

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 24, NUMBER 4

A Fascination With Fireworks

by Esther J. Perne



Photo by Michael Breault

When night settles in, when the crowds settle down and when the sky lights up with bursts and trails and spirals and showers of color something special is in the air...literally. Children are entranced, dogs cover and adults are as nonpartisan as adults can be.

Almost everyone (except the dogs) votes yes for a celebration with fireworks whether it's for a sports team win, a summer fest, a community milestone, the arrival of a new season, a wedding or, especially, the birth of a nation.

Fireworks were the celebration of choice in 1776 when the United States declared its independence on July 4th and they have been a patriotic tradition ever since. They already were a popular way to celebrate patriotism in other countries.

Briefly, fireworks may have been discovered by the Chinese 2,000 years ago, where written records describe how to make gunpowder into a firecracker. The idea for shooting gunpowder as a

weapon is attributed to the Greeks and Romans. Gunpowder made its way to the West in the 13th century and so did fireworks which became a form of entertainment and although they have continued as entertainment all over the world they are also used for providing light, warning about dangers and signaling for help via torpedoes, flares and rockets and many similar devices.

In Maine, fireworks are legal, with some exceptions, but they are also controlled by municipal ordinances under which times and restrictions may vary. Belgrade, for example, where a spectacular public fireworks display will be sponsored by the Belgrade Lakes Region Business Group on July 4, advises individual consumers to observe the following rules and requests:

-Consumer fireworks, by Maine law, may only be used between 9 am and 10 pm except July 4, December 31 and the weekends before and after

July 4 and December 31, when the hours of use are extended until 12:30 am.

-Fireworks can only be used on your own property or the property of a person who has consented to their use.

-Those under 21 may not buy, use or possess consumer fireworks. Violation of fireworks law is a civil offense that carries a fine and court costs.

-Keep in mind that while you may be on vacation, neighbors may have to get up for work, have young children, have pets that may be traumatized by fireworks, or may have issues themselves that make fireworks difficult to tolerate. Be a good neighbor and respect those around you.

-For more information, visit maine.gov and search for "fireworks."

Municipalities aside, Maine's many lake communities are also affected by fireworks and although they cannot pass ordinances they can issue lake-friendly fireworks user guidelines like

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the list issued by the Belgrade Lakes chain's North Pond: Celebrate the 4th of July with the Sake of the Lake in Mind!

"While fireworks seem to go hand and hand with the 4th of July, there are a number of Best Management Practices that you can follow to help keep our lake free from debris and prevent harmful chemicals that are contained in fireworks from affecting water and aquatic life.

1. Be respectful of your neighbors and their pets and consider the timing and frequency of fireworks displays.

2. Become knowledgeable of surrounding

drinking water supplies.

3. Devise a plan that minimizes potential runoff from launch areas, and don't launch from bare soil or sand.

4. Launch fireworks at a steep angle that promotes maximum height allowing the complete ignition and combustion. Fireworks launched at a low trajectory may result in premature submersion in the water and incomplete burning of potentially hazardous compounds.

5. Rake the launch area and clean up all debris immediately following a fireworks display. Retrieve any visible non-combusted materials from the water.

6. Collect and dispose of all "duds" in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

Excerpted from The North Pond News, Summer 2021. For more information contact NHDES, "Fireworks and New Hampshire's Waterbodies," Fact Sheet.

When night settles in, when the crowds settle down and when the sky lights up with bursts and trails and spirals and showers of color something special is in the air.

Here's to enjoying the fireworks celebrations in central Maine....and please leave the dogs at home. 

Hard Work of Youth Conservation Corps Improves Belgrades Water Quality

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director

Got an erosion problem along a shoreline in the Belgrade Lakes watershed? The 7 Lakes Alliance has a solution.

The mission of 7 Lakes' Youth Conservation Corps is to execute erosion control projects that keep dirt out of the lakes – phosphorous in dirt being a necessary nutrient for algae, the organism that can turn lakes an icky green.

The YCC is accepting applications for summer projects. Interested property owners can email Erosion Control Project Coordinator Stuart Cole at stuart.cole@7lakesalliance.org about their proposed project. Cole will schedule an inspection of the worksite and offer recommendations about what should be done, including providing a list of the needed supplies. He also pursues any



required state permitting.

Property owners provide the supplies; the YCC provides the labor at a minimal cost. (Labor is the costliest expense of most construction project.) Crews of high school and college students typically complete a project in a day or less.

Erosion control methods are referred to as best management practices, and the current BMP of choice is reinforcing shorelines and embankments with riprap. Optimally, the broken stone is complemented by other BMPs, such as:

- Planting vegetative buffers; blueberry bushes are tremendous at stemming erosion ... and at providing a delicious pie filling!

- Installing rubber razors that keeps driveway

Continued on page 3...



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Belgrade Lakes Association Seeks Volunteers



BLA's Board of Directors is grateful to all of you for your continuous & generous financial contributions that serve to keep our lakes clean and environmentally vital.

But, simply put, this Summer we Need Your Help!

We invite you to join a BLA Board Member to staff, for a shift (or more), on one of our Raffle Tables this Summer. The Summer Raffle is a primary fund-raiser that supports the health of our precious lakes. In addition to raising funds for the BLA, you will find that connecting with the community of lake property owners & visitors at our Raffle tables to be rewarding by itself.

