

Summertime in the Belgrades

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

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 11



2023: Maine Is A Great Place To Be

by Esther J. Perne



Sunset over North Pond from Pine Tree Camp in Rome during the North Pond Association Annual Meeting. Photo by: Ethan Perne

2023: It was a renaissance summer. There were unrestricted camps for kids, and concerts, and families on outings, and dogs in tow and it was okay to be invaded by visitors because all of these traditions of summer are typically Maine and Maine is a great place to be in 2023.

Sure, it rained but there was confidence that locally the dam committee was watching the water levels and adjusting the dams and that statewide Maine was removed from the drought list.

Anyway there are things to do in the rain: laugh, eat, read, go to a lot of movies at the Maine International Film Festival and discover that lake water is warmer when swimming in the rain.

Events emerged or re-emerged just as good as ever - or better - with spectators and participation visibly ramped up. Some events continue into fall - don't miss them: agricultural fairs, public suppers, concerts, theater, spontaneous outings to a lake or trail, to fish or golf, to stroll a downtown and to just relax in the warm fall rays.

Of course, carryovers from the covid pandem-

ic remain, good ones: outdoors time and lots of it, distancing on a quiet trail, park, coves and respect for personal decisions about masks that made gatherings more possible.

Plans were possible again this summer, as in "next summer;" as in going to do, attempt, attend all the activities and recreation that bloom with this wonderful season; as in we have lived through and know how to cope with and recover from and hopefully not have to deal with something like covid again and, if we do, Maine is a great place to be.



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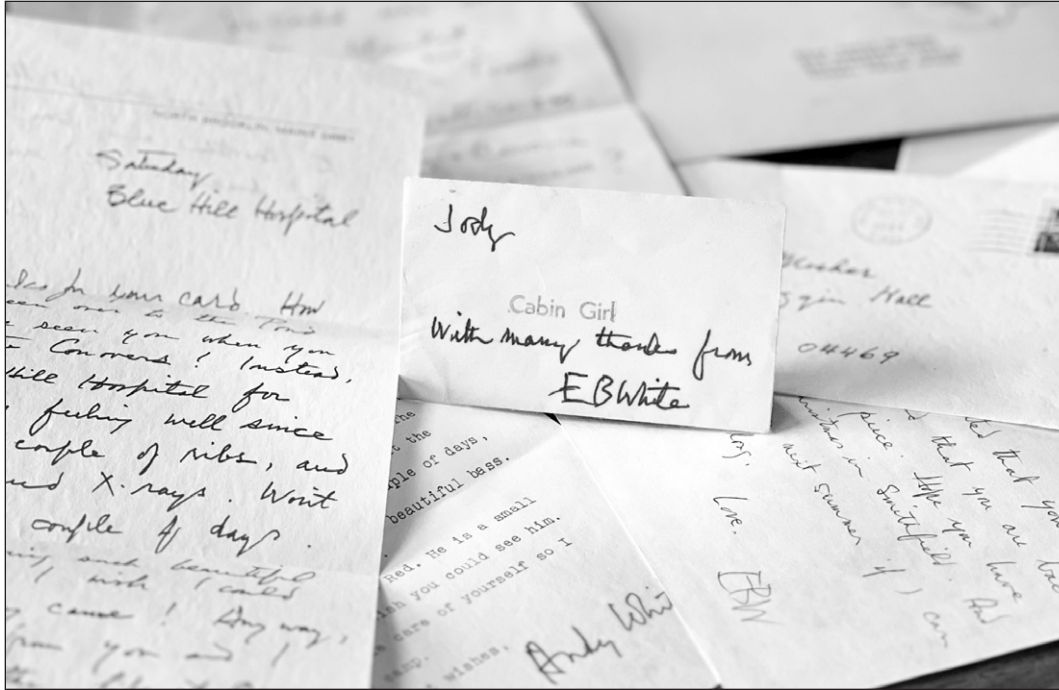


Cabin Girl

By Jodie Mosher-Towle

Having grown up on the south side of Smithfield on a side road off of Route 8 on what we used to call Pine Tree Camp Road, (because their big blue sign was the only marker years ago), it was not surprising I took a job working for Bear Spring Camps, which was about 3 miles away from my home. It was a September gig waiting tables to fill in for those going back to college. September guests enjoyed a more solitary stay with no families around and it was a perfect filler because I was in my late teens and still undecided concerning what I wanted to do or where I wanted to be. As luck would have it, the direction I was seeking would come from a guest at one of my tables.

Waiting on him in the dining room did not give me enough time to chat on a personal level but I did always manage to have a question or two prepared in case the opportunity arose where I could ask about his day, or how many fish he caught. I tried to never treat him any differently than any of my other guests even though I purposely gave him more of my attention. There were times I did manage to make him and other guests at my tables laugh with a bit of sarcasm in between serving and waiting on



them. This was particularly fun during and after the evening meal when from time to time he sat with his cabin neighbors, the very witty Mr. and Mrs. Conover from NJ. I loved when he had company to dine and laugh with.

Occasionally guests approached him after meals on their way back down to the lakeside cabins and he would kindly oblige. I vowed I would never ask anything of him and I never did, although he never seemed to mind signing books. I just wanted to be in his presence and not behave as a fan.

I shared with my family and friends, (most knew

harmless way!

After a busy May through August turning over cabins, September finally arrived. Cabin 29 was the cabin he always reserved and I procured it among the cabins I would be responsible for. His family, I learned, had a long history of staying at Bear Spring Camps. After his wife passed away, he began spending time on Great Pond again, always with his trusty canoe.

His editor, Corona, accompanied him and helped settle him in. I envied the time she got to

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End of Season Letter

Dear Summertimers:



Photo courtesy of Great Pond Marina

One of the best endings of the season is saying how much we appreciate everyone who helps make Summertime in the Belgrades such a success. We especially thank:

Summertime's readers: week after week it's hard to keep the shelves stocked. We especially appreciate the phone calls, emails and personal notes of thanks we receive.

Our advertisers, who guarantee the existence of Summertime in the Belgrades, who give our readers access to much-needed goods and services and who sign on year after year. Thank you.

The distribution sites which are the core of our weekly delivery rounds. We appreciate the welcome we receive and the space that is allocated for our readers to find the latest copy (and past ones, too) of Summertime in the Belgrades.

The delivery crew who load up their vehicles and head out to distribute 4,000 copies of Summertime in the Belgrades every week - in addition to the other busy lives they lead.

