

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1

2022: Summer's Rich Inventory

by Esther J. Perne



Photo by Cordell Perne

Waking to the songs of birds...falling asleep to the call of the loons...walking into the hug of a camp or the hum of a business recently unshuttered...lingering along a trail of fragrant pine needles...gazing at green hills in the morning sunlight - or across a lake rippling in a gentle breeze...eating outdoors at home, at camp or at a sidewalk table...or joining the parade at the local ice cream stand.

Summer is here: it's time to take inventory.

Top of the list is the great outdoors, the perseverance of nature, the rustic environment and the recreational diversity - all accessible, rewarding, free for the enjoyment. The scenery that surrounds every setting with natural beauty, the emergence of young wildlife that signifies hope,

the entertaining antics of children feeling the freedom of the vacation mode and the many, many choices of sports and activities for participation or spectatorship are all gifts of the great outdoors.

Throughout this rural area there are roads to drive slowly, trails to follow peacefully, gatherings to join sociably, solitude to bask in alone.

In towns and villages and even the cities of the area the presence of nature and the diversity of recreation mingle with building and road, bridge and byway...a nest here, a flower or vegetable box there, a park, a trail, a glint of nearby waterway.

Strolling a community sidewalk or stopping to absorb the picturesque flavor is both peaceful and practical for taking in summer's inventory.

While stopping: eat. Taste all that wonderful farm-to-fare or locally concocted or summer simple food. While eating: watch. Watch families, watch children, watch people and pets and other menu-gazers, but most of all watch a world of recreation wheel by. There's intown wheeling: bikes and skate boards and all manner of cars with all ages of children heading to ball teams. And, there are heading out of town clues, too: canoes on top of cars, bicycles on the back, golf clubs and fishing gear and maybe a saddle or tennis racquet propped against a back seat.

Enjoying the great outdoors isn't limited to state-of-the-art gear and rigorous activities. Sometimes all it takes is a bathing suit, walking

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1



Photo by Frank Barkley

shoes, a flat stone to skip across quiet waters.

There's a side to summer that suggests and approves of laziness, lounging, sunning, dozing, doing nothing but maybe quiet conversation, the old-fashioned way, or an absorbing book or eyes on the next generation or the one after that following in the footsteps of learning about and loving what the summer offers.

Will there be weather days - winds, high temperatures, low temperatures or precipitation too pronounced for even those "love a rainy day" golfers and anglers? Of course. This is Maine.

That means it's time to tap into indoor recreation, wholesome, fun, family-oriented: visits to history sites, rec centers, museums, stores and shops and more just waiting to be searched out.

When the summer fun search is on, there are ways to learn what's up. Check storefront posters, bulletin boards and marques, ask just about anyone especially business owners and workers as understaffed and overworked as they may seem and eavesdrop. Sure, it's ok to overhear tales about trails and fishing and family picnic spots and other outing secrets and put them on the summer inventory list.

List? What list? The one that overflowed long ago?

Oh well, who needs a list of what's in the region's inventory or even on the day's agenda? Just walk out the door and feel rich....after waking up to the songs of birds.



Belgrade Business Group Set For A Busy Season

In an annual spring gathering that focused on record membership (60 and still counting), transition of officers, water quality pro-activity and delicious hors d'oeuvres, members of the Belgrade Lakes Region Business Group met at Sadie's Restaurant overlooking the Great Pond Marina, the lake and the mountains beyond.

Members from local businesses including lodges, restaurants, real estate, construction, physical therapy, financial investment, the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club, the 7 Lakes Alliance and the Belgrade Lakes Association reminisced about the annual influx of appreciative vacationers (even during the shut-down of the covid pandemic) and shared plans for the summer of 2022 which include major downtown celebrations for Memorial Day weekend (also the beginning of the weekly Farmers' Market), the 4th of July with its two - water and land -parades and fireworks, Columbus Day Weekend (Harvest Fest) and the Christmas Stroll.

Guest Speaker, Dr. Danielle Wain of the 7 Lakes Alliance, presented an overview of the water quality of the Belgrades chain, described threats and state-designated status, what has been done, especially water quality testing year round, and what is currently being done to preserve water quality by the area's lake associations, the communities, the State and the 7 Lakes Alliance where specific information and educational material is available at their center on Main Street in Belgrade Lakes. In summary, Dr. Wain pointed out that the preservation of the lakes is up to the people in the watershed: they are our sentinels, engaged, watchful and here for many years.

The meeting ended with informal conversations about the upcoming summer and seasonal business trends from the fast pace of property purchases expected by real estate representatives to the awe and relief of visitors to "just get a breath of fresh air" looked forward to by 4th-generation family owners of Sadulsky's Camps on East Pond in Smithfield.



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Welcome Letter



Dear Readers:

Welcome to the summer of 2022 - the summer so many of us, from near and from far, have anticipated.

The approach to the 2022 season has been positive and promising, filled with the scheduling of return events and of awesome new ones, with the re-openings and new openings of businesses, with the possibility of safe trips and outings and with the sudden, amazing burst of green leaves and warm sunshine and inviting waters that signal the season's start.

Although summer starts with nature's miraculous reawakening and the return of seasonal vacationers, the season also starts with meetings, presentations, planning and employment for the many organizations and entities that contribute to the region's lake-oriented lifestyle; it starts with overviews and reviews and future goals for protecting and preserving this beautiful region and it starts with the first issue of "Summertime in the Belgrades."

This first issue of "Summertime in the Belgrades" and issues all summer will again provide information about events, regional news, columns on history, conservation, loons, great books and the dam report and with features that range from nostalgia to celebrations to environmental project updates and advice to current events and concerns.

Each issue will offer news and notes community by community that suggest ideas for enjoying or improving the region and each issue will present the best businesses in the area - our advertisers.

People who live in or come to the Belgrades - residents, vacationers, visitors and passers-through - seek the beauty, the peace and the privacy that surround us and they want to feel connected to this unique summer world.

"Summertime in the Belgrades" is that connection.

Copies of "Summertime in the Belgrades" are distributed in business, information and recreation hubs throughout central Maine. Feel free to pick up this unique newspaper every week, read it, save it or pass it along and let us know of anything special you would like to add.