BLA Board Members operate Raffle sales tables at the Village Post Office & the Farmers Market on weekends from now until the drawing on August 18th. Optimally we need one or two volunteers along with a Board Member to be able to operate each table effectively. If you are able to help us, even just once, please contact Board Member & Raffle Scheduler, George Atkinson at gatkinson295@yahoo.com or leave a voice message at the BLA office at 207-512-5150.

As the Summer season is so short, Please Sign up TODAY!

On behalf of your BLA Board of Directors, Thank you!



...Continued from page 2

and camp road dirt from washing into lakes during rainstorms.

- Building porous infiltration steps into which water can seep.
- Laying driplines below eaves to allow roof runoff to more easily seep into the ground.
- Building rain gardens that collect runoff and sprout beautiful flowers.
- Spreading erosion-control mulch or gravel.
- Blazing zigzagged paths to the water, impeding the flow of runoff.

Cole also oversees 7 Lakes' LakeSmart program, which helps property owners determine whether their camp or lake home could benefit from adding BMPs. Email him to schedule a survey of your property. If it's deemed effective at mitigating runoff into the lake, you can earn a prized LakeSmart designation and a sign that, we hope, will encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Our lakes are gems. But our enjoyment of them carries a responsibility to be good stewards of them so they remain crystalline for generations to come. That means proactively keeping dirt out of the lakes.



Summertime in the Belgrades

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— Take It Outside —

Moose in the Morning; Trout in the Afternoon

by Pete Kallin

Last week was the first official week of summer and I got to enjoy a broad variety of the outside activities this area offers. One day last week I went foraging for early season mushrooms and met up with a couple of moose in the woods on one of the 7-Lakes Alliance hiking trails. Later that day, I took a neighbor's grandson out fishing and to check on a newly hatched loon chick. We caught a couple of bass and a nice rainbow trout along the way. Earlier in the week we had an overnight visit from my youngest grandson while his parents enjoyed some time to themselves. I took him fishing for a bit and he caught 4 or 5 nice sunfish off the dock. Later in the week I spent some time hiking French Mountain and met families hiking with their kids. I finished the week on a nice bird walk led by Julia Hanauer-Milne at 7-Lakes' Fogg Island Preserve in Mt Vernon, where we saw and heard a large number of species, including scarlet tanagers, kingfishers, and nesting king birds, among others.

One of my neighbors called last week to see if I knew anyone with an Android phone. Her 15-year-old grandson, Jackson Schulz, from North Carolina had just arrived without his phone charger. The boy was an avid fisherman, so I took him out while his phone was charging. A few cold, windy days last week has resulted in the surface water temperature in the lake dropping from about 70F back to the low to mid 60's. This has made the trout in Long Pond much happier, and they are staying up in the layer again. I've caught several this



Thompson family from Gardiner with Isabella and Zoey getting a free ride up French Mountain.



Grandson, Bayard, with sunfish.

week and Jackson got a nice one while we were out that he brought back for dinner for his family. The next day, I hiked French Mountain and met several Bear Spring campers out enjoying the hiking. They come every year and like to get out on the trails. I also met the Thompson Family from Gardiner out hiking with daughters Isabella and Zoey in back packs. Mom had Zoey and I assumed dad had Isabella. Mom said, "That's not my husband, that's his best friend, Rooks." I asked if she was going to get in trouble if her husband saw her picture in the paper out with his best friend. She laughed, and said, "No, in fact he's the one that suggested we come hike here while he was at work."

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike, bike, birdwatch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. Pick up a map of the local

trails at Day's Store or from the 7-LA at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). The 7 Lakes Alliance is sponsoring many events that may be of interest. Upcoming programs include multiple family hikes (including June 26 at Mt Phillip), a night sky tour (June 28), and a presentation by Chewonki

Continued on page 15...



Jackson Schulz with 16" rainbow trout.

LAKEFRONT LIVING



LONG POND – Belgrade MLS 1529347 - Quality-built, year-round 4 bedroom/4 bath cape in Belgrade Lakes with deeded beach rights to one of the loveliest waterfront lots on Long Pond! This cozy home provides opportunity for one level living with first floor primary suite and plenty of additional private space for friends and family. Picturesque setting in quiet lakeside neighborhood within a half-mile of Belgrade Lakes village! Two-car garage, large shed, beautiful gardens, large level lawn, stone patios. **\$525,000 Ask For Ellen**



BELGRADE – MLS 1531772 - This 4 bedroom, 3 full bath home sits on 2+ acres on a quiet country road in Belgrade. It can be used as a single family home, or maybe use the fully finished basement for your in home business, or a rental to help with your expenses. For your convenience, there is also an attached 2 car garage, and another 2 car detached garage for your toys or more storage. Come enjoy all the amenities and activities the Belgrade Lakes Region has to offer fishing, boating, hiking, golfing, ice fishing, and many restaurants and shopping to enjoy. **\$360,000 Ask For Darcy**



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Calendar

Additions and changes 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.

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

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

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

Cruise-Ins

Wednesday - Fast Eddie's, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, Route 202, Winthrop.

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

Thursday - Gardiner Classic Car, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, Waterfront Park.

THEATER

Thursday 6/23-Saturday 7/2 "Critics Choice," 474-7176, Lakewood Summer Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 7/2 through August 18 "Pandora," 933-9999, Theater At Monmouth.

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 7/1 and every Friday in July and August - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, "Unfinished Blues Band," 7-8:30 pm, Gardiner Landing on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

PLANT PATROL

Every Wednesday through 8/24 - Adopt-A-Shoreline & Plant ID Training, 10-11:30 am, www.7lakesalliance.org, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main St, Belgrade Lakes.