Our columnists: wow! Thank you to Martha Barkley who explores books and libraries and sends in reviews with marathon dedication; to Pete Kallin, who is the ultimate area ambassador for the outdoors, who constantly hikes and fishes and always "brings a kid along"; to the 7 Lakes Alliance, committed to improving and preserving this wonderful region by supplying outreach and educational articles; and to Dick Greenan who provides Summertime in the Belgrades with amazing loon photos and write-ups. Dick also chronicles the very popular report on the state of the dams.

And to our crew: a small team who accomplishes a lot.

And so, on to Fall. Fall is not the note upon which summer ends. It is a more invigorating version of summer: still swimmable, definitely hikeable, full of pickings - berries, produce, apples and finally pumpkins and a delightful transition from green surroundings to glorious foliage, from warm sunshine to warming woodfires.

May you have a good fall and winter...

The Summertime crew: Esther, Mike, Gregor, Corey and Ethan



Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • sumbelnews@gmail.com

Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • mo.breault@gmail.com

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

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LifeFlight Training for Emergency Landing



Event co-hosts LifeFlight and 7 Lakes Alliance staff and crew.



Field training to left, public to right.

In an uncommon partnership, 7 Lakes Alliance, a conservation organization that saves lakes and lands, and LifeFlight of Maine, the state's only air ambulance service that saves lives, recently teamed up to benefit the well-being of Belgrade Lakes communities.

On August 17, LifeFlight kicked off events with a no-cost Ground Safety and Users course at 7 Lakes. Emergency personnel from communities including Mt. Vernon, Belgrade and Rome learned or refreshed their training on critical procedures for an emergency scene helicopter landing that provides ICU-level care directly to the patient. This included when to call

LifeFlight and how to access their system, information needed by LifeFlight, how to create a safe landing zone from scratch, communications, and safety protocol around the helicopter.

The group then travelled to a field on a 119-acre 7 Lakes conservation property in Rome for field training with a live helicopter landing. Enthusiastic neighbors and community members watched in awe as a skilled LifeFlight crew landed an emergency-equipped helicopter in the field. As emergency staff and volunteers completed field training,

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spend with him in the canoe whenever I would see him push it off the shoreline before hopping in.

I doubted he would remember me, and why would he? It had been 11 months since our paths crossed. What I had not taken into consideration was that he would not be told the name of his cabin girl. After the first day I got a note written with pencil with two different styles of penmanship taped to the mirror in the bathroom starting with "Dear ?." They requested an extra blanket, some paper towels and ended with a "P.S. What's your name?" It was signed, Andy and Corona. Andy? Must be a nickname I thought to myself. The very next day I had the opportunity to introduce myself and he told me to call him Andy. I was hesitant but he insisted.

* * * * *

That was the beginning of a great month of chats with Andy. He told me he became Andy, as a freshman at Cornell University where every student named White, was nicknamed Andy after the first president, Andrew White. Andy, aka Elwyn Brooks White, was and is my all time favorite children's book author. Heck, at Smithfield Elementary School when I was in 3rd or 4th grade, instead of going out to our long lunch recess, teachers created mini courses for all of us. Winter was long and cold. I chose papier mache with Mrs. Hepburn. I remember being interviewed for TV sharing my spider I created named, yes, you guessed it, Charlotte, after the spider from my favorite book.

Naturally, I was sure to make his cabin my last stop each day so I could be there to converse with him and attempt to get to know him better without having to rush off to another cabin. I felt like any day I missed him in his cabin before I called it a day, was a missed opportunity for me to strike up a conversation. That spider story was one I shared with him. He, in turn, shared how he came up with the idea for Charlotte's Web, describing his barn in

Brooklin, his yard and his many animals from the past. He had his antique manual typewriter with him and it sat on a dark wooden desktop looking out toward the lake. He typed notes and letters to people every day. He was very inquisitive and asked me more questions than I could have ever imagined asking him. He became someone I trusted and he always seemed interested and really listened.

When he asked where I lived, I told him down the hill from Pine Tree Camp, the house with the animals in the dooryard or on the loose. And he laughed and said he knew exactly where I was talking about. In fact, he said he had to stop a time or two to let the goats cross the road! I was SO embarrassed but in the best way possible.

He questioned why I hadn't gone to college after high school and I told him about getting accepted into the University of Alaska, Fairbanks but had no idea how to go about actually making it happen. (In my next life, I will be a high school guidance counselor that does not think that every home has 2 parents that went to college who know how to help their children with scholarships and financial aid to go to college.) Which brings me to how I ended up flying out to Nevada and California to visit relatives and eventually attending the University of Maine, Orono.

EB White gave me a direction to take. Yup, little ol' me, he encouraged me to travel and to go to college. I can happily and proudly say he helped me become who I am today.

We corresponded via the USMail. Was I nervous that he would pick apart my writing style in letters I wrote? Heck, yeah! I supposed his rule to "omit needless words" from his revision of *The Elements of Style*, did not pertain to my letters! The two letters and one Christmas card I still have from him, bring me back to our conversations and how he really listened to me in Cabin 29. This excerpt is

from one of the first letters I received while on my extended stay in Nevada on October 25, 1983, "What a surprise to get a card from you! I have often thought about you out there in the West and wondered how your trip went—because I remembered that you were dreading the airplane ride." He mentioned the Conovers recently stayed overnight at this house in Brooklin before returning to their cabin, then home to NJ. He shared he had gotten a new dog named Red and he was "cute as a button." He ended with, "...and take care of yourself so I can see you again next summer in camp. All best wishes, Andy White."

The Christmas card from him in 1983 made me giggle as he signed it, "from EB White Cabin 29," like I would not know who EB White was without letting me know he stayed in Cabin 29! He added a personal note on the other side of the card stating he was delighted my trip was a success, wished me a wonderful Christmas in Smithfield and hoped to see me the next summer, signing it, "Love, EBW."

The final letter was hand written in September of 1984, a moment of concern crossed my mind because he should have been canoeing at camp. I was now living on campus as an official UMaine Black Bear where I received his note. He was in Blue Hill Hospital after a fall and his doctor ordered x-rays and wouldn't know anything for a couple of days. "We're having beautiful weather here! How I wish I could be in camp with my canoe! Anyway, it was good to hear from you and I hope you are liking life at Orono. If you get a chance, come to Brooklin and pay me a visit at my house." He gave me his phone number and ended the letter with, "Love, Andy White." The affection I felt reading "Love, Andy White," still makes me emotional today. I know he truly cared about me because he wrote back with genuine thoughtfulness every time I sent a letter. I know he trusted our friendship

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— Take It Outside —

See You Next Year

by Pete Kallin



LifeFlight crews and families atop "Jack's Rock." Mookie the dog searching for King Kababa.



