

# Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

## 2025: The Magic of Summer in Maine

by Esther J. Perne



The magic of a loon family. Photo by Dick Greenan

Summer arrives, the summer of 2025 and - like magic - the hills are canvased in green, open waters ripple with the breezes, flowers bloom not unlike rainbows and, in times of

quiet, the songs and cries and messages of birds resonate everywhere.

Topping the list of iconic summer sounds is the call of the loon, that majestic summer resident


who arrives from coastal wintering - like magic - each spring the day after the ice leaves a lake.

The eerie, haunting message of the loon hear-

*Continued on page 2*

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## —Welcome Letter—



Never far from a lake: Cordell, Esther and Ethan Perne  
Photo by Kevin Couture

Dear Readers:

Welcome to the summer of 2025 and to the pages of *Summertime in the Belgrades* - our 34th season of inviting visitors, vacationers and residents to step out the door and into the fabulous surroundings of open waters, secluded woods, scenic heights and historic down-towns...an invitation that includes, as well, sociable times at seasonal celebrations, local fare in friendly eateries and visits to shops and stores and one-of-a-kind museums.

In early issues of the publication we assured readers that the newspaper would remain refreshingly the same each season - wholesome,

unpretentious and uniquely oriented to family, community and lake area news, views, happenings and opportunities. Even as the world around us is changing in ways large and small—in weather and economics, in construction and electronics, in turbulence and tempo, there is still in this region a quality of tranquility and changelessness to be discovered and enjoyed.

In *Summertime in the Belgrades* we bring these qualities of changelessness to you in weekly columns and calendars, notes and news, recollections of history and highlights of conservation - and in ads and listings for the region's best goods and services. As each season starts we are ever thankful for our advertisers whose support makes *Summertime in the Belgrades* possible and who are a helpful source of local information, directions and advice.

We also thank our columnists and contributors and everyone who contacts *Summertime in the Belgrades* with notes of appreciation, newsworthy information and enthusiasm for the region.

And we thank you, our readers, who have picked up this first copy of *Summertime in the Belgrades* 2025 and are turning the pages to another summer of stepping out the door into a world of great natural beauty, of bountiful recreational opportunities and of a quality of tranquility and changelessness to be discovered and enjoyed.

Have a great summer!

Esther, Michael, Gregor, Cordell and Ethan

Continued from page 1

kens back millions of years - loons are one of the most ancient bird families - and reassures us today that for this season at least the lakes are still clear enough for diving and fishing underwater.

Clear lakes are the attraction for people, too, for the many who travel here, summer here, live here and use the lakes here and who all can have the privileged experience of standing on a shore or dock and looking down through clear water to the bottom of a lake - like magic.

For decades, dozens of lake dwellers and those who live in the area and those hired to protect and preserve these beautiful central Maine lakes have formed a brigade of determination, of industry, of trial and error and, in many cases, of success in maintaining a lake's clarity.



And the reward? Wherever there is the possibility of boating and swimming, children and grandchildren and all children peel out of their clothes and pull on swim suits (adults do, too) and whoop and holler (adults not so much) as they splash into the water and have the best day ever - like magic.

Summer will end, hopefully in a brilliant slow-motion sunset, and when it does there's magic in the memories, in the possibility of being in the coldest of winters or furthest of places and seeing a billowing cloud or hearing a bird sing or smelling a piney scent and being transported back to summer in Maine - like magic.



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Summertime in the Belgrades

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Are You Tick Smart?



Deer Tick: Adult Female and Nymph

While the “Belgrades” is beautiful and has many outdoor options for activities, it is also home to ticks. Maine's tick season is off to a strong start due to a milder winter and wet spring, leading to increased tick activity and the risk of tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease. Ticks are active here starting in April and going into Fall. The season is also starting earlier and lasting longer due to

warmer average temperatures. Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the United States with approximately 30,000 new cases reported annually. The first documented case of Lyme disease in Maine was identified in 1986 and the incidence has been steadily increasing within the state ever since. Maine has as many as up to 15 different kinds of ticks, however it is the blacklegged tick (commonly known as the deer tick) that can transmit the following diseases: Lyme, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Hard Tick Relapsing Fever, Powassan Encephalitis, and Alpha-Gal (Red Meat) Allergy.

Maine is home to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick lab. Located in Orono, the lab offers testing to the Maine community. This is an invaluable resource, as the lab will check a tick (cost is \$2)0 found on you, or a loved one and test it for tick borne pathogens. This allows for proper treatment, and peace of mind. Having lost a family member to a tick borne illness, I am always educating the Maine community about the lab. Do not flush the tick – save it and send it.

Here in Kennebec county in 2024 the lab tested 212 ticks. 91 tested positive for Borrelia burgdorferi (lyme), 21 tested positive for Anaplasma phagocytophilum (Anaplasmosis), 24 tested positive for Babesia microti (Babesiosis) and 3 tested positive for Powassan. Some of these diseases are bacterial and can be treated with antibiotics and others, like Powassan, are viral and don’t respond to antibiotics.

- What can you do to protect yourself? Prevention is key!
- Wear light-colored clothing to make ticks easier to detect.
  - Wear long pants tucked into socks or boots and tuck your shirt into your pants to keep ticks on the outside of your clothes.
  - Use products that contain permethrin to treat clothing and gear
  - Other tick repellents recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535.
  - The use of repellents that contain 20-30% DEET on exposed skin and clothing can effectively repel ticks for several hours.
  - Tumble dry clothing on high heat for 10-20 minutes.
  - Do your TICK CHECK! They especially migrate to arm pits, behind the knees, between the legs, in and around the ears, belly button and hair.

For more information on the UMaine Cooperative Extension Tick lab you can look them up on line: <https://extension.umaine.edu/ticks/> or call 207.581.3880 or 800.287.0279

Submitted by: Susie Sampson, Belgrade Lakes resident.



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7 LAKES ALLIANCE Summer Celebration

Sunday, July 13, 4-6 pm

137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes

Please join us for our annual summer gathering to learn about the important work being done by 7 Lakes Alliance to conserve the lakes and lands we all love. Together, we'll celebrate the wonderful supporters and volunteers who make this work possible.

Thanks to our generous sponsor, there is no fee for this event. Kindly RSVP at [7LakesAlliance.org/events/](https://7LakesAlliance.org/events/) so we may have an accurate head count.

Sponsored by: Hammond Lumber Company





## 2024 Accomplishments and Launching a Busy Summer Season

As summer returns to the Belgrade Lakes region, the team at 7 Lakes Alliance is already in high gear advancing critical work to protect our lakes and lands. Amid the flurry of activity, we are taking a moment to reflect and share highlights of a landmark conservation year – progress made possible thanks to your generous support.

In 2024, thanks to our expanded programming capacity, 7 Lakes significantly increased efforts to protect the lakes, shorelines, uplands, and forests of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. From critical water quality remediation projects and expanded opportunities to enjoy nature to leading the fight against invasive aquatic species that threaten to choke our lakes, our year-round work defends what makes this place magical. Rooted in science and an unwavering commitment, we are here to protect it - now and always.