THIS WEEK

Through Sunday 8/7 - Atlantic Music Festival, Colby College, Waterville.

Friday 7/1 - Invasive Plant Paddle, 8 am, 495-6039, 7lakesalliance.org, East Pond.

Friday 7/1 - Unfinished Blues Band, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Friday 7/1 - Michael Franti & SPEARHEAD, live in concert, outdoors at Snow Pond's Bowl in the Pines, 476-6976, snowpond.org, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/2 and Sunday 7/3 - New England Music Camp, concert, 3 pm, free, Bowl in the Pines, snowpond.org, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Sunday 7/3 - Book Sale, sponsored by The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library, 9 am-1 pm, 649-4238, Belgrade Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/5 - Live Animals with Chewonki Natural History Program, including a live possum, 3 pm, 495-6039, 7lakesalliance.org, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/5 - Gawler Family concert, 7 pm, \$15, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

Wednesday 7/6 - New England Music Camp Faculty Recital, 7:30 pm, free, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Center for the Performing Arts, snowpond.org, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Thursday 7/7 - Moose in Maine with Distinguished Moose Biologist Lee Kantor, 4:30-6 pm, sponsored by 7 Lakes Alliance, 495-6039, 7lakesalliance.org, 137 Main St, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/8 - New England Camp Student Honor Recital, 7:30 pm, free, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Center for the Performing Arts, snowpond.org, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/9 - LakeSmart & R U Buff Enough Workshop, NorthPondMaine.org, Grange Hall, Smithfield.

Saturday 7/9 - Strawberry Shortcake Fest, 1 pm, \$5, curbside pickup, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

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JULY 30

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\$25 in advance, General Admission
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Slaid Cleaves

AUGUST 7

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7PM show

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AUGUST 20

Big Sky Stage
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Area Fourth of July Activities

Monday 7/4 - City of Augusta 4th of July Celebration, parade 10 am, line-up at State House parking lot, finish Old Fort Western, 2 pm food trucks at Mill Park, 3-6 pm children/youth activities, 4:30 pm live music, 9 pm dual fireworks across from Mill Park and across from Waterfront Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Monday 7/4 - Belgrade Lakes July 4th Celebration, visit Winterberry Farm 9 am-6 pm, famous strawberry shortcake Union Church 11 am-3 pm, Boat Parade 12 noon, Street Parade 4 pm, Fireworks 9 pm, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/3 and Monday 7/4 - Central Maine 4th of July Celebration, kids events, craft fair, bands, parade, fireworks, gates open both days at noon, admission free, \$5 parking donation, www.centralmaine4th.com, Fairgrounds, Clinton.

Monday 7/4 - 4th of July parade, 10 am, downtown Farmington.

Monday 7/4 - "Friends on the 4th" 5K, 20th running, sponsored by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, 8 am, fireworks at 9:15 pm, Winthrop.

Monday 7/4 - Free Movie Night, Spiderman No Way Home, 7 pm, fireworks 9:30 pm, register at snowpond.org, 476-6976, Bowl in the Pines, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.





The Vienna Woods Players Present Four Short Comedic Plays

The Vienna Woods Players are preparing a comedic evening of four short, adult themed plays by David Ives, American playwright, screenwriter and novelist, called "All In The Timing".

Lives of the Saints features two women preparing a funeral breakfast in a church basement who muse on life, death, and the meaning of Polish jokes – and along the way achieve a kind of sanctity.

English Made Simple feature a young couple who meet at a party, and their immediate romantic attraction is translated into comically unromantic grammar lessons as they struggle to free themselves from the banal constrictions of party talk.

Words, Words, Words recalls the philosophical adage that three monkeys typing into infinity will sooner or later produce Hamlet and asks: what would monkeys talk about at their typewriters?

Sure Thing features two people who meet at a café and find their way through a conversational minefield as an offstage bell interrupts their false starts, gaffes, and faux pas on the way to falling in love.

The Vienna Woods Players are based at The Union Hall in Vienna (5 Vienna Road, Vienna, ME) contributing to a century's old tradition of theater, music, dance in the Hall.

Performances will be at 7:00 pm on July 14, 15, and 16 with an additional matinee Saturday at 2:00.

The Union Hall requests attendees be COVID vaccinated and masked.

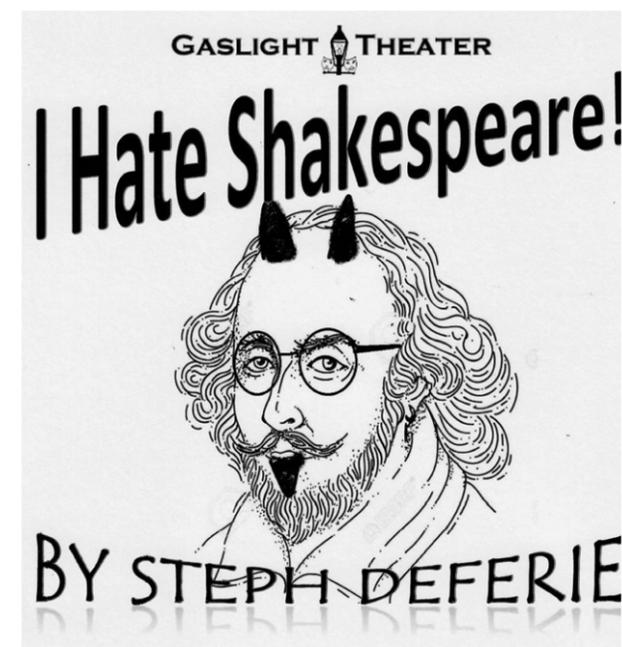
Due to adult language, a mature audience is recommended. As seating is limited, reservations are recommended by emailing vienna.woods.players@gmail.com The price of tickets is a generous donation determined by the patron.