We have something exciting to add: at the invitation of the Maine State Library, the digitization of back issues of "Summertime in the Belgrades." To date complete copies going back through 2007 are available at: <http://www.belgradelakesnews.com/archives/>

Have a great summer of 2022.

The "Summertime in the Belgrades" staff:

Esther, Corey, Ethan, Gregor and Michael

Summertime in the Belgrades

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A Hike Up Mt. Phillip

By Gregor Smith

In 2004, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (now part of the 7 Lakes Alliance) and Pine Island Camp bought 207 acres on Mount Phillip, including the hiking trail and summit. Less than a tenth of a mile from the parking lot, the trail splits. You can go either right or left. Both paths lead to the 755-foot summit, ascending through a mature forest of deciduous hardwoods and evergreens. The well-marked, 1.9-mile loop is mostly wide and gentle, although as with any woods trail, watch out for protruding rocks and roots. An able-bodied adult can reach the top in about 25 minutes. For a young child with shorter legs, it will take a bit longer. Through rocky clearings at the summit, one can see Great Pond to the south and the Kennebec Highlands to the west. The trailhead is on the north side of Route 225 in Rome, directly across from Starbird Lane, 4.1 miles west of the Route 8 junction and 1.5 miles east of Route 27. If the parking lot is full, you can park in the overflow lot, a few tenths of a mile west. A half-mile trail through the woods connects the two lots.



Top left: A carved, granite seat on the southern overlook in memory of Jean Anderberg (1950 - 2008) Bottom left: Convenient stepping stones on the connector trail: Were they placed by Mother Nature or by human hands? Above: A bog bridge on the half-mile trail connecting the upper and lower parking lots




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June 15th, 2022 Doors Open at 5:30pm
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- Doors open at 5:30pm and will remain open through the end of the film.
- Hors D'oeuvres until 7pm.
- Cash Bar all night with a silent auction and other fundraising activities.
- At 7pm we will begin a panelist-style discussion, moderated by retired journalist and writer Joseph Owen, with Martha Ballard's 6th great-granddaughters, Glee and Ruth Ballard, and 7th great-granddaughter Diane Dunn, the first female Brigadier General in the history of Maine's National Guard.
- Following the panel discussion, there will be a complete showing of the PBS documentary film

"A Midwife's Tale"

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— Take It Outside —

Greetings to the greater Belgrade Lakes Community and welcome back summer residents and visitors. Hard to believe we are well into our second year of battling an ever-changing virus that continues to be a serious threat for unvaccinated segments of the population. COVID-19 cases continue to decline in Maine as more of the population is vaccinated and we are approaching what infectious disease experts call, "herd immunity." After an incredibly stressful and crazy two years, we appear to be finally approaching a bit of normalcy. The pandemic has changed many things about how we interact with other people, do shopping, and the types of activities that we are comfortable carrying out. It has also clearly shown the great value we place on having clean, healthy lakes and forests where we can safely spend time with family and friends and at least temporarily find refuge from external stresses. Every study continues to show outside activities are far safer than those conducted inside.

When I was growing up and there was any kind of ruckus in the house, which was pretty common with six kids, my mother would tell us to, "Take it outside!" We would then head out to the woods behind the house to find something to do. My mother was a wise woman. Fifty years before Richard Louv wrote *Last Child in the Woods* in 2008, she had an innate understanding of "Nature Deficit Disorder" and knew that direct exposure to nature is essential for a child's healthy physical and emotional development. Louv and others later proved that kids who spend a lot of time outside are healthier, have longer attention spans, and are less likely to suffer from depression or childhood obesity. If you haven't read Louv's book, you should. I hope this column will inspire you to take advantage of all the outdoor recreation opportunities in our area and especially about the importance of getting youngsters outside and interacting with Mother Nature. Mother Nature is an amazing teacher and we can all learn from her, especially in these stressful times.

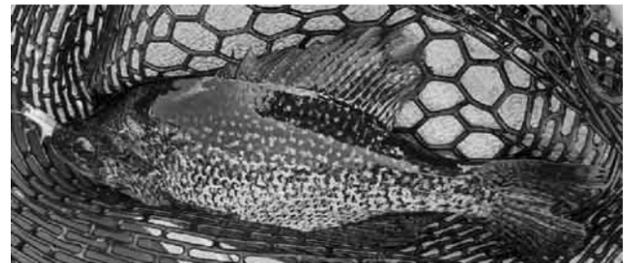
During the current pandemic, public health officials have been consistent in telling us to "Take it outside." Staying physically active is one of the best ways to keep your mind and body healthy, and carefully planned and executed outdoor activities are inherently safer than indoor activities. As I write this, all the local 7-Lakes Alliance and State of Maine (Kennebec Highlands) hiking trails and preserves are open for use by the public in accordance with CDC guidelines. I encourage people to get out and use the trails, especially with your families. But follow all guidelines and be safe. Visit the 7-Lakes Alliance website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) for the latest guidance and updates and to download maps of the trails.

Welcome Back

by Pete Kallin



Matt Scott and I with nice Kennebec River Shad.



Fourteen-inch black crappie caught on white zoner fly and same fly without hook.

Continued on page 6...

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Calendar

The summer of 2022 offers a celebration of events both returning and new in the central Maine area. Calling ahead to confirm scheduling is recommended and observing any covid requests or requirements by businesses and venues is highly encouraged.

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

Weekly

Farmers' Markets

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

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

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

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

Cruise-Ins

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

Public Library, rain date 6/12, 9 am-1 pm, drop off items on Friday after 4 pm, 242-9408, Day's Real Estate, Route 27, Belgrade.

Wednesday - Dutch Treat Weekly Cruise-Ins, 645-2145, 5-7 pm, Route 2, Wilton.

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

Theater

Thursday 6/9-Sunday 6/12 and Wednesday 6/15-Saturday 6/26 - "The Girl on the Train," 474-7176, Lakewood Summer Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Music

Thursday 7/7 and every Thursday - Music on the Village Green, "Cowboy Angels" first concert, 6:30-8 pm, hosted by Chris Poulin, 495-3481, in the gazebo, Belgrade Lakes.