LifeFlight helicopter.

Suddenly the days are getting a little shorter and I am noticing more swamp red maples beginning to turn red in the wetlands and birches turn yellow high on the hillsides. It is still quite warm during the day, but the nights are growing cooler. Like the birds and squirrels, I am double checking my summer "to do" list and trying to make sure everything gets done. I am amazed at how many things are still on the list. In addition to looking for mushrooms and elderberries when I hike, I find myself keeping my eyes peeled for



Bass in the surface layer feeding on alewives below.

grouse, deer, and turkey signs. Those seasons are rapidly approaching, and last year's venison supply is running low in the freezer. Both the loons and the bass and pike in the lakes are chasing large schools of baitfish (mostly landlocked alewives) and trying to build up fat reserves to get through the winter. Check out the screen shot from my fish finder below. The warm surface layer has plenty of oxygen to support the large bass but the deeper water is depleted of oxygen but has enough to support the large schools of small baitfish. You can watch the larger fish dive down to grab some lunch and then return to the surface layer to digest their meal. Fishing at the base of the layer, around 20 ft, with anything that looks like a minnow, will yield results.

Additionally, the loons with chicks (currently five on Long Pond) are teaching their offspring how to catch their own food. When the chicks are first born, the parents chew up fish and crayfish and basically regurgitate food morsels into their chicks' eager open mouths. The chicks grow rapidly, and the parents soon simply bring the chicks, still wriggling morsels, which the chicks grab hungrily. After a week or so of this routine, the parents simply drop the food in the water near the chicks and the chicks need to catch their food before it escapes. At the same time, the chicks are learning to dive underwater, which is a major step in evading airborne predators such as eagles. Soon the chicks are foraging for their own food alongside the parents. Over the next two months or so, the loons will molt, replacing their insulating down with feathers, and begin to learn to fly. Those chicks that learn to fly before the lake freezes over will head to the ocean for the winter and eventually return to the lake, usually after two years on the ocean.

Last week, 7 Lakes Alliance teamed with LifeFlight of Maine, an air ambulance service that provides emergency services in this area. LifeFlight provided



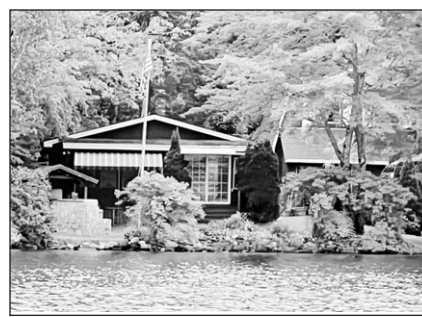
Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you next year.

ground safety training for local Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) at the 7 Lakes Building and then landed one of their helicopters on a 7 Lakes property near Drury Lane in Rome. Afterwards, I helped lead a hike at Mt Phillip for the families of some of the LifeFlight crews.

It is hard to believe that this is the final issue of "Summertime in the Belgrades" for this year. I

Continued on page 15...

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Calendar

Additions and changes to events, activities, outings, visits, etc. are welcome and appreciated. Email, call, or stop us on the street with ideas and information.

Thursday 8/24 - Sunday 8/27 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, nonstop entertainment, nonstop field pickin', large spectator tent, camping, 11 bands, concessions, www.blisteredfingers.com, Fairgrounds, Litchfield.

Thursday 8/24 - Mushroom Foraging Walk, 9 am, Fogg Island Preserve, Spring Hill Road, Mount Vernon.

Thursday 8/24 - Skowhegan Falls History Walk in Celebration of Skowhegan's Bicentennial, with local historian Melvin Burnham, 90-minutes, learn why Skowhegan Falls is an important historic district, 10 am, Benedict Arnold Park, behind the Federated Church, Island Avenue, Skowhegan.

Thursday 8/24 - "This Wild Land," Community Read author and Game Warden Andrew Vietze, author talk, 6 pm, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Street, Belgrade.

Friday 8/25-Sunday 8/27 - Madison Anson Days, large community celebration, food, contests, music, parade, boat tours on the Kennebec River, fireworks and more, Madison and Anson.

Through Saturday 8/26 - "Leading Ladies," comedy, 474-7176, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 8/25 - The Give Your Voice All-Stars, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 8/25 - The Porch Party Mamas, folk, country, Celtic and blues, 7 pm, Union Hall, 5 Vienna Mountain Road, Vienna.

Saturday 8/26 - Designing Women Fine Art and Craft Show, bridging art and community since 1991, to benefit The Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center in Winthrop, 9:30 am-4 pm, Longfellow's Greenhouse, Puddledock Road, Manchester.

Saturday 8/26 - Pie sale, all homemade, 10 am-12 noon, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

Sunday 8/27 - Monday 9/4 - Windsor Fair, one of Maine's largest agricultural fairs, daily entertainment, huge exhibit of farm animals, harness racing, pulling events, food, exhibits and more.

Sunday 8/27 - Village Green Craft Fair, 9 am-2 pm, rain or shine, Village Green, Main Street and West Road, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/27 - Keiyana, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 8/27 - Sunday Project, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 8/28 - Western Maine Foothills Band, Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown

Farmington.

Tuesday 8/29 - Maine Apple History with John Bunker, Sidney Historical Society, 6 pm, Memorial Hall, Oakland.

Tuesday 8/29 - Calypso Soldiers, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Thursday 8/31 - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Thursday 8/31 - The Magnie Fam-Family, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/31 - Kennebec on Fire, sculptures highlighting the arts and the Kennebec River, 7:30-9 pm, Kennebec River, Skowhegan.



Seeking Kidney Donor

Friends and family of Monmouth resident Mike Snow are seeking a possible kidney donor for Mike. Born with one kidney, which is rapidly failing, Mike, age 60, is in need of a transplant. Mike worked for the State of Maine for over 25 years until having to take early medical retirement last year.

