

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 9

When A Lake Goes Green

by Esther J. Perne



Drive nearby and there will be a stench. Peer into the lake and a foggy green color will yawn back. Plan to fish or swim or waterski or sunbathe and there may be warnings to avoid contact with the water. And definitely don't let a dog drink or children play in a lake that is green.

Lake access users (and their contribution to the economy) have the option to pivot to a body of water that is still clean and clear. Lake proper-

ty owners (whose taxes contribute as much as 75% of a community's budget) don't have that mobility. What they do have is years of warnings, of research, of experience and of outcomes dealing with green lakes that can serve to their advantage.

Although lakes turning green is not a new phenomenon in Maine, it is always a jolt. Two examples close to the Belgrades are Lake Annabessacook in Winthrop and China Lake in

China and Vassalboro. Lake Annabessacook in the Cobbossee Watershed, considered one of the most polluted lakes in the state, turned green predictably in 1939 primarily from municipal and industrial sources.

China Lake (30 miles from the Belgrades) which turned green abruptly in 1986 - the "China Lake Syndrome" - mostly due to residential development, was the lake "with the most rapid-

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

ly declining water quality ever documented in the State of Maine." A lake restoration project which included the China Conservation Corps (model for the Belgrade Lakes Conservation Corps) was established in 1990.

Not well known, the China project worked with Three Mile Lake which had experienced an algae explosion, pursued an alum (aluminum sulfate which binds the phosphorus into the lake bottom sediment) treatment and had another explosion 4 years later. The lesson? There was no watershed work; the external loading of phosphorus from runoff was allowed to continue.

It was China Lake that sounded the wake-up call to the Belgrades in 1994, predicting at the annual COLA (Maine Lakes) Conference at Colby College in Waterville that Great Pond would be next to go green.

The ensuing media coverage, community denial and overflow attendance at the annual Belgrade Lakes Association meeting resulted in a cascade of positive developments, awareness, education and proactive planning for the future of the Belgrades that are in place today from the informal meetings of representatives of each of the Belgrade Lakes, to the formation of the first Belgrade Lakes Conservation Corps in 1995 under the umbrella of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (now known as the Youth Conservation Corps under the auspices of 7 Lakes Alliance).

Those early collaboration were in the days before milfoil (although in retrospect it is believed that Lake Messalonskee had milfoil by then) or the threat of more serious invasives, before gloeotrichia, before the swimmer's itch eradication project, before any lands were preserved in the Belgrades except for French Mountain and a small parcel on Watson Pond, before the Belgrade Lakes Golf Course, before climate change was a buzz word with weather lessons to back it up and before any conservation organization or entity linked the lakes of the Belgrades except for the chain of water itself. The sole focus could be preserving water clarity, curtailing runoff, preventing algal blooms.

At that time turning green was something that happened somewhere else. Or did it?

In the Belgrade Lakes chain in August 1993 East Pond residents had the awakening experience of a major algal bloom and depth visibility on the lake was reduced to three to four feet. It wasn't without prediction. East Pond was the only Maine lake in 1994 that was actually downgraded (to

"poor restorable") in the DEP's report to Congress. It had already experienced up to a half dozen previous algae blooms. Some of the problems were identified in the Colby Land Use Survey Study conducted in 1992. But it was the seeing that made believers out of residents.

For East Pond there have followed many years of retreats, task forces, citizen inputs and problem-solving projects and finally the successful outcome of an alum treatment in 2018. (Always proactive, the East Pond Association is building a fund for a repeat treatment.)

Today, the focus is on North Pond. In its seventh summer of North Pond going green, the lake association is raising money for an alum treatment. North Pond has the advantage of East Pond's experience, of many years of scientific research conducted by Colby College and the 7 Lakes Alliance, of the examples of other successful fundraisers.

With a goal of an alum treatment in the spring of 2026, North Pond needs donations that will meet the required \$3.3 million. How can everyone help? A list of donation options is on page 3.



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Table of Contents

Green Means More Than Just A Color..... 1-2

Table of Contents: Moving Through August..... 3

North Pond Water Resembles Pea Soup 3

7 Lakes Alliance: 270 Acres Protected On Long Pond 4

Belgrade Historical Society: Day Fur Company 4

Take It Outside with Pete Kallin: Ancient Wisdom..... 5

Calendar of Events: Highlights and Good Times..... 6

The Porch Party Mamas to Perform in Vienna..... 6

Waterville Creates Announces Tourmaline Awards..... 7

Map of the Belgrades: Plan an August Adventure 8-9

Weekly Farmers' Markets..... 10

Annual Blueberry Festival Coming to Winslow..... 10

ArtWalk Gardiner; Friday August 16..... 11

Business Directory: Handy Reference Guide 12-13

The Call of The Loon: Goodbye Interns..... 13

Barkley on Books: The Amish School by Sara E. Fisher and Rachel K. Stahl 14

Real Estate: It's Been a Fantastic Season So Far..... 15

The Dams Keeper Report: Daily Showers and Boomers 15

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

www.belgradelakesnews.com

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North Pond Association Fundraising

Did you know Maine is home to nearly 6,000 lakes? Today, one of that 6,000 in our local area is facing a huge challenge; North Pond is suffering from its 7th annual algal bloom right now and the water resembles pea soup. Our goal is to raise funds to stop the blooms and return to clear water. The campaign to raise \$3 million for an aluminum sulfate treatment is underway and we need your investment to help us reach our goal.

The North Pond Association (NPA) has created the North Pond Remediation Fund with assistance from 7 Lakes Alliance. A likely spring 2026 alum treatment would return the high levels of phosphorus in the lake to natural levels as recommended in our Watershed-Based Plan. Investing in the improvement and maintenance of North Pond is economically beneficial to area businesses while also benefiting the thousands of people that recreate in our area all four seasons.

As a charitable donor you will be recognized as a benefactor on our website; www.northpondmaine.org , on social media, in print and word of mouth. You can make an impact with a one time donation or spreading a larger donation over time. (Please see the contact information below.)