Friday 7/17 and every Friday in July and August - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, "Runnin' Down a Dream" first concert, 7-8:30 pm, Gardiner Landing on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

This Week

Friday 6/10 - LeAnn Rimes, singer, songwriter, live in concert: The Story...So Far tour, outdoors at Snow Pond's Bowl in the Pines, 6:30-10 pm, doors open 5:30pm, opening act - The Wolff Sisters, 476-6976, snowpond.org, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 6/11 - Yard Sale to benefit Friends of the Belgrade

Public Library, rain date 6/12, 9 am-1 pm, drop off items on Friday after 4 pm, 242-9408, Day's Real Estate, Route 27, Belgrade.

Saturday 6/11 - Open House at the 1847 Viles Home and Gardens, hosted by the Winthrop Historical Society, tours at 1-2:30 and 3-4:30 pm, limit of 30 people per tour, registration and payment required, 395-5450, 71 Stone Street, Augusta.

Saturday 6/11 - Fern Walk, with Maine Master Naturalist Deb Stahler, sponsored by the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library, 3 pm, Ezra Smith Wildlife Conservation Area, Mount Vernon.

Saturday 6/11 - The Gawler Family Band, tickets on website \$15, \$20 at door, Union Hall, Vienna Mountain Road, Vienna.

Saturday 6/11 - Maine Dead Project, features a wide-ranging repertoire of Grateful Dead Classics through high-energy musical performance and unique interpretation, 6 pm doors open, 7 pm show, \$20 in advance, general admission, www.narrowgaugecinema.net, Big Sky Grill Stage, Narrow Gauge Cinemas, Farmington.

Tuesday 6/14 - Evening Hike, 7:30 pm, bring a headlamp or flashlight, 495-6039, 7lakesalliance.org, French Mountain, Rome.

Wednesday 6/15 - An Evening In Honor of Martha Ballard, a conversation with Martha Ballard's sixth great-grand-daughters removed, Glee and Ruth Ballard, including "A Midwives Tale" documentary, silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, wine and soft drinks, \$30 per person, 5:30 pm, marthaballad.com/tickets, Calumet Club, Augusta.

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WHISTLESTOP

CONCERT SERIES

MAINE DEAD PROJECT



JUNE 11

Big Sky Grill Stage
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\$20 in advance, General Admission
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JUNE 18

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Take it Outside continued from page 5....



Three nice Long Pond black crappie.

They are a lot of fun to catch.

Yesterday, I found a school of large (12-14") black crappie and quickly landed a nice, fat 14-incher on a white zonker fly. In a few more casts, I landed two more, each a bit over a foot. On my next cast, I had another nice strike and lost another big one just as I saw it and was bringing it towards my net. I quickly cast back to where the fish were and had another strike but didn't hook the fish. I let the fly sink a bit and twitched it and had another nice strike without hooking the fish. I tried the same sink and twitch and had another nice strike without a fish. In baseball, the rule is, "Three strikes and you're out." I figured something was wrong and brought my fly in, examined it closely, and discovered that the reason I was suddenly not hooking any fish was that the hook had broken off the fly. I then decided to filet the fish on my portable filet table (a 12" cedar board) and head home for a nice fish fry. Just as I was cleaning up, my friend, Lynn Matson came by on his "Pedal Board." I gave him a couple of fresh filets for dinner and then headed home. By the time this article is published

Continued on page 7.....

Like last year, this winter seemed to come and go, with snow followed by melting, rain, and then more snow and cold. Like last year, the ice went out in the first week of April, about a week earlier than "usual", followed by a cool, windy spring. The fishing has been good, especially for bass, pike, and trout. In the nearby Kennebec River, the alewives and shad have returned earlier than usual. Last week, my friend, Matt Scott, and I went flyfishing for shad in Waterville and caught eight nice fish. Normally, these fish are still in the river in early June, 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.



Bowl in the Pines Renovated



One of the largest amphitheatres in the nation, Snow Pond Center for the Arts' historic Bowl in the Pines (re)opens this summer for national touring artists. Recently completed major renovations enhance the experience for the audience and artists alike — making the Bowl one of the best performance venues in New England.

Over the last several years, Snow Pond has worked to preserve the historical performing arts venue while upgrading the facility with advanced stage rigging for lights and sound, ADA parking and restrooms, two concession areas, a permeable paver patio, and expanded seating capacity (up to 7,500). This year we will add a three-tier VIP patio and outdoor kitchen as well.

Christa Johnson, Snow Pond's Director of Development noted, "With the incredible outpouring of support from the community, including lead gifts from The Bill and Joan Alford Foundation and Kennebec Savings Bank, these renovations are turning central Maine into an arts destination."

Enhancing not only cultural but also economic opportunities in the Belgrade Lakes, with ripple effects throughout Maine, The Bowl is anticipated to generate \$300,000 annually for the local economy. Importantly, a percentage of each ticket sale supports Snow Pond's Community Programs which bring art to under-resourced neighborhoods.

Snow Pond Center for the Arts is committed to creating a more vibrant community through arts education. Attracting first-rate performers to Maine and widening the audiences served, these impressive renovations do just that. Come and see for yourself

Legendary singer/songwriter LeAnn Rimes will be featured at the Snow Pond Center for the Arts first summer concert of 2022 at the Bowl in the Pines on Friday, June 10, following an Opening Act by the 3 Wolff Sisters. Winner of innumerable awards for her country/inspirational style music, world-renowned LeAnn Rimes' top songs include "How Do I Live," "One Way Ticket," "Can't Fight the Moonlight" and "Blue" for which, at age 14, Rimes was the youngest person ever to win a Grammy. Tickets are available at snowpond.org.

LIVE IN CONCERT *the story... so far tour*
JUNE 10TH

AT SNOW
POND'S
BOWL IN
THE PINES

SNOW POND
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Michael Franti & SPEARHEAD
July 1



Free Movie Night -
Spiderman: No Way Home
(in partnership with the Maine
Outdoor Film Festival)
July 4



Pops Concert -
The NEMC Symphonic Groups
July 9



BAILEIN, Good Night
Blue Moon & Rebecca McCartney
July 16

Take it Outside continued from page 6...

lished, the water temperature will be in the mid to high 60's in most of our lakes and the bass will be in the shallows, either on their own beds or chasing sunfish on theirs. Fast action can be had with streamer flies, surface poppers, jerk baits, or Senko type jigs.