Potential donors interested in being screened can contact the Maine Transplant Center (662-7180). Mike has a facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/shareyourspareforMike>



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Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass (PA) T
Katahdin Valley Boys (ME) T Dave Adkins Band (KY) S
Larry Efaw & The Bluegrass Mountaineers (OH) F, S
Deeper Shade Of Blue (NC) F Back Woods Road (ME) F, S
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Children 16 & under Free with adult
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July 20// Denny Breau
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—

Community Chorus Seeks New Singers

by Gregor Smith



Photo by Marti Stone Photography



Dr. Néviton Barros. Photo by Marti Stone Photography

The Colby-Kennebec Choral Society (CKCS) invites all interested singers to join for its fall program “Canções D’Além Mar,” or “Songs from Across the Sea.” Rehearsals start on Tuesday, September 12, and will continue on Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., in the new Gordon Center for the Performing Arts at Colby College in Waterville. The performance will be held on Saturday, November 20, in the Gordon Center’s 300-seat concert hall.

The chorus will sing nine works, each from a different land and in a different language. According to the choir’s director, Dr. Néviton Barros, “The captivating choir program transports listeners to a mesmerizing realm where foreign languages interweave harmoniously, creating a tapestry of cultural diversity through song.”

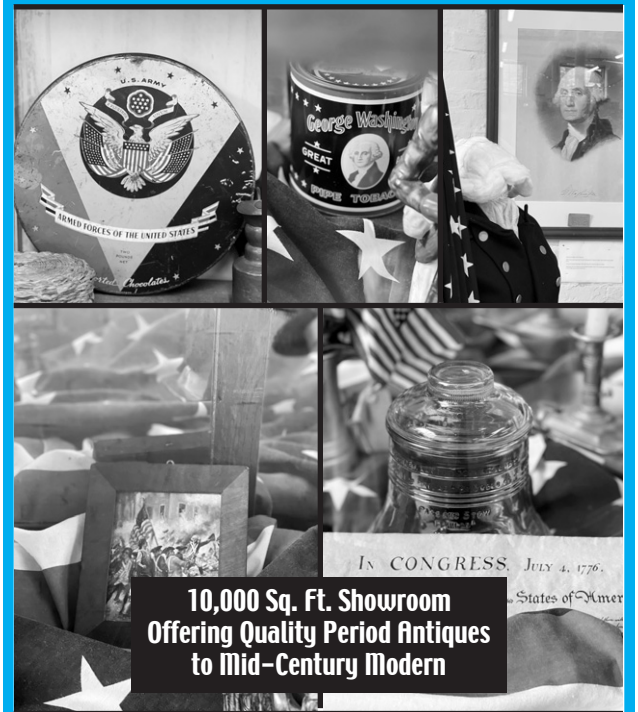
The centerpiece of the program is Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez’s 23-minute *Misa Criolla*, or “Creole Mass,” which uses a Spanish translation of the traditional Latin text of the Catholic mass. Continuing with Dr. Barros’s description, “With its roots in Latin American folk traditions, the *Misa Criolla* infuses sacred liturgy with vibrant rhythms and melodies, evoking a sense of spiritual fervor and unity. Adorned with indigenous instruments and lush choral arrangements, Ramirez’s composition captures the essence of devotion and celebration, offering a captivating glimpse into the rich musical heritage of foreign lands.”

Founded in the 1960s, CKCS is a four-part (SATB) community chorus that performs both classical and contemporary works. At present, it has four dozen members. Singing with Colby’s two student choral ensembles, CKCS currently prepares two programs per year: a concert of short works of diverse styles and eras but with a common theme in November and a choral masterwork with the Colby Symphony Orchestra and professional soloists in late April or early May. Last spring’s masterwork was Schubert’s *Stabat Mater*; next spring, it will be Beethoven’s monumental *Symphony No. 9*.

Dr. Barros is starting his second year directing the chorus. He was trained in both his native Brazil and the U.S., culminating with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Louisiana State University. He has served as Assistant Director to the Coro Sinfônico Comunitário UnB in Brasília, Brazil and to the Coro Nacional del Perú in Lima, Peru and as Musical Director for the International Brazilian Opera Company in New York City and for Grace Baptist Church of Christ, in Brooklyn, N.Y. Currently, he directs not only the Choral Society but also the two student ensembles, the Colby College Chorale and the Colby Collegium.

The Choral Society is always seeking new singers of all ages and all voice parts. Tenors and basses are particularly welcome, and high school students are especially encouraged to join. Neither prior experience nor an audition is needed. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required. Learning tracks and printed scores will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Barros (he/him/his), at nbarros@colby.edu or 859-5680.