The care of North Pond, surrounded by the towns of Mercer, Rome and Smithfield, for future generations to enjoy is in the trust of North Pond’s current stewards. Clean and healthy lakes are an important investment for our quality of life, local economy, and culture as well as for the health of our wildlife. Together, with your help, WE CAN DO IT!

Thank you for your support!

North Pond Fundraising Committe

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Call: 207-495-6039

Non-Cash Gifts: inquire at northpondmaine@gmail.com



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7 Lakes Alliance Protects 270 Acres on Long Pond

7 Lakes has permanently protected one of the largest remaining undeveloped parcels in Belgrade that provides significant water quality protection for the Long Pond watershed. The property has no paved roads or buildings, 1.2 miles of streams, and 17 acres of wetlands.

7 Lakes will develop a management plan to restore the land which had been extensively logged. According to Laura Rose Day, Chief Conservation Officer, 7 Lakes will be actively stewarding this parcel with an eye toward reforestation for climate resilience, wildlife habitat, water protection and longer-term recreation opportunities. This land will create new opportunities for a trail and nature-based education focused on the ecological and conservation benefits of healthy lakeside forests. The land will also protect the natural beauty of the area and serve as a valuable wildlife habitat.

Rose Day praised the entire Long Pond community, especially the Sandy Cove Association for their leadership and generous support to safeguard this land and to protect water quality in the lake for everyone. Local community leader, Rich Sutton says, "This property may not look like much from the Dunn Road, but it includes wetlands and a single catchment area that flows directly into Lower Long Pond. Reforesting it and keeping erosion under control will be great for the lake as well as preserving the surprisingly beautiful views you get up toward the Highlands from some parts of the parcel. It was a very fortunate set of circumstances that brought a lot of concerned neighbors together to secure the property for the future. I'm really glad to have been a part of that group effort with 7 Lakes."

7 Lakes is working to protect approximately 175 acres of largely undeveloped forest, wetlands and 1,250 feet of undisturbed shoreline on Long



Photo by Jodi Franklin

Pond in Belgrade Lakes. This land, which has high and unique ecological value is at risk of commercial harvest and development. The property retains a remarkable natural character with trees that a Colby scientist recently identified as being over 200 years old. The project provides an opportunity for nature-based recreation, including a hiking trail and bird watching opportunities. It will help ensure water quality and recreational amenities that support local residents, visitors and businesses alike. 7 Lakes

was recently awarded a \$288,000 Land for Maine's Future Grant for a portion of the acquisition cost.

7 Lakes actively seeks opportunities to conserve land throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed, including donations of land and land conservation easements. The current "Land for the Lakes" \$1M appeal has a matching challenge: every donation will be doubled up to a total of \$125,000. This appeal will support a revolving land fund to allow 7 Lakes to take advantage of land conservation opportunities that often have tight deadlines and get acquired very quickly.

Conserved land is the most cost-effective way to protect the watershed and provides benefits to our community and economy by offering new recreational opportunities, unspoiled vistas in daylight and an unspoiled night sky as well as significant wildlife protection, particularly in corridors of connected land. Lastly, forested land offers significant climate resiliency in the Belgrade Lakes region as it stores carbon, provides clean air, healthy water and sustains biodiversity. Please contact Noah Pollock at 7 Lakes if you would like to discuss land donation or land easement opportunities.

Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade

Submitted by BHS member Dianne Dowd

Belgrade history can pop up in unexpected places. I came across this picture of Day Fur Company of Belgrade hanging on the wall of the lobby at Cabela's Sporting Goods store in Scarborough, Maine. As a picture is said to be worth a thousand words, there must be quite a story behind this picture.

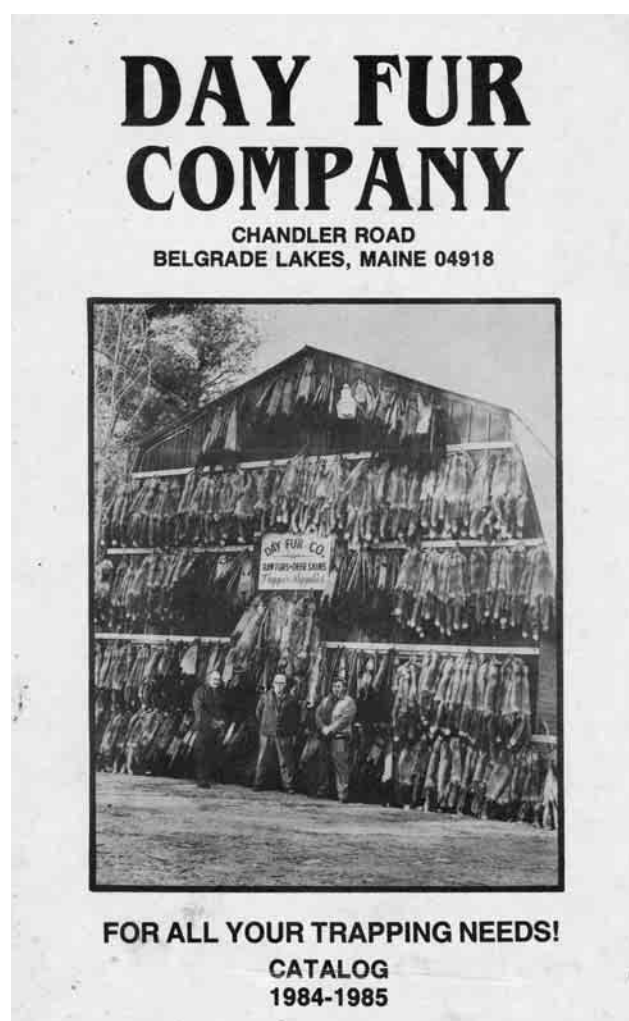
Day Fur Company was established by James Day and his two sons, Gary, and Darryl in the late 1950s. Throughout the 1960s and 70s, warm fur coats, hats, gloves, and jackets were considered fashionable and very much in demand. This need fueled a whole industry in hunting and trapping to provide pelts. The demand helped to boost the winter income of northern hunters and trappers and their families. The Day family maintained their own traplines but also bought pelts and furs from other hunters and trappers. Originally the Days worked with fur buyer, Merritt Kimball of Waterford, Maine to sell the furs at auction in New York City, but later they worked directly with the New York buyers and European buyers as well. This proved to be a very lucrative move for Day Fur Company which grew to be the largest operation of its type in northern New England with a national and international presence.