Gaslight Theater to Present *I Hate Shakespeare!*

by Gregor Smith

Do you hate Shakespeare? Or do you love him? If you are in the "hate" camp, Gaslight Theater's presentation of *I Hate Shakespeare!* may change your mind. If you already love the Bard, the play



may deepen your appreciation of his works. Gaslight, which bills itself as Maine's "oldest continuously operating theater," will hold six performances on the second and third weekends of July. The performances will be in Augusta and Hallowell.

Written by Steph DeFerie and directed by Meg Mattheson, this play about plays spoofs both Shakespeare and popular culture. Through a series of sketches, Hamlet (Cody Curtis) and the ensemble (listed below) try to convince an "Unhappy Person" (Lisa Copenhaver) that Shakespeare's plays are still interesting, meaningful, and funny four hundred years after they were written. The sketches include Othello, Iago, and Desdemona's sorting out their differences on the *Jerry Springer Show*; a mild-mannered milque-toast's finding courage in a can and learning to

use Shakespearean insults against a sand-kicking bully at the beach; the ensemble's attempts to relate the plot of "the Scottish play" without saying the name of the play or its lead character, lest some calamity occur; and Juliet's going on *The Dating Game* to choose a suitor. (Will she pick Romeo?) There are also zombies and cheerleaders, and at some point, somebody gets a pie in the face.

The cast and crew also includes Ben Keene, Kathleen Leopold, Donna Loveland, Eleanor Maranda, Joe Maranda, Desi-Rae Severson, Quinn Murray, Matthew Perry, Gregor Smith, Tony Vazquez, and Richard Bostwick. There are 44 distinct roles, so each actor plays multiple parts.

Performances will take place Friday – Sunday, July 8-10 & 15-17. The Friday and Saturday shows will all start at 6:00 p.m., the Sunday shows at 2:00. Not including intermission, the play runs 60 – 70 minutes. The play is definitely suitable for children, although they may not get all the jokes and references. Indeed, the first-ever production of *I Hate Shakespeare!* used child actors. Rather than taking place on Broadway with adult professionals, it was by the students at a middle school on Cape Cod in 2008.

The first weekend's performances will be held in Augusta's Waterfront Park, behind the stone-turreted Olde Federal Building on Water Street. The second weekend will be at the Vaughan Homestead Pavilion at 2 Litchfield Road in Hallowell.

All performances will be outdoors. Although a few seats may be available, audience members should bring their own chairs or blankets to sit on. Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

For more information, go to www.gaslighttheater.org or call 626-3698.



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7 Lakes Alliance Summer Celebration

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Who: You. All are welcome.

When: 4-6pm Sunday, July 17

Where: 137 Main St., Belgrade Lakes



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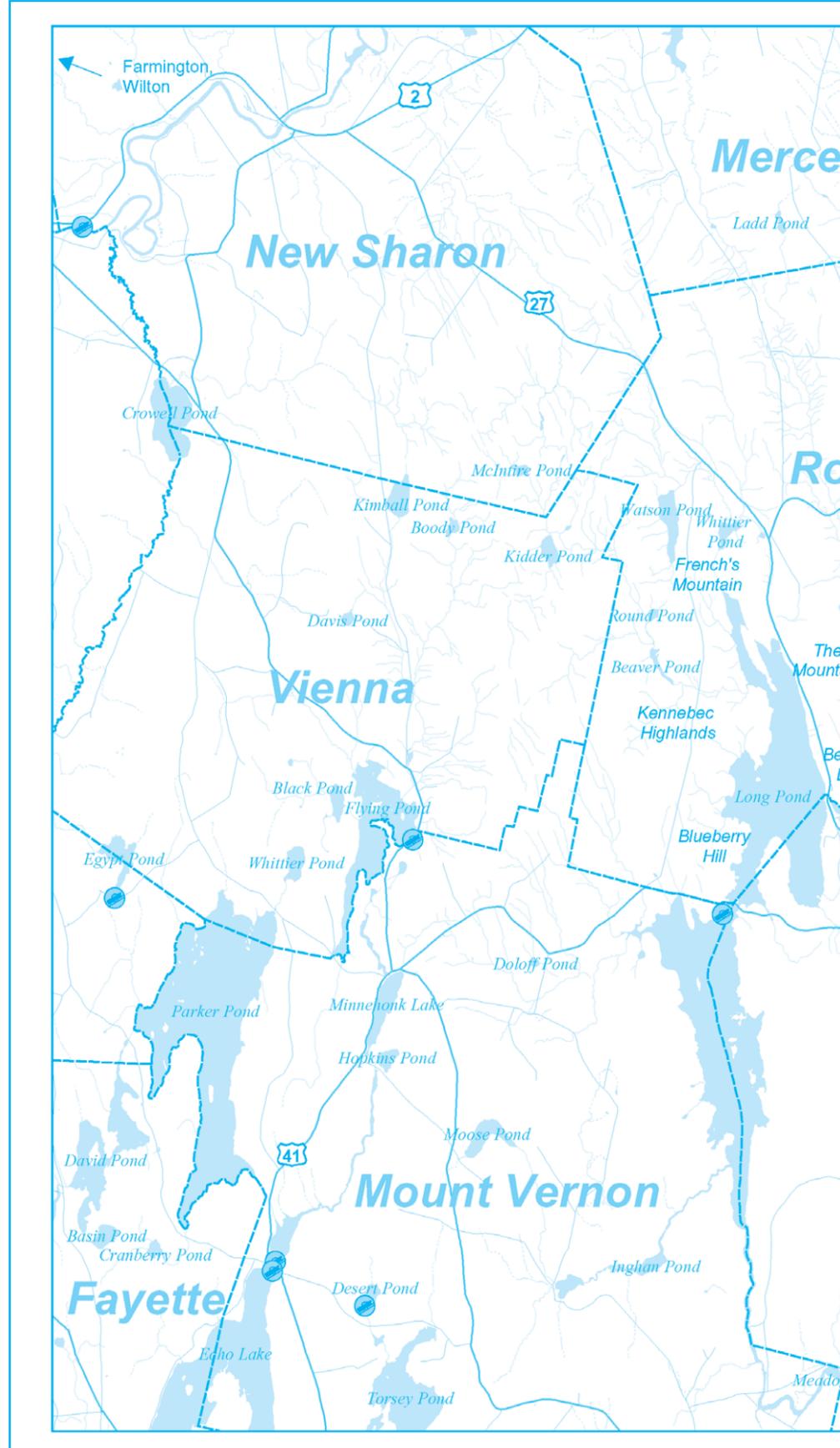
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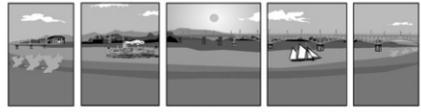


