

# Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 5

## Maine International Film Festival: Week One

by Gregor Smith



The *Boat Inspector* is set at a boat launch on North Pond in Smithfield.



Bowdoinham-based Carlo....and His Merry Band of Artiists:.

Looking for entertainment and enrichment in July? Look no further than the 27th annual Maine International Film Festival! Organized by the Maine Film Center, MIFF will present over 100 films (features + shorts) over ten days, July 12–21. You'll be able to see a wide range of new independent films from Maine and beyond, both fiction and nonfiction. The festival will also present achievement awards to two internationally renowned movie directors.

This year will be MIFF's sophomore season in the Maine Film Center's new home on the second floor of the Paul J. Schupf Art Center at 93 Main Street in Waterville. All festival screenings will take place in the Maine Film Center's three screening rooms and in the Waterville Opera House, which is linked to the Schupf Center by an enclosed skywalk.

In this article, we'll discuss the highlights for the festival's first seven days. (We'll talk about its closing weekend next week.) These highlights include premiere screenings of four Maine-themed feature films and presentations of Lifetime and Midlife Achievement Awards to directors Jos Stelling and Mary Harron, respectively. Except where otherwise noted, the screenings described below take place in the Waterville Opera House and start at 7:00 p.m.

The festival opens at 6:30 on Friday, July 12, at the Waterville Opera House with the Maine premiere of *Every Little Thing*, a lyrical documentary about a woman living in the hills above Los Angeles whose calling is to rescue injured and abandoned hummingbirds. Following the screening, you can stroll down to Head of Falls to hear Portland septet Rustic Overtones perform at the

first Waterville Rocks concert of 2024.


The next night, at 7:00, you'll be able to watch the world premiere of the first of four Maine feature films. *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* is a dramatization of the endearing and enduring true tale of 12-year-old Donn Fendler, who was lost for nine days in the wilderness of Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak, in 1939. (Unlike most festival feature films, *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* will be shown only once, so be sure not to miss it!)

Although Fendler's story of survival is much known and much loved in Maine, *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* is the only one of the four Maine movies not to be filmed in the Pine Tree State. Still, besides the story itself, the film has other strong Maine connections: Waterville native Ryan Cook and fellow Central Mainer Derek Desmond are pro-

*Continued on page 2*

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July 12-21, 2024  
Tickets and Passes available  
[MIFF.ORG](http://MIFF.ORG)





Continued from page 1

ducers on the film — they also co-directed a documentary, *Finding Donn Fendler: Lost on a Mountain in Maine 72 Years Later*, which screened to acclaim at MIFF in 2011 — and Camden native Caitlin FitzGerald (*The Trial of the Chicago 7*, *It's Complicated*, and *Masters of Sex*) stars as Donn Fendler's mother.

On Sunday, you can see the U.S. premiere of the festival's first made-in-Maine feature, *Carlo...and His Merry Band of Artists*. This documentary explores the life and legacy of Bowdoinham artist and art activist Carlo Pittore (1943-2005). His story is revealed through casual conversation around a picnic table by some of his closest friends and artistic colleagues, including Central Mainers Natasha Mayers, Herb Hartman, Abby Shahn, Pam Smith, and Kathy Bradford.

On Monday, MIFF takes a break from screening Maine features to present its Lifetime Achievement Award to Dutch director Jos Stelling, who will turn 79 during this year's festival. This will actually be Stelling's second Lifetime award; his first was in 1999. According to MIFF Programming Director Ken Eisen, Stelling's "absolutely unique directorial style has graced theaters and festivals from Cannes to Venice with a pioneering blend of humor, imagery, and surrealism."



*Daliland*, directed by Mary Harron, stars Ben Kingsley



Although many of Stelling's distinctive films were shown at the former Railroad Square Cinema, MIFF's former home, only one Stelling film will be shown at this year's festival, *Natasja's Dance*. In this North American premiere of what Stelling claims will be his final opus, a former ballerina persuades a lonely man to travel with her to her native Russia.

A day later, Canadian director Mary Harron, who is just seven and a half years younger than Stelling, will receive MIFF's Midlife Achievement Award. According to a MIFF press release, Harron's "storied career in film and television has yielded a catalogue of compelling stories that challenge their viewers with psychologically complex, often unsettling characters, but offer tremendous reward in their clever visuals, wit, and genuine human insight."

The award presentation will accompany a screening of her latest film, *Daliland* (2022), in which Ben Kingsley portrays iconoclastic painter Salvador Dali. MIFF will also present her *Charlie Says* (2018), in which a graduate student tries to deprogram three imprisoned female followers of Charles Manson; *The Moth Diaries* (2011), in which a sinister, new student who might be a vampire upsets a longtime friendship at a cloistered girls' boarding school; and social

...Continued on page 14

Vienna Historical Society  
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at the  
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Friday, July 26 @ 7 PM  
Saturday, July 27 @ 2 PM and 7 PM  
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Summer Ritual Market  
Sunday, July 14th, 10am-4pm



Ritual market is a high vibe, eclectic market hosted in the Kennebec valley that features a rotating variety of vendors and their offerings. We host multiple events a year to offer a supportive, welcoming environment to connect and allow vendors to share their products with the public. Our goal is to cultivate a space that transcends traditional marketplaces, fostering connection, inclusivity, and a celebration of diverse talents where vendors and visitors alike can engage and create lasting connections. Our mission goes beyond commerce; it is rooted in the belief that the act of making and sharing creates bonds that transcend the average shopping experience."

The biggest and busiest Ritual Market of the year is back in Gardiner and even better this year! Sixty plus vendors, food trucks, live music, interactive workshops and kids activities, yoga and other classes/offerings, and more will all take place along the Kennebec River in Gardiner's beautiful Waterfront Park. This location is beautiful and right in Historic Downtown Gardiner - just a short walk away from some amazing restaurants and shops!

For event information and updates visit <https://www.ritualmaine.com/pages/ritual-market> follow on Facebook. The rain date will be Sunday, July 21st from 10am-4pm if inclement weather is an issue.

Yoga on the Boardwalk at  
Summer Ritual Market 2024  
10am-11am

Come join Kim Nixon for a special Yoga on the Boardwalk class at the Summer Ritual Market event! This gentle yoga class is suitable for all bodies - from beginners and seniors to seasoned yoga practitioners. No previous yoga experience required. Please plan to bring your own yoga mat. Additional props optional.

Preregistration required. This class is limited to 18 students with a registration fee of \$15. Drop ins will be allowed only if the spots don't fill by preregistration, so register soon: [www.kimnixon yoga.com/register](http://www.kimnixon yoga.com/register). 30% of the proceeds for this class will be donated to Kennebec Valley Humane Society.

The rain date for Gardiner Ritual Market is the following Sunday, so in the event of rain, this class will be held on the following week as well (7/21/24 at 10:00.)

