

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 23, NUMBER 11

Let This Summer Linger

by Esther J. Perne



Photo from video taken on Long Pond by Stephen Culbertson. :

Loons rafting...people flocking to agricultural fairs...leaves floating silently downward...goodbyes echoing across lakes.

The summer of 2021 is gradually winding down, giving way to exciting changes outdoors and unpredictable parameters indoors.

But first, there's still time to enjoy many of the qualities that summer provides and to enjoy any outlets that were missed.

There's still time left to a season that was a good one - a respite from the circling pandemic, an oasis of simple, peaceful pursuits, a center for weather where "wait a minute" and the day will

change - and it did.

In other words, a summer to hang on to.

Hang on to the swimming - yes, late (even later) summer is swimmable, brisk maybe but well worth the plunge. Hang on to the hiking - discover a trail not followed before or a familiar one with new open views. Hang on to the everything outdoors lifestyle - just add wool sweaters, slickers, socks, vests. Hang on to the peacefulness and closeness to nature and the family togetherness that this summer - especially - represents. And hang on to the knowledge that here there is a place to return to.

Let this summer linger so all the fall projects can for once be done early, the work of woodstacking and winterizing and cleaning and gleaned finished before the glorious days of fall tug us to other pursuits.

Let this summer linger in memories - memories stockpiled against boring board meetings, against too much screen time, against being housebound with children, against homesickness for summer.

Let this summer linger until it's summertime again.



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— End of Season Letter —

Dear Readers:

You were the heroes of the summer. You were presented with a great season in a great resort region and you ran with it, boated with it, hiked with it, swam with it. You enjoyed the freedom of the pandemic respite. You made the outdoors the new indoors. You appreciatively visited the towns and villages. You shopped and bought. You prudently attended events. And you were very complimentary and supportive of Summertime in the Belgrades. Thank you always.

To our staff, our columnists, our contributors and our printing connection, you were all amazing. You kept the schedule running smoothly, you provided an abundance of news coverage and timely observations and you helped keep our large readership connected to the region and the season. Thank you for another successful summer and for sharing your passions, your expertise, your time, your advice and your well-crafted words.

To our advertisers who are the drivers of Summertime in the Belgrades, thank you for making our publication possible, for being part of Summertime in the Belgrades.

As summer pivots into fall and our lives pivot, too, well we're just going to follow our own advice: enjoy the lingering season, catch those warming rays, work some lakestyle play into busy school and sports schedules, watch the leaves float...

Don't forget fall and winter are full of opportunities for rigorous - or otherwise - outdoor recreation and sports, for strolling along the sidewalks or shopping in the stores and eateries of historic downtowns or for simply sitting outside and dreaming.

May one of those dreams be of next summer here in the Belgrades.

The Summertime in the Belgrades crew: Esther, Corey, Ethan, Michael, Gregor



Sharing the Road with Horses

All motorists are urged to be aware of the new road signs in the area and to be courteous of our new Amish neighbors traveling the region's roads by horse-drawn buggy. By Maine law, a person riding or driving an animal has the right of way. Motorists are required to stop and remain stationary if an animal is frightened and must slow down and leave at least 3 feet of clearance when passing. Other courtesies include dimming headlights and not revving engines. More information is available at mainedot.gov and in the Maine State Laws, Title 29-A, section 2055.



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Where Did the Summer Go?

by Anthony Wilson, Belgrade Town Manager

Where'd the summer go?! Seems like Memorial Day was just yesterday, and here we are barreling toward Labor Day. This summer brought great relief and a return (mostly) to normalcy. To ensure we can continue living as we are today, we must remain vigilant. That means getting vaccinated (and encouraging others within our circles to do the same) and not putting ourselves in harm's way. Christina and I recently forewent a concert to which we had tickets, calculating that discretion was the better part of valor. Another day, Blues Traveler.

The Town of Belgrade was thrilled to offer free weekly concerts (with Christine Poulson's able help) and monthly craft shows on the Village Green this summer. The music continues each Thursday evening through September and the craft shows into October. Visit TownofBelgrade.com for details.

Looking ahead, voters will fill a vacant Selectboard seat on Nov. 2. In March, voters will consider two revamped ordinances governing housing subdivisions and commercial developments. Still looming is a vote on a public water system to serve property owners within routes 27, 8/11 and 135 whose water wells were contaminated by the former practice of storing road salt on open ground.

As I write this, we are preparing to interview a quartet of qualified library director applicants. We are seeking someone with a passion for the mission of rural libraries, a vision for developing the library's collection and programming, and a commitment to ensuring our library embraces all constituencies while encouraging exploration.

Lastly, we are studying a possible transition to the same budget calendar as the state, RSU 18 and the county. Doing so would lend clarity to the Town's budgeting process AND result in annual savings of about \$20,000. Stay tuned for more on that.

With summer winding to an end, we can look forward to the flourish of fall colors, the glistening of winter snow, and the return of summer in 2022. As always, life is good in the Belgrades.



Belgrade First Responders Memorial

First Responders - those who make the necessary sacrifices to be there for us in an emergency - deserve our gratitude. Their efforts, both past and present, are kind, compassionate, and caring. Some Belgrade residents believe a public acknowledgment of our appreciation is long overdue. The first phase you may have already noticed - photos honoring our Fire and EMS volunteers displayed on the walls of the Town Office. The second phase is creation of a memorial to Belgrade First Responders. A group of residents has been meeting to discuss potential locations and designs for this proposed memorial. We believe it should be a public/private partnership, with the Town contributing some of our tax dollars, as well as private fundraising to cover the rest of the expense. We are hoping to obtain the funding this winter and construct the memorial during the summer of 2022. We are planning to propose our recommended memorial design and location to the Board of Selectpersons in September. This will give us plenty of time to draft a Town Meeting warrant article. If you are interested in contributing to this effort, please write a check to "Belgrade Fire & Rescue Association." In the memo/for line at the bottom of the check, please write "First Responders Memorial" so that the Association can put it into our account. You can mail the check to Belgrade Fire & Rescue Association, P.O. Box 404, Belgrade, ME 04917. You can also drop off the check at the Belgrade Town Office, and staff there will give it to the Association. If you would like more information, please contact any of the following people:
 Mac Stocco (465-2806, macstocco@yahoo.com), Penny Morrell (pmorrell2@roadrunner.com), Fred Perkins (perkferk@gmail.com), Kate Damren (kdamren@rsu18.org), Bruce Galouch (bobtheplumberme@gmail.com), Phil Sprague (ljpsprague@gmail.com), Michial Heino (msp15ret@roadrunner.com), Jay Bradshaw (jaybrad@gmail.com), Dan MacKenzie (dan@generatorsofmaine.com).

Summertime in the Belgrades

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Calendar

Events through August... Great events for the whole family: concerts, craft fairs, theater, Farmers' Markets. And more to come in September and throughout the fall. Enjoy them all.

Through Saturday 8/21 - Skowhegan State Fair!

Through Saturday 8/21 - Living on Love, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Thursday 8/19 through Saturday 8/21 - Play On, a comedy by Rick Abbot, presented by the Vienna Woods Players, 7 pm Thursday through Saturday; 2:30 pm Saturday matinee, reservations at viennaplayers@gmail.com, Union Hall, Vienna.

Friday 8/20 - 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Stream Support at Rome Trout Brook, 8 am, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, Robbin's Mill Stream, Hoyt's Lane, Rome.

Friday 8/20 - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street, Farmington.

Friday 8/20 and Saturday 8/21 - Madison-Anson Days, craft show, events in both towns, parade, dynamite cook-off, many more events, downtown Madison and Anson.

Friday 8/20 and every Friday in July and August - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, 8/20 The Tim Sullivan Band; 8/27 Astro Planet, 6-7:30 pm, on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 8/21 - Maine Bicentennial Parade, maine200parade.com, Auburn/Lewiston.

Saturday 8/21 - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Gristmill, corner of Court and High Streets, Skowhegan.

Sunday 8/22 - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Monday 8/23 - 7 Lakes Alliance, Belgrade Public Library and Belgrade Historical Society Community Read presents Maine's Big Trees, 6:30 pm, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-039, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes Village.

Tuesday 8/24 - 7 Lakes Alliance Fragment Patrol in Great Pond, 8 am, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, Camp Bomozeen, 656 Horse Point Road, Belgrade.

Tuesday 8/24 - Tinkergarten - Outdoor Playtime, 495-3508, 10 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Wednesday 8/25 - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 3-6 pm, Somerset Gristmill parking lot, downtown Skowhegan.

Wednesday 8/25 - Weekly Cruise-In, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, live music, 50/50 raffle, food and ice cream specials, Fast Eddie's, Route 202, Winthrop.

Wednesday 8/25 - Weekly Cruise-In, 645-2145, 5:30-7:30 pm, Dutch Treat, Route 2, Wilton.

Thursday 8/26 - Outdoor Storytime 495-3508, 11 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Thursday 8/26 - Gardiner Classic Car Cruise-In, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, music, demonstrations, giveaways, 50/50, local foods, www.gardinermainstreet.org, Waterfront Park.

Thursday 8/26 - Art in the Park, new theme every week, 3-5 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Thursday 8/26 - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, Front Street, Waterville.

Thursday 8/26 - Photography and the Environment, a History Talk and Local Images, 3:30 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/26 and every Thursday through 9/2 - Music on the Village Green hosted by Chris Poulson, 8/26 Laura Hudson, 6:30-8 pm, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/26 - 7 Lakes Alliance, Belgrade Public Library and Belgrade Historical Society Community Read: Author Talk with Richard Powers, Zoom event, 6:30 pm, register at 495-3508 or Library@TownofBelgrade.com

Thursday 8/26 - Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, Annual Cocktail Party and Auction, www.watershedfriends.com, YMCA Camp of Maine, Winthrop.

Thursday 8/26 through Sunday, August 29 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, 10 great bands, large spectator tent, clean restrooms, camping, 873-6539, Fairgrounds, Litchfield.

Thursday 8/26 through Sunday 8/29 - Scapino, Lakewood Theater, 474-7176, Route 201, Madison.

Continued on page 10...



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— Take It Outside —

As I mentioned last week, Mother Nature is marching forward with her schedule, pandemic or not. Suddenly the days are getting a little shorter and I am noticing more swamp red maples beginning to turn red in the wetlands and birches turn yellow high on the hillsides. It is still quite warm during the day but the nights are growing cooler. Like the birds and squirrels, I am double checking my summer “to do” list and trying to make sure everything gets done. I am amazed at how many things are still on the list. In addition to looking for mushrooms and elderberries when I hike, I find myself keeping my eyes peeled for grouse, deer, and turkey signs. Those seasons are rapidly approaching, and last year’s venison supply is running low in the freezer. Both the loons and the bass and pike in the lakes are chasing large schools of baitfish (mostly landlocked alewives) and trying to build up fat reserves to get through the winter. Additionally, the loons with chicks are teaching their offspring how to catch their own food. When the chicks are first born, the parents chew up fish and crayfish and basically regurgitate food morsels into their chicks’ eager open mouths. The chicks grow rapidly, and the parents soon simply bring the chicks, still wriggling morsels, which the chicks grab hungrily. After a week or so of this routine, the parents simply drop the food in the water near the chicks and the chicks need to catch their food before it escapes. At the same time, the chicks are learning to dive underwater, which is a major step in evading airborne predators such as eagles. Soon the chicks are foraging for their own food alongside the parents. Over the next two months or so, the loons will molt, replacing their

See You Next Year

by Pete Kallin



Ella, Maya and Skylar Cook from Colorado and China Lake, enjoying the new bench.



Joel and Janet Tidwell with sons Gavin and Harry atop French Mountain.

insulating down with feathers, and begin to learn to fly. Those chicks that learn to fly before the lake freezes over will head to the ocean for the winter and eventually return to lake.


The local hiking trails remain quite busy. All the medical experts agree that “Taking it Outside” is the safest way to recreate this summer and many families are taking the opportunity to get out hiking. My wife and I hiked a bit at Fogg Island to try out the new picnic table installed by Eagle Scout candidate Evan Salhanick of MA and Long Pond. Evan and his friends and family also installed a new bench on the 7-Lakes Mountain Outer Loop Trail. Both are great amenities to the local hiking infrastructure.

Thank you, Evan. My older daughter, Barb, and I hiked that trail and met the Cook Family from Colorado who were visiting Maya’s grandparents at China Lake and decided to go for a hike. Jodie Mosher Towle from North Pond hosted the Tidwell family from Alabama. The parents met when Janet was a nurse from Ireland and Joel was a videographer from AL, both working at Camp Matoaka while Jodie was the head counselor there. They hiked both Mount Phillip and French Mountain last week to show their kids where they met.

Other families are taking the opportunity to visit grandparents for a bit before returning to school for the fall semester, including my two kids who live in Maine along with all of our grandkids, who came to escape the heat and jump in the lake last weekend before the thunderstorms arrived.

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

Continued on page 15...



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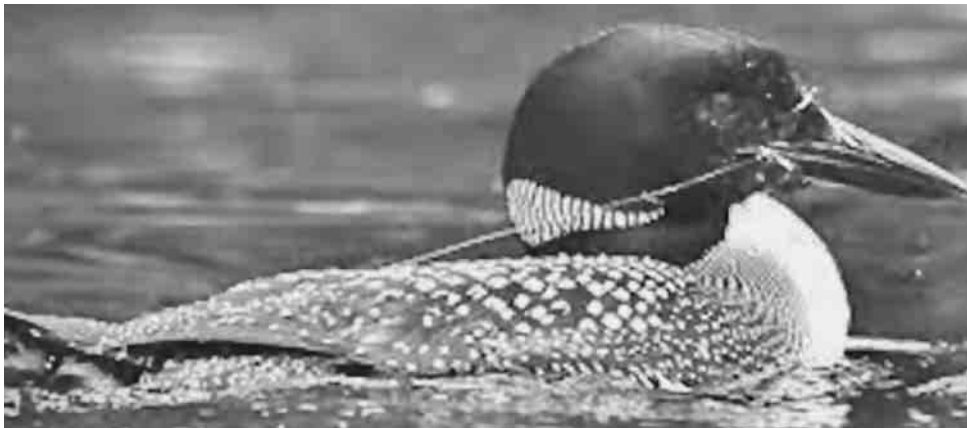
Call of the Loon

Q: There is a Loon and with a chick in Lynch Cove. The mother appears to be entangled in some fishing line and a bobber. The observation was made by friends who stayed at our camp last weekend.

A: Thanks for the observation! I'll head down there within the hour and check it out. Hopefully there's no fishing line and what looks like a bobber were the bands from the banding that we just did a couple of weeks ago which can look like a bobber. I'll go down and check and let you know. Thanks again.

Our observations and photographs confirmed that what their friends thought was an adult loon wrapped in fishing line and a bobber was our recently banded female adult with four new brightly colored leg bands.

Photos also confirmed that there was absolutely no fishing line nor any bobber. We had a similar report last summer from a boat of fishermen in Long Pond's Ingham Pond. Observations such as this are fairly common and our brain case easily makes the connection that if it looks like a bobber attached to the loon, then there must be fishing line! We encourage all calls regarding loons in distress



An adult loon entrapped with discarded fishing line. (Internet file photo)



Our healthy adult loon with her banded right leg resting up on her back. You can see how this loon could have been mistaken for a loon in distress.



Our chick imitating mother with its leg up as well.

as we would rather be safe than sorry. And the outcome in this case was excellent with what appeared to be a healthy female adult with her four week old chick.

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

Dick Greenan, Chairman,
BLA Loon Preservation Project



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Belgrade Enacts Mooring Ordinance

by Gregor Smith

Of the 27 articles on Belgrade’s town meeting ballot in March, the vote for the mooring ordinance, the first of its kind in the Belgrade Lakes, was by far the closest, 237-197. This closeness suggests that voters may have been uncertain as to what the ordinance would do or whether it was needed. In this article, we will try to clear up any confusion.

Under the ordinance, “mooring” means that a boat is tied to a buoy, which in turn is attached to a weight on the bottom of the lake. Boats that rest in boat lifts or are tied to docks are not affected.

The ordinance has four key restrictions on moorings:

- Before mooring a craft, one needs to get written permission from the owner of the adjacent shorefront.
- Each property can have only one mooring for every 50 feet of frontage.
- Moorings must be within 200 feet from shore or within one third of the distance to the opposite shore, whichever is less. (The State of Maine already imposes those requirements.)
- Pre-existing moorings in Mill Stream, a.k.a. the Channel, which flows from Great Pond to Belgrade Lakes Village, are exempt.

Besides regulating moorings, the ordinance forbids houseboats from staying on Belgrade waters overnight. The ordinance defines a “houseboat” as a vessel that is at least seven feet across at its widest point and has at least one of the following amenities — a toilet, a kitchen, or sleeping quarters — above its main deck.

Finally, the ordinance requires the Board of Selectpersons to appoint a harbormaster to investigate any complaints about possible violations. The selectboard has asked Belgrade’s longtime code enforcement officer Gary Fuller to add harbormastering to his duties, but so far, there haven’t been any complaints for him to investigate.

The ordinance is meant to prevent problems that have occurred on other other lakes. According to Belgrade town manager Anthony Wilson, the impetus for its drafting was a call to his predecessor from a person who was thinking of buying some houseboats, anchoring them on the Belgrade Lakes, and renting them out through Airbnb.

Although this plan did not come to fruition, it “raised a few concerns,” Wilson stated.

1. It “would be an unregulated commercial venture that, unlike shoreland rentals, could avoid paying property taxes that support local government operations.”
2. “[H]ouseboats could infringe upon shoreland owners who make significant financial investments in their properties and pay 60% of the taxes levied in Belgrade.... In a worst-case scenario, a houseboat could ‘park’ a few feet off a camp’s dock for the entire summer.”
3. Sewage from houseboats’ holding tanks could foul our lakes, as the Belgrades do not have “a marina with pump-out capabilities.”
4. Having a “rash of houseboats would detract from the character, integrity and aesthetics of our lakes, which make Belgrade unique and are the engine of our local economy.”

To illustrate some of the potential problems, he cited the ongoing controversy over a “house float” on Green Lake in Ellsworth. This small, homemade houseboat consists of a small wooden cabin and deck on top of two metal pontoons. Its builders contend that they may anchor the float anywhere they like, as the lake is public property; but for all of last summer and a few weeks this year, they moored it in the same spot, irking the owners of the shorefront. Other lake dwellers have objected to noise created by the float’s owners, their families, and their guests.

As for restrictions on where moorings may be placed, Wilson said that it is simply “an effort to ensure there is not an uncontrolled mushrooming of moorings on our lakes and that safe navigation is not impeded. The standard within the ordinance is the same that has long been in effect on Maine’s coast.”

By enacting an ordinance now, Belgrade may be starting a trend. While mooring ordinances are common along the coast, they are rarer among Maine’s inland towns and the State of Maine itself imposes few restrictions. Besides the distance-from-shore limitations described above, the only other State requirement for inland moorings is that the mooring buoy be a white ball with a horizontal blue stripe around its middle.

Thus, it is up to each lake town to decide whether and how to regulate moorings. As more people seek recreation and respite on our state’s lakes, conflicts are bound to arise among different types of lakes users (e.g. shorefront property owners, short-term renters, and day trippers) and more towns will enact mooring ordinances.

To aid in those efforts, a bill now before the Maine Legislature would require the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to draft and periodically update a model mooring ordinance. “An Act To Clarify Temporary Mooring Privileges for Moorings on Inland Waters” would also require lake towns to appoint a harbormaster or other “individual or entity who is responsible for dealing with inquiries related to mooring privileges.” That bill, LD 626, has been carried over to the 2022 legislative session for consideration.

Belgrade’s ordinance does have one serious limitation: it applies only to the parts of the shorelines of Great Pond, Long Pond, Snow Pond (a.k.a. Messalonskee Lake), McGrath Pond, and Salmon Lake that lie within the town’s boundaries. Currently, no other town in the Belgrade Lakes has a similar ordinance, but the committee that drafted Belgrade’s ordinance has opened discussions with other area towns to encourage them to enact such ordinances.

To read the full text of Belgrade’s ordinance, go to <https://www.townofbelgrade.com/lakescommittee> and click the “Mooring Ordinance” link in the upper left.



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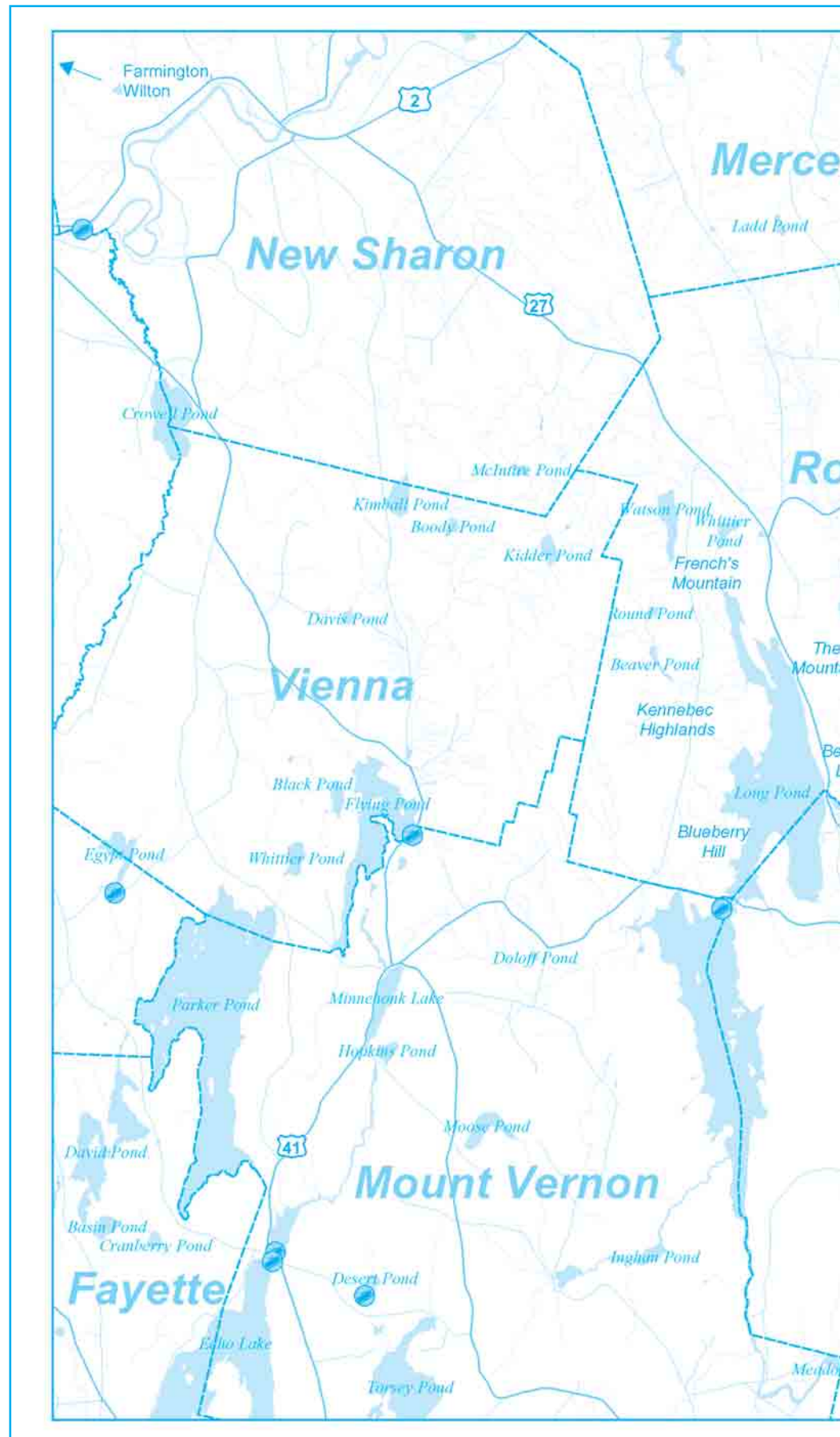
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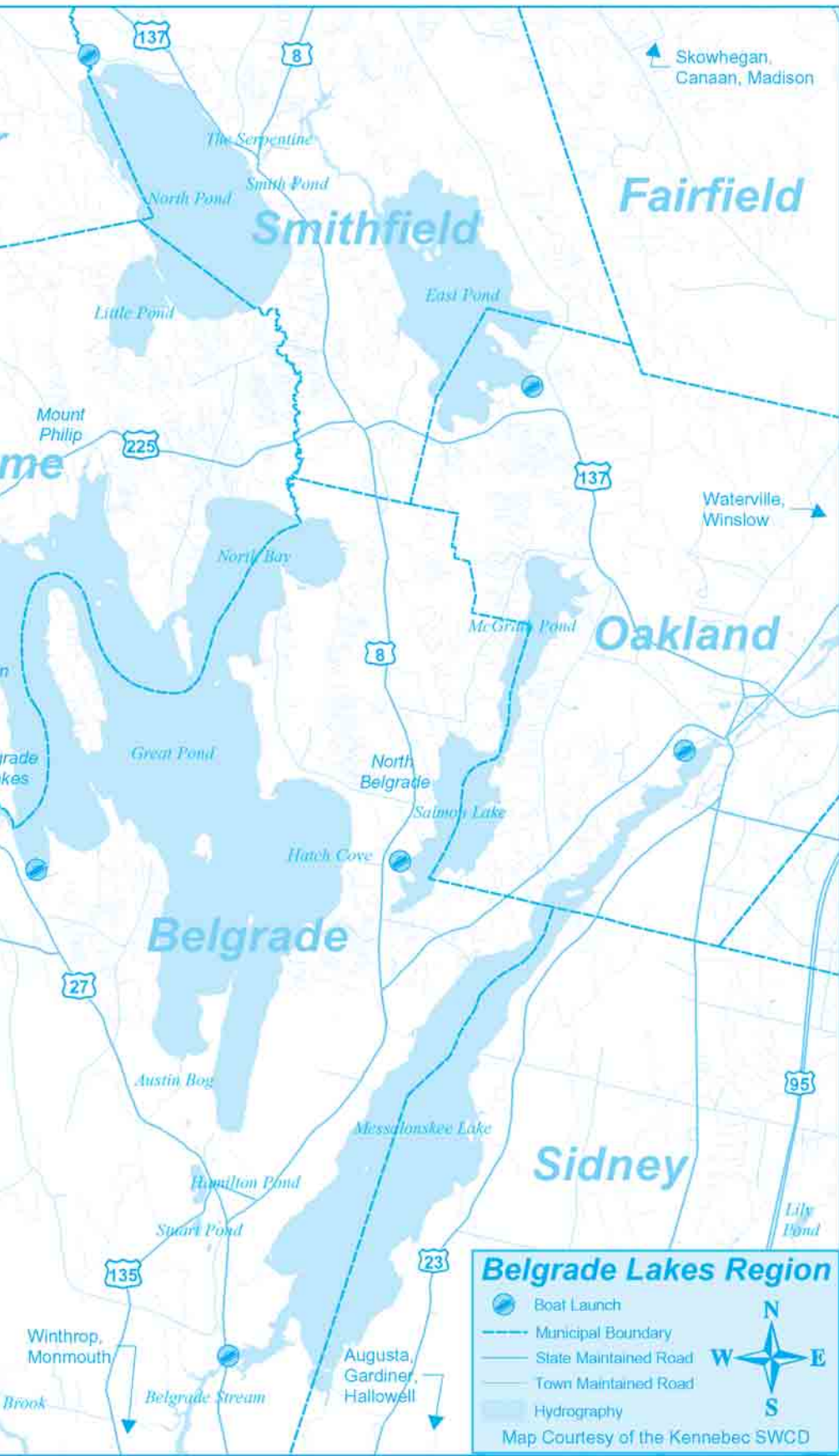


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7 Lakes Alliance Courtesy Boat Inspector Stops Eurasian Milfoil from Invading North Pond

For the second time this summer, a Courtesy Boat Inspector has saved a Belgrade Lakes waterbody the introduction of a costly, damaging invasive plant. On July 24, 7 Lakes Alliance Courtesy Boat Inspector Katie Trebilcock, identified and removed fragments of what she suspected was invasive Eurasian milfoil from a boat about to enter North Pond. Maine Department of Environmental Protection has now confirmed that the plant fragments were indeed Eurasian milfoil. The boat carrying the fragments had most recently been on Lake Zoar in Connecticut, which has a known Eurasian milfoil infestation. In June, a CBI kept invasive variable milfoil from entering Long Pond from a boat last on Messalonskee Lake.

Eurasian milfoil, a more aggressive relative of the invasive variable milfoil found in the Belgrade Lakes region. A CBI saved Long Pond from introduction of variable milfoil in July. For over a decade, dedicated removal and monitoring effort begun by the Belgrade Lakes Association and now run by 7 Lakes with support from BLA, the state, towns including major support from Belgrade and 7 Lakes supporters have largely contained a variable milfoil infestation in North Bay of Great Pond. Variable milfoil also infests Messalonskee Lake; Friends of Messalonskee operates milfoil programs there. Belgrade Stream also contains a largely unman-

aged infestation, the subject of ongoing discussion. Several years ago, a citizen discovered a few Eurasian milfoil plants growing near the public boat launch on Salmon-McGrath. DEP's rapid emergency action thwarted the infestation; 7 Lakes staff and citizen volunteers monitor to guard against its return. Recently, a citizen found a new invasive, curly-leaf pondweed, in both the Serpentine below East Pond and in North Pond. DEP, 7 Lakes, North Pond Association and East Pond Association are now developing a management response.

The CBI program and citizen monitoring are the main defense against Eurasian milfoil and an increasing number of invasive aquatic plants that threaten lake health, property values and recreation. The state, towns, lake associations, and individual donors all support CBI efforts. Warmer weather, longer growing seasons, increased boat traffic are among the factors increasing aquatic invasives; terrestrial threats such as browntail moths are increasing as well. Aquatic species such as Eurasian milfoil and European Frogbit in nearby Cobbossee watershed, now infest nearby waters. Learn how to help better protect the Belgrade Lakes from invasive organisms, including by increasing locations and hours of CBI coverage at www.7lakesalliance.org.



Blaisdell Land Challenge!

A beloved and dedicated surgeon whose belief in serving others took him to Haiti to provide critically needed medical services, Richard McCann for decades spent summers with family on Hoyt's Island. He grew up in Yarmouth, Maine and attended Camp Bomazeen; buying his own "camp" on Great Pond was truly coming home.

Richard shared with others in the Belgrade Lakes community an increasing awareness that the health of lands and lakes are closely intertwined. He understood this connection through his daily runs throughout the local landscape and by windsurfing, paddling and fishing with family and friends. His birds-eye view as a pilot gave him a valuable perspective on this interconnection between lands and waters. He understood that lands protect water quality, buffering the lake erosion and keeping algae-feeding phosphorus it carries from turning lakes green.

To honor Richard's memory, the McCann family has pledged to help 7 Lakes Alliance forever conserve the 119-acre Blaisdell property in Rome,



View of the Blaisdell property from the west side of Hoyt's Island

overlooking Great Pond in the heart of a corridor/trail planned to connect The Mountain and Mt. Phillip to benefit the Belgrade Lakes community, wildlife and water quality. The McCanns have pledged \$40,000 to complete acquisition funding if 7 Lakes can raise \$40,000 in matching funds by September 15, 2021. This would enable 7 Lakes to focus on conservation and trail development. Learn how you can help meet this challenge for this community resource at 7lakealliance.org or call (207) 495-6039.



...Continued from page 4

Friday 8/27 - 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Stream Support at Rome Trout Brook, 8 am, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, Robbin's Mill Stream, Hoyt's Lane, Rome.

Saturday 8/28 - Designing Women Craft Show, rain or shine, \$2 suggested donation, 9:30 am-4 pm, Longfellow's Greenhouses, Puddledock Road, Manchester.

Saturday 8/28 - "Hole In One" Golf Event to benefit the Augusta Food Bank, 10 am-7 pm, 272-2612, Le Club Calumet, 334 West River Road, Augusta.

Sunday 8/29 - Belgrade Summer Craft Show, unique Maine made treasures, 10 am-3 pm, the Village Green Route 27, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Continued on page 11...



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

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Notebook

Pultizer Prize-winning Author Program 8/26

• Richard Powers, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Overstory*, will join readers virtually for an author's talk on August 26 at 6:30 pm to share his perspectives and answer questions for readers. Powers' fascinating book explores the many dimensions of relationships between people's lives and trees. The Community Read, sponsored by The Belgrade Public Library, Belgrade Historical Society and 7 Lakes Alliance, is open to everyone. To register call 495-3508 or email Library@TownofBelgrade.com

Theater At Monmouth Final Weekend August 19-22

• The summer schedule at the Theater At Monmouth concludes the weekend of August 19-22 with the last show of *Age of Bees* 8/19; *Daddy*

Long Legs and The Agitators 8/20; *Crumbs from the Table of Joy and Sofonisba* 8/21 and *Measure for Measure* 8/22. Two fall plays will be presented: *An Iliad* 9/2-11 and *Grounded* 9/16-26. 933-9999.

Snow Pond Presents September Events

• The Snow Pond Performing Arts Center will be presenting *Party on the Pond* with the School Street Band at 6 pm on Friday, 9/3 and *Snow Pond on Tap Brewfest* with live music, craft beer and food trucks on Saturday, September 11. For more information call 844-476-6976 or email info@snowpond.org

Fall Fairs are Fabulous

• Maine Agricultural Fairs throughout September are on the 2021 calendar. Fairs close to the Belgrades include: Clinton 9/9-12; Litchfield 9/10-12; Farmington 9/19-25; Common Ground 9/24-26 and Cumberland 9/26-10/2. The last fair of the season is Fryeburg 10/3-10. mainefairs.org

...Continued from page 10

Sunday 8/29 - Kennebec on Fire Festival, a fundraiser for the Wesserunett Arts Council, featuring five fire brazier sculptures being lit on the river, donations accepted, live music by Sunday Project, 4-7 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Sunday 8/29 through Monday 9/6 - Windsor Fair, www.WindsorFair.com

Tuesday 8/31 - 7 Lakes Alliance Night Sky Tour, 7:30 pm, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, location TBA.



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Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great
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Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331, pldcamp@msn.com

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

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

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The Dams Keeper Report

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

We just finished releasing some of the water both at the Village and at Long Pond's Wings Mill dam in order to get the levels back down to something reasonable, about three inches above full pond.

On behalf of the Dams Committee, I attended last week's Town of Belgrade's Seasonal Residents Meeting and received a very nice welcome with not one complaint about this year's Dams operations. It's amazing how one wet summer can change people's perceptions! Two years ago at this meeting, there was a pole out in the Center for All Season's parking lot all tarred and feathered up with a "Reserved for the Dams Committee" sign on it! Looks like our Dams Committee just might survive another year after all!

As of this writing, Great Pond is up 2.5"

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WINE AND SPIRITS

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above full pond which is great. Long Pond is currently at 1.25" with our friends over on Salmon/McGrath still holding right at 1.5", also above full. And our neighbors across town on Messalonskee are still right at 3.6" below full. With the exception of the dam in Oakland, all of the other dam gates are closed and, with only .14" of precipitation forecasted for the next ten days, should remain closed until the Fall-Winter Drawdown in late October.

The 2021-22 Fall Lake Drawdown should be calling for Great and Long Ponds to be drawn down to 1.5'-2.0' and Salmon down to 1.0'-1.5' by November 1st. Weather permitting, the drawdowns usually begins after the Columbus Day weekend. You can access the 2021-22 Winter/Fall Drawdown Schedule this fall on your town's website.

Enjoy what's left of The Summer of 2021 and your vacation! I hope it's been a memorable one. It has been for us. Thank you and see you next Summer!

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee

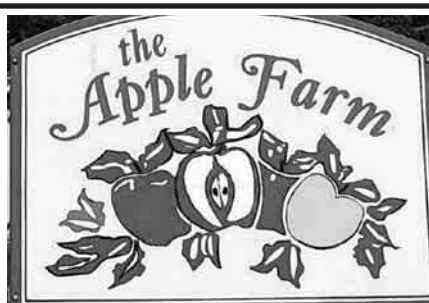


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Children's Books

by Martha F. Barkley

There are so many, but for this summer 2021 let's consider books about trees to supplement our community read for adults, Pulitzer Prize Winner The Overstory by Richard Powers. Powers recognizes the fine German forest expert Peter Wohlleben who wrote The Hidden Life of Trees.

Peter has written two simplified versions of his international bestseller for kids. One is in our library checked out all the time, while the second children's book I found at Bullmoose in Waterville. The two titles for you to look for your younger readers are:

- Peter and the Tree Children
- Can You Hear the Trees Talking?

Yes, both books fascinate children and adults as well because both books have so much science revealed that we wonder why we never learned these astounding facts about trees in school.

I loved opening my huge illustrated Hidden Life of Trees and finding Peter, the author, reclined in the ancient base of an old-growth tree with roots propping his arms on both sides like a fitted sofa. Of course his eyes are wide open looking above at the glorious crown of the very mature beech tree and his fingers are resting on the moss covered raised root. I gave this book of photos to our Belgrade Public Library if you want to view the photos of trees within.

Now, to the kids versions of The Hidden Life of Trees, a NYTimes Bestseller.

"Can You Hear the Trees Talking?" is a good read aloud for non readers because every page is well illustrated. Curious kids will wonder about every photo as you read the science by Peter Wohlleben.


In the chapter with the same title, "Can You Hear the Trees Talking," the scientist tells children to dig down in the forest to where it is cool and humid under the dead leaves. "This is where the forest internet begins. Those thin, white strands that crisscross over each other are the cables that the trees use to send messages. Don't worry if you pull out a few fungal threads--the forest Internet won't crash."

That small passage read to your young ones will probably encourage you to close the book and go outside to dig in the ground. Peter has many easy activities for you to do with your children, so wash your hands and go back to this very well illustrated book all about trees.

An easier level book is "Peter and the Tree Children", but it too has more science

for younger kids. Peter leads children into the forest to find tree families. Yes, parent trees looking over their seedling trees. I have always enjoyed reading children's books because sometimes they are better and clearer than our adult reads.

Hoping you will sneak a peak at some of Peter's extraordinary writings for our youth. You may learn just as much from these books as our community read by Richard Powers, The Overstory, or the science in The Hidden Life of Trees by world renowned Peter Wohlleben.

"A powerful reminder to slow down and tune into the language of nature," Rachel Sussman, author of The Oldest Living Things in the World. 

Mystery of the Missing Fox by Tamra Wight

by Martha F. Barkley

Local author Tamra Wight lives in Portland. The Poland Spring Campground has been her family business for 25 years. Along with her husband and two kids, the author shares a lot of fox encounters in this young adult novel.


I bought her fox story because we have had kits, baby foxes, raised under our garage up by the horse field for over two decades. Sitings by the plumber opening our camp in May and sitings by the painter who shoveled horse droppings recently near the garage.

Massachusetts resident Carl DiRocco illustrates this book and all the Cooper and Packrat series: loons in Mystery on Pine Lake, Mystery of the Eagle's Nest, and Mystery of the Bear Cub, etc. Graduate of the New England School of the Arts, Carl enjoys camping with his wife and three boys.

Each chapter begins with fox facts. Chapter 29 caught my eye. "Fox hunting with dogs was a popular sport in the United States during the late 1920s and early 1930s; almost five thousand foxes were captured each year in Maine alone during that time."

The adventures of opening the campground in the spring are captivating because every camp requires work, much more than our individual home on Great Pond. It is amazing to read about the son in the family trying to make up for his dad's absence while in the hospital after a tree branch injury. Meeting deadlines for customers is real.


Continued on page 15...




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SIDNEY- This 3 BR, 2 BA ranch w/many updates! Open concept kitchen, dining and LR w/access to a large deck perfect for entertaining. Metal roof installed in 2013, seamless gutters in 2019. Brand new septic system in 2016. New kitchen countertops, appliances in 2018. 2nd BA w/laundry hook-up added in 2021. 1 car attached garage. Separate storage shed. Home sits on a well manicured 1 acre lot. Country setting yet close to all of the amenities!
MLS #1503015 \$250,000






WINTHROP- Wonderful Winthrop home w/a large level lot just 5 minutes from downtown Winthrop and 15 minutes to I-95. First floor offers a spacious applianced kitchen & dining area with cozy propane stove. LR opens to the backyard deck. Full BA w/tile floor and separate laundry room. 1st floor BR plus two 2nd floor BR. Oil heat. New front steps. Plenty of room for a garden. Move in condition. Come see!
MLS #1503269 \$185,000





WINTHROP- A 1930's cape w/additions added over time. This home has been loved for years by its current owners. Spacious kitchen w/hearth room for a sitting area. DR, LR, FR, full BA and primary BR are on the 1st level. Upstairs are two additional BR w/a full bath. Level entry to the front porch is a perfect place for all the gear. **MLS #1504492 \$195,000**





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Designing Women Returns to Manchester for Their Annual Fine Art & Craft Show!

Designing Women, a non-profit volunteer organization that celebrates female artisans and works to support other local nonprofits, who in turn, help women and families, will hold their 14th annual, juried fine art and craft show at Longfellow's Greenhouses, located at 81 Puddledock Road in Manchester, on Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 9:30am through 4:00pm.

Nineteen of northern New England's most talented lady artisans will celebrate the end of summer with a lovely show that will help support Winthrop's Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. This annual show will feature beautifully handcrafted jewelry, intricate weaving, pottery, clothing, handmade soaps and body care, and much more! Designing Women's Manchester show always features a balanced mix of artists and mediums and is a spectacular way to support your community and local artisans, to shop Longfellow's end-of-the-season sales, and help support SACSC. The suggested \$2 door donation and all lunch/refreshment proceeds will be collected and utilized by Winthrop's Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center.

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

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

ABOUT THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS AND SUPPORT CENTER – Providing free and confidential services to Kennebec, Somerset, Knox & Waldo counties for over 25 years, The Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center is a non-profit corporation based in Winthrop, Maine. Services include working to lessen the trauma-related suffering of sexual assault and to promote healing by guiding those affected by sexual violence toward survival through support, advocacy, education and community collaboration. For more information, please visit <http://www.silentnomore.org>.

Take it Outside continued from page 5....



Grandkids Maddie and Nathan riding the tube.
All three grandkids enjoying the water.



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

hope this column has inspired some of you to get out and explore the outdoor recreation opportunities the region has to offer and I hope you took a kid or two along. Until next year, I encourage everyone to "Take it Outside." For those of you who will be around for the winter, I encourage you to join me on the local trails on snowshoes or skis. Carpe skiem!



... Continued from page 14

The missing kits from the fox family and the missing cats from the cat lady are ongoing while the campground is being cleaned and set up for an early opening. The artist shows adorable fox family illustrations with an intriguing zip line from the water tower. No, not part of the campground offerings, but very much part of the adventure.

A mysterious resident in a nearby hermit type home reveals unusual art. When water is dumped on an invader, this expletive follows: "Spew spittle spats!"

Translation: You little brats! or something close to that.

The trail cam is used to record what is happening out there in the woods. Makes me wonder about doing this near our garage fox family home.

"I can get eight hundred dollars apiece for [each kit] as pets...I wanted to...give them good homes."

Almost convincing, but returning the kits to their home in nature is how this story is resolved after many happenings which seem beyond belief, especially by mom and dad who run the campground. The final chapter is especially gratifying to read. Then a sample beginning of Mystery of the Bear Cub entices the reader on to the next adventure in the series.

Observing nature from the eye level of kids is Tamra's talent. Pick your animal and read the book for adventure and knowledge. I learned about foxes and their return to the same home each year to have their kits. Maybe someday I will have camera proof of a lot told in this tale of Mystery of the Missing Fox.



Our mother loon with chick swimming by the ole' homestead! Go to page 6

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