We invite you to read our 2024 Annual Report – available via our website: [7lakesalliance.org/news/annual-report](https://7lakesalliance.org/news/annual-report). In its pages, you'll find stories of conservation success, updates on crucial initiatives and recognition of the generous support we receive from donors, volunteers and partner organizations.

Our vision is clear: a future where the lakes



remain clear of invasive aquatic plants and algal blooms, where our healthy forests sustain wildlife and nature remains accessible and meaningful to all.

This work would not be possible without our dedicated staff and Board of Directors and the many supporters who share our passion for conserving the Belgrade Lakes experience. Thanks to this collective effort, our watershed is stronger, wilder and more resilient than ever. We are deeply grateful to everyone who stands with us.

We are excited to reconnect with you this summer - on the lakes, along the trails and at the 7 Lakes Alliance building in the Belgrade Lakes village. Please stop in anytime, including Sundays during the farmers' market. And don't miss our full summer schedule of programs, events and educational activities, available on our website: [7lakesalliance.org](https://7lakesalliance.org)

To stay up-to-date, sign up for our weekly email newsletter, packed with information on events, conservation news and opportunities to get involved. [7lakesalliance.org/newsletter](https://7lakesalliance.org/newsletter)

Together, we are conserving the waters and lands that define this cherished spot in Maine. Thank you for being a part of this important mission.



## Spring has Sprung

Submitted by BHS member Rod Johnson

Well, here we go, another Spring is upon us, and Summer isn't far behind! Every year the first issue of Summertime News never fails to remind us of the long list of visions, smells and elations that Spring awards us. I had some fleeting thoughts, however brief, to change up the venue this year and pick a different topic. Shame for even thinking such a thing. Our hearts and minds are here and now enjoying Spring, so let's see what it is that takes our fancy!



Let's talk blooming shrubs and flowers -- and which ones are your faves? Yellow was mellow with forsythia on the Maine Pike only 3 weeks ago-and now it's gone! Last week the tulips came forth in force, but ours are looking very tired now and they seldom make it to Memorial Day. Another early bird bloomer that always grabs one's eye are the crocuses. They pop up along the sunny side of your house, even before the snow has totally retreated for another year. I believe they are the first to offer some color after several bleak months. Next on the menu are daffodils, and right now the lilacs are looking mighty good. I can't wait for my wife to pluck a few for the center table. Last, but not least, I'm reminded that the "new green," a lighter shade than that of mature leaves, are in their prime right now. The two green shades this time of year give a delightful background to all.

Let us absorb and enjoy the fleeting "Spring Show" while we have it. As we cycle through the seasons, open your eyes to the never-ending treats that mother nature provides. What's next in the endless parade from mother nature is in the eyes of the beholder. DON'T MISS IT.

*Author's Note: The Belgrade Historical Society will be submitting articles in all 11 issues of Summertime in the Belgrades. Writing will be shared by member Rod Johnson and Belgrade Historian Dianne Dowd. Thank You*



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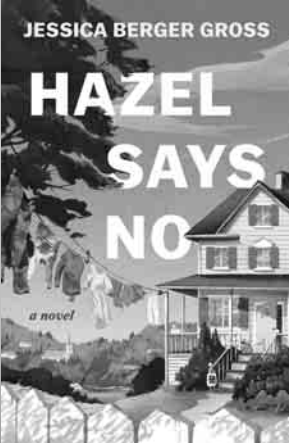
Stocking Atlantic salmon with Amanda Ripa’s  
Messalonskee Middle School science students.

local Trail Map and Guide. It is available for purchase at the Resource Center as well as at Day’s Store. The new Quill-Hill Mountain Trails off Drury Lane are scenic and not very steep, making them particularly appropriate for hiking with youngsters and oldsters.

I have been busy this spring as a Mentor for the Atlantic Salmon Federation’s Fish Friends program, helping students in RSU-18 and at the MLRC, learn about the life cycle of Atlantic salmon by raising salmon fry in refrigerated tanks in the classroom. Maine currently has the only remaining wild population of this Federally endangered species in this country. Our students recently stocked almost 600 salmon fry into the Bond Brook and Sandy River. Some of the students got a tour of the nearby Governor Hill Fish Hatchery in Augusta.

Continued on page 10 ...

Celebrate the release of  
**Hazel Says No**  
with writer  
**Jessica Berger Gross**



June 11th at 6pm  
Beth Isreal Congregation  
Waterville, ME  
With Oliver & Friends Bookshop  
and the Waterville Public Library

June 26th at 6:30pm  
Readfield Community Library  
Readfield, ME  
In conversation with Deborah Spark

LONG POND




**MLS 1623435** - Just a few minutes from the charming village of Belgrade Lakes, you will discover a hidden gem on Long Pond. A classic Maine lakeside cabin sits at the water's edge on Pinewold Point, offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. With just under an acre of unparalleled natural beauty and 160' of your own shore frontage, this private retreat borders a 23-acre lakefront property with its natural character and shoreline forever protected by a conservation easement. Pinewold Point is one of the few sparsely developed peninsulas in the Belgrade

Lakes Region where you will feel like you've stepped back in time to experience 'the way life should be'. Relax and enjoy summer breezes on your screen porch while taking in the views of the lake and surrounding forest, and enjoy stunning sunsets from your west-facing lakeside deck. Spend your days swimming in the pristine water from your own sandy swimming area, fishing and boating on one of the most scenic and least developed of the seven lakes in the Belgrade Lakes region. Looking for other local adventures? Play golf at Belgrade Lakes Golf Club, a world-class golf course, or explore the many miles of trails in the nearby Kennebec Highlands. Just a few minutes away by car or boat, Belgrade Lakes Village offers cafes and restaurants, quaint shops, provisions at Day's Store, outdoor concerts, craft fairs, and a weekly farmers market throughout the summer. For additional amenities, Augusta, Waterville and Farmington are all within a 30-minute drive. This is a one-of-a-kind property on a year-round road featuring a 3-bedroom seasonal cabin with a 1258 sq ft footprint, less than 50 feet from the shoreline. Check with Rome's CEO to learn more about potential opportunities for expansion, updating, or conversion to a year-round home. **\$895,000**

  
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## Calendar

**Friday 6/13** - Maine Ice Cream Trail Kick-Off Day; visit local trail members Gifford's in Waterville and Skowhegan, get a map from the Get Real Maine website, or just make tracks to the nearest ice cream stand of any brand.

**Friday 6/13** - Maine Lakes Conference, "Lakes at the Edge" - what we can do in the shoreline zone and surrounding uplands to keep our lakes healthy, guest speakers and work sessions, 8 am-4:30 pm, hosted by Maine Lakes and Lake Stewards of Maine, details and registration at <https://lakeconferencemaine.org>, Olsen Student Center, University of Maine, Farmington.

**Through Saturday 6/14** - "Office Hours," every office has a tale or two, Lakewood Summer Theater, 474-7176, 76 Theater Road, Route 201, Madison.