For information or questions, please contact Kim Nixon through FB messenger or at [kimnixon yoga@gmail.com](mailto:kimnixon yoga@gmail.com).

Summertime in the Belgrades

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## Maine has proclaimed July as Lakes Appreciation Month

7Lakes was pleased to join with Maine Lakes and other lake advocates across the state in urging Maine's Governor to recognize how vital our lakes are and to support to the fullest extent possible, lake protection efforts, funding and programming. We are happy to share that Governor Mills has officially proclaimed July to be Lakes Appreciation Month in the state of Maine. (see 7lakes alliance.org) This proclamation recognizes the immense value these lakes provide us today, from recreational resources to wildlife habitat. Importantly, the proclamation highlights the recent finding from a study at the University of Maine documenting the value of Maine's lakes at over \$14.1 billion.

Lakes Appreciation Month should inspire us all to learn more about lake health and ways to get involved with lake protection efforts. These include invasive aquatic plant ID workshops and plant paddles offered at 7 Lakes. Other volunteer opportunities include water quality monitoring and courtesy boat inspections. Another important action to save our lakes is through land conservation and land stewardship. By working with 7 Lakes, individuals can conserve land which is the most impactful and cost effective way to protect our lakes. Finally, the LakeSmart program helps individual land owners do their part in saving our lakes by taking simple steps, such as planting a buffer garden and maintaining septic systems. Many are surprised to learn that septic systems that were installed before 1974 can be a major source of pathogens and nutrients that feed algae in our lakes.

Our lakes are the lifeblood of our region and 7 Lakes Alliance works year-round to protect all seven lakes that comprise the Belgrade Lakes watershed. This work includes combating invasive aquatic plants, monitoring and restoring water quality, conserving land that protects the lakes, stopping algae-fueling erosion that causes green lakes, and helping people learn about lake-friendly living. We are grateful to the many generous people and partners who support our work to keep our lakes healthy.

The friendly and professional staff at 7 Lakes would love to answer any questions and discuss ways to get involved. Please call or stop in to see us at the 7 Lakes Building on Main Street in Belgrade Lakes. Together, our efforts are having a meaningful impact!



*Annual  
Beanhole Bean Supper  
at  
Belgrade Community Center  
The Center for All Seasons  
Saturday, August 3  
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Baked Beans, Rolls, Hotdogs,  
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## Memories and Tidbits from the Belgrade Historical Society

Submitted by BHS member Rod Johnson

This week I would like to share the 2 attached photos of Belgrade's Catholic Church, located on Route 27 (Main Steet) in Belgrade Lakes village and built some 111 years ago. In addition to the BHS photos, please enjoy the complete history of church's existence, as written by Mary Alter

in 2013. Mary is the granddaughter of J.L. McCormack.

Today as we stand on the Village Green Park we can see quite precisely that the building has changed little in it's long tenure and continues to serve the seasonal community.



Seen here is the framed building being sheathed with rough sawn boards and covered with cedar shingles. Note the stacked bundles of shingles in the work area. Keep in mind that carpenters in those days used hand saws and good old hammers.



The church is now complete and a beautiful job it is. The small white birches near the telephone pole, are right where the driveway and yard of Hello Good Pies today. The home there beside the church was built in 1948 and 49 by Albert and Lydia Johnson. Note the narrow dirt road that is Main Street or Route 27 today. The property on the right hand side of the street was part of the Belgrade Hotel's golf course and is now the Village Green Park.





— Take It Outside — Grandkids Can Catch Them but Shouldn't Eat Them

By Peter Kallin



Eric Carlson with soon-to-be-five, Miles, on Long Pond

Hard to believe this is already the 5th column of the summer! The hot weather last week, combined with the 4th of July holiday, resulted in a lot of grandkids in town for the fireworks and getting out on the lake. There was a lot of swimming, tubing, and general cooling off in and near the water. I spotted my friend, Fred Knight, out in his boat with one grandkid, while his son-in-law, Eric Carlson, out paddling nearby with his grandson, Miles. I was encouraged to see a lot of youngsters



Grandpa Fred with granddaughter enjoying the water.

out fishing with their families. Many of the families were catching sunfish and smallmouth bass and keeping some for a 4th of July fish fry. I warned some of them that the youngsters shouldn't be eating fish from the lake. It's pretty depressing warning grandkids they shouldn't eat the fish they are catching!

I still remember the pride I felt when I first brought home fish the family would eat for dinner. I looked forward to sharing the bounty and learned to clean, cook, and eat fish. My Scandinavian family ate fish at least three or four times a week, especially during the summer. Fresh fish is still one of my favorite meals. Unfortunately, our grandchildren won't have that option, at least not until they are over the age of 8. Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife (IFW) and Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) have issued safe consumption guidelines (<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/consumption-advisory.html>) for Maine's freshwater fish, which are contaminated with mercury. Pregnant and nursing



Bub steering the boat

women, women who may get pregnant, and children under age 8 are advised to eat NO freshwater fish from Maine's inland waters, except that they may safely consume one meal per month of brook trout or landlocked salmon. All others are advised to eat no more than two freshwater fish meals per month, except for brook trout and landlocked salmon, which can be safely consumed once a week. The primary source of the mercury in Maine's lakes and rivers is air pollution from coal-fired power plants in the Midwest. These plants are being phased out but WAY too slowly. Maine is particularly susceptible to mercury pollution because of our acidic precipitation and thin soils with little or no carbonates that can provide buffering. There are other site-specific restrictions for other contaminants, such as PFAS, PCBs, DIOXINS, and DDT. Recently, Maine CDC issued a consumption advisory for PFAS/PFOS for fish caught in Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond. The



Nice 3# smallie on the white zonker.

general population should consume no more than one fish meal a month from these waters (children under 8 and pregnant females should consume no fish). Please check the IFW website above before consuming your fish. And please contact your federal legislators and ask them to support stricter air pollution standards so we can eat the fish we catch!

On a brighter note, I did get out hiking a bit and had good success foraging fresh yellow chanterelle mushrooms, as well as some black trumpets beginning to appear. The wild mushrooms were turned into venison stroganoff on top of fresh pasta from the farmers' market. I also caught some nice bass on my annual "morning after" cleanup cruise the morning after the fireworks. I trolled a white zonker streamer fly behind me while I collected trash and caught 6 nice bass that were chasing schools of alewives about 15-ft down. I collected about 1/2 bag of assorted floating bottles and fireworks debris, but overall much cleaner than most years.

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike,  
*Continued on page 10...*

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## — Calendar —

• **Through Saturday 7/13** - Moonlight Sinatra, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

• **Friday 7/12 and Saturday 7/13** - Jazz Camp final concerts, student concerts 7/12 6:30 pm, 7/13 10 am; faculty concerts 8 pm, [mainejazzcamp@earthlink.net](mailto:mainejazzcamp@earthlink.net), University of Maine, Farmington.