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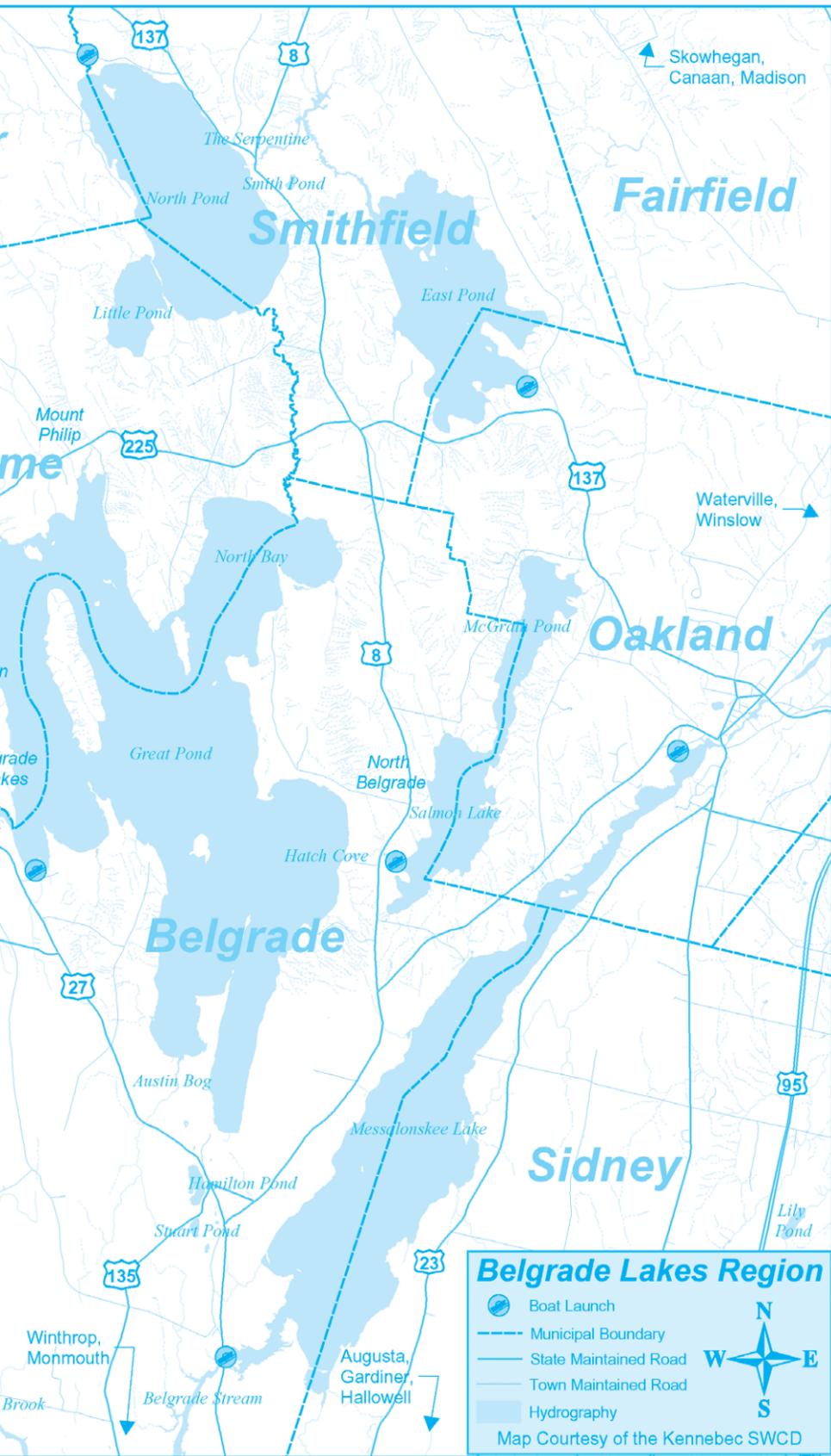
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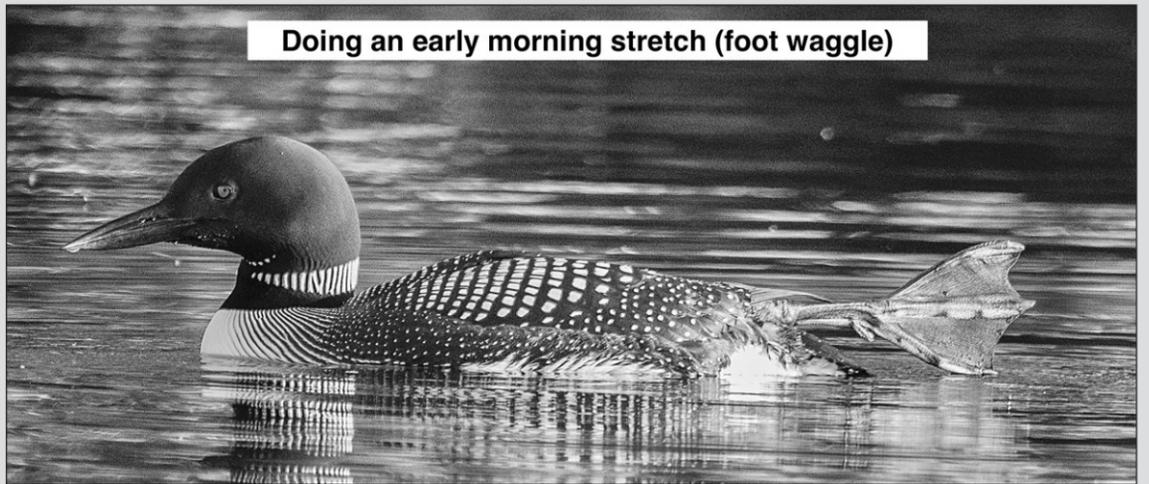
Call of the Loon