**Friday 6/13-Sunday 6/15** - 41st Annual Trek Across Maine, bicycle trek, American Lung Association fundraiser, Pineland Farms to Bates College to St. Joseph's College to Pineland Farms, New Gloucester.

**Friday 6/13** - The Mollycokett Chorus, women singers from southwestern Maine, barbershop style a cappella harmony in four parts, 2 pm and 7 pm, free admission, 946-5311, Araxine Wilkins Sawyer Foundation, Sawyer Road, Greene.

**Saturday 6/14** - Move More Kids Summer Kick-Off 5K, registration 7-7:45 am, \$5, race starts 8:30 am; Youth Fun Run 8 am, 858-8461, Coburn Park, Water Street, Skowhegan.

**Saturday 6/14 and Sunday 6/15** - The Maine Event Horse Show - Blue Ribbon BBQ, covered arena, concessions, free admission, 272-0082, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

**Saturday 6/14** - Maine Agility League Fun Run, beginners welcome, \$35, 9 am-3 pm, [canineagilityleague@gmail.com](mailto:canineagilityleague@gmail.com), Union Fairgrounds, Union.

**Saturday 6/14** - Boating Safety and Education Course, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, 9 am-3 pm, 395-5239, 2518 Route 202, Winthrop.

**Sunday 6/15** - Father's Day, celebrate with a Dad, a Granddad or a father figure who's like a Dad with a walk or a hike or fishing; share something to eat, tell jokes, enjoy an ice cream.

**Sunday 6/15** - Snow Pond's Maine Chamber Music Festival, 7:30 pm, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

**Monday 6/16** - Birding Hike with Casey Hynes, part of

the L.L. Bean Discovery Program, quiet, slow-paced, 7-9 am, under age 17 must be with parent/guardian, \$49.95, 552-3261, [www.vilesarboretum.org](http://www.vilesarboretum.org), 67 Piggery Road, Augusta.

**Wednesday 6/18** - Buffer Planting, Friends of Messalonskee, planting demonstration by Youth Conservation Corps, sample buffer plants door prizes, 12:30-3 pm, Lakeside Lodge at Bangs Beach, Sidney.

**Wednesday 6/18** - SKOSH, SummerFun Concert @ Mill Park, 6 pm, Water Street, Augusta.

**Wednesday 6/18** - "Silent Films in Maine, Part III," 6:30 pm, 622-7718, Kennebec Historical Society, 16 Cony Street,

Augusta.

**Wednesday 6/18** - Belgrade Special Town Meeting to see if the Town will authorize bonding the full project cost of a new fire station, 6:30 pm, Belgrade Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

**Thursday 6/19 through Sunday 6/23** - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, 873-6539, great bands, food, camping, Litchfield Fairgrounds, 30 Plains Road, Litchfield.

**Friday 6/20 - Sunday 6/22** - 45th Annual Downeast Horse Congress Horse Show, free admission, covered arena, concessions, Fairgrounds, Madison Avenue, Skowhegan.



### 62<sup>nd</sup> Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival

June 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2025  
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**The Gibson Brothers (NY) S**  
**Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass (PA) F**  
**Hemingway Brothers (ME) F, S**  
**Katahdin Valley Boys (ME) T**  
**High River F, S**

**Emcee - Sandy Cormier**  
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**Rock Hearts (RI) S**  
**Hosmer Mt. Boys (CT) T**  
**Cedar Ridge (NY) F**  
**Blistered Fingers (ME) T**  
**Robinson's Gospel (MA) Sun**

GPS DIRECTIONS:  
Camping: 30 Plains Rd., Litchfield, ME  
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**Gate Opens 8:00AM (Sunday) June 15, 2025**  
Daily Gate Times Are 8:00AM-10:00PM

**Ticket Prices Per Person:**  
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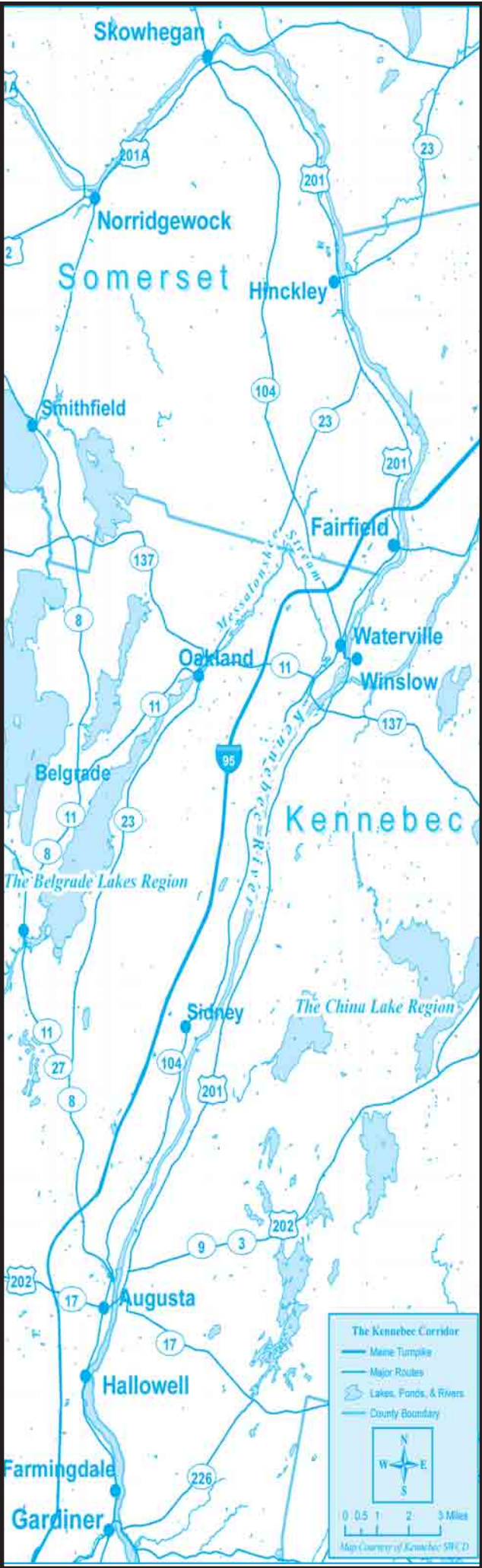
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



Maine Student Film + Video Festival to Showcase Young Filmmakers at MIFF28



The 28th Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) is fast approaching, and this year brings with it a special opportunity for Maine students to showcase their film projects before an international audience with professional filmmakers from around the world. The Maine Student Film + Video Festival (MSFVF) will be held Saturday, July 19, during the final weekend of MIFF28.

Maine-based students in grades K–12 are eligible to submit their short films to the festival program by June 15. Selected shorts will be shown on the big screen at the Maine Film Center (MFC) during MIFF, providing the next generation of Maine moviemakers the rare opportunity to see their work presented in the highest quality audiovisual projection in the state. Participating students have the chance to win professional filmmaking gear or a \$500 grand prize sponsored by Maine Public.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for students and young filmmakers to screen their works as part of an international film festival,” said Mike Perreault, executive director of the Maine Film Center and MIFF. “They’re able to make connections with filmmakers from Maine and around the world and gain, perhaps, their first experience exhibiting their work to a general audience. With free admission for the public and several prizes in store at each edition of MSFVF, we’re proud to celebrate the best young filmmakers in Maine in this way.”

