant young woman. A huge tortoise even crawled up a boulder while I was sunbathing!

Topsfield was the town where our supplies were purchased and lumber road route studied into the pristine lake.

"The world was green and filled with possibility--chortling tree frogs and snapping fireflies and great spinning shows of stars. Our world along the river, though, was still a hole through which you could fall forever."

Read and reflect upon Gregory Brown's first novel about peoples and places not too far from our Belgrade Lakes deep blue waters.

"Suddenly the water is a mirror of the sky, and the mirror is a mirror of the water-sky. But the magic is only beginning...My father tells me this is an infinity mirror, and I can hardly breathe with wonder. My father tells me the reflection will go on forever."



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SEARSPORT - Oceanfront Home in beautiful & historic Searsport. Wonderful location within walking distance to the charming historic village of brick & stone buildings, the Penobscot Marine Museum & shops. Overlooks Searsport Harbor, near the town park & town dock. Steps down to your own Atlantic Ocean front on beautiful Penobscot Bay. 1 floor convenience. Sunroom overlooking yard & ocean & has been used as a DR. Updated kitchen w/lots of cabinets & storage. 2nd cozy sunroom makes for a great den. Formal LR w/brick wood burning fireplace. 3 BR & 2 updated BA. Lower-level FR w/fireplace & laundry room, lots of storage. Wonderful level yard w/a lush green lawn & flower gardens. Deck for summer relaxation overlooks the view & the ocean. Attached 2 car garage plus a separate 1 car garage/garden shed. Whole house generator, quiet dead end street. **MLS #1501561 \$750,000**

CHINA-Location! Location! Location! This 3 BR, 2 BA Garrison is a just steps away from a shared lot on Three Mile Pond. Open kitchen and dining area. Spacious front to back LR w/access to the sunroom. Large master BR w/sitting area. Private screened in porch. Attached garage with direct entry to the mudroom. Lovely 2.49 acre lot. Just 15 minutes to Augusta or Waterville, with Hannaford a mile down the road! The Rockwood Estates Association allows members on the road to utilize the shared lot on Three Mile Pond for \$100 annually. **MLS #1502562 \$325,000**

HALLOWELL-Beautiful In-Town Hallowell Ranch w/large landscaped, fenced yard- 0.63 acre. Enter the south facing sunporch into the brand-new kitchen w/Quartz counter tops, great storage & stainless appliances. Dining area flows to a welcoming LR- new flooring throughout. 2-3 BR, 1.5 BA and a large heated FR or office in the lower level w/half BA. Newer metal roof on house & garage. Freshly painted interior. Over size garage, blueberries, elderberries, and more. Come take a look. **MLS #1502531 \$229,900**

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Tuesday, August 10th @ 4 to 6 pm
The 7 Lakes Alliance Headquarters (formerly the MLRC)

Our featured speaker is Mr. David Rocque, retired State of Maine Certified Soil Scientist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. *Mr. Rocque has 35 years of experience and this workshop is a great opportunity to get free, common-sense advice on improving your septic resources for enhanced water quality.*

- How does a septic system work?
- How do you maintain it?
- How do you determine whether you are in an area of sensitive soils that can cause a "short circuit" where effluent goes into the lake?
- How do you find and inspect the biomat?

There will be time for your questions and answers. Please RVSP to Info@BlaMaine.org.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Belgrade Lakes Association
137 Main Street, PO Box 551
Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918
207-512-5150



Citizen Finds Invasive Curly-Leaf Pondweed In The Serpentine; Assessment Underway

Soon after learning how to identify invasive aquatic plants at a recent 7 Lakes Alliance training, a citizen volunteer, Bonnie Jones, spotted a suspicious-looking plant in The Serpentine, the waterway between East Pond and North Pond. 7 Lakes staff preliminarily identified the plant as the invasive curly-leaf pondweed. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) have confirmed that the suspicious plant is curly-leaf pondweed, an aggressive invasive species.

Curly-leaf pondweed, often described as looking like lasagna noodles, can grow in poor conditions such as tannic water, shade, high flow, low flow, and polluted water. It also grows in cold water where many other aquatic plants cannot grow. Plants were found in the area up to the dam at East Pond, but the full extent of the affected area is not yet known.

Next, senior invasive plant experts from the Maine Department of Environmental, Lake Stewards of Maine and 7 Lakes conducted a preliminary field survey, confirming multiple plants in the area. This team of invasive plant experts will work together in the coming weeks to fully assess the infestation in order to develop a management plan. Although 7 Lakes and East Pond Association volunteers did not find any curly-leaf pondweed in East Pond during a recent Invasive Plant Patrol, next steps will include another IPP on East Pond and another on North Pond.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors and Adopt-A-Shoreline participants throughout the Belgrade Lakes are now aware of the presence of this new and challenging invasive plant. They will be looking closely for it as well as for variable milfoil and any other invasive organisms. Volunteers will be needed.

The unfortunate discovery of curly-leaf pondweed in Belgrade Lakes waters verifies the constant and increasing threat of invasive plant infestations. It also underscores the critical role of citizen knowledge, awareness and vigilance in keeping our lakes safe.

As always, all boaters should follow steps to avoid the spread of invasives. These include checking for and removing all plants from all parts of boats, motors, and other gear; avoid areas with known infestations; thoroughly clean all gear of mud and algae; and drain live well, bilge water and engine water away from the body of water; and dry all gear. Please be aware of the presence of this new invasive in The Serpentine and especially careful for surveying crews. Learn about volunteer opportunities on Facebook and websites off 7 Lakes Alliance, East Pond Association and



Invasive curly-leaf pondweed. Photo: Sharon Mann, 7 Lakes.

North Pond Association.

More information about curly-leaf pondweed can be found at <http://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/mciap/herbarium/CurlyLeafPondweed.php>

You are invited to the BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION MEMBER RECEPTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8th, 2021
BELGRADE LAKES GOLF CLUB
4:00-6:00 PM

PROGRAM

SHORT BUSINESS MEETING	Carol Johnson BLA President
LOON PRESERVATION PROJECT	Lee Attix, BA Loon Conservation Specialist

Reception Catered by Hello, Good Pie Bakery & Gourmet Kitchen
Cash Bar Available

Meeting sponsored by Golden Pond Wealth Management

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL THE BLA OFFICE AT (207) 512-5150
OR E-MAIL info@blamaine.org BY AUGUST 1st, 2021



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MLS 1497887 \$275,000



LONG POND Iconic Maine lakes camp entirely rebuilt in 2018 and is grandfathered in just 48' to the water!

MLS 1495340 \$659,000



BELGRADE Nice building lot in the heart of Belgrade Lakes. This lot is a little under 5 acres.

MLS 1501758 \$55,000