Maine Sportswriter, Gene Letourneau, who wrote the popular long-running newspaper column, "Sportsmen Say" for the Morning Sentinel was responsible for the iconic picture. According to Letourneau, "Day and his two sons

had covered the entire wall of a barn with assorted pelts of foxes, racoons, fishers, mink, muskrat, otters and coyotes." just prior to a visit from Letourneau. Taken in 1974 (the 1942 date on the Cabela's picture frame plaque is incorrect), this photograph received widespread publication. Eventually the picture ended up on the walls of Cabela's stores across the

United States.

As the demand for furs declined with changes in fashion in the 1980s, and the availability of synthetic materials, the trapping industry also declined, and as a result, Day Fur Company closed in the late 1980s.





— Take It Outside —

Ancient Wisdom

By Peter Kallin

I spent much of the past week out in the woods foraging mushrooms, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries and attended way too many meetings. I caught quite a few fish as the fish are foraging on schools of baitfish. Yesterday, I was fishing near a dock on Long Pond where I watched a woman who was trying to teach two dogs (a yellow lab and a black one) to retrieve a stick thrown into the water. Every time she threw the stick, the yellow one would immediately leap into the water and swim to shore with the stick, where it would give the stick to the black one, who would bring it to the woman on the dock. The woman was getting a bit frustrated as I tried hard not to interrupt by laughing out loud.

Later, as I was putting my foraged bounty in the freezer, I thought that what I was doing was similar to what others have done around lakes for a long time. It reminded me of a column that I wrote over a decade ago when we were just opening the brand-new Maine Lakes Resource Center (AKA 7-Lakes Alliance Building) in Belgrade Lakes. For over a decade, the nonprofit conservation organizations in the new center have been helping to develop new science and practices for better caring for our lakes. But like all science, we try to learn from the past. The rest of this column is from one of my favorite “Watershed Wisdom” columns from 2011 that I originally titled, “Ancient Wisdom.” The final bit of wisdom from the Lorax is especially important.

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

“There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings....while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it.” Plato: Dialogue of Critias 360 B.C.E

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

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

“The roots of the willows do not suffer the banks of the canals to be destroyed; and the branches of the willows, nourished during their passage through the thickness of the bank and then cut low, thicken every year and make shoots continually, and so you have a bank that has life and is of one substance.”-Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 15 ...

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— Calendar —

• **Thursday 8/8 - Saturday 8/17** - Skowhegan State Fair, "Fair Lights & Summer Nights," endless food, fun, exhibitions, livestock events, live bands, daily shows, harness racing, pulls, demolition derbies, dollar days August 8 and 13, Senior Citizen Days August 12 and 15, Military Appreciation Day August 14, parking \$5 per car, admission \$10 or \$15 per day, kids 10 and under free, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Madison Avenue, Skowhegan.

• **Through Saturday 8/10** - Something Rotten, musical, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Skowhegan.

• **Through Sunday 8/11** - "Much Ado About Nothing," "Souvenir," Shakespeare's Will," "The School for Husbands" in repertory, 933-9999, Cumston Hall, The Theater at Monmouth.

• **Friday 8/9 and Saturday 8/10** - Readfield Heritage Days, food, fun, history, fireworks, downtown Readfield.

• **Friday 8/9** - Phil House & Kathy Haley, piano and organ music, 2 pm and 7 pm, free, air-conditioned, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

• **Friday 8/9** - Women Songwriters In-The-Round, featuring Lyn Deeves, Trina Hamlin and Colleen Sexton, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

• **Friday 8/9** - Assembly of Dust, Waterville Rocks, doors open 6, music 7, free, Head of Falls, Waterville.

• **Saturday 8/10** - "Run for Water Quality," Maranacook Lake Association 5K, open to all - runners, joggers, walkers, \$30 advance, \$35 day of, registration 7-7:30 am, race 8 am, Maranacook Community High School, Readfield.

• **Saturday 8/10** - Invasive Plant Paddle, McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake, 8 am, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Saturday 8/10** - Help! Save Maine Lakes, learn about milfoil eradication with Danielle Boutin of the Friends of Messalonskee Lake, 9 am- noon, pre-register and read full Course Description at midmaine.maineadulted.org, Mid-Maine Regional Adult Community Education, Oakland.

• **Saturday 8/10** - Breakfast and Bake/Craft Sale, sponsored by North Vienna Methodist Church, 9-11 am, Mt. Vernon Community Center, Mount Vernon.

• **Saturday 8/10** - Willy Wonka, Lakewood Young Performers, public performance, 10 am, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

• **Sunday 8/11** - Women Songwriters In-The-Round, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

• **Sunday 8/11** - Kennebec Performing Arts, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

• **Sunday 8/11** - Belgrade Lakes Association Annual Meeting, for Great Pond and Long Pond, 4-6 pm, Belgrade Lakes Golf Course, West Road, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Sunday 8/11** - North Pond Association Annual Meeting, 6:00-6:30 pm social, 6:30-8:30 meeting, Pine Tree Camp, North Pond, Rome.

• **Monday 8/12** - Explore Messalonskee Lake by Kayak, take a kayak lesson and visit sites of environmental interest on Messalonskee Lake with Mike Guarino, Friends of Messalonskee Lake, pre-register and read full Course Description at midmaine.maineadulted.org, meet at State of Maine Boat Launch, Route 27, Belgrade.