• **Friday 7/12 and Saturday 7/13** - Le Festival de la Bastille, 4:30 pm Friday until 10 pm Saturday, food, drinks, music, dancing, open to public, \$10 Friday, \$15 Saturday, West River Road, Augusta.

• **Friday 7/12** - Birding Boat Tour on Great Pond with Julia Hanauer-Milne, 8:30-10:30 am, register at [7lakesalliance.org/allevvents](http://7lakesalliance.org/allevvents), 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Friday 7/12** - Erica Brown & The Bluegrass Connection, original and traditional bluegrass, folk and country, 2 pm and 7 pm, free and open to the public, air-conditioned, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

• **Friday 7/12** - Pat Pepin, blues at its best, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

• **Friday 7/12** - Shakespeare's Will, focus on the life of his wife Anne Hathaway, opening night, scheduled in repertoire through 8/10, 7:30 pm, Cumston Hall, the Theater at Monmouth.

• **Friday 7/12** - New England Music Camp Student Recital, 1-844-476-6976, 7:30 pm, free, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

• **Friday 7/12** - Chamber Music Series, Atlantic Music Festival, 7:30 pm, Colby College, Waterville.

• **Friday 7/12 - Sunday 7/21** - Maine International Film Festival, a full line-up of more than 100 films, tickets and passes available at [MIFF.org](http://MIFF.org), Schupf Center and Waterville Opera House, Main Street, Waterville.

• **Saturday 7/13 and Sunday 7/14** - Appaloosa Horse Show, free and open to the public, covered arena, concessions, Fairgrounds, Madison Avenue, Showhegan.

• **Saturday 7/13** - Invasive Plant Paddle, North Pond Association, 8 am, Fairview Grange, Village Road, Smithfield.

• **Saturday 7/13** - Help!!! Save Maine Lakes, learn about milfoil eradication with Danielle Boutin of the Friends of Messalonskee Lake, pre-register and read full course description at [midmaine.maineadulted.org](http://midmaine.maineadulted.org), 9 am-noon,

Sidney Boat Launch, 451 Hosta Lane, Sidney.

• **Saturday 7/13** - Chicago, teen edition, 10 am and 1 pm, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

• **Saturday 7/13** - New England Music Camp POPS Concert, ticketed event, 7:30 pm, [snowpond.org](http://snowpond.org), Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

• **Saturday 7/13** - Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards, followed by Open Mic, Union Coffeehouse, 7 pm, refreshments, \$10 donation at door, Union Church, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Saturday /13** - Hildaland, Louise Bichon and Ethan Setiawan, Scottish, old-time and Swedish-inspired music, \$20 donation, kids free, 779-0660, [www.chestervillemeeting-house.org](http://www.chestervillemeeting-house.org), 7 pm, Union Meeting House, Chesterville Center.

• **Saturday 7/13** - Orchestra, Atlantic Music Festival, 7:30 pm, Colby College, Waterville.

• **Sunday 7/14** - Summer Ritual Market, 60 plus vendors, food trucks, live music, interactive workshops, kids activities, a short walk from Historic Downtown Gardiner restaurants and shops, 10 am-4 pm, along the Kennebec River, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

• **Sunday 7/14** - The High Spirits, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

• **Sunday 7/14** - 7 Lakes Alliance Summer Celebration, celebration of the Belgrade lakes watershed wins, all are welcome, 4-6 pm, 495-6039, [www.7LakesAlliance.org](http://www.7LakesAlliance.org), 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Sunday 7/14** - Heather Pierson Trio, 4 pm, Union Hall, Vienna.

• **Sunday 7/14** - Bob Lovelace, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

• **Monday 7/15 - Friday 7/19** - Nature Camp, explore nature, daily art project, ages 6-11, 9 am-noon, \$85, 238-4250, L.C. Bates Museum, Route 201, Hinckley.

• **Monday 7/15** - Look Out for Loons boat tour, 10-11:30 am, register at [7lakesalliance.org/allevvents](http://7lakesalliance.org/allevvents), 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Monday 7/15** - Western Maine Foothills Band, selections from Big Band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meeting House Park, Main Street, Farmington.

• **Tuesday 7/16** - 7 Lakes Alliance Live Animals with Chewonki, 3 pm, 495-6039, [www.7LakesAlliance.org](http://www.7LakesAlliance.org), 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Tuesday 7/16** - All Night Rascals, Rock on the River series,

7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

• **Tuesday 7/16** - New England Music Camp, Faculty Recital, free, 7:30 pm, [snowpond.org](http://snowpond.org), Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

• **Wednesday 7/17** - Invasive Plant ID Workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Wednesday 7/17** - The Maine Roadshow, a roadside tour of the State's History, Culture, Food, Funk & Oddities, by author Tim O'Brien, co-sponsored by the Kennebec Historical Society and the Maine State Library, 6:30 pm, Maine State Library, 242 State Street, Augusta.

• **Wednesday 7/17** - Friends of Messalonskee Annual Meeting, 6-8 pm, 618-8723, Lakeside Lodge at Bangs Beach, 28 Marigold Drive, Sidney.

• **Wednesday 7/17** - Rob Burnell, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

• **Wednesday 7/17** - "Promoting Belgrade, A History of Belgrade Region Inc. with Promotional Videos," Belgrade Historical Society, 6:30 pm, Center for All Seasons, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 7/18** - Guided Hike and Tick Safety, hike the Long Pond Loop and learn from experts, 10-11:30 pm, [7lakesalliance.org/allevvents](http://7lakesalliance.org/allevvents), 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 7/18** - House & Garden Tour, 10 am, \$10, tickets and reservations at [vaughanhomestead.org](http://vaughanhomestead.org), Litchfield Road, Hallowell.

• **Thursday 7/18** - Cruise In, Waterfront Park, 5-7 pm, Gardiner.

• **Thursday 7/18** - Borderline Express, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

• **Thursday 7/18** - Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, [recreation@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:recreation@townofbelgrade.com)

• **Thursday 7/18** - Scotland's Louise Bichan and Friends, Old South Church Concert, 7 pm, \$25; seniors and students \$20, 491-5919, Farmington.

• **Thursday 7/18 - Sunday 7/21** - Over the Moon, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

• **Thursday 7/18** - Student Recital, New England Music Camp, 7:30 pm, free, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

• **Thursday 7/18** - The School for Husbands, by Moliere, preview night, 7:30 pm, Cumston Hall, the Theater at Monmouth.