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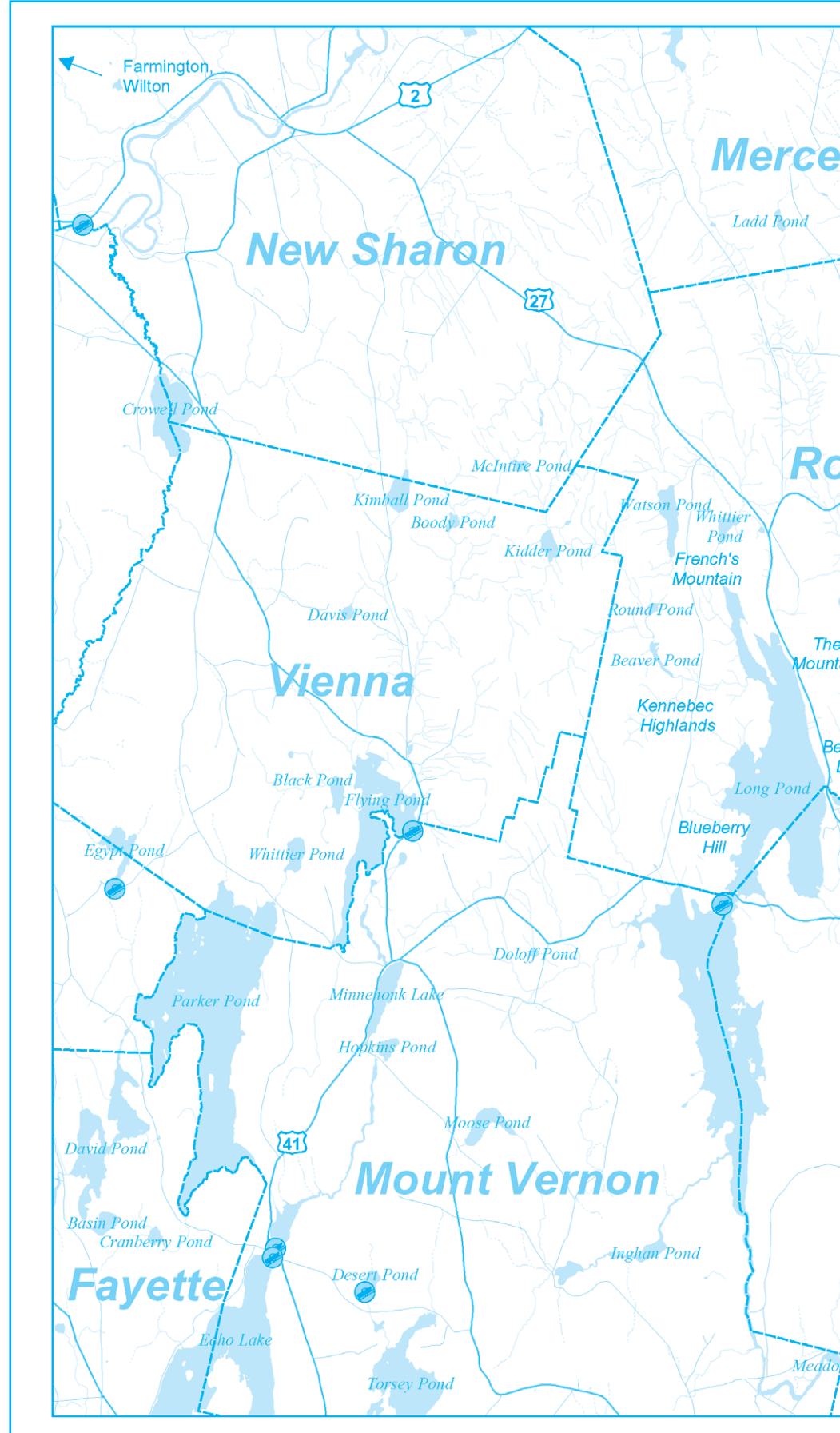


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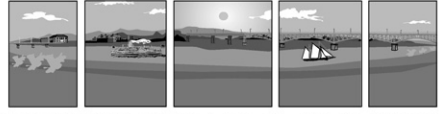
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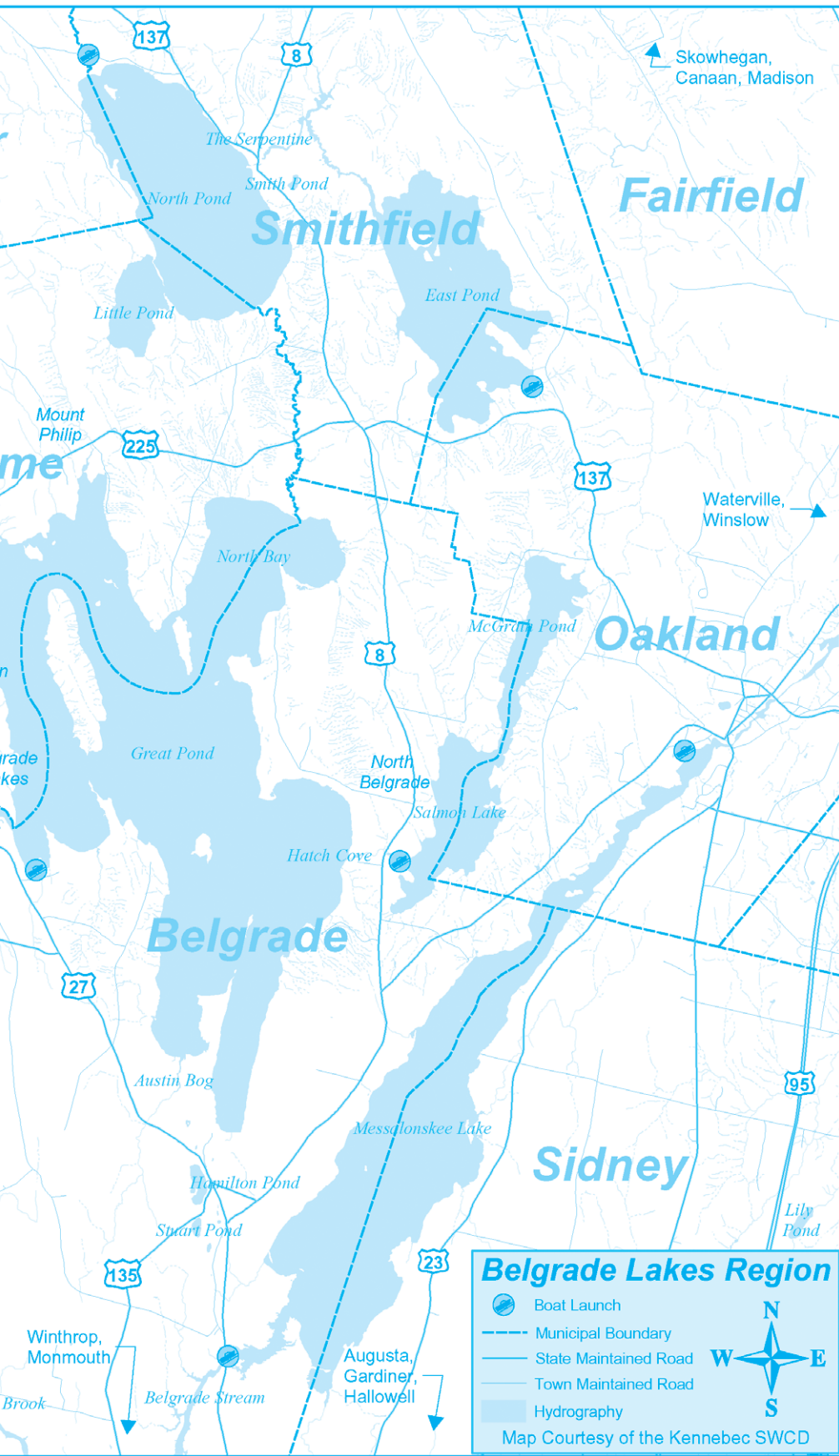