• **Monday 8/12** - Western Maine Foothills Band, Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

• **Tuesday 8/13** - Chewonki, Mammals of Maine presentation, 3 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Tuesday 8/13** - Wolf River, blues and rock n' roll, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

• **Wednesday 8/14** - Invasive Aquatic Plant ID Workshop, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 8/15** - Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead, House & Garden Tour and Guided History Hike, 10 am, reservations recommended vaughanhomestead.org, 622-9831, \$10 per person, 2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell.

• **Thursday 8/15** - World of Wonder, Children's Day Program, with master theater artist of magic and imagination, Leland Faulkner, 2 pm only, free, air-conditioned, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

• **Thursday 8/15** - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

• **Thursday 8/15** - Lindsey Wiehl, bassoonist, a concert of music based on books and literature, Live at Lithgow, Free Summer Concert Series, 6 pm, 626-2415, Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Public Library, Winthrop Street, Augusta.

• **Thursday 8/15** - Jefftones, Waterfront Music Series, 6-8 pm, public park, Lake Messalonskee, Oakland.

• **Thursday 8/15** - The Delta Knights Feat: Bob Colwell, Village Green Music Series, 6-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 8/15 - Sunday 8/18** - Mrs. Parliament's Night Out, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.



The Porch Party Mamas are an engaging and magnetic Boston-area band of four female musicians who've developed a unique blend of folk, country, Celtic, and blues repertoire. www.porchpartymamas.com Inspired by playing and singing each others' songs at their own "porch parties", their beautiful arrangements of lovely and whimsical songs feature dynamic lead vocals and lush harmonies backed by virtuosic guitar, fiddle, accordion, piano, percussion, banjo, and bass. They return to Vienna's gem of a music venue for their fourth annual concert, Friday, Aug 23, at 7:00. FMI: www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events



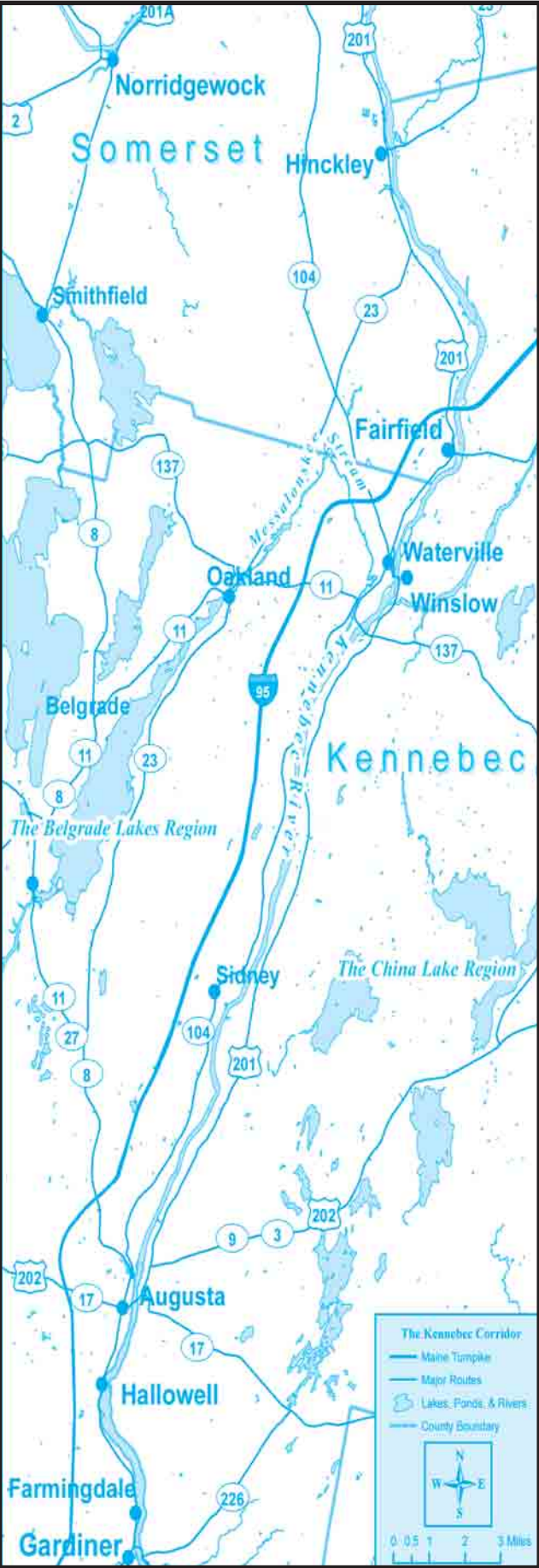
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



27th Maine International Film Festival Names Tourmaline Prize Winners



Tom Bell, Best Short Film

The Maine International Film Festival wrapped up its 27th annual edition Sunday, July 21, in Waterville, Maine. Thousands attended this year's festival, enjoying the opportunity to see 100 films across 10 days, including Maine-made productions, international movies from more than 40 countries, rediscoveries of beloved classics, world premieres, and much more. Among those 100 films were 22 made-in-Maine features and shorts, all of which competed for two juried Tourmaline Prizes. The prize, named for Maine's state gem, awards \$5,000 to the best Maine-made feature of the year and \$2,500 to the best Maine-made short of the year. The jury recognized *The Ruse* by Stevan Mena as best feature-length film and *An Extraordinary Place* by Tom Bell as the best short film this year.

Horror-thriller *The Ruse* enjoyed its world premiere at the Waterville Opera House during the festival and won the Tourmaline Prize over competition *The Ghost Trap* and *Carlo...and His Merry Band of Artists*. Elaborating upon their decision to award *The Ruse*, the jury especially pointed to the film's haunting cinematography and strong ensemble cast, led by legendary horror actress Veronica Cartwright (*Alien*, *The Birds*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*).

The Maine International Film Festival is a world class event; the venue and staff are exceptional," said Stevan Mena, writer, producer, and director of *The Ruse*. "I made many friends during my stay, with filmmakers from around the world. Looking forward to returning again."