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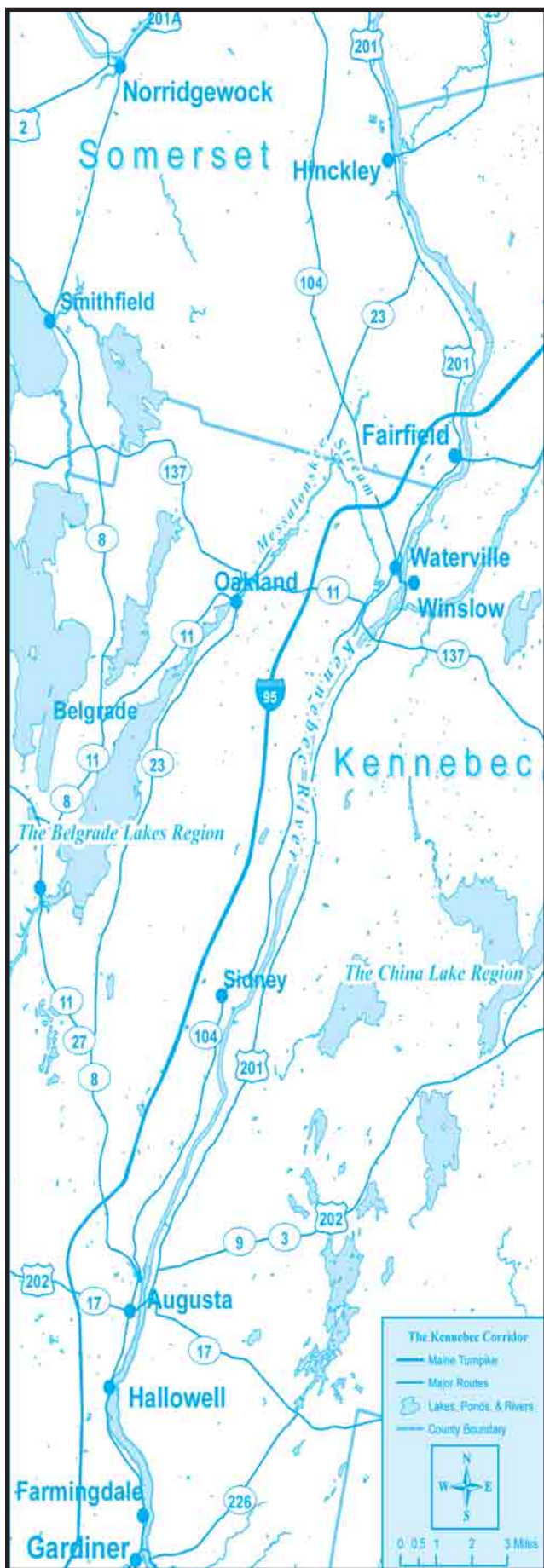
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## —Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



### Waterville Rocks Returns to Head of Falls Park This Summer

The Waterville Opera House and Waterville Creates are excited to announce the return of Waterville Rocks, a free, outdoor summer concert series held annually at Head of Falls Park in Waterville, ME..

Waterville Rocks kicks off with Rustic Overtones and Muddy Ruckus July 12, the opening night of the Maine International Film Festival, which will see 100 films screened across 10 days in the Maine Film Center and the Waterville Opera House. The double-header opening night serves as an opportunity to celebrate the start of the festival and welcome thousands of festivalgoers to Waterville. The series continues for three consecutive Fridays after the film festival, July 26, August 2, and August 9, with Breakin' Strings, 12/OC, and Assembly of Dust, respectively.

"2024 is shaping up to be one of the best years yet for Waterville Rocks," said Erik Thomas, assistant executive director of the Waterville Opera House. "With music ranging from funk to bluegrass, people don't want to miss this free, family-friendly concert series!"

Waterville Rocks is free and open to all. This year also sees the return of Art Rocks—free, fun art activities for all ages run by Waterville Creates at Waterville Rocks each week. Visitors are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets, take in the summer evenings, enjoy the beer garden, and, of course, rock out to some great live music.

Learn more about the series and the bands at [operahouse.org/waterville-rocks](http://operahouse.org/waterville-rocks).

#### Friday, July 12—Rustic Overtones with Muddy Ruckus

Celebrate the opening night of MIFF with Rustic Overtones and Muddy Ruckus. Rustic Overtones formed in Portland, Maine, hometown to each bandmember: guitarist and lead vocalist Dave Gutter, drummer Tony McNaboe, trombonist Dave Noyes, baritone saxophonist Jason Ward,

bassist Jon Roods, alto saxophonist Ryan Zoidis, and Spencer Albee on keyboards and piano. Overcoming personal tragedy and several turbulent years, Rustic Overtones are back and as strong as ever.

Muddy Ruckus is a "darkly inventive" rock duo, according to the New York Music Daily. Guitarist Ryan Flaherty and drummer Erika Stahl of Portland, Maine play a grungy style of railroad indie punk blues. This stripped-down power-duo blends rootsy guitar and edgy percussion on a suitcase drum kit, and is known for a full rock band sound.

#### Friday, July 26—Breakin' Strings

Led by Cliff Gelina and backed by some of New England's finest musicians—featuring Cody Howe, Sam Acus, Amanda Gelina, Steve Petterson, and David Bevins—Breakin' Strings have a hard driving bluegrass sound that brings people to their feet. They will also blow you away with their strong ballads and tight harmonies. The musicianship in this group will keep you dancing with a smile on your face. This versatile group brings a great show you won't want to miss.

#### Friday, August 2—12/OC

The country band 12/OC was born in their family kitchen in Portland, Maine when brothers Will and Reid were both under 14 years old. Country music was always playing in their household and making music together was, simply put, the way of life. Their wide range of music has helped increase their fan base across the country making them one of the fastest growing country music acts