“It’s very important to provide Maine children with as many opportunities as possible to explore their passions and create art that matters to them,” Ahlstrin-Munieci said. “Between MSFVF and our youth film classes throughout the year, MFC’s goal is to help foster the next generation of Maine filmmakers and encourage them to proudly express their creativity and feel comfortable experimenting with film

and other media.”

MIFF, the largest film festival in Northern New England, offers audiences a unique experience, showcasing the latest international cinema from around the world while simultaneously foregrounding Maine-made projects. Last year’s full 100-film program featured 40 countries, but also 22 films that were produced right here in Maine. By sustaining a year-round emphasis on young talent, with MSFVF as the centerpiece, MFC hopes to encourage further development of the state’s film industry.

A project of the Maine Film Center, MIFF showcases 100 films during the 10 days of the festival, highlighting the best of American independent, international, and repertory cinema, including the very finest Maine-made productions, celebrated each year with the Tourmaline Prizes. During MIFF, thousands of cinemagoers from near and far will visit the Maine Film Center’s three-screen cinema in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, and enjoy screenings in the 123-year-old Waterville Opera House. The festival’s diverse audience includes Waterville locals who have attended the festival for nearly three decades and first-time visitors to Maine from all over the world.

In addition to MSFVF, the Maine Film Center will be announcing more filmmaking workshops and camps for youth this summer.

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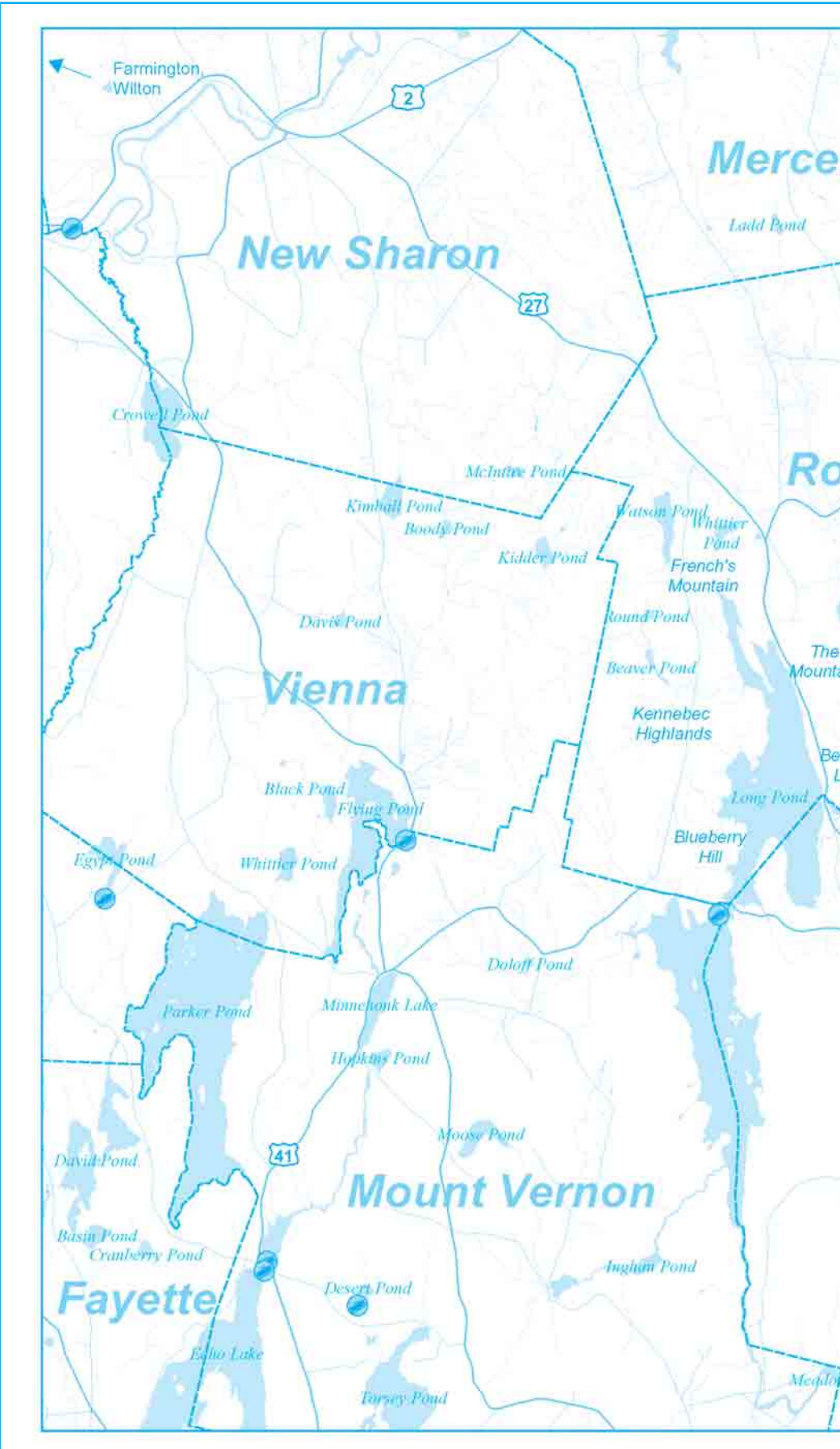