Nineteen films contested this year's Maine-made shorts Tourmaline Prize, screening in three different programs and grouped as Maine Narrative Shorts, Maine Documentary Shorts, and Maine Music Shorts. After much deliberation, the jury named *An Extraordinary Place*, in the Music Shorts program, as the winner. The film profiles the inner workings of and unique characters at WMPG, an indie radio station in Portland

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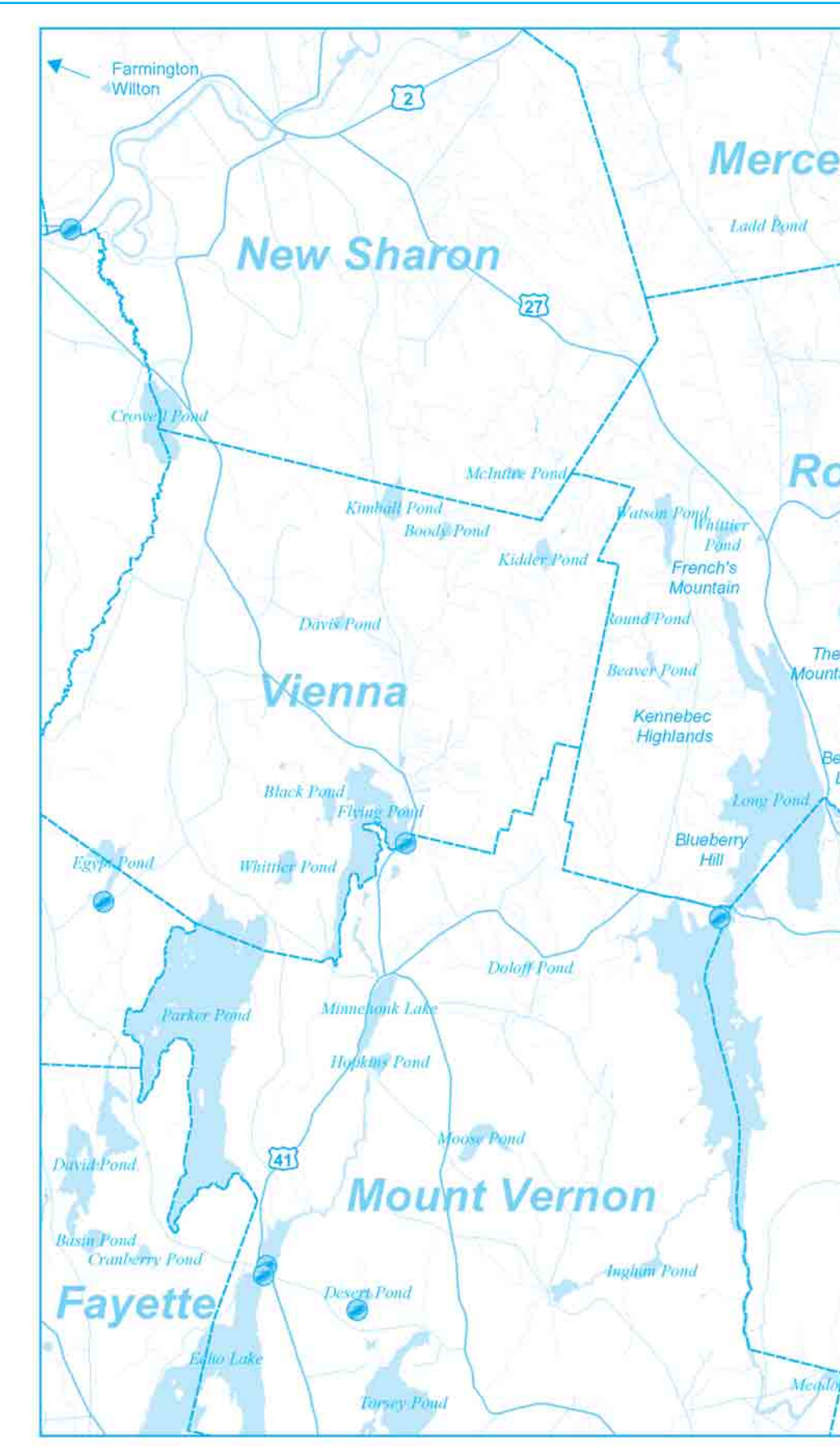
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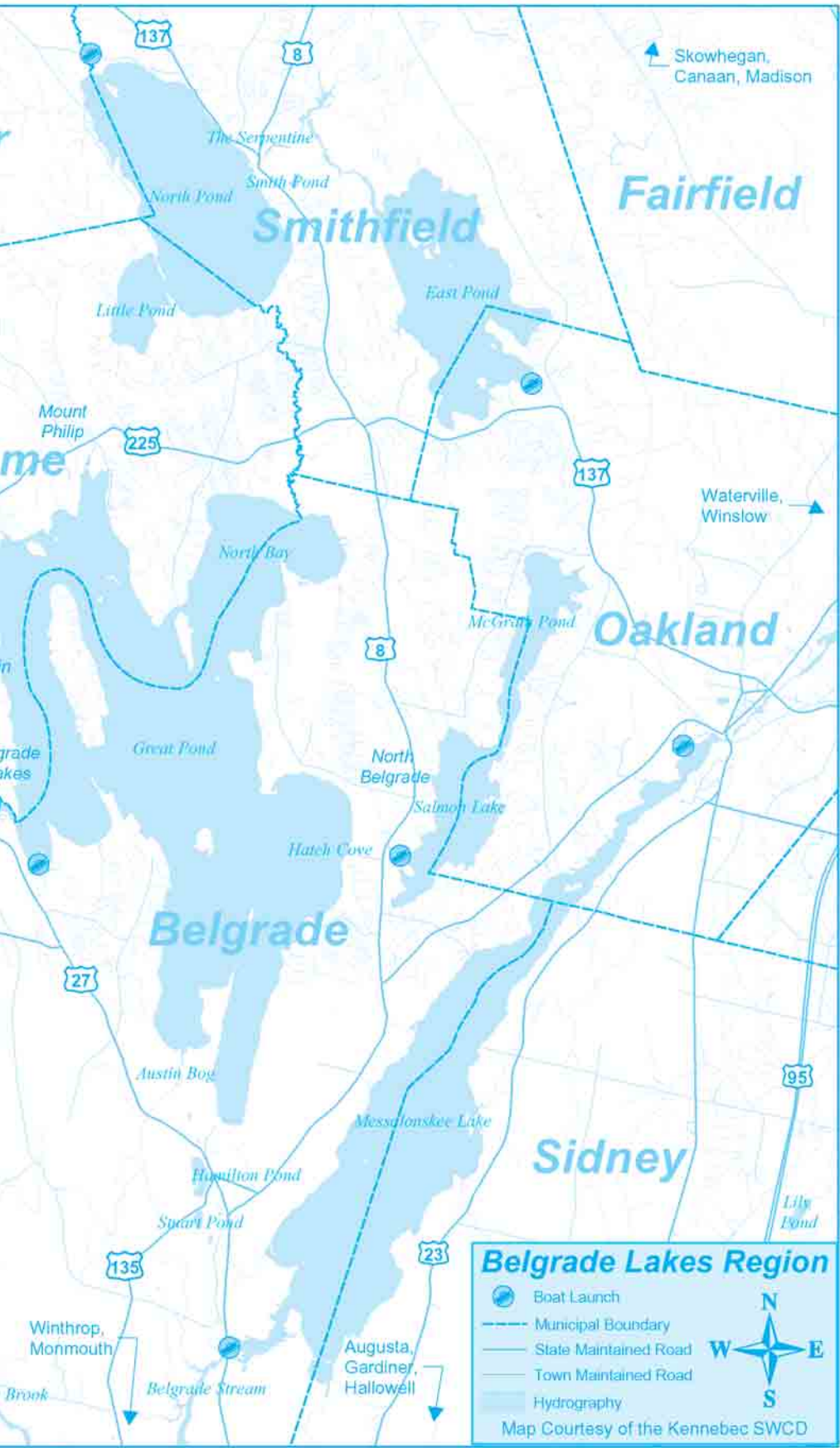