*Continued on page 10...*

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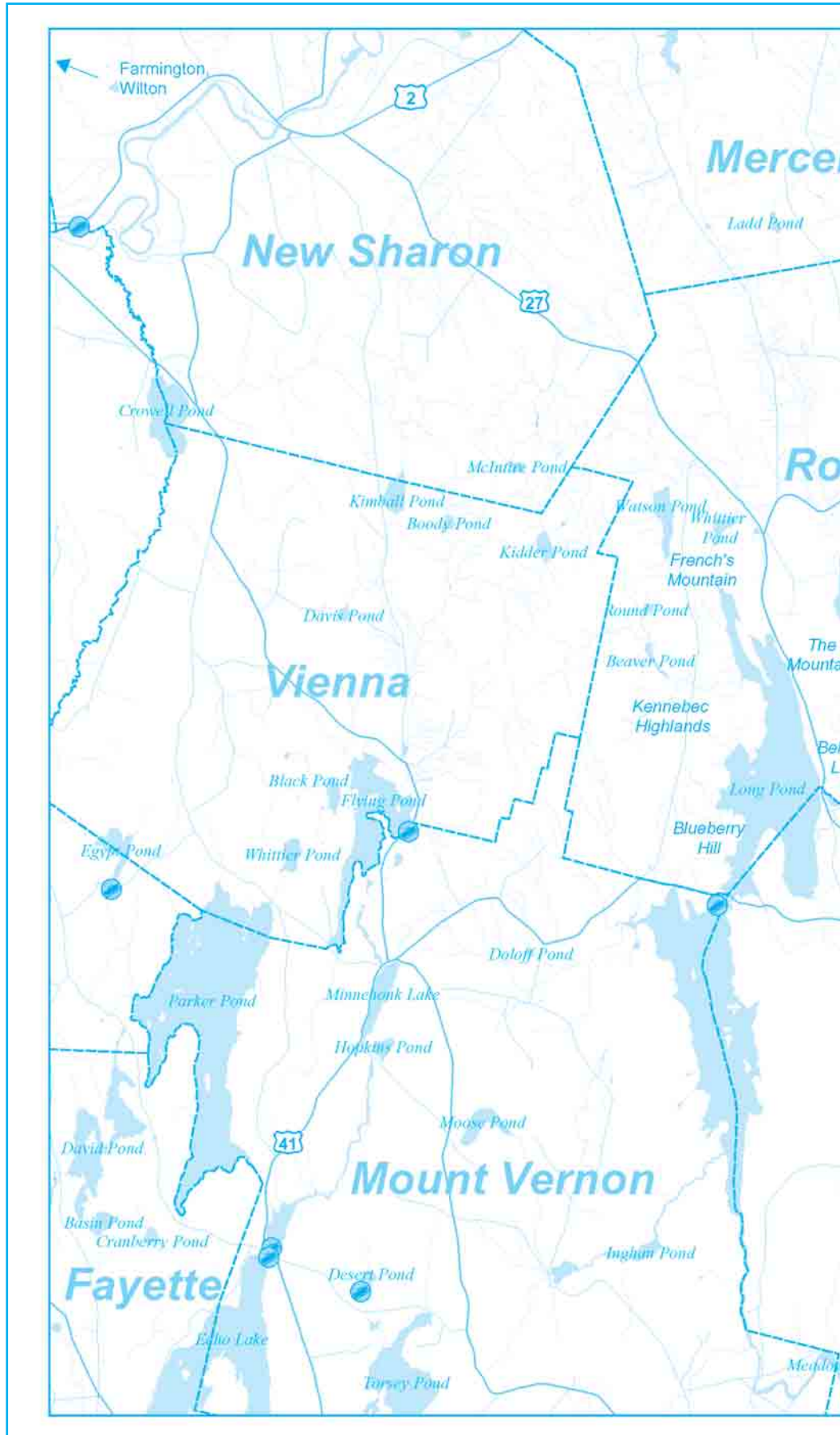




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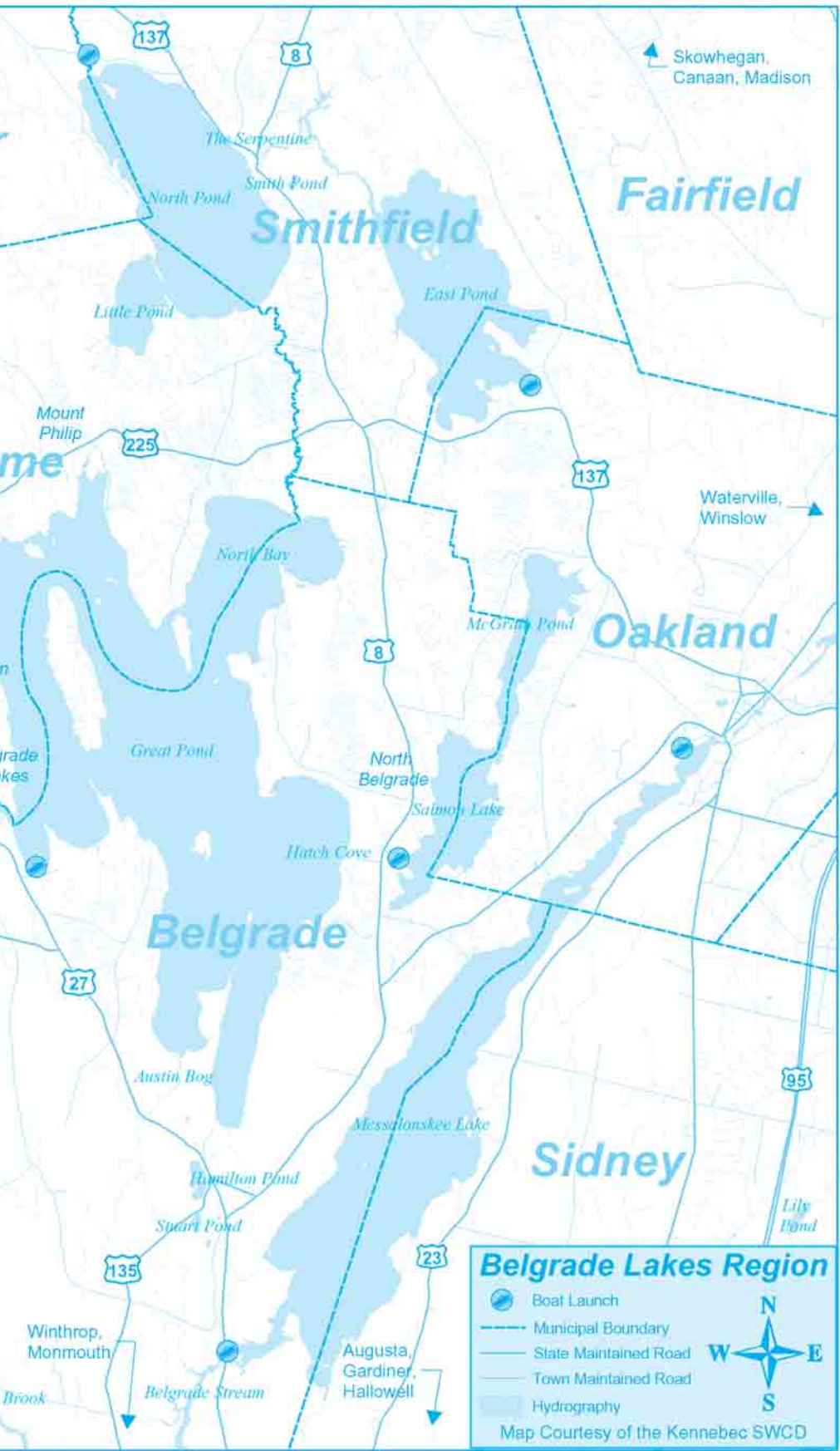


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**Lake Associations of the Belgrades:  
2024 Annual Meetings**