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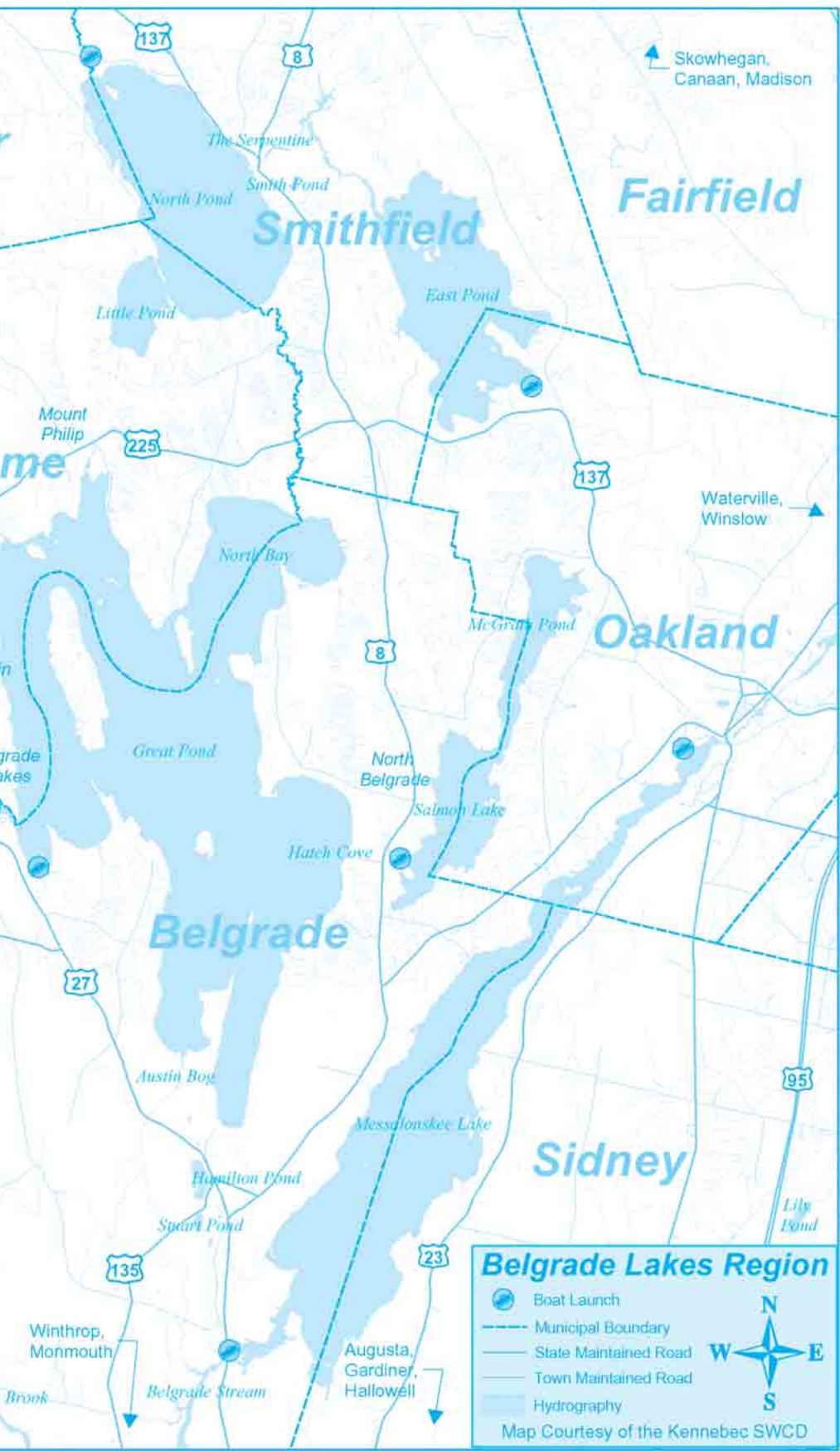
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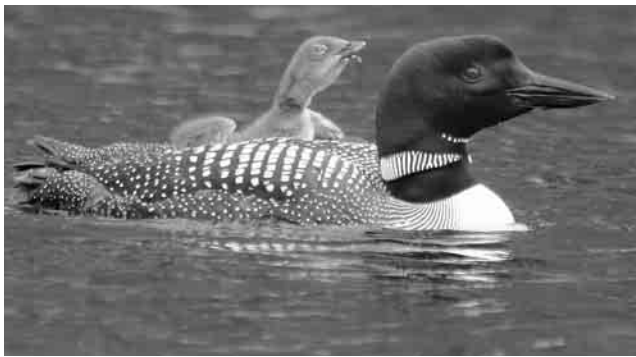
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## Notebook

### Oakland: Messalonskee High School Golf Tournament

• All avid golfers and enthusiasts are invited to participate. Oakland's Messalonskee High School Class of 2026 will be hosting its 3rd Annual 'Nest at Natanis' Golf Tournament on Friday, June 27 to raise money for Project Graduation. The tournament will have a 9 am shotgun start and offers prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. There will also be a Silent Auction and fun competitions. To register visit: [app.eventcaddy.com/events/nest-at-natanis-golf-tournament](http://app.eventcaddy.com/events/nest-at-natanis-golf-tournament). For more information email [rsucy@rsu18.org](mailto:rsucy@rsu18.org). Natanis Golf Club is located at 135 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro.

### Augusta: Kennebec Valley Humane Society Benefit

• Dog-friendly and family friendly, the "Tails and Tunes" celebration on Sunday, June 22 will feature Maine-based singer Julia Gagnon with special guest Bella Ann. The benefit begins at 4 pm with food trucks and beverage vendors and music. Tickets are \$50 with under 12 years of age free. Every dollar raised helps provide healing, hope and second chances to animals in need.  
626-3491

...Continued from page 5



Foraged spring greens and mushrooms stuffing

ed to try to catch a nice trout or perch to stuff with my foraging bounty and bake. All I caught were bass after bass. Finally, I decided to keep the next bass I caught and suddenly the fish stopped biting as I headed back to my cove. About 50 yards from my dock, I cast a bright orange and green jig towards the edge of a tree in the water. A 2-lb bass hit it and I started to reel it in. About 10-ft from the boat, the fish jumped completely out of the water and shook its head, spitting the jig out. As I was about to utter an expletive of disappointment, the fish splashed down about 3-ft from the jig and immediately spotted it and hit it again. This time, I landed the fish and we had fresh fish for dinner.

Check the 7LA Website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Our Thursday afternoon (3 to 4 PM) Chewonki presentations begin on June 26th (Owls of Maine). We will also be offering regular expeditions on our new education boat. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of recreational opportunities this area offers. Do like they used to in "the good old days" and take a kid fishing, or on a hike, or paddling in a canoe. It's how memories are made. Or take a parent, so they can become a kid again.



### Belgrade: Pickle Ball Gala Fundraiser

• The Pickle Ball will have dancing to the tunes of DJ Jamie, drinks and bites, a silent action and a door prize and...dress up. On Saturday, June 28 at 6 pm at the Center for All Seasons is the big fundraiser of the season for the pickleball/basketball outdoor court to be constructed at the Center for All Seasons. The event is for 21 years of age and older. Dancing is from 6-9 pm. Tickets are \$40 for one and \$75 for two and can be purchased in advance at the Center or on the night of the event. Donations for the silent auction are needed: cash or check or items at the Town Office or the Center or call 917-439-9745.

### Gardiner: Free Waterfront Concert Series

• Get ready for a summer of live music hosted by historic 1864 Johnson Hall Opera House at the Gardiner Landing on the Kennebec River, June 20 through August 29. Weekly performances will be held every Friday beginning at 6 pm and will include food vendors, children's activities and more. Kicking off the season on June 20 will be Pat Pepin & the Boneheads. Rain or shine.  
[www.gardinermainestreet.org](http://www.gardinermainestreet.org)

Continued on page 11...