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53rd Annual Blueberry Festival Coming to Winslow Saturday, August 10!

One of Maine's all-time most popular, beloved, and downright yummy summer events—Winslow's annual Blueberry Festival—is coming this year on Saturday, August 10, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., to Winslow Congregational Church, 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow. Admission to the festival grounds is FREE.

Nearly 700 mouth-watering blueberry pies and "all things blueberry" baked goods will be available for sale. Blueberry pies (\$15 each; 2 for \$25) may be picked up at the church anytime from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. the previous evening (Friday, August 9) or the day of the festival (Saturday the 10th) from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until they are sold out.

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Kicking off the 53rd Annual Blueberry Festival on Saturday will be a delicious Blueberry Pancake Breakfast, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Cost of the breakfast will be \$7 per person and \$5 for children ages 12 and under, payable at the door.

Other Great "Festival Festivities"

In addition to the "all things blueberry" pies and other delicious baked goods, festival patrons will enjoy live music outdoors, an inside-the-church organ concert by Josh Bickford, a big Gift Cards Raffle, a Lobster Raffle, and more.

More about the 53rd Annual Blueberry Festival

A beloved community favorite since 1972, the Blueberry Festival raises funds to empower the local humanitarian/Christian-service work of Winslow Congregational Church. Celebrating its 196th birthday this year, the historic church is housed in a building dating from 1796, which has been home to a worshipping congregation since 1828.

Everyone seeking a wonderful opportunity to gather and enjoy a treasure trove of "all things blueberry" is cordially invited to attend this year's Blueberry Festival!

For more information about the 53rd annual Blueberry Festival, please call (207) 872-2544 or email news.winslowucc@gmail.com



Farmers' Markets: breads, meats, baked goods, produce, preserves, flowers, fruit and vegetables in season.

Tuesday - Augusta Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Mill Park, Water Street.

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

Wednesday - Gardiner Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, The Common

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 - 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 - New Sharon Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Douin's Market

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, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.



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Artwalk Gardiner
Friday, August 16th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm

It will be a lively summer evening of art and music. The artists and their works will be located in shops, galleries, artists' studios, and other venues throughout Historic Downtown Gardiner. Enjoy live accordion music by Gray Chapin as he strolls along Water Street. There will also be a chance to win an original piece of art by artists Christine Olson and Margaret Melanson. To participate, pick up an ARTWALK GARDINER map when you arrive at the event and collect 10 artist signatures at 10 different venues. Then drop it off at the raffle table at the park by Johnson Hall. Our next ARTWALK GARDINER event is scheduled for December 6th..

ARTWALK GARDINER was established in 2005 by Artdogs Studios in collaboration with a handful of artists from the Gardiner area. Their mission is to encourage community appreciation of the arts, connect local artists to the general public, create sustainable networks that support local artists, increase awareness of local arts organizations, and foster the creative economy through regular exhibitions and events in historic downtown Gardiner. Since its inception, ARTWALK GARDINER has drawn hundreds of visitors to Water Street to enjoy these delightful evenings.

ARTISTS: Alan Claude, Allison McKeen, Andy Curran, Anne El-Habre, Cathy Galgano,

Cameron Lyons, Darcy Duda, Donald Patten, Elizabeth Jabar, Ellen Roberts, Frank Dinsmore, Jennifer Hickey, John Carnes, Kaitlin Thibeau, Karen Adrienne, Katy Corbett, Keil Borrmann, Kelly Maines, Leo Hussey, Linda Clark, Linda Gallion, Luke Myers, Matt Demers, Mike Gent, Rachel Sugarman, Rebecca A Hopkins, Sherema Kinard, Stitch 'n Bitch, & Taylor Newbeck.