A Day in the Life of our Belgrade Loons

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"!!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



Doing an early morning stretch (foot waggle)



Long Pond banded male swimming underwater



A banded Long Pond female showing off her new Jewelry!



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Notebook

Come explore the outdoors with five full days of FUN for children entering grades 4-6! Two 1-week sessions – July 25th-29th, 2022 and August 8th-12th are being held at the YMCA Camp of Maine on Cobbossee Lake in East Winthrop, ME. Campers will enhance their relationship with the natural world as they explore, observe and experience the nearby ponds, forests and fields (hiking, fishing, swimming, canoeing & kayaking); record observations in their own nature journal; learn basic wilderness skills; and participate in ecology skits, crafts and games. Campers will also be treated to a

Summer Nature Day Camp

special session of "Tadpole Patrol" aboard the Friends 22' pontoon boat, the OTTER II. Camp runs daily from 8:30am-4:30 pm. Cost for each 5-day camp session is \$250/pp, and includes lunch and afternoon snack. Early registration is recommended, as space is extremely limited! The Friends follow the guidelines of the Maine CDC and the YMCA Camp of Maine regarding Covid-19 safety. Please visit the Friends at www.watershedfriends.com for up to date information. For more information, please contact Cami Wilbert (Education & Outreach Director) at 395-5239 or camil@watershedfriends.com.

Tadpole Patrol is an "On the Water Adventure"!

There's no better way to spend a Maine summer than out on the lakes! So why not learn about the lakes at the same time? The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed is once again offering the Tadpole Patrol program, an educational, FUN, interactive and hands-on experience aboard the Friends' 22' pontoon boat "floating classroom" the OTTER II. Children and families will enjoy the experience with four different options offered to learn about watershed protection and water quality.

The first level is Tadpole Patrol for children entering grades 2-3-4 where they are introduced to lake ecology, observing wildlife, and learning the basics of water quality testing. TP-II Lake Science Investigators (LSI!) is for children entering grades 4-5-6 where participants become "science investigators" as they observe the lake ecosystem, conduct water quality tests, and record data in their own keepsake journal.

The fun continues on the water with our Family Tadpole Patrol and Historical Lake Tour. Get the whole family involved in our Family Tadpole Patrol adventure! Kids and adults of all ages can board the OTTER II for an hour and half long session to observe wildlife, learn and share the human and natural history of the lake, and experience water monitoring with professional equipment. New in 2022! Join the Friends on a

Historical Lake Tour as we partner with a local historian to explore the amazing natural and human history of Cobbossee Lake or Maranacook Lake during a two hour session. The Tadpole Patrol programs are graciously sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta Fuel Co., and Clark Marine- without them these programs would not be possible!

FMI about dates and times of the programs and for registration forms, please contact FOCW Education & Outreach Director Cami Wilbert by phone 395-5239 or email camil@watershedfriends.com or visit the Friends' website www.watershedfriends.com.

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McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA), Belgrade
and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
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**The Dams Keeper Report**

A visitor wrote in this week to compliment us on the water levels so far this season, but (there's always a "but") asked if "there is something we can do about the water temperature?" I don't know where they are from, but, right now as I pen this week's discourse, upper Long Pond is a refreshing 67.8F! Not quite wet-suit weather but not quite enjoyable either, in my book!! And that's on the surface. Forget going below that at least for another month!!

Another question by way of J.A. was, "For every inch of rain, how far does the Great Pond's water level come up?" Well, if you remember from last year's columns, for every inch of rain that lands in your water bucket on the dock, both Great Pond and Salmon/McGrath come up just about 1.5", but (I know, another "but") Long Pond with its steep watershed, comes up a whopping 3"!