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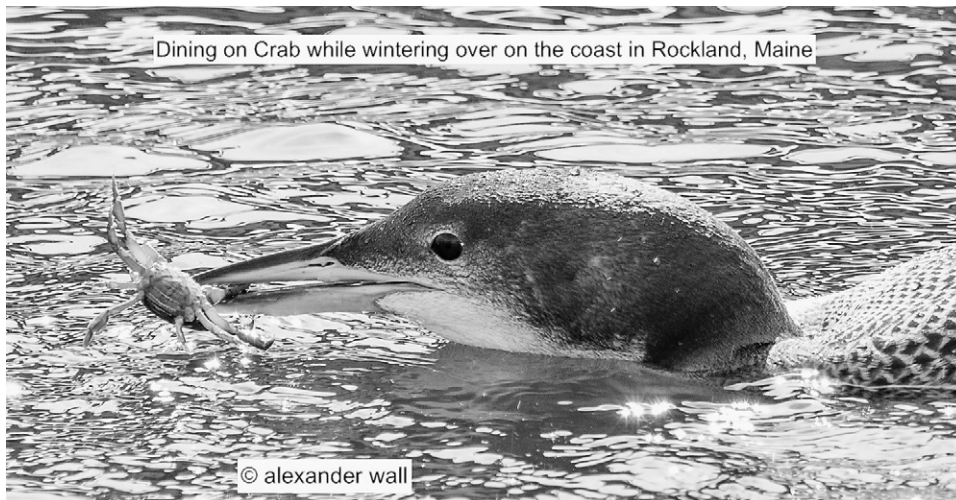
Note the bands and the two primary flight feathers that were clipped for analysis during the banding procedure. (The flight feathers will all be replaced in the early Spring!)



Our mystery loon in the middle of a call. Note the distended throat!

more variable temperatures become the norm. For instance, a warm fall followed by a cold snap could leave loons trapped in the ice. Or, abnormally cold temperatures earlier on could induce a premature migration. In fact, on a survey yesterday, we encountered a banded adult whose unique color combination was different from any in our banding records. Could this visitor be a migrating bird? We aren't sure. Varying temperatures is just one of the many possible dangers that a changing climate poses to loons, and it will be important to monitor.

The birds that face the largest hurdles are the chicks. If they do manage to survive the summer, they must migrate, often alone, to the coast. While many chicks reach a comfortably large size with time to spare, the last chicks hatching at the end of July and even the first week of August will be considerably smaller. If a loon chick isn't mature enough to fly by the time the lakes freeze, it won't survive.



Dining on Crab while wintering over on the coast in Rockland, Maine

© alexander wall

of the lake they hatched on. If you are bound for the coast this winter- Atlantic or Pacific- keep an ear out for loons.

Brynne Robbins, Colby College Loon Project Intern

As this is our final "Call of the Loon" column for this season, I want to Thank Esther, Michael and Gregor, and the rest of the Summertime in the Belgrades staff for their support this past summer. I also want to thank all of you for your care and support of our cherished loon population. It has been my sincere pleasure to be just a part of this project.

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



As fall approaches, many seasonal residents button up their camps and begin their migration to warmer climates. The loons are no exception. Loons spend summers on lakes such as these, and winters on the open ocean. This exodus begins as early as mid-August for some birds, and stretches to November for others. Adults with chicks, unsurprisingly, tend to stay later. The cutoff date, and when lingering birds find themselves in trouble, is when ice first skins over the water. This is because loons need a considerable amount of open water to act as a runway in order to take flight. They're strong fliers once airborne; some loons migrate thousands of miles to their wintering grounds, resting on lakes along their path.

Loons, like many animals, use climate cues to determine the correct time to migrate. This poses an issue as warmer and

more variable temperatures become the norm. For instance, a warm fall followed by a cold snap could leave loons trapped in the ice. Or, abnormally cold temperatures earlier on could induce a premature migration. In fact, on a survey yesterday, we encountered a banded adult whose unique color combination was different from any in our banding records. Could this visitor be a migrating bird? We aren't sure. Varying temperatures is just one of the many possible dangers that a changing climate poses to loons, and it will be important to monitor.

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When loons finally reach the ocean, they congregate in large groups called rafts. They'll spend winter here, in their mottled brown winter plumage. Chicks will remain on the ocean for the first 4-5 years of their life, until they reach breeding age. Then, they'll migrate back to the general area



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Wednesday - Fairfield Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, 81 Main Street, Nazarene Church Parking Lot, 81 Main Street.

Thursday - Downtown Waterville Farmers Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls and Riverwalk.

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

Saturday - Fairfield Farmers' Market, 9:30 am-1:30 pm, 81 Main Street, Nazarene Church Parking Lot, 81 Main Street.

Saturday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, in front of Court House, Main Street.

Saturday - Hallowell Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, Steven's Commons.

Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Grist Mill.

Saturday - Wayne Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, on the Green at Mill Pond.

Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market, 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

...Continued from page 4

LifeFlight crew members showed the state-of-the-art helicopter to visitors and shared LifeFlight's mission. with excited visitors of all ages. To complete the day, hikers climbed nearby Mount Phillip in support of the LifeFlight Foundation's Crossing event, a fundraiser that supports LifeFlight's lifesaving services.

The day's events were both interesting and educational. "Preparedness goes a long way to keep people safe while they enjoy the spectacular conservation lands in our region." said Noah Pollock, 7 Lakes Alliance Land Conservation Director. "But should someone need aid, we're grateful for our knowledgeable and dedicated local first responders and, if needed, the critical care services of LifeFlight."

Future collaboration will help add more official landing sites, including in remote areas near the Kennebec Highlands. Pollock also noted that 7 Lakes will in the coming weeks offer opportunities to learn about safety while enjoying the outdoors, including hiking safety during hunting season.

New Parking Lot for Belgrade Lakes

It's a vision come true for Belgrade Lakes Village: more parking for shoppers, walkers, event-goers and folks who aren't sure they want to get the squeeze from 18-wheelers.

It's a mission accomplished for the Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village who have spent several years and many meetings enhancing the downtown with brick sidewalks, lampposts, benches and bike racks and seeking a parking lot site.

Two weeks ago the vision and the mission became reality. The Friends put the lot at 32 Main Street (in back of the Village Green) - currently with a storage unit building on site - under contract to close January 31, 2024 and are ready to start work February 1st.

They hope to have the new parking lot ready for next summer. It's an addition to the Village for everyone to enjoy, thanks to the Friends for Belgrade Lakes Village.