HOST VENUES: Artdogs Studios, Awakened Intuition, Bateau Brewing, Circling the Square Fine Art Press, Gardiner Public Library, Goldfinch Creamery, Johnson Hall Opera House, Lisa's Legit Burritos, Monkintree, Pistil & Page, Selene's Fly Shop, Scrummy Afters Candy Shoppe, Spindleworks, Table Bar, & The Blind Pig Tavern

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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

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Call of the Loon

A Banding Outing and Goodbyes



Jodie getting some assistance from BRI's Wildlife Biologist!



Jodie in Seventh Heaven holding a Great Pond chick while its father is being 'worked up'!



Barlow's ready to release the banded and 'processed' adult loon

son ends positively, fingers crossed for the chicks and adults, and again, thank you. See you in the fall." Barlow Herbst

Thank you, Barlow and Jodie – we will miss you! If you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@bla-maine.org and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email.

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



This past week has been quite eventful for our loons as well as Barlow and Jodie, our two Colby College interns that participated in their first banding outing on Great Pond. With the typical threat of thunderstorms earlier that evening and winds in the 5-10 mph category, they had planned on capturing and banding four adults but the weather and the birds did not want to cooperate so it took the team until 2:30 in the morning but they did test, measure, and band three adults! All under the auspices of two of Biodiversity Research Institutes wildlife biologists.

Tracking the movements, territory and mate fidelity, and long-term survival of banded loons is key to understanding the dynamics of our local population. First-year lab results of samples analyzed for mercury (Hg) show only low and moderate levels in both blood and feathers. These results do not fortunately indicate any levels of concern at this time.

In the first two years, this project demonstrated the effectiveness of collaboration between trained professional researchers and our valued volunteer citizen scientists with local eyes on the water.

Well, as I am writing this week's column our two interns dropped by this morning to sadly say their goodbyes. We all so enjoyed their company and support this summer and are forever in their debt for their contributions to our loon preservation efforts.

I would like to share Barlow's Bon Voyage letter to Lee Attix and I which beautifully sums up our collective sentiments:

"I really enjoyed this experience. I've done a lot with all kinds of birds – the songbirds taught me a lot and brought me in. The owls were just unreal, but I think after this summer the loons are the winners, no question. I loved looking at and learning their behaviors while at the same time physically feeling like I was part of their world, just peering in. It is definitely very, very different seeing just one part of a bird's life through bonding or even just birding then tracking and feeling like you're living with a community of birds, especially the loons who seem to really have complex personalities.

I just wanted to say thank you for letting me participate in this project and experience just a small part of this world. Thank you for all of the support and guidance over these weeks. We really couldn't have done it without you. I hope the sea-



L-R, Intern Barlow Herbst, Project Leader Lee Attix, Intern Jodie Tsih



The Amish School by Sara E. Fisher and Rachel K. Stahl

by Martha F. Barkley

Are’n’t we fortunate to have Amish families moving into our beautiful Belgrade area for awhile now? Their horses and carriages remind all of us about “the way life should be,” especially as we zoom too fast along our two lane roads around the lakes.

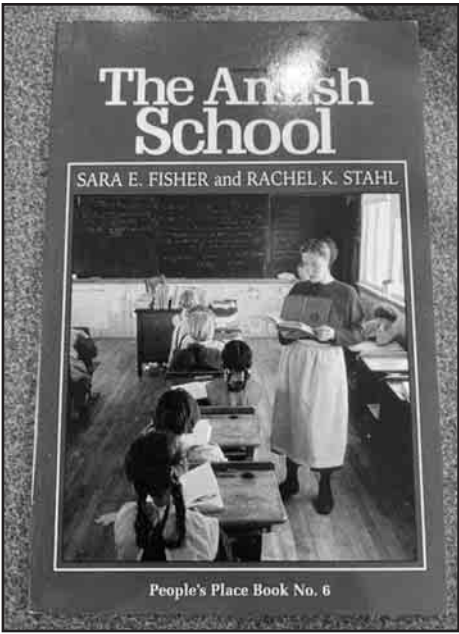
Our son Matthew purchased two of this title for me at Feldman’s Used Bookstore in Menlo Park, CA. What a find for me to read and share the second copy with a brand new teacher in our family recently. Check Re-Books in Waterville for this 1986 paperback full of wisdom.

I bought my Truman biography by David McCullough at Re-Books one summer when there was great debate about who should be nominated for Vice President. Sound familiar? Reading the selection of Truman by FDR helped me understand current politics a little bit better.

After my public school teaching experience of 30 years in Md., I have a renewed appreciation of common sense Amish teachers and parents and students. From Garrett Park Elementary in Montgomery County MD, we had second grade field trips to Lancaster, PA Amish country to meet children at their farms and enjoy an enticing meal of seven sweets and seven sours PLUS shoo-fly pie. Parent volunteers were eager to get on the bus with my students and learn and enjoy an Amish meal.

Not until I read this short book did I know that the Supreme Court had sided with the Amish on a schooling issue. Not until reading this common sense approach did I realize an hour for lunch was designated every school day even though some kids ate in three minutes. Plenty of free, fun time provided for every student.

The reason I gave one of my copies to our new teacher in the family is because an entire chapter of this book explains that the Amish had two schools



for special needs students. The Amish do not believe in competition either, so all students feel welcomed and loved in school.

The masters degree new teacher in our family explained how she handled her 17 students with half of them having special needs. I listened and learned from her about current VA public schools. I read and learned about PA Amish schools and how they met the needs of their special students.

Young or old, we can all learn a thing or two when it comes to teaching our young children. The Amish made a difference in the PA public schools. Written by a public school teacher who became a teacher in an Amish school. Both authors offer old and new ideas that benefit all learners.

So look for a book at Re-Books in Waterville or upstairs on Main Street for a brand new published paperback or magazine or wherever learning something new appeals to you.

The one room or two room schoolhouses accomplish so much. Abe Lincoln only attended one for less than two years. His father demanded much labor out of his son, depriving Abe from schooling. And look where Lincoln landed in history? I propose that Lincoln’s mother provided much of what Amish teachers do to this day...