The hiking trails (including some new ones!) in the Kennebec Highlands and nearby 7-Lakes Alliance (former BRCA) properties like French Mountain, Mount Phillip, Fogg Island, and The Mountain are beautiful, verdant, and awash in spring and early summer wildflowers like trillium and lady slippers and birds and other wildlife. I have been doing a lot of hiking and am encouraged by the number of families out on the trails with young kids. Check the 7LA Website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Upcoming programs include an evening sunset hike on French Mountain (June 24), a night sky tour (June 28), and a presentation by Chewonki (July 5th) on "Mammals of Maine from Mice to Moose." 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.



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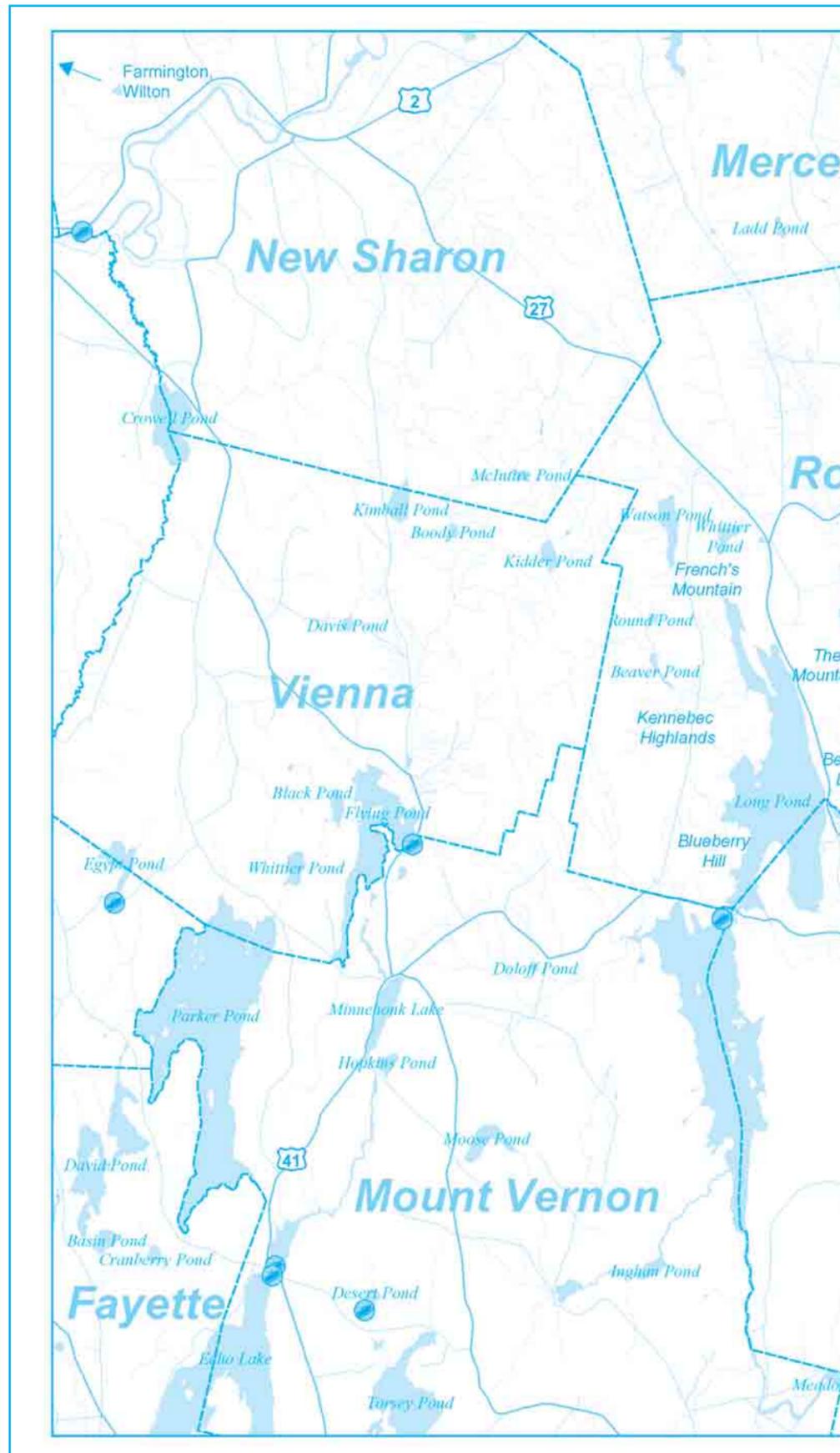
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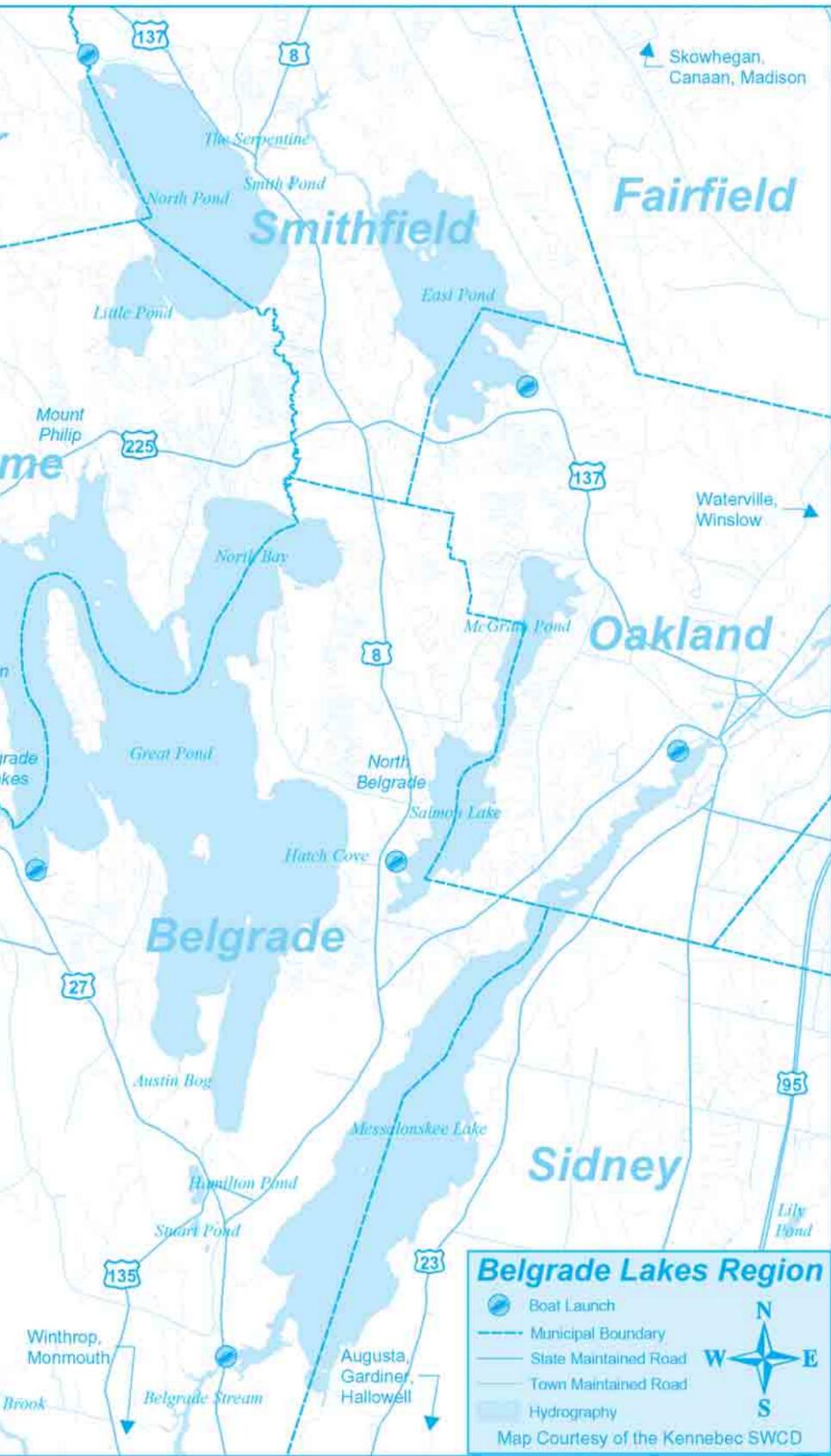
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 - Hydrography
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Call of the Loon