- East Pond Association (EP), towns: Smithfield/Oakland, [www.eastpond.org](http://www.eastpond.org), founded 1946, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/20, 10 am, Brickett Point, East Pond Road, Oakland.
- North Pond Association (NP), towns: Smithfield/Rome/Mercer, [www.northpondmaine.org](http://www.northpondmaine.org), founded 1985, 2024 Annual Meeting 8/11, 6-8:30 pm, Pine Tree Camp, Rome.
- McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association (MP/SL), towns: Belgrade/Oakland, Box 576, Belgrade, 04917, 465-3983, [www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org](http://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org), founded 1989, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/29, 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, Oakland.
- Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) for Great Pond and Long Pond, towns: Belgrade/Rome/Mount Vernon, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 04918, 512-5150, [www.belgradelakesassociation.org](http://www.belgradelakesassociation.org), founded 1909, 2024 Annual Meeting 8/11, 4-6 pm, Belgrade Lakes Golf Course.
- Friends of Messalonskee, towns: Oakland/Belgrade/Sidney, PO Box 532, Oakland, 04963, 618-8723, [www.friendsofmessalonskee.com](http://www.friendsofmessalonskee.com), founded 1990, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/17, 6-8 pm, Lakeside Lodge at Bangs Beach, 28 Marigold Dr, Sidney.

...Continued from page 7

in New England. Having the most requested song on Maine's #1 country music station for 16 straight weeks, as well as adding a handful of New England Music Awards, 12/OC isn't slowing down anytime soon.

**Friday, August 9—Assembly of Dust**

Over the last 10 years Assembly of Dust has crafted a unique sound that recalls the likes of The Band, Traffic, and Neil Young. The raw building blocks of Reid Genauer's songs stand strong on their own and they are polished to brilliance in the hands of the band he's surrounded himself with: Adam Terrell (lead guitar), John Leccesse (bass), and two newer members Jason Crosby (piano and violin) and Dave Diamond (drums). Hooky melodies, poetic lyrics, and a profound depth of musicianship prompted USA Today to say Assembly of Dust has what it takes to "dazzle the Alt-Country universe."

The beer garden opens at 6pm each week, with music starting at 7pm. In the event of rain, the music will move inside to the Waterville Opera House.

Waterville Rocks 2024 is sponsored by the City of Waterville, the 27th Maine International Film Festival, Camden National Bank, North Atlantic Seed Co., Colby College, Central Maine Chevrolet, The Proper Pig, Mainely Brews, and Liberty Graphics.

...Continued from page 5

bike, birdwatch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. I encourage all parents and grandparents to take advantage of opportunities to get your kids and grandkids (or even parents and grandparents) out on the lake for fishing or swimming or up in the hills for some hiking. Pick up the latest version of the local trails map at Day's Store or from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps can be downloaded from the 7-Lakes web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem> . Also, please check the 7-LA webpage for details on upcoming interesting events scheduled this summer (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/> ) and watch the sign out front as events are added. And make sure you take a kid along on your next outdoor adventure.

...Continued from page 11

Foothills Band. No auditions required. Family friendly. All instruments welcome. Concerts are every Monday, June through August at the gazebo in Meeting House Park, downtown Farmington. For information call Lois King at 500-2143.

**Book Sale**

- The Friends of Lithgow Library are holding their annual Book Sale on Thursday through Saturday, August 1-3. The book sale is cash or Paypal only by donation to support the Friends' Museum and Pass Program, the Live at Lithgow summer concert series, A Capital Read and other library programs. On Thursday, August 1 there will also be a bake sale starting at 9 am, cash only, until all goodies are gone. Both sales are at Lithgow Public Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta. 626-2415, [www.lithgowlibrary.org](http://www.lithgowlibrary.org)



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Notebook

FOM Annual Meeting

• The Friends of Messalonskee annual lake association meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 17, 6-8 pm at Lakeside Lodge at Bangs Beach, 28 Marigold Drive, Sidney. The agenda will tentatively include:

- Election of officers, Treasurer’s report
- Update on current Milfoil Remediation Locations
- Update on DEP 319 grant
- LakeSmart Program Update
- Next steps for the FOM Milfoil Mitigation Program in 2025. This item is an important discussion about changes in FOM’s approach to milfoil remediation.

Light refreshments will be provided. The meeting will have on display information about the LakeSmart program and Invasive Aquatic Plants.

Soccer Camp

• Community Soccer Day Camps will be held in Fairfield, Oakland and Norridgewock for boys and girls 4-12 years of age in July and August. Just 1-5 hours in the morning, so still plenty of time for the lake! Conducted by Coach Jim Evans and his staff. Sign up at [www.evanssoccer.com](http://www.evanssoccer.com)

Weekly Game Day

• Ever wanted to learn Mahjong? How about Mancala? Board games such as Scrabble, Qwirkle, Mexican Train, Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan? How about a rousing game of History of the World? Cribbage, Pitch, Back Ally and a large variety of other card games are certainly possible.

Every Wednesday for the rest of the summer, the Belgrade Senior Resource Committee (SRC) is sponsoring a Game Day at the North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road (Rt 8) in Belgrade, 10 am-3 pm. The event offers a zero-pressure social activity for seniors, but is open to all ages; Belgrade residency not required. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

SCR volunteer Michael Ashland is the host. He is an avid game player and has access to nearly 300 different games. Come, bring a lunch, meet new friends, relax and have something fun and interesting to do.

Maine Quilts 2024

• Over 500 quilts, antique to contemporary, will be judged at the Maine Quilts 2024 exhibit, Thursday-Saturday, July 25-27 at the Augusta Civic Center. Open from 9 am to 5 pm, the event will include workshops with quilting experts, lectures, demonstrations and special exhibits such as: Theme Challenge: Mariner’s Compass; Where will your compass take you?; Finding Home; and Selections from QuiltCon 2024. There will also be a merchants mall, a quilters’ walk and a quilt raffle. For more information contact [www.mainequilts.org](http://www.mainequilts.org), [info@mainequilts.org](mailto:info@mainequilts.org) or 216-7358.

Paddle Trek

• The 15th Annual Paddle Trek, a 15-mile guided paddle from Mount Vernon Village to Wayne Village hosted by the 30 Mile River Watershed Association, is on Saturday, July 27; the deadline to register is Thursday, July 25. There is no same day registration. Beginning on Minnehonk Lake at Mt. Vernon Town Beach the trip route continues down and through Hopkins Pond, Hopkins Stream, Taylor Pond, Echo Lake and its Mill Pond, Lovejoy Pond, Lovejoy Stream, Pickerel Pond and Pocasset Lake, ending in Wayne Village’s Mill Pond around 2:30 pm. Participants may paddle any or all of four parts, ending at 3 locations. For more information contact 860-4043 or [info@30mileriver.org](mailto:info@30mileriver.org)

Readers Writers Runners

• A Readers Writers Runners 5K to benefit Phillips Public Library will be held on Saturday, July 20 in Phillips. Registration will open at 9 am, the race is at 10 am. At 11 am, a light lunch and a discussion with Belgrade-based Maine author, mystery writer Maureen Milliken will take place. For more information call 639-2665.