Lincoln Reconsidered by David Herbert Donald is another history to look at and think about. We discussed this fine historian in the garden behind what was The Spring Art gallery on Main in Belgrade Lakes Village. Remember those history teachers who showed up? Lincoln lovers all.

Lois Lenski’s Shoo-Fly Girl has also become a classic children’s book.



Readfield Heritage Days



READFIELD HERITAGE DAYS

Friday, August 9
5pm-7pm
Readfield Historical Society
Wine & Cheese Social
7pm-9pm
Readfield Beach
Oldies Dance and Sock Hop
Saturday, August 10th ALL DAY
Heritage Days Achievement Quest
Children 15 and under

Unlock each achievement on the list and win CASH!
Quest forms available at the Town Office
<https://www.facebook.com/readfieldheritagedays>

8am Maranacook Lake Association 5k
Begins at Maranacook Middle School
8am-11am Breakfast with the Masons - \$8
Masonic Hall - Main St.

8am-4pm Union Meeting House
Estate Sale
9am-1pm Library Book Sale -
Fire Station
10am-11:30am History Walk with
Dale Potter-Clark - Kent’s Hill
10am-2pm Kickball Championship -
Fairgrounds
11am-3pm Maker’s Market and
Community Fair at the Beach
Inflatables, Ice Cream, Food
1pm-3pm Benjamin Williamson Exhibition
The Gallery - Main St.
3pm-5pm Readfield Fire Dept. Open House
and Cookout
4pm BEACH CLOSING FOR FIREWORKS
9:00pm Fireworks at the Beach

Parking available at the beach!

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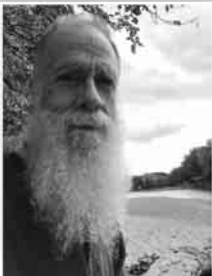
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— Real Estate Update —

A Refreshing Shift Toward Stability

As we sail through the summer of 2024, it's exciting to see the Belgrade Lakes area buzzing with activity. With warm weather, bustling stores, and a steady stream of visitors, it's been a fantastic season so far!

Turning our attention to the real estate market, we're seeing a refreshing shift toward stability, moving away from the volatility of the 'COVID years'. One of the most encouraging trends is the increase in inventory. In Kennebec County, the number of available homes has risen by 25% since May and over 70% compared to this time last year. This surge in inventory is great news for buyers seeking single-family and waterfront properties. Additionally, while the average price of single-family homes has risen by 5.4% year-to-date compared to 2023, this growth is now moderating compared to the rapid increases we've seen in recent years. This trend signifies a more balanced and sustainable market.

Although the number of sales in Kennebec County has decreased by 5.8% year-over-year and waterfront sales are down by over 30% from 2023,

these figures reflect a market recalibrating rather than a decline in interest. For buyers, this means more choices, reduced competition, and a more level playing field. For sellers, the high demand in our desirable area continues to be a strong asset. We're entering a phase where cooperation and negotiation are becoming key elements of successful transactions.

Looking ahead, the Federal Reserve has hinted at potential interest rate cuts in September, which could further invigorate the market and stimulate buying activity.

Our advice? Sellers should feel confident that now is still a great time to list, as the steady demand means your home could be exactly what someone is searching for. Buyers should seize the opportunity when they find the right home—connect with your REALTOR®, engage with a mortgage lender, and position yourself to make the most of the current market conditions.

Here's to a bright and promising real estate landscape ahead!

...continued from page 5

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

The 7 Lakes Alliance continues to work to make conservation a tradition in our watershed. We try to implement some of the wisdom of past generations to preserve this special place for future generations. We need to take advantage of Mother Nature's built in systems and figure out ways to modify man-made systems to mimic natural systems. We have implemented many state-of-the-art best management practices into the design of our new center. Come visit and learn how to live lightly on the land for the sake of the lakes. We want our children and grandchildren to have memories like E.B. White:

Letters of E.B. White, Childhood memories, age 5:

"For me the golden time of year was summertime, when we all went for one month to a rented camp on the shore of Great Pond, one of the Belgrade Lakes in Maine. This

Belgrade era began, I think, in 1904, when I was five years old. It was sheer enchantment. We Whites were city people—everything about Belgrade was a new experience: the big freshwater lake, the pines and spruces and birches, the pasture with its sweet-fern and juniper, the farmhouse where we took our meals, the rough camp with its sparsely furnished bedrooms... the boating, the swimming, and the company of other campers along the shore. The month of August was four solid weeks of heaven....

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



The Dams Keeper Report

Although it's been another roller coaster of a week with daily scattered thunderstorms. We actually faired fairly well with just 1.11" of precipitation over the past ten days. I know, it's hard to believe with what seemed like daily showers and boomers. Not the Chamber of Commerce weather 'they' were forecasting for this summer. Maybe we're back to regular summer weather? Normal precipitation for the area in July is 3.55" and we received 4.34" so it was not the end of the world but it was a wet month nevertheless!

The good news is that we are still holding our own and our ponds are in excellent shape despite the showers. The Village Dam, as of this writing, is 2.04" above full pond with one gate opened just 10". Long Pond, at the Wings Mill Dam, is 4.30" above full with both gates now closed as of this morning. Upper Long Pond, nine miles to the north is 1.5" above full so with Wings Mill now closed, Long Pond should level out at around 3" over the next few days. Snow Pond is 2.4" below the top of their spillway, which as I've said before, is remarkable considering the water we're sending their way! Salmon and McGrath remain in great shape, 1.44" above full pond with the 1 cfs. calibrated valve still opened 15 turns.

If you recall, they were forecasting another light drought for this summer, which couldn't have been further from the truth! As I pen this week's column, we just received an updated ten day forecast with 2.18" of precipitation so it looks like we're in for another wet week. Great for the gardeners and farmers amongst us. And just think of how much money you'll save in sunblock this week!

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

Enjoy the family, your vacation and reading your Summertime in the Belgrades while stuck indoors!

Dick Greenan
Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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