Welcome back to another Summertime in the Belgrades and the second year of our "Call of the Loon"! This 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.



One of our first returning loons this spring was a 2021 banded male photographed by resident photographer, Alex Wall.

breeding early on April 24th! We have resident Craig Killingbeck to thank for maintaining his 25 year old floating Marriott! It has apparently become the go-to nest in the world of loons!

Our loons typically nest around Memorial Day and, with an average 27-28 day gestation period, we expect to see our first chicks as early as Father's Day on June 19th this year, up until around the 4th of July.

This Spring, we had to replace our 25 year old Tracy Cove water-logged semi-floating log nest with a new light weight "Robinson Floating Nest" which hopefully can handle those incessant waves, even in our 200 ft. no wake zone.

We have purposely not disclosed the exact locations of our Loon Nesting Sanctuaries as they need all of the privacy that we can afford them. The State-wide 200' No-Wake Zone, although important for so many obvious reasons, when actually practiced, is just not adequate to ensure our loon's safety. Well-intentioned canoes, kayaks, and in particular paddle-boards, result in way too many birds being flushed from their nests because the birds perceive a threat from a standing human.

If you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blmaine.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"!

As you may or not know, our local Belgrade Lakes Association is into their fourth 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.

Last year, our fledging success rate was such an improvement over 2020. Great Pond had 5 chicks that fledged (ie. flew the coop along with the fall migration). Long Pond had 3 chicks that were able to beat the odds and flew off as well.

Although we will begin our first survey of the 2022 season on both Great and Long Ponds this coming week in order to assess each of our loon territories where we have or had activity in the past, we have already had a pair in Long Pond's Beaver Cove that just couldn't wait and started



2022 Adult Loon intruder on the run after encountering the nesting pair in Long Pond's Tracy Cove.



New 2022 Tracy Cove "Robinson Floating Nest"

Dick Greenan, Chairman,
 BLA Loon Preservation Project

...Continued from page 6

Thursday 6/16 through Sunday 6/19 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, 873-6539, great bands, food, camping, Fairgrounds, Litchfield.

Thursday 6/16 - Belgrade Historical Society Annual Meeting, all welcome, 6 pm, at the newly renovated school house/health center, presentation by Eric Hooglund on the school, 495-2901, 11 School Street, Belgrade Lakes Village.

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Friday 6/17-Sunday 6/19 - 38th Annual Trek Across Maine, American Lung Association fundraiser, 624-0236, Thomas Point Beach and Campground to Bates College to St. Joseph's College to Thomas Point.

Friday 6/17 through Sunday 6/19 - The Maine Event Horse Show - Blue Ribbon BBQ, covered arena, concessions, free admission, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Friday 6/17-Sunday 6/19 and Friday 6/24-Sunday 6/26 - "A Flea in her Ear," \$24-26, 873-7000, Waterville Opera House, Water Street, Waterville.

Saturday 6/18 - Spencer and the Walrus, meticulously recreate the music of the Beatles, 6 pm doors open, 7 pm show, \$25 in advance, general admission, www.narrowgaugecinema.net, Amphitheatre Stage, Narrow Gauge Cinemas, Farmington.