In the nearby Kennebec River, the anadromous alewives and shad are returning to spawn. Normally, these fish are still in the river in early June just below the Hathaway dam in Waterville, and I highly recommend trying your hand with a flyrod or light spinning tackle, especially if you have never caught a shad before. The fish are big, strong, and will hit small, weighted flies and jigs bounced along the bottom. They are a lot of fun to catch. By the time this article is published, the water temperature will be in the high 60's in most of our lakes and the bass will be off their own beds but back in the shallows, chasing spawning sunfish. Fast action can be had with streamer flies, surface poppers, jerk baits, or Senko type jigs.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a very successful foraging expedition and gathered lots of fiddleheads and other spring greens, including trout lily and trillium leaves, and Japanese knotweed shoots. I also had some puffball and chanterelle mushrooms in the freezer. I decided to try to catch a nice trout or perch to stuff with my foraging bounty and bake. All I caught were bass after bass. Finally, I decided to keep the next bass I caught and suddenly the fish stopped biting as I headed back to my cove. About 50 yards from my dock, I cast a bright orange and green jig towards the edge of a tree in the water. A 2-lb bass hit it and I started to reel it in. About 10-ft from the boat, the fish jumped completely out of the water and shook its head, spitting the jig out. As I was about to utter an expletive of disappointment, the fish splashed down about 3-ft from the jig and immediately spotted it and hit it again. This time, I landed the fish and we had fresh fish for dinner.



Nice 15" crappie that hit white zonker fly.





...Continued from page 10

Hinckley: L.C.Bates Museum  
Summer Exhibition: Gardens

• Over 20 artists with connections to Maine explored gardens as spaces of cultivation, relaxation and creativity for the 2025 summer exhibition - Gardens - on display at the L.C. Bates Museum at Good Will-Hinckley which will remain on view throughout the summer months. Since times immemorial gardens have inspired artists and received the visits of wildlife. For information email [lcbates@gwh.org](mailto:lcbates@gwh.org) or call 238-4250.

Mount Vernon:  
Volunteer for Travis Mills

• Give back to those who gave! The backbone of the Travis Mills Foundation - a Retreat of peace and tranquility for veterans and their families - is volunteers for a broad range of help cooking, housekeeping, grounds maintenance, ropes course attendance, waterfront safety and instruction supervision and facility upkeep. Volunteers are also needed for public and private events to sell merchandise or educate the public about the Travis Mills Foundation. 480-3490, [travismillsfoundation.org](http://travismillsfoundation.org)

Monmouth: 56th  
Season of Summer Theater

• Celebrating literary classics in new ways is the theme of the 2025 summer season at The Theater At Monmouth in the Winthrop Lakes Region. And the repertory line-up is: Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare; Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson by Kate Hamill; The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged; Cymbeline by William Shakespeare; and The Rewards of Being Frank by Alice Scovell - the fall show. For dates and rates visit [www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org) or call 933-9999.

Smithfield: Summer Events,  
Suppers and Vintage Steel

• The schedule is all set for summer events in Smithfield, including church suppers at the Smithfield Baptist Church in June, July and August, Vintage Steel - a steel drum band from Augusta on July 12 and Loon Call 5K and Fun Run on August 2. Dates for the suppers are: June 21, July 12 and 26 and August 9 and 23. On Saturday, June 28 there will be Lumberjack Competition Show from 9 am-3 pm, the Fire Department Annual Chicken BBQ from 11 am til gone and Zucchini Races 1-2 pm.

Waterville: Last Call for Makers  
for Year-End Market

• Ticonic Gallery's late submission deadline for artists, crafters and makers to participate in the 2025 year-end marketplace - "Made: Maine Makers Market" - is Sunday, June 15. The market is a seasonal popup marketplace in its 10th annual year under different names that is set to open November 15, 2025. Last season more than 100 Maine-based artists were represented offering visitors the chance to discover unique treasures and one-of-a-kind gifts. Artists can learn more at [watervillecreates.org/shows/call-for-makers-made](http://watervillecreates.org/shows/call-for-makers-made) Ticonic Gallery is open 11 am-7 pm daily except Tuesdays.

Winthrop: 4th 5K  
Less Than 3 Weeks Away

• Registration is now open for the 23rd Annual Maranacook Lake Association and Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed 5K on the 4th of July. MLA and Friends is a new partnership formed to continue this beloved tradition and Central Maine's most popular race. The 5K course is a forgiving, "feel good" race open for all ruers, jobbers and walkers. After a loop through downtown Main Street, most of the course follows the beautiful eastern shore of Maranacook Lake. 100% of the entry fee goes towards protecting the lakes, ponds and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed. Check in is at 7 am; the race starts at 8 am. <http://www.maranacooklakeme.org>

Vienna: Union Hall  
Summer Schedule

• Bluegrass takes the stage at Vienna Union Hall on Saturday, June 14 with the Katahdin Valley Boys performing at 7 pm. Other performances during the summer include: July 12, Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations; July 20-26, Vienna Historical Society Plays; August 1, Don Campbell Trio; August 4-10, Vienna Woods Players; August 16, variety show not confirmed; August 23, Bearnstow Dancers; and August 29, Porch PartyMamas. The Union Hall is on Vienna Mountain Road. 293-4321.



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**Waterville Creates**, 10 Water Street, Suite 106, Waterville, 616-0292, [www.watervillecreates.org](http://www.watervillecreates.org)

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**Golden Pond Wealth Management**, 129 Silver Street, Waterville, 873-2200, [www.goldenpondwealth.com](http://www.goldenpondwealth.com)

FILMS

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

FIREWOOD

**J & M Logging, Inc.** 853 Civic Center Drive,(Rte. 27), Augusta, 622-6353, [www.jmlogginginc.com](http://www.jmlogginginc.com)

FLOORING

**Hammond Lumber Company**, at 22 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rochester, NH, Rockland, Skowhegan, 1-800-HAMMOND, [www.HammondLumber.com](http://www.HammondLumber.com)

GENERATORS

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

GROCERIES & PROVISIONS

**Day's Store**, 8 am-8 pm, 182 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes Village, 495-2205, [www.daysstore.com](http://www.daysstore.com)

HOME CARE

**Assistance Plus**, home care services, personal care, homemaking, companionship, 1-800-781-0070, [www.assistanceplus.com](http://www.assistanceplus.com)

INSURANCE

**Allen Insurance and Financial**, 51 Main Street, Waterville, 1-800-244-9046, [AllenIF.com/Waterville](http://AllenIF.com/Waterville)

KITCHENS

**Hammond Lumber Company**, at 22 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rochester, NH, Rockland, Skowhegan, 1-800-HAMMOND, [www.HammondLumber.com](http://www.HammondLumber.com)

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)

LANDSCAPING

**Gagne & Son Concrete Products**, patio setups, stone, masonry products, complimentary outdoor heating, lighting, furniture, 1583 Augusta Road, Belgrade, 495-3313, [gagneandson.com](http://gagneandson.com)





**G&L Contracting**, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951, 495-9009, 233-7408, [gandlcontractingmaine.com](http://gandlcontractingmaine.com)  
**Lynch Landscaping**, 78 Maple Street, Norridgewock, 474-2420, 405-0880, [www.lynchlandscaping.com](http://www.lynchlandscaping.com)

**LODGING**  
**Alden Camps**, American Plan cottages, boat rentals, 3 Alden Camps Cove, Oakland, 465-7703, [www.aldencamps.com](http://www.aldencamps.com)

**MAILBOAT RIDES**  
**Great Pond Mailboat Rides**, calm days are the best, maximum number of riders is 4 small adults, \$20 each, 2-hour ride, leave 9:20-9:40 am Belgrade Lakes Post Office, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, to reserve text 592-1537