Back to why I guess you're reading this column, Great Pond's Village dam is currently 1.44" above full pond with the main gate still opened

just 6". Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is at 1.32" with both gates completely closed collecting cobwebs. Salmon/McGrath is now right at full pond with its single gate still opened the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors to the east on Messalonskee are down 5.40" below full which is what they need to do for their electricity generation needs.

Our precipitation for the past 10 days was a meager .54" of rain with only .64" forecasted for the next 10 days so it looks like our honeymoon with the occasional afternoon shower is coming to an end. Remember, that they were calling for an average 20% less precipitation. Who wants to bet against the weatherman?

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

Enjoy your summer! It's going to be beautiful and somewhat dry.

Welcome Home!

Dick

Dick Greenan

*Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams
Committee*

**Update On Great Pond Herbicide Application**

Photo by Alexander Wall

The success of a low-risk herbicide treatment to choke invasive milfoil in Great Meadow Stream will not be fully known until early August. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection applied the herbicide, ProcellaCOR, on June 16, using an airboat. The herbicide is an intentionally slow-moving solution that is gradually absorbed by the entire plant, including its roots. The success of the effort cannot be fully measured for five weeks.

Sharon Mann, Invasive Aquatics Director for the 7 Lakes Alliance, stressed the treatment is not a "silver bullet" cure-all. The one-time treatment is meant to stymie invasive milfoil so 7 Lakes divers can continue to sustainably remove the milfoil infestation while preventing its spread. The 7 Lakes Alliance and the Belgrade Lakes Association supports the DEP's decision to treat Great Meadow Stream after studying the herbicide's effectiveness and safety. ProcellaCOR is not toxic to humans and aquatic life at recommended dosages, and only temporarily impacts native plants. 7 Lakes is monitoring the treatment's impact on plants. The DEP, with assistance from 7 Lakes, is gathering water samples from three checkpoints along the stream; results of the samples are pending.



Travels with George by Nathaniel Philbrick

by Martha F. Barkley

Yep, George Washington visited, but did not sleep, in Kittery, Maine when Massachusetts was our state and Maine a province. Mainers were always constantly working on independence from Mass. Nathaniel Philbrick describes the great roaring Piscataqua River that separates Portsmouth, NH from Kittery. I can't help but think that this tremendous phenomena of nature is one big reason Mainers were always quite separate from our southern neighbors, NH and Mass.

"Because the Piscataqua is one of the fastest-flowing rivers in North America (second only to the Columbia in the Pacific Northwest), with currents recorded as high as ten knots, the organizers must have coordinated the tour with the changing tides." My husband Frank and I once had lunch at an outside porch cafe in Portsmouth overlooking the roaring Piscataqua. I kept going to the edge, attracted by the sound of the water. Watching the movement was a surprise and it sounded like a waterfall.

"Washington and Senator Langdon were in one barge, manned by oarsmen in white suits, while Lear and Jackson followed in another barge with oarsmen in blue suits."

A third barge, can you believe, had musicians playing music. The elaborate numbers of groups accompanying Washington everywhere makes it all seem like a stage show in every town, whether he slept there or not. Politics from the beginning.

Washington attended Sunday church in Kittery and briefly met with the clergy before returning to Portsmouth while the tide was still relatively calm. Philbrick and his wife met locals and delved into history as he did at every spot Washington ventured to. Most villages enjoyed seeing the President mounted on his white horse in a grand parade.

The carriage carrying our tall first president between towns had a cab as small as a Volkswagen, so Washington had to bend and fold into a small space for his large frame, rocking and bouncing along uneven roadways. A carriage photo in the book shows a similar one of the day, the best transportation at that time, the chariot at the John Brown House in Providence, RI. Wealthy Brown, founder of Brown University.

The huge boulder that tipped in balance, defying gravity, is shown in a photo with Nathaniel pushing with all his might. Washington stopped there and apparently did the same comical pose. Low and behold, in 2020, the dreaded year of covid, the boulder disintegrated and is no longer in balance for tourists to visit Washington's stop. People must still look at the remains anyways...The Balancing Rock of Holliston, Mass. if you care to check it out.

We actually still look for The Old Man on the Mountain in NH, because he was always there until gravity pulled down those boulders years ago. Apparently similar conditions of decay.

How the 57 year old Washington weathered this long journey as far south as Savannah, Ga. is a wonder. All to help unify a very divided young nation. Makes me think of Lafayette's celebratory journey on horseback as well with his son George Washington Lafayette. They returned to our country's 50th year celebration and made the laborious rounds to every state. Lafayette was no longer a young man when he accomplished these travels. He stopped in exhaustion at The Elms Plantation to visit Ralph Izard during a horrendous thunderstorm.

Our winter home is located at The Elms, just a half hour drive from downtown Charleston where Washington spent several days. Worshipping at St. Michael's Church and dancing hours at The Exchange ballroom and many dinners throughout the city. Lafayette was also welcomed with much acclaim years later after the President's visit.

The personal commentary in this history makes it light and easy compared to Philbrick's other histories that I have enjoyed. *In The Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*, is perhaps my favorite. *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War* or *Why Read Moby-Dick?* may catch your interest.

Looking at demolished old tavern sites where Washington stopped, many not very pleasant, Nathaniel joked about the possible location of the outhouse out back. The noted historian even remarked about a golf course tee where George may have stopped "and teed". One library in a New England town has the magazine section dedicated to Washington slept here, in this room. The library used to be the town tavern.