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- **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273
- **Village Inn and Tavern** 157 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3553, www.villageinnandtavern.com
- **Winterberry Farm Café**, homemade treats, pie, cookies, granola bars, grilled organic cheese sandwiches, veggies, drinks, 538 Augusta Rd, (Route 27), Belgrade, 649-3331

Farmington

• **Big Sky Grill**, wood-fired pizza, pasta, salads and more, 108 Narrow Gauge Square, narrowgaugecinema.net/big-sky-grill, 779-7883

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- **Engine 5 Bakehouse**, fresh, from-scratch baked goods including pies, cookies, bars, and gluten free items, *take-out only*, 140 Western Ave, Waterville, engine5bakehouse.com, 616-3772
- **Pete's Pig**, order ahead and get Smoked Meats, Party Packs and Catering, not offering dine-in and take out, 35 Water Street, www.petespig.com, 616-0969

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Notebook

The Small Garden Guide

• Clean out the garden and help a fundraiser at the same time. The Gardiner Public Library is calling for perennials, cuttings and seedlings to support a plant sale on Saturday, June 18 to benefit the Gardiner Library Association. Healthy, pest-free, labeled please. Herbs and vegetable plants welcome as well. Native plants preferred. Gardening books are also wanted for a book exchange. Contact John Woytowicz (hawthorn57@gmail.com) or Kathy Brown (kethyp-brown4@gmail.com). Plant drop off is June 17 or early June 18.

Awesome Animals

• Goats to fight invasives! Targeted grazing for vegetation management with goats is a growing solution to the takeover of invasive plants without mechanical or chemical removal. Goats will go for local nuisance plants such as multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, poison ivy and much more.

For towns near Farmington goats may be hired through Grazing Glory Maine at grazingglory-maine.com or 320-5107.

Brown Tail Moth Rash Remedy

• They're here: the caterpillars with the red dots that otherwise look like tent caterpillars. They irritate: the airborne hairs cause a poison ivy type rash (only worse). There's no specific remedy: but many suggestions, including this one from a local clinic: 1/4 cup witch hazel, 1/2 tube hydrocortisone cream, 1/2 tube diphenhydramine cream, and 1/2 tube aspercreme/lidocaine cream. Combine ingredients in a spray container and apply every 4-6 hours.

L.C. Bates Kids' Kits

• The L.C. Bates natural history museum in Hinckley, Route 201, has Kids' Kits containing natural science and environmental activities available to be picked up.

Popular themes are Bird, Insect, Leaf and Shell

Kits.Call for pick-up: 238-4250.

Kennebec Highlands

• 7 Lakes Alliance has announced the addition of 813 acres of forest, fields and wetlands known as the Allens blueberry lands to the Kennebec Highlands conserved lands. The land will be open to the public to hike, hunt, bird watch and enjoy spectacular views. For more information contact the 7 Lakes Alliance at www.7lakesalliance.org or visit the headquarters in downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Belgrade

• A gathering place for seniors! The Senior Resource Committee is organizing the North Belgrade Community Center for seniors to gather three times a week for a variety of activities. Needed are locking cabinets, a wide screen TV, craft supplies, games and puzzles. To donate, please call Mary Vogel at the Belgrade Town Office at 495-2258.

Farmington

- Exhibitors wanted for Summer Fest "Old Tyme Fun." Inviting artisans and businesses. www.downtownfarmington.com
- Lights, Camera, Auction to benefit the Farmington Downtown Association. Donations accepted now, drop-off deadline July 18. Adrian and Jeff Harris Auctioneers. No plastic containers, bedding, clothing, stuffed furniture or broken items. 778-4616

Smithfield

• Bulmer's Sunbeam Roller Rink overlooking North Pond is celebrating its 100th year. The open-air, seasonal rink located on Village Road in Smithfield is open Fridays, 7-10 pm. Rental skates are available. 416-2400 



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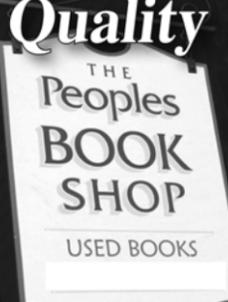
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www.hathawaymillantiques.com

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The Apple Farm, 104 Back Road, Fairfield,
453-7656, www.applefarm.us

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Augusta, 242-3663. www.lakehousedesignbuildmaine.com [houzz](https://www.houzz.com/pro/contact7917/lakehouse-design-build)

ARTS

Waterville Creates, 10 Water Street, Suite 106, Waterville,
616-0292, www.watervillecreates.org

AUTOMOBILE STORAGE

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

BANKING

Maine State Credit Union 200 Capitol Street, Augusta,
623-1851, www.maineatecu.org
Skowhegan Savings Bank, 450 Civic Center Drive, Route 27,
Augusta, 1-800-303-9511, 623-2300, www.skowsavings.com

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Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

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Mid-Maine Marine, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland,
465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

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Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes,
495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

Mid-Maine Marine, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland,
465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

BOOKS

Children's Book Cellar, 52 Main Street, Waterville,
872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/

Oliver and Friends, Bookshop, 87 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes,
707-2123

Peoples Book Shop, 605 Wings Mill Rd., Mount Vernon, 620-2392,
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649-3331, www.winterberryfarmstand.com

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873-2200, www.goldenpondwealth.com

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Narrow Gauge Cinema and Drive-in, Front Street, Farmington,
info line - 778-4877, office - 778-2281,
www.narrowgaugecinema.net

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great Pond,
PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes,
512-5150, belgradelakesassociation.org
McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA), Belgrade and
Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
mpslassociation@gmail.com

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7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes,
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Lynch Landscaping, 78 Maple Street, Norridgewock,
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Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-1471

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Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate, 242-8199, gail@gailrizzo.com

Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331, pldcamp@msn.com

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

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

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WINE AND SPIRITS

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



The Dams Keeper Report

Welcome back to another Summertime in the Belgrades and the seventh year of the Dams Keeper Report. As of this writing, we are beginning our summer with Great Pond's Village dam 1.2" above full pond with both gates completely closed. Basically, the water is just 1.2" deep going over the top of the stone spillway. Long Pond and its Wings Mill dam is 3.12", also above full pond with Gate 1 still open but down to 3'4". Salmon/McGrath is also 3" above full pond with it's single gate opened just the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are presently 1.8" also above full pond with their effort to keep as much water in the pond as possible yet meet their hydroelectric demands. With another drought forecasted, we are trying to begin our summer with all of 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.

The long-term forecast is only for 77% of normal rain for May through July, with a slight increase 87% of the normal rainfall for August through November. This slight increase in rain will be great news for our farmers, those with shallow wells and of course, our ponds.