**PATIO SETUPS**  
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**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
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**PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Dockside Physical Therapy**, 212 Depot Road, 660-2546

**PIANO LESSONS**  
**Dianne Gorman**, 191B Bartlett Road, Belgrade, 495-3222, [Gorman3366@roadrunner.com](mailto:Gorman3366@roadrunner.com)

**REALTORS**  
**Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate**, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 660-4001, 872-7650, [www.coldwellbanker.com](http://www.coldwellbanker.com)  
**Ellen Wells**, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-147, [cbplourde.com](http://cbplourde.com)  
**Laer Realty Maine, John Blouin**, 103 Water Street, Suite 202, Hallowell, 446-7708, <https://www.laerrealty.com/agents/118618-john-blouin>  
**Portside Lakepoint Real Estate**, 221 Main Street (Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, 888-495-3711, [www.belgradelakepoint.com](http://www.belgradelakepoint.com)  
**Trisha Cheney**, Portside Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, [trisha@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:trisha@belgradelakepoint.com)  
**Stephanie Yeaton**, Portside Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, [stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com)

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND TRAILER STORAGE**  
**Belgrade Lakes Marine & Storage**, 366 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, [www.belgradelakesmarine.com](http://www.belgradelakesmarine.com)

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**Acme Land Surveying**, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-4081, 800-778-408, [www.acmelandsurveying.com](http://www.acmelandsurveying.com)

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**WORKSPACE/TECH COACH**  
**Winthrop Workspace**, shared office space by day, week or month, contact for tour and free trial day, hands-on help with phones, tablets, computers, 117 Main Street, Suite 10, Winthrop, 395-5019, [www.winthropworkspace.com](http://www.winthropworkspace.com)



## Call of the Loon

### Highlights From The Year Past



A Long Pond female in her secretive nest on a small island

Summary Report. The biggest takeaways are:

1. The 2024 overall productivity of 0.26 CS/TP (chick productivity per territorial pair) remains very low when compared to the established sustainable population threshold of 0.48 CS/TP. Looking at 2019 (0.35), 2020 (0.17), 2021 (0.35), 2022 (0.30), 2023 (0.26) productivity, no single year approaches 0.48 CS/TP. These consistently low productivity numbers over a six-year period are concerning.

2. For populations to thrive, long-term survival and mate fidelity are critical factors. Early findings raise concerns about loon fidelity in the study area. While return/survival rates are strong, mate fidelity is low. Only two of seven pairs banded in 2023 remained together in 2024 (29%) despite all the adults returning. Overall, only five of 14 pairs since 2020 have remained together (36%). Four years of (banded) data collection is a beginning and integral to the study.

3. Three of the six man-made floating rafts were used for nesting (50%), and two of the three nests were successful (67%). Comparatively, there were a total of 15 natural nest attempts on the two lakes, and six nests were successful (40%). Rafts can be an excellent option where natural nests consistently fail due to predation.



Long Pond's Lynch Cove female on floating nest with a Great Blue Heron getting in on the loon cam!



Sara & Co. surveying loons in Great Pond's Austin Bog

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"!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



Welcome back to another Summertime in the Belgrades and the fifth year of our "Call of the Loon"! Like last year, we will be interspersing this column with weekly photo galleries of our iconic bird in action which we hope you will enjoy as much as we have bringing them to you.

As you may or not know, our local Belgrade Lakes Association is into their seventh year of their Loon Preservation Project to develop a responsible comprehensive plan in order to support our loon population in the very best sustainable manner.

The results and particulars of our 2024 Belgrade Lakes Association's 6th year are available on the BLA website @ [blamaine.org](http://blamaine.org) home page.

As we prepare ourselves for another season, the following are highlights from this past year's

4. Thirty of the 36 banded adult loons returned (83%) to their territory.

5. Nesting was confirmed for the first time in Great Pond's Otter Island territory. The male resident was originally banded in Snake Point Cove back in 2008. The nesting pair hatched and fledged one chick.

6. Last year we had just one chick from all of Long Pond and four chicks from Great Pond that we assumed made the Great Fly-off this past fall.

7. Progress recruiting new citizen volunteers in the community has been slow, however. Our Colby Internship program is a start but does not assure the necessary sustainability. Further study and evaluation of population trends is warranted to help better understand the low productivity and determine if there are additional conservation measures which could be implemented to enhance loon chick productivity.

Loon volunteer assistants are desperately needed. If you love loons, here is the opportunity of a lifetime! Get to know your loons personally while making a difference! Many hands make light work so the more the merrier!

Here's to 2025 and the continuing efforts of our stewardship!

If you have 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"!





## The World She Edited by Amy Reading

by Martha F. Barkley

“His father also gave him (beside the neighborhood’s first child size bike) his very own canoe when he was eleven, to use on the family’s August trips to Belgrade, Maine, which were to Andy ‘the golden time of year’ and ‘sheer enchantment’. Of course, EBWhite passages are what I quickly turned to in this extra long biography of his wife and her New Yorker editing career.

August only in Maine? I just realized that my Maine vacations for years were June and July. Only last summer was short for me with August renting only. EBWhite, according to this new biography of his wife, created Charlotte’s Web late in his New Yorker writing career. It took both he and his wife awhile to realize that the saltwater farm in Brooklin offered great tranquility and creative living.

Finally living there full time, EBWhite wrote and rewrote Charlotte’s Web for the children of the world. I must admit that this story touches me more as I share it with generation after generation. The eternal life of Charlotte’s children and the eternal nature of true friendship seems so human and real, even though it is Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider...

Of course, Katharine S. White, hired EBWhite for The New Yorker when she had her first husband’s name. I love the fact that Michelle Obama hired Barak as a summer intern in her law firm when Michelle had her maiden name.

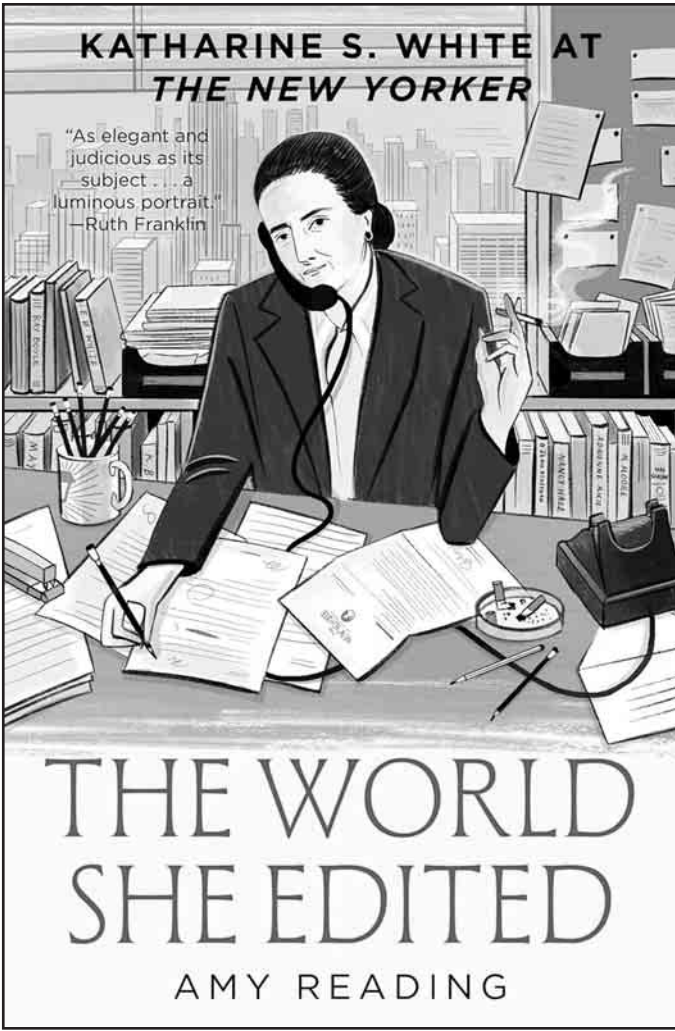
Poetry written by EB to his future wife was touching to read:

In the warm sun  
Of a strange land,  
I beheld your life  
And possessed your hand.

In the real cold  
Of things that are,  
I have lost hold  
Of a caught star.

Instead of quitting his job at The New Yorker over his newly discovered love of Katharine, “he tried a smaller version, hopping into his new Model A Ford roadster and heading straight north to Belgrade, Maine, where he stayed a week to ice-skate and ‘let a lot of cold fresh Maine air blow through [his] brains.’”

A few weeks later Katharine confesses in a letter to a loved one that her husband “knocked me down” during a quarrel in front of their children, so she walked out of the marriage. The Bryn Mawr collection of Katharine’s letters has this letter in spite of her direction to burn it. Granddaughter Callie donated it after Katharine’s death to the Katherine Sergeant Angel White archive at



Bryn Mawr.

1936 was another pivotal year in EBWhite’s life when he lost his mother. Since both parents were now gone so quickly in one year and his childhood home as well, he once again made a trip to Belgrade and Great Pond. “Things haven’t changed much,” was the beginning of this famed essay rewritten many times (40 some report), but it started as a personal letter to his brother Stanley during this time of family grief. “The lake hangs clear and still at dawn, and the sound of a cowbell comes softly from a faraway wood lot...Yes sir, I returned to Belgrade, and things don’t change much. I thought somebody ought to know.”

It seems that this biographer portrays Andy White as a recluse, which perhaps he was, admitting to himself this character flaw as he felt it to be. Even when their son Joe was in second grade in New York, Andy stayed at his beloved farm in North Brooklin on the coast and sent weekly columns to The New Yorker.

In mid-October of their son’s second grade year, Andy White left the farm for Belgrade once again and Mount Vernon. He drove on to meet his wife and son at a friend’s home. The three dressed turkeys he delivered were a welcome gift and the three happy Whites returned together once again

to New York...

Much about Katharine and her fine editing career and her many family obligations later in life. I skipped a lot of that because I am addicted to EBWhite. Index reading is good for me in this 496 page read, mostly about The New Yorker.

If you are a fan of that magazine, dear reader, you will read more of Katharine’s story than I did. I am still puzzled by the unusual cover because photos within this biog raphy show a very lovely countenance which was one draw for our favorite Belgrade Lakes writer, EBWhite. I especially love the photo of Grandma Katharine reading to her grandchildren on a comfy sofa. Also, Andy and Katharine look so happy with their dog Minnie, one of many pets throughout their life together.

We have driven by their farmhouse in North Brooklin which now has new owners. EBWhite’s directive has been honored to keep it private as a home for the next owner and not become a museum of sorts. Sounds like “On Golden Pond” to me, where “Things don’t change much...”

The local North Brooklin Public Library was a beneficial visit for me because of the librarian, of course! She told me that Katharine volunteered there many hours. So go to Belgrade Public Library and enjoy talking with our wonderful staff. Maybe check out a video or a book or look at a magazine or work at a computer. Rainy day fun there and air conditioned when it is too hot for hiking. Better yet, jump in the lake or calmly canoe in the shade like EBWhite did most summers of his long writing life.





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— Real Estate Update —

Welcome Home! Spring has arrived in the Belgrade Lakes Region, ushering in the familiar rhythms of the season. Ice-out in April brings the anglers back to the lakes. Shortly after, loons return, local businesses including Day’s Store and the Village Inn reopen, signaling the community’s transition into summer.

Current Market Snapshot: Belgrade Lakes & Maine (as of May 2025)

- **Belgrade Lakes Region:** The median home value stands at \$402,500, reflecting a 5% increase over the past year. Year-to-date there have been 46 homes sold, up from 45 the previous year, with properties averaging 47 days on the market, up from 22 days on the market last year.
- **Lakefront:** So far this year, there have been just 11 waterfront homes sold in the region with a median sales price of \$700,000. This reflects a 16% decrease in home sales with prices remaining steady.
- **Statewide Trends:** Maine’s housing market shows signs of stabilization. While home prices have slightly declined monthly in early 2025,

A Current Market Snapshot

they remain above 2024 levels. Inventory has increased, indicating a shift towards a more balanced market.

Is Now the Right Time to Buy or Sell?

The answer depends on your personal circumstances. If you and your family are ready, current market conditions can influence your decision. Home prices are stabilizing, which is a drastic change from the past three years. Interest rates are higher than during the pandemic but have recently leveled out.

Next Steps

Engage in discussions with family, friends, and financial advisors to assess the implications of buying or selling. Consulting with a real estate professional can provide insights into current market conditions and help you make informed decisions.

Once again, welcome home!

Dan McCarron



The Dams Keeper Report

As of this writing, we are beginning our summer in good shape with Great Pond’s Village dam 2.28” above full pond with one gate opened three feet after the recent rains. Basically, the water is just 2.28” deep going over the top of the stone spillway. Long Pond and its Wings Mill dam is .96”, basically 1”, below full pond with gates opened 18” and 3’ respectfully. Salmon/McGrath is right at 2.16” above full pond with it’s single gate

Your Dams Committee has another busy summer with a total rebuild of both hemlock gates as well as the driveway at Wings Mill. All of the other dams, although in need of routine maintenance, remain in good shape. A relative term here in Maine!

If you have a particular question 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 via email.

Enjoy your Summer and, Welcome Back!

Dick

Dick Greenan  
Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee



3” flow over the stone spillway

opened just the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are presently 8.88” below due to maintenance and their hydroelectric demands.

The forecast for the next ten days is just 1.32” of precipitation and with a long-term forecast calling for 21% less precipitation for both May and June followed by 30% less for August and September. All translates into another Chamber of Commerce Summer, if we can believe our forecasters!! As a result, your Dams Committee is trying to start off this summer with all of



Wings Mills gates scheduled for rebuild



Wings Mill Dam with Wings Mill Road at the top

the ponds at 3” above full pond. If you recall, at 3” above full, the water level shouldn’t float off any one’s dock and more importantly, not flood out any of our native hummock style loon nests.



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