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Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-1471

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

Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com

Stephanie Yeaton, Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND TRAILER STORAGE

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

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

STORAGE

Fieldstone Storage, by appointment only, 270 Summer Street, Oakland, 314-5523, FieldStoneStorage.com

SURVEYING

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

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WINE AND SPIRITS

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



The Dams Keeper Report

Well, this is our final Dams Keeper Report for the season. Whoever said that "Summer in Maine is nothing but two weeks of bad sledding" isn't too far off the mark! It seems like summer should be getting longer with all of that global warming but here we are regardless – once again!

We are still recovering from the deluge two weeks ago but all is finally getting back to what-ever covers for 'normal' nowadays! As of this writing, Great Pond has fortunately come down to just 1.8" above full pond with its primary gate opened 3'. Long Pond's Wings Mill Dam is currently at 5.4" below full but upper Long Pond is, as of this morning, 4" ABOVE full. So, you can appreciate how long it takes to move these flooding waters downstream with so many choke

points such as Castle Island and Spaulding Bridge in its path. Salmon/McGrath is still in good shape right at 0.84" above full. And our neighbors on Messalonskee are right at 4.08" below full which is great considering all of the water that has been sent their way.

The 2023-24 Fall/Winter Lake Drawdown calls for Great and Long Ponds to be drawn down to 1.5'-2.0' and Salmon down to 1.0'-1.5' by November 1st. Weather permitting, the draw-downs usually begin after the October 15th weekend to give everyone time to take that last boat ride of the season! You can access the 2023-24 Fall/Winter Drawdown Schedule this fall on your town's website.

Enjoy what's left of The Summer of 2023 and your Vacation! I hope it's been a memorable one. It has been for us. Thank you and see you next Summer!

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



Meet the Makers 2023: Woodworking Event



On Saturday, September 9, 9 am-4 pm, David Lancaster, 380 Fogg Road, Mount Vernon will be hosting a one-day unplugged woodworking event at his timber framed foot powered shop - featuring a collection of tools from the late 1800s.

The event will include a dozen of the best craftsmen in their respected fields simultaneously working throughout the day, scattered outside around Lancaster's foot powered barn. Guests are invited to observe what is involved in making an item by hand.

The presenters are masters of their crafts: riving wood with a froe; making spindles on the shaving horse; carving a Windsor seat; weaving a hickory bark seat; making a broom; steam bending and shaping a continuous arm; bowl turning on a pole lathe; and forging a carving axe on a coal forge. Lancaster will be making chair legs on the barn's foot powered lathe as well as giving tours of the shop.

The presenters include:

- Nick Rossi, American Bladesmith Society Mastersmith
- Andy Glen, chairmaker, teacher and author
- David Whight, long-time chairmaker
- Jeff Schultz, chairmaker from California
- Steve Smith, hand hewn beams
- Eric McIntire, spoon carving, broom making
- Zachery Chrisinger, spring pole lathe
- Lanny Wiley and John Sherman, traditional joinery
- Tim Plaven, handsaw sharpening
- David Lancaster, foot powered tool and museum tours
- Dave Dostie, photo journalist

Although the event is not a craft show, the participants may have items for sale.





Summer Revelations

by Martha F. Barkley

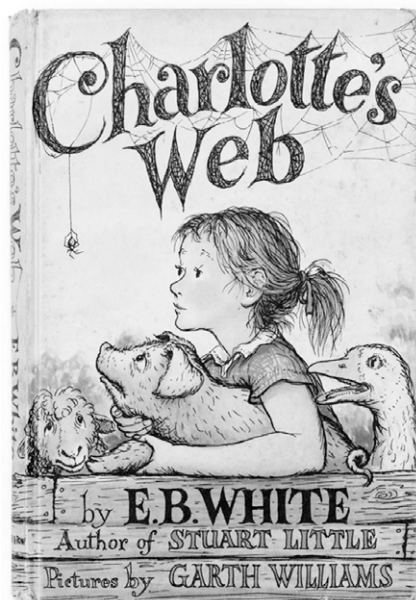
How good to read Paul Dorian's novel about murder at Great Pond, floating arm at night and all! This popular author apparently stayed at Bear Springs Camp at the Mosher farm a few years ago.

What a great introduction to the E.B. White lore around the lake. Whisperwood fishing camp on Salmon Lake has its own lore as well. Walkers trod the short road to the railroad depot on Snow Pond where hundreds of summer travelers from NY disembarked for month long visits by a lake nearby. Many to the Seventh Day Adventist religious campgrounds, still in operation today.

It was 1906 when E.B. White was only six, that his entire family and servants spent the month of August at several rental cottages on the Mosher farm and later Snug Harbor cottages. Their many trunks required multiple residences.

Every summer the long June and July days were endured by the young White in Mount Vernon, NY. His essay, "Once More to the Lake," was revised 40 times as the young man grew into a New Yorker magazine journalist and then a coast of Maine year round farm owner where "Charlotte's Web" was created for children around the globe.


The fish are hopping at Salmon Lake where I finally discovered the magic



of Maine at the lake like Paul Dorian experienced at Bear Springs. Nothing like a dining room full of fish tales at every meal.

Also, Woodlands Camp is where I have walked every summer in the last three decades. Finding Ernest Thompson's childhood summer place and visiting his mother and Charlie were added bonuses. They even came to visit our home by Girls Camp Runoia. Finding Judge Crater's gazebo still standing and hearing about canoe trips by the judge with neighbor Thompson was fun. Paul Dorian discovered for me the evening sunset blowing of the conch shells!

Yes, they do that over there on that cove on Great Pond. Rod Johnson starts the evening sound and then neighbors chime in with their conch shells or other sound devices.

Isn't it exhilarating to discover around the lake new delights? I swear the neighbor jumped off his dock, but no, it was an osprey snagging a fish for the nest full of youngsters way up yonder. And watch those bald eagles. When pike or pickerel are caught and killed, throw the carcass out and see eagles swoop in before they hit the water: Salmon Lake at its best. 

...Continued from page 4


because he invited me to his home.

Little did I know that would be the last time he personally answered my letters. As I was anxiously and excitedly waiting to get a confirmed date to visit him, I received a typed note dated October 12, 1984. I was thrilled to get a letter back soon. "Dear Jodie, Mr. White has asked me to write and tell you that he was awfully glad to get your letter saying that you can come visit him, but that he is temporarily unable to entertain visitors. He's sorry to put off your visit and will write you himself when he's feeling better. P.S. He enjoyed your pretty card, too." As saddened and disappointed as I was to read those words, I continued to write to him to cheer him up, keep him up to date about my studies, share any lake news and let him know I was thinking about him.