"By touring New England, Washington wasn't just learning from the American citizenry about what was happening in their towns and states; he was also instructing them in the reality of the new federal government. Washington greeted the people with a smile and a bow, but he was also asserting the authority of his office."

Philbrick and his wife marveled at the rural beauty still remaining within an hour of Boston, Worcester and Providence in southern New England..."surrounded by a forest so dense that it was worthy of the northern reaches of Maine."



Belgrade Lakes

July 4th Celebration

9:00 - 6:00 ~ Winterberry Farm ~ Organized self-guided farm tours on the shores of Great Pond. Come visit our animals! The store will be packed with organic veggies, fruit & homemade pies and much more.

11:00 - 3:00 ~ Union Church ~ Famous strawberry shortcake event and grilled hotdogs and sausage.

12:00 ~ Boat Parade  Mill Stream on Great Pond. Come Join us Line-up at the mouth of the stream.

4:00 ~ Street Parade  Main Street. Line-up at Rome Farm (north of the village) at 3:15 for all vehicles and floats. All bikes and marchers line up at 3:30 south of Rome Farm. Everyone welcome, decorate your bikes or make a float.

9:00 ~ FIREWORKS!  Over Long Pond.



The 4th of July Event is sponsored by Belgrade Lakes Region Business group.



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— Real Estate Update —

The thought of selling your lakefront property may be an overwhelming prospect for many. There are many things to think about beyond putting a sign on your yard and waiting for offers to roll in.

How do you get the house ready? What is your home worth? Do I need to paint the house? What happens with the proceeds?

OK, so every situation for selling your lakefront property is unique. My first piece of advice is utilize professionals, starting with a Real Estate agent.

While you may think selling your house on your own may save you money. Real Estate agents live, eat and sleep real estate every day and are dedicated to working in YOUR best interest. They know the process and will manage every step with you including the legal pieces, home inspections, local ordinances and zoning and negotiations. Trusting a professional to help you sell your house will likely result in more showings, a quicker sales process and a higher sale price. Dedicated real estate agents have a team of professionals who they work with daily and have a high level of trust with.

People buy houses on emotion, so it is important that you can help them visualize what their lifestyle would be in your house. The first line in this process is getting your house ready to hit the market. Your real estate agent will help you identify what needs to be done and recommend professionals to help you. House cleaner, landscaper handyman, painter – these are just a few that come to mind to prepare the physical condition of your house for sale. Your house does not need to be perfect, but creating an attractive curb appeal will

Getting Ready to Sell?

influence the highly important first impression.

Next up is creating a first-class presentation of your home. While the details of square footage, bedrooms and acreage are important, the visual that you create is the initial hook for a buyer. In today's real estate market, buyers are browsing online before seeing any homes in person. Home staging and professional photography literally set the stage for a compelling online showcase. If you are selling a lakefront property, don't overlook staging of the waterfront. Boats, kayaks, firepits & docks are props that buyers want to see at the water's edge to complete their picture.

Once your home is listed and professionally presented and offers start coming in, your real estate broker will align you with professionals in the areas of home inspection, accounting and legal. With home inspections, a broker will recommend a qualified professional to remedy any issues found in the inspection process.

Is your home in a family trust? What are the tax implications of selling your home? Are other family members involved in the process? Attorneys and accountants with specific real estate experience can guide you through all the family, tax and legal implications of the sale.

The sale of your home or your family camp does not need to be a burden, and can become an easy and satisfying experience with the help of professionals. Good Luck and have a happy summer!



Take it Outside continued from page 5....



Left: Loon with chick on back on Long Pond.. Right: Moose on the loose at The Mountain,



(July 5th) on "Mammals of Maine from Mice to Moose." There is also a talk by Maine's primary moose biologist, Lee Kantar on July 7. Check the 7LA website site for details: (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>). Keep an eye on the sign in front of the building as events are being added all the time. Get on their email notification list for updates. 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.



Book Sale

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CARRABASSETT VALLEY Well-maintained camp located in small neighborhood just 10 minutes south of Sugarloaf Mtn This property offers 3 bedrooms, 1 bath and open concept kitchen, dining and living room.

MLS 1532863 \$349,000



EAST POND updated circa 1868 5 BD/3.5BA fully-furnished and equipped farm house and a three bay barn with hay loft on 52 acres AND your very own private beach!

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MOUNT VERNON Completely updated historic New Englander also know as the Cliff Dunn House circa 1885 in the heart of the village and directly across the street from Minnehonk Lake.

MLS 1530037 \$589,000



BELGRADE LAKES Large, sunny 3BR/2BA farm house with 39 acres located Just minutes to Belgrade Village, Great Pond & Long Pond public boat ramps and Golf Course.

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FLYING POND This 1BR/1BA camp on a private 1AC lot with over 600' of waterfront on Watson Brook is the perfect spot to rest, relax and get away from it all!

MLS 1531582 \$425,000



NORTH POND Quaint cottage on a beautiful flat lot with 135' of sandy bottom waterfrontage and open views of the lake.

MLS 1531720 \$450,000



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.

MLS 1528499 \$1,500,000



GREAT POND Hoyt Island, Sunrises and Unlimited Privacy~ With 7.5 acres and 481 feet of frontage on gorgeous Great Pond, this beautiful lot is ready for you to create your new island getaway!

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LONG POND 16+ acres of land with 563 feet of waterfrontage on Long Pond. Wonderful sunsets! Land is wooded, shoreline has sandy bottom.

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