Lonely Mile Race

• An after-dark, one-mile series of 8 races will be held on Saturday, August 10, 7-10 pm for walkers and runners. The Lonely Mile Moonlight Invitational is an illuminated nighttime mile race on a flat course that tours the Coney High School property at 60 Pierce Drive in Augusta. Entry fee is \$30.

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• Musicians are wanted for the Western Maine  
*Continued on page 10....*

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**High Peaks Artisan Guild**, art gallery open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am-5 pm, other times by chance or appointment, 245 Main Street, Kingfield, 340-1045, [highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com](http://highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com)

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**David Stevens**, Belgrade, 465-3815, cell 314-0314

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

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**Maine Film Center, Maine International Film Festival**, 861-8138, [miff.org](http://miff.org), [miff@mainefilmcenter.org](mailto:miff@mainefilmcenter.org)

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GENERATORS

**Generators of Maine**, 262 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2285, [www.generatorsofmaine.com](http://www.generatorsofmaine.com)

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

**Belgrade Historical Society**, history room open by appointment at Belgrade Center for All Seasons, monthly meeting presentations, 548-3569, [info@belgradehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@belgradehistoricalsociety.org)

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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, [www.belgradelakesassociation.org](http://www.belgradelakesassociation.org)  
**McGrath Pond - Salmon Lake Association**, Stewards of Our Belgrade Lakes, <https://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>





LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 931-7710, [www.7lakesalliance.org](http://www.7lakesalliance.org)

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**Amy Bernatchez**, Lakepoint Real Estate, 314-2353, [amy@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:amy@belgradelakepoint.com)  
**Trisha Cheney**, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, [trisha@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:trisha@belgradelakepoint.com)  
**Stephanie Yeaton**, Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, [stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com)

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Call of the Loon

Why so Looney?



Guest Columnist,  
Jodie Tsih

One may ask, why dedicate an entire summer to loons? Other than their popular appearance on the license plate of Maine vehicles, what's so special about loons? To be frank, I had little to no knowledge of loons before this summer. Besides the obvious perks of getting to be outside on the lake all summer long, monitoring loon populations didn't seem to be the most enticing ordeal, especially considering my lack of lust for avians overall. However, my passion for wildlife conservation trumps all, and I decided to take the plunge.

I am so grateful for this opportunity, which is only possible through the Buck Lab at Colby, because I have now become looney for loons! (Sorry for the corny pun!) The way the water glistens in the sun on their feathers, the enchanting ruby-red eyes, the grace with which they dive and swim underwa-



A 2024 Long Pond pair of adults.

ter—it is truly a gift to watch these birds every morning. Don't get me wrong, waking up at 5 am every day is no easy feat for me, but the thrill of spotting a nesting loon wakes me up every morning.

Going into this internship, I expected it to be monotonous and somewhat boring, but boy, have I been proven wrong. Loons can be fickle creatures, and they won't play fair with you. If they don't want to be seen, you will never see them again. There have been countless times where we've spotted a loon, and as we get closer to it in hopes of identifying the bird, it disappears underwater, leaving only fleeting air bubbles. These loons can give you a run for your money. I thought, "How hard can it be to watch loons on the lake?" and let me tell you, I can no longer count how many times I've mistaken a birch log or bark for the sneaky loon.

Although it does not seem like these beautiful birds are struggling, our surveys have indicated otherwise. Loons only lay two eggs each year, and most of the time, only one will successfully hatch. Even in scenarios where both eggs hatch, we've seen that only one chick ends up surviving after the first or second week. On Long Pond, there is only one surviving chick with no active nests, and with less than a week left in breeding season, it is concerning that the loons don't seem too keen on blessing us with their offspring.

While the enchanting (and sometimes frustrating!) presence of loons gracing the lakes of Belgrade may seem plentiful and resilient, their declining population productivity tells a different story. My experience this summer with Loon Conservation Associates and the Belgrade Lakes Association has been nothing short of



The lone 2024 Long Pond chick being fed by its banded mother as photographed through my binoculars!

eye-opening. The delicate balance of their existence and the challenges they face in reproducing and nurturing their young underscore the importance of continued conservation efforts. What began as a mere internship has transformed into a profound appreciation for these captivating birds and the vital work needed to ensure their survival.

Despite the early mornings and the elusive nature of loons, the privilege of observing and contributing to their conservation has been incredibly rewarding. This journey has not only deepened my passion for wildlife conservation but also instilled in me a sense of responsibility to advocate for these remarkable creatures. As the breeding season draws to a close, the sight of each surviving chick is a reminder of the fragility of life and the critical role we play in safeguarding our natural world.

Thank you Jodie! If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: [info@blamaine.org](mailto:info@blamaine.org) and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Have a great Summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon" here at 'Home' in the Belgrade Lakes!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



A Great Pond nest tucked safely on an island



In the middle of a "Wing Flap"







True Stories of Maine Fly Fishermen by J.H.Hall

by Martha F. Barkley

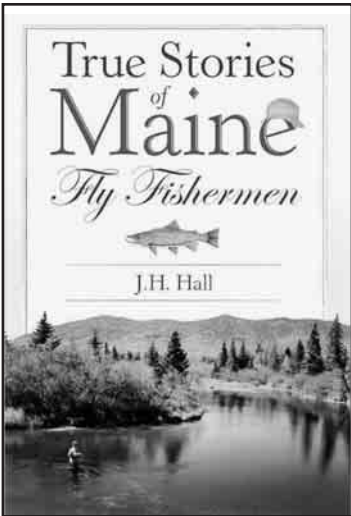
I thought this book for our son, but I ended up reading it first. The Montana chapter was how I became immersed in the waters of fly fishing. Boseman is where our son does most of his fly fishing.

How the author travels to so many fly fishing locations, but Hall returns to Maine rivers and lakes in most chapters.

His comparison of fishing in the Chesapeake and the lower Kennebec is pure poetry for me, a non fishing observer only. "Perhaps it is the clarity or depth of water or proximity of the Atlantic, but the lower Kennebec looks black. The Chesapeake's slightly milky shades of green fluctuate with the seasons, but the bay is never black. Both are beautiful...somehow comforting and soothing."

Water in rivers and lakes and bays are observed closely by fly fishermen. Now as I sit by the lake I have new eyes to observe new happenings because of J.H.Hall.

Try a chapter or two and I bet you will be hooked. I sure was and it is catch and release here in the Belgrade Lakes.



Photos abound in this book. Even father/son differences when it comes to fishing and sharing the sport or not.