Your Dams Committee has another busy summer with installation of a wireless data logger and a rebuild of our tainter (radial) gate at the Salmon dam. All of the other dams, although in need of routine maintenance, remain in good shape.

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

Enjoy your summer! It should be beautiful.

Welcome back!
Dick

Dick Greenan
Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



— Union Coffee House News —

Union Coffee House 2022 - We're Baaack!

from Don Petersen

The Union Coffeehouse will be back this summer for a shortened season with 3 concerts in the Union Church Friendship Hall starting in June. It will be wonderful to return to this inviting venue that has been the scene of so much wonderful music since 2006. We have a terrific lineup of headliner talent set for the summer of 2022, so mark your calendars and plan to attend the following outstanding concerts:



Gilead Road

Saturday, June 11 - For our first concert in 2022, the Union Coffeehouse welcomes for the first time **Gilead Road**, an acoustic duo from New London, CT. Lizzy Hess and Glenn Stevens sing original songs sprinkled with favorite gems of contemporary and traditional songwriting. Their songs tell stories of personal history, reflections on life, and a search for humor in today's wild world. You can hear echoes of John Prine, Nancy Griffith, Kate Wolfe, and David Crosby in their music. Lizzy sings and Glenn brings his guitar, voice, and songwriting. Together they spark a chemistry that is more than the sum of its parts. You won't want to miss their engaging and heartfelt music.

Saturday, July 9 - For the mid-summer concert of our 2022 summer season, the Union Coffeehouse will feature the delightful music of Simons and Goodwin. The tight-knit harmonies of Renee Goodwin and Bob Simons have made them a perennial favorite here at



Simons and Goodwin

the Coffeehouse. This wonderfully talented folk-singing duo performs both original and traditional folk and popular songs complemented by Bob's intricate guitar accompaniment. There is a warmth that comes through their songs and it makes you feel like you're listening to old friends.

Saturday, August 20 - The Union Coffeehouse is pleased to bring back Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards to close out our 2022 season on Saturday, August 20. Raianne and Mark are clearly inheritors of a timeless legacy, creating music that is both original and evocative of a rich tradition. Blending distinctive voices and a wide range of accompaniment (guitar, harmonica, ukulele, clarinet, penny whistle, electric bass), their songs have been well-received by audiences around the eastern United States and Canada since 2010. Transcending the genre of folk Americana, their music echoes inspiration from traditional folk duos and singer/songwriters like Ian & Sylvia, Kate Wolf and Neil Young – combining beautiful harmonies and a lyrical intensity, while establishing a unique sound of their own.

The concerts will start at 7 PM in Friendship Hall and the featured performers start the show. They will be followed by the serendipitous group of performers who show up for the Open Mic time.





Like The Willow Tree by Lois Lowry

by Martha F. Barkley

This Portland, Maine Diary-style story takes place during the Spanish flu of 1918. If you are looking for an informative read about our nearby Shaker Community during this perilous time like today's pandemic in Sabbathday Lake, Maine, then this Scholastic young adult book is for you or a young person you know.

Due to ZOOM and so many Covid limitations, I discovered a charming conversation on line between children's author Lois Lowry and Brother Arnold at the last remaining active Shaker community in the U.S. The Dear America series of books were published back in 2011 and are diaries written by children. Who does not want to read someone else's diary from long ago?

Lois Lowry has a vacation summer farmhouse in Bridgton, not far from the New Gloucester location of our Maine Shakers. Her old summer place was built

around the same time period as the Shaker buildings, built soundly and built to last. I marvel at the meeting house paint which was applied years and years ago. It lasted!

Lydia and her brother lose both

parents and newly born baby quickly during the Spanish flu in Portland. I was shocked that many victims died within 24 hours, a much deadlier flu than our recent Covid. An uncle tries to care for both children, but eventually he had to give them to the Shakers nearby.

Following Lydia's daily thoughts as she experienced all these changes in her life is fascinating for young and old. I learned a lot about the Shaker way of life. For over thirty years I have met at 10 am Sunday meeting with the welcoming Shaker community and friends.

Usually in June when I attend the rows of women on one side and men on the other are full, about 30-40 people. Singing a cappella their many Shaker songs is quite an experience. The title of this book comes from a favorite Shaker song indicating that bending in life like a willow is helpful. My neighbor on Great Pond attended with me one summer and Kay even stood and shared at meeting.

Brother Arnold always makes everyone feel "not a stranger", as he repeats, quoting from an earlier Shaker. Anyone is welcome to stand and share between songs. Lydia relates in her diary how she was required to recite a Bible verse for her first sharing after weeks of careful preparation with the Shaker teacher. They did have students in their

school from "the world", meaning outside the Shaker community.

I was amused and dismayed many times while reading Like The Willow Tree. The initial removing of her family ring due to no ornamentation and hearing "ney" rather than no were peculiar. Lydia lost her temper by telling her Shaker instructor that she neighs like a horse and looks like a horse. Lydia was no shrinking violet in this new, strange place. Eating meals silently was understandably difficult for her and her brother on the opposite side of the dining room.

Gradually she learns laundry detail and ironing skills, but most of all she makes friends among the Shaker girls and also those from "the world". Outdoor activities and journeys to nearby Poland Springs resort hotel to sell Shaker goods bring variety to her life. Reading good literature together was a real plus for all the girls.



Another time, another pandemic. Scenes from 1918.



Lydia's goal seemed to be wanting promotion to candy making.

Everyone loves the special caramel candy made by the Shakers. Go shopping at their store, go for a tour any

day but Sunday. Worship at their meeting and go downstairs for coffee and donuts after. Brother Arnold and Sister June will make you feel welcome. I understand there are two more Shakers that have joined since Covid. I have not met them, but look forward to meeting in June sometime.

Being separated from her brother Daniel was difficult for Lydia. She would see him across the dining hall and on opposite sides of meeting, but no contact was allowed. Different stairwells and doors are even used, separating males and females. Occasionally she was allowed to visit with Daniel, but only with a Shaker present. Read and learn about this surviving community in Maine where orphans from the Spanish flu were well cared for.