It honestly never occurred to me, until writing this, that he could quite possibly be receiving a daily mailbag full of correspondence from family, friends and well wishers from around the world. When I received personalized notes replying to things I shared in my letters to him, I knew in my heart that he knew I cared about him and I knew he cared about me. He did not have to ever write back to me, he chose to. His personal secretary never had to reply to my if you have ever received one, probably lengthy letters, or share that she read them to him. She sent me the following note dated February 22, 1985. "Dear Jodie: I'm responding to your letter to Mr. White...he does enjoy having lively letters such as yours read to him. He wishes you well in your twenty-first birthday year and in your university studies. And yes, hearing your letter did make him smile, and he thanks you."

He died in October 1985, suffering from Alzheimer's disease along with a steady decline in his physical health. Coincidentally enough, I was in Technical Writing class when my professor let the class know he passed away. He said a

few words about the writer, what he meant to the world of writing and the influence in his own life. I slowly got up to leave and as I went by my professor's desk, I looked at him and said, "He was all that to the world, but to me, he was my friend."

And I am confident he thought the same of me. 

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Longfellow's Greenhouse

Manchester, Maine

9:30-4:00

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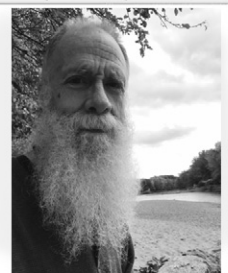
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— Real Estate Update —

The Quintessential Maine Lakehouse

In real estate marketing we use a lot of adjectives and phrases to describe the homes we are selling. A perfectly placed adjective can often attract the imagination of a potential buyer and sway them into contacting us. Using the right descriptive words allows us to tell a story and touch the emotion of a potential buyer.

One of the phrases used on a Maine cabin on the lake is “Quintessential Maine Lakehouse”. For most of us, this phrase creates a mental image of a quaint rustic lakeside retreat, something you see in the movie *On Golden Pond*. Here is what this term means to us:

A quintessential Maine lakehouse typically embodies the rustic charm and outdoor lifestyle associated with the State of Maine. Here are some key features and characteristics that are often associated with a quintessential Maine lakehouse:

Location by a Lake: An important feature of a Maine lakehouse is its proximity to a picturesque lake. The Belgrade Lakes Region has numerous pristine lakes, and a quintessential lakehouse is situated right on the waterfront, offering stunning views and direct access to the water.

Wooden Construction: Maine lakehouses often have a rustic and cozy feel, with wooden construction inside and out. Log cabins or wood sided cottages are common architectural styles.

Large Windows and Decks: To take full advantage of being on a lake a typical feature is large windows facing the water. Spacious decks or porches are also common, providing outdoor living spaces for relaxation, dining, and enjoying the fresh air.

A Screened Porch: Given Maine's bug-filled summers, many lakehouses

have a screened porch where you can enjoy the outdoors without being bothered by insects. Many of these furnished with rocking chairs and a table to build a puzzle.

Stone Fireplaces: A stone fireplace, is a classic feature of Maine lakehouses. It not only adds warmth and comfort but also enhances the cozy atmosphere.

Rustic Furnishings: The interior of a Maine lakehouse is usually decorated with rustic furnishings, many passed down through generations. Think wooden furniture, plaid upholstery, and a cabin-like aesthetic.

Wildlife and Nature: The surrounding natural environment is a big part of the appeal. A quintessential Maine lakehouse provides opportunities to see and hear the loons, view a bald eagle soaring above and enjoying the changing seasons.

Local Materials and Crafts: Incorporating local materials and artisanal crafts into the decor and design can enhance the Maine feel of the lakehouse. This might include using locally sourced stone for the fireplace or displaying hand-made Maine crafts.

Local décor: Incorporating local elements, like artwork by Maine artists, antique fishing gear, paddles, signs or antique waterskis, can add an authentic touch to the lakehouse.

Remember that the specific features and style of a Maine lakehouse can vary greatly, as personal preferences and architectural designs differ. However, these elements capture the essence of what many people envision when they think of a quintessential Maine lakehouse.

Let a real estate professional help you find your Quintessential Maine Lakehouse.



Designing Women Fine Art & Craft Show Returns to Manchester to Kick Off Their 2023 Show Season

Designing Women, a non-profit volunteer organization that celebrates and highlights local female artisans and works to support local nonprofits, will hold their 16th annual, juried fine art and craft show at Longfellow's Greenhouses, located at 81 Puddledock Road in Manchester, on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 9:30am through 4:00pm.

Eighteen of northern New England's most talented lady artisans will celebrate the end of summer with a whimsical and intimate show that will help support Winthrop's Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. This annual show will feature beautifully handcrafted jewelry, display quality yet functional pottery, clothing, handmade soaps and body care, and much more! There will also be several Maine Mystery writers with books to peruse and sign and light luncheon items available for purchase. Designing Women's Manchester show is a spectacular way to support your community and local artisans, shop Longfellow's end-of-the-season sales, and help support SACSC. The suggested \$2 door donation and all lunch/refreshment proceeds will be collected and utilized by Winthrop's Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center.

For additional information regarding Designing Women's upcoming show in Manchester, Maine, please contact Mary Kay Spencer at The Potter's House at 207-582-7985 or visit Designing Women's website at <http://www.designing-women.org> or Facebook and Instagram pages.

About Designing Women – Designing Women is a nonprofit volunteer corporation established by female artisans from New England in 1991 to bridge art and the community by sponsoring shows that benefit local nonprofit services that support women and families.

About the Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center – Providing free and confidential services to Kennebec and Somerset counties, The Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center is a non-profit corporation based in Winthrop, Maine. Services include working to lessen the trauma-related suffering of sexual assault and to promote healing by guiding those affected by sexual vio-

lence toward survival through support, advocacy, education and community collaboration. For more information, please visit <http://www.silentnomore.org>.



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...continued from page 5

hope this column has inspired some of you to get out and explore the outdoor recreation opportunities the region has to offer, and I hope you took a kid or two along. Until next year, I encourage everyone to “Take it Outside.” For those who will be around during the fall, get on some of the trails to view the foliage. It can be truly breathtaking. For those of you who will be around for the winter, I encourage you to join me on the local trails on snowshoes or skis. The local trails look completely different in the winter with the foliage gone. Carpe skiem!





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