Beautiful cover of pines reflected in the water and back cover with fall foliage beside the water's edge. All photos by the author. Your kids would love the kid shots within the book of many black and white photos. The History Press, 2008, Charleston, SC (my Winter home, but different zip code than mine)

Nearby lakes have a few chapters, but I will not give away all of the author's intriguing fly fishing tales. Go cast your line into the lake and read up on a very fascinating sport, even for me, a non fishing person all my seven to almost eight decades of swimming and boating.

I even found four young men this summer sorting their beautifully made flies on a large picnic table by Salmon Lake. Such intricate work made by their large bulky fingers. Their proud dad was watching them work and sort and create.



...Continued from page 2

satire and cult classic *American Psycho* (2000), in which Christian Bale leads a dual life as a hard-charging investment banker by day and a murderous psychopath by night. Check the program booklet or MIFF website for screening times.

On Wednesday, MIFF's Centerpiece Film will be the New England premiere of *The Ghost Trap*. According to a MIFF press release, "Gorgeously shot on Maine's stunning coastal seaways and based on the novel by K. Stephens, the film follows a young lobsterman whose happy life is threatening to fall apart as his loving girlfriend suffers a debilitating head injury and a rival lobstering crew grows increasingly hostile."

The fourth Maine feature, *The Ruse*, will have its world premiere on Thursday at 4:00. In this suspenseful tale, a young caregiver moves into a isolated and possibly haunted coastal cottage to look after an elderly woman. Our heroine soon comes to fear for her life, as she is confronted with the mystery of her predecessor's disappearance, sinister neighbors, and supernatural occurrences. Starring legendary horror actress Veronica Cartwright (*Alien*, *The Birds*, and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*), the film was shot entirely in the Maine coastal town of Blue Hill.

Besides the four Maine features, MIFF will also show three compilations of Maine shorts: Narrative, Documentary, and Music. Comprising



Anastasia Weinmar in *Natasja's Dance*

19 films altogether, the shorts range from 6 to 45 minutes long. Several of them deal with Central Maine: Narrative Short "The Boat Inspector" is set at a boat launch on North Pond in Smithfield; Documentary Short "The Comeback Mill" chronicles the transformation of a former paper mill in Madison into a producer of wood fiber insulation; and Music Short "Surrounded by Woods" profiles a former Floridian who opens a guitar store in Waterville. While each shorts program will be

shown twice, only the Narrative Shorts will screen before the festival's closing weekend — they will debut Wednesday at 4:00 — so we'll save further discussion of all the Maine shorts until next week.

As in the past, MIFF will offer two types of passes this year. For \$250, you can buy a Full Festival Pass, which will admit you to as many movies as you can attend., and for half that price, you can buy a 10-Pass, which is good for ten admissions, one or two people per screening. You can also buy individual tickets for \$14 each.

New this year, pass holders can reserve seats for specific screenings. You can reserve a seat on the MIFF website, by phone at 873-7000, or in person at the box office for any screening until three hours before it starts. Just be sure to show up to the screening at least 15 minutes early, or your reservation may be forfeit. Reservations are strongly encouraged, as MIFF screenings can sell out, especially those scheduled for the two smallest screening rooms, Cinema 2 (43 seats) and Cinema 3 (22 seats).

You can buy passes and tickets either online at [miff.org](http://miff.org) or in person at the festival box office on the first floor of the Schupf Center. You can find the complete schedule for the festival and descriptions of the films on the MIFF website and in the the festival's glossy, 68-page program book, which is available at the Schupf Center and various other locations in Central Maine.



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— Real Estate Update —

Saluting a Strong Business Group

Fireworks, food trucks, an antique boat parade, a street parade, and a long weekend filled with family-friendly activities throughout the village. The recent 4th of July celebration in the Belgrade Lakes area was a standout event, drawing one of the largest crowds our town has seen in years

Highlights of the weekend included a bouncy house on the village green, a popular coloring contest, and live music hosted by several local businesses. Every business in town rallied together to support the Independence Day celebration, turning the area into a hub of excitement and community spirit.

While many visitors may take for granted the presence of fireworks and festive activities on the 4th of July, behind the scenes, the Belgrade Lakes Region Business Group (BLRBG) dedicated months to planning, coordination, and communication to ensure the success of these events.

Formed over two decades ago, the BLRBG operates as a Chamber of Commerce for businesses in and around the Belgrade Lakes Region. Beyond the 4th of July celebrations, the group orchestrates other major events such as

Harvest Fest in October and the Holiday Stroll in December, all aimed at attracting visitors to support local businesses and strengthen community bonds.

In addition to event planning, the BLRBG actively supports its members through marketing and advertising initiatives. Member businesses benefit from promotion via the group's website, social media channels, and a printed map featuring contact information. These efforts are crucial in showcasing what our vibrant community has to offer.

Despite the seamless experience enjoyed by attendees, it's important to recognize the dedication of BLRBG volunteers who work tirelessly year-round. Their commitment ensures that both visitors and locals can enjoy these cherished events, showcasing the best of our town and village.

For local businesses interested in getting involved, the BLRBG encourages membership, event donations, or even participation on the board. These contributions play a vital role in sustaining and expanding the community events that bring joy and vitality to our area throughout the year.



The Dams Keeper Report

Well, the water temperature is finally warming up a bit more to my liking – BUT is still not quite THERE!! Upper Long Pond (at least the top 12") is a refreshing 77.4F today and in my opinion, obviously refreshing but not perfect! My toes will tell you that it is nowhere near 77.4F down there and still takes some getting used to!

As I write this week's column, Mother Nature has been unusually kind to us here in the Belgrades! The weather for our July 3rd and 4th Fireworks couldn't have been better as well as the weather for the 4th Boat and Street Parades. Boy, did we luck out and we deserve it especially considering the rain that we've had to endure earlier this season. We had just 1.79" of precipitation for the past ten days and they are forecasting a 'paltry' .85" for the next 10 days suggesting that we just may be going into another drought. Great Chamber of Commerce weather! Not that great for our farmers and gardeners!

The Village spillway dam is presently at 2.88" above full pond which is right where we want it to be with Gate 1 opened just 6" for a little flow in Mill Stream. Long Pond, at least at the Wings Mill Dam, is 3.12" also above full pond with just Gate 1 opened 12". Snow Pond is holding at 2.64" below their spillway which is still good. Salmon and McGrath are in good shape as well, although starting to feel the results of our warming temperatures, and is .36" above full pond with the 1 cfs. calibrated valve opened 15 turns.

If you have a particular questions regarding our Dams and/or water levels, please email your inquiry to: [dickgreenan@outlook.com](mailto:dickgreenan@outlook.com) and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email.

Enjoy the Family, your Vacation and this incredibly beautiful weather and please stay safe!

Dick Greenan  
Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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