A freakish April snowstorm really caught my attention because all the animals were out of the barn and marooned in snowdrifts. Neighbors of the Shakers arrived from all around and every single farm animal was rescued. Many hands make light work, how does that old saying go? Many volunteers help the four Shakers remaining active at their beautiful village open to the public for tours and Sunday meeting at ten when the bell rope is pulled.





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→ In case of rain, the Coffeehouse will take place at the Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, 67 Main St, Belgrade Lakes Village ←



– Real Estate Update – Inflation. Rising Interest Rates. Gas prices. COVID.

These are just some of the variables that define the real estate market. For most of the past 2 years the real estate market has been in what is commonly known as a “Sellers Market”. This in simple terms means that demand exceeds supply. We have experienced a sellers market for the past 2 summers, and expect much of the same this summer.

When it comes to market cycles, Maine and more so the Belgrade Lakes Region are slower to react to national trends. For our region, Maine and Nationally, 2019 was a relatively normal year of real estate sales; mortgage rates were attractive, prices were stable, inventory supported demand and gave buyers options in their buying choices. 2020 showed us a major shift in the real estate market driven by the COVID pandemic. Maine became one of the top destination locations for people looking to move away from the cities, work remotely and enjoy the “Way Life Should Be”. The Belgrade Lakes Region has been directly influenced by this migration.

2020 was a record year for real estate sales volume and sales prices in our region. So far in 2022, we are experiencing an 8% increase in sales prices, although the number of closed sales is down 15%. Fewer homes sold is primarily due to a lack of inventory. The number of homes for sale is down 33% from this time last year, resulting in homes only being on the market for an average of 5 days.

As we head into summer, we are optimistic about the real estate market remaining strong in the Belgrade Lakes Region. While prices continue to increase, they are still much lower than prices in the Greater Portland and Coastal Areas of Maine, making our region more attractive to newcomers.

For the buyers? Don’t lose hope! As we head into summer, we are seeing a seasonal increase in new listings, both residential and waterfront properties. This new inventory will help ‘normalize’ the buying process. So for buyers, be patient and be prepared. 

Maine’s First Boating License Law Goes Into Effect in 2024! An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters CHAPTER 656 PUBLIC LAW - APRIL 23, 2022

By now, most of you have heard about the pending legislation that boaters younger than 25 would be required to pass an education and safety course prior to January 2024 in order to operate a boat on Maine’s lakes and rivers, excluding for the time being, the coastal waters. Well, it’s no longer pending and will now be the law, effective January 1, 2024.



15 yr. old Benjamin at the helm!
(Is he legal? Read on further for the answer!)

ed.com/maine/) is approved and accepted by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), the United States Coast Guard in addition to meeting standards of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program and the U.S. Boating Education Standards.

Is Benjamin legal?
Fortunately, although Benjamin is only 15 yrs. old, he is driving an 8 hp Evinrude, well under the 25 hp minimum. BTW, 15 yr. old Ben also satisfies the 10 yr. old lifejacket requirement.

Dick Greenan,
Board, Belgrade Lakes Association
Chairman, Loon Preservation Project 



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The Rationale:

- Maine is one of the few states in the country that does not require boating licenses. Neighboring New Hampshire for example, has required anyone 16 years and older to obtain a boating license.
- According to the U.S. Coast Guard, those under age 25 are not the boaters getting in the most accidents or causing the most fatalities. But, Rep. Jessica Fay (D-Raymond), who sponsored the legislation (LD1663) states that “Sometimes the best way to teach adults new things is by making sure that younger people understand the thing that we’re trying to learn”. Rep. Fay also notes that the legislation has gained the support of numerous lake associations, environmental and wildlife groups, and lake-side property owners.

Summary of CHAPTER 656 PUBLIC LAW:

- The law creates a mandatory boating safety course requirement for individuals born after January 1, 1999 for the operation of motorboats propelled by machinery over 25 horsepower on Maine waters beginning January 1, 2024. Basically, as of January 1, 2024, anyone born after January 1, 1999 and is at least 12 yrs. old, is required to satisfactorily complete the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s (IF&W) adopted boating safety education certification program. This law also requires a mandatory boating safety course for an individual born after January 1, 1999 who wishes to operate a personal watercraft.
- The law requires all operators of motor boats and jet skis (personal watercraft) to be educated on the state boating laws, and wildlife and environmental impacts, particularly the 200’ No Wake Zone or risk fines and misdemeanor criminal charges for noncompliance.
- Boaters who violate the new law will be fined between \$100 and \$500 per offense, and those with three or more violations in a five-year period could be charged with a Class E crime.
- Due to many ambiguities, you will want to review the actual Law next year for any updates and/or log into the BLA website.

Maine Approved On-line Boating Safety Course

The suggested Maine Boat Ed Course (<https://www.boat->



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MLS 1528971 \$1,950,000



ECHO LAKE Two bedroom seasonal cottage with stone fireplace. Located on year round Echo Lake Road it has great views of the lake.

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ECHO LAKE Classic log cabin with additions. Massive stone fireplace, 3 bedrooms and an unbeatable lake view.

MLS 1530043 \$299,000



MESSALONSKEE Private lakeside retreat on the Eastern shore of Messalonskee Lake in Sidney. Enjoy spectacular sunsets from your lakeside deck and swim from your private beach.

MLS 1528499 \$1,500,000



BELGRADE The estate of portrait artist Cecily Diamond. 211 acres of privacy in Belgrade. The home is a design by architect and author Scott Nearing!

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LONG POND Deep water frontage and SUNSETS!! This 2AC building lot is the last property on a private dead end road offering complete seclusion!

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MLS 1528695 \$685,000



MESSALONSKEE LAKE . Exceptional 1.05AC building lot with views & 60' of lakefront for your own private dock on one of central Maine's best lakes!

MLS 1516379 \$159,900



MOUNT VERNON Beautiful 25 acres. Over 1,823ft of road frontage, the property is a few minutes drive to Long Ponds public boat launch and the quaint village of Belgrade Lakes

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NORTH POND Turn-key duplex and 6,250SQFT building known as the Sunbeam Roller Rink with 75' of waterfront on North Pond

MLS 1521005 